

DEVELOPMENT WATCH

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

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17-28 SEPTEMBER

**GLOBAL
TO**

WEEK

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**GLOBAL
GOALS
WEEK**

EDITOR'S NOTE



Greetings to you our readers from the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) which is the umbrella body of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) operating in Zimbabwe.

On Friday, 17 September 2021, we saw the beginning of the Global Week of Action for Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and we have been mobilising Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in Zimbabwe together with other partners to ensure unified efforts or one movement towards advancing the actions that will result in the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Most people are suffering around the world from a diversity of issues such as economic, social, political, human rights, and governance challenges. Thus, through this Global Week of Action, we are encouraging policymakers and the

Strengthening The Voice of NGOs

government to put in place policies and programs that are going to be key towards accelerating the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals.

As NANGO, supported by Global Call to Action Against Poverty, Action for Sustainable Development as well as SightSavers, we are mobilising CSOs and the public to work during this whole week to ensure that our voices are heard and our voices are presented to the government with regards to the actions needed to achieve sustainable development goals.

This time around, the main focus is on three pillars namely Health, Green Economy and Just System. Hence, we are calling upon all the citizens to join us during this Global Week of Action so that we work together and present our issues to the government as **ONE**.

Thank you because I know that we are in this together for a better Zimbabwe, and world. The ZimbabweWeWant.

#PeoplesAssembly #GlobalWeekofAction
#PeoplesVaccine #TurnItAround #GreatRecovery
#LeaveNoOneBehind #Agenda2030

Remember, the Covid-19 pandemic is still with us. Let us continue to #MaskUp and #StaySafe

Thank You!

Executive Director

Mr Leonard Mandishara

Designed By: Chris Katsaura

An inward look into the themes for the Global Week of Action 2021: Healthy, Green and Just!



The Global Week of Action for Sustainable Development Goals provides the communities and CSOs through Global People's Assembly; an opportunity to amplify their voice, demand and proffer recommendations key to achieve the SDGs. This year the people's assembly is calling for just, green and healthy planet. Since the globe was hit by the covid-19 pandemic, it presented a lot of challenges that the people need to adapt. This also affected our progress in terms of implementation of the SDGs but we should always find solutions to every challenge that affects us. It is also that time of the year where it is critical to put pressure on the government to ensure that we do not go off course in terms of our priorities in line with the SDGs.

Access to healthcare is a basic human right as provided for in section 76 of the Zimbabwean Constitution of 2013. We call on the government and policy makers to ensure everyone has access to free, public, high quality health care including maternal, adolescent and child care, and we also call for support to address mental health, improve nutrition, non-communicable diseases and promote well-being. The country needs to address human resources for health in the wake of COVID19 especially in terms of recruitment,

working conditions and welfare issues of these frontline workers. The National Development Strategy (NDSI) has highlighted the need to increase public health expenditure per capita from USD\$30.29 in 2020 to USD\$86 by 2025.

This should be demonstrated through domestic financing for health. The Abuja Declaration calls for channelling of at least 15 percent of the national budget to the health sector and we call upon the government to heed this as Zimbabwe is a signatory to the declaration. The COVID19 has become a timely reminder that government should prioritize physical wellness and mental well-being and invest in it to ensure there is proper support through counselling and psycho social support. We also call upon the government to prioritize all health issues as there is now much more focus on covid-19 at the expense of other health issues like Non-Communicable Diseases, maternal health etc.

We hail the government's progress in the rolling out of the covid-19 vaccination programme. However, there is room for improvement to ensure diverse and consistent supply of Covid-19 Vaccination using human rights centric approach where people make an informed decisions and not just forcing people to be vaccinated. Deliberate effort should be made to make the vaccines accessible for all by prioritizing communities in hard to reach areas as part of Leaving No One Behind. Government should also share simplified official information packages of the efficacy of the drugs, and adverse drug reactions/events of the current vaccines including other frequently asked questions.

The social media is awash with conspiracy theories pertaining the efficacy of the vaccines. Furthermore, to end covid 19 vaccine apathy by the citizens of Zimbabwe, we call for alternative vaccines outside the Sinopharm and Sinovac.

Citizens have the right to choose which vaccines they want to use based on the options available and information supplied concerning each vaccine available for use.

With regards to climate justice, the people's assembly is calling the governments to deliver on climate promises especially on finances as set out in the Paris Agreement. There is need to unlocking the liquidity necessary to ensure that as Zimbabwe we respond to systemic environmental and social challenges. In Zimbabwe, one of the major trending challenges is wetlands management. For a healthy environment, the government should honor its promises on issues of protection of wetlands.



We commend the establishment of the wetland policy but very little has been done with regards to mushrooming of settlements and businesses on areas reserved as wetlands. As a signatory to the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of 1971, the country has obligations to ensure wetlands are sustainably managed to ensure their regenerative capacities are not impaired and they continue to provide essential ecosystem services.

For a just economy, the social contract which exist between the officials as agents and the citizens who are the principals is key as the country rebuild from the scourge of COVID 19 pandemic. Importantly, there is need to keep the promise to end poverty with a new deal that delivers social protection for all and protects workers' rights, while tackling threats

posed by historic injustice, including racism, patriarchy, inequality and colonialism. In an attempt to deal with the existing income inequalities, a deliberate attempt should be made to redirect financial support to reach those who most need it, by prioritizing funds for women, disadvantaged minorities, young people, persons with disabilities, migrants and other most affected groups #FurthestBehindFirst. Social protection was allocated about ZW\$9,8 billion (US\$120 million) (0,4% of GDP) down from 0,7% in 2020. This is below the Social Policy for Africa (2008) benchmark of at least 4,5% of GDP.

In the spirit of ensuring public social accountability, government should facilitate, promote and fulfil progressive realization and enjoyment of rights by all as expected and provided for in the constitution of Zimbabwe. The government also needs to create an enabling environment for civic players to ensure full realization and enjoyment of human rights in Zimbabwe. The government should apply the law without favour and guarantee equal protection of the law for all. We further call the government to implement constitutional provisions requiring 50% gender representation in Executive, elective and appointed positions

There is need for upholding of the people's constitutionally guaranteed rights, including increase in transparency and accountability which will ensure tax justice and improved service delivery in the country. Realization of Vision 2030 and Agenda 2030 may remain a fallacy unless there is political will to take proper course and action. Together we must keep the promise to leave no one behind.



Global People's Assembly 2021: Peoples March in Tweets

We are nearly two years into this pandemic. Seventy-five percent of all COVID-19 vaccine doses have gone to just ten countries. This vaccine apartheid is testament to the failure of current policy. [#PeoplesAssembly](#) [#PeoplesVaccine](#) [#PeoplesVaccine](#) [#EndVaccineApartheid](#)

Accountability and track the impact of SDRs [#GCAPGhana](#) People's Assembly, demanded Free and universal access to the COVID-19 [#PeoplesAssembly](#) [@Action4SD](#) [@whiteband](#) [#SDGs](#) [#Agenda2030](#) [#Act4SDGs](#) [#PeoplesAssembly](#) [#GreatRecovery](#) [#TurnItAround](#) [#Act4SDGs](#) [@SDGaction](#)



NGO Federation of Nepal (GCAP Nepal) organised series of national and sub-national People's Assemblies during the Global Week of Action (September 17-28) brought forth the most marginalised voices into mainstream discussion. [#PeoplesAssembly](#) [@whiteband](#) [@SDGaction](#) [@Action4SD](#)

Ensure access to education by providing internet connectivity for low-income families and marginalised communities and scholarships for individuals who face discrimination based on work and descent. [#PeoplesAssembly](#) [#PeoplesVaccine](#) [#ProfitsBeforePeople](#) [@antoniogeterres](#) [@UN_PGA](#)



EQUALITY,
LIBERTY,
JUSTICE FOR
CDWD

Read the Declaration of the Global People's Assembly held from 21 -23 September 2021 - a powerful document of people's voices from around the world during the [#UNGA](#) 2021 for [#PeoplesVaccine](#), [#SocialJustice](#) and [#ClimateAction!](#) [#PeoplesAssembly](#) [#Act4SDGs](#) bit.ly/3zHD7Gq

"LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND" is about fighting for [#justice](#).



In the [#PeoplesAssembly](#), marginalized communities have a voice.

Join us at the Global Peoples Assembly! peoplesassembly.global

[#FeministsWantSystemChange](#) [#Act4SDGs](#) [#UNGA](#)

Access to quality maternal health services in the midst of the COVID-19 Pandemic



The health sector in Zimbabwe is still recovering from decades of significant challenges. Medicine shortages, inadequate financing, shortages of qualified staff, poor infrastructure, obsolete equipment and recurring strikes over pay and working conditions were common even before the Covid-19 pandemic.

According to the ZIMSTAT Rapid PICES phone survey conducted from December 2020 to 10 March 2021, access to health favored urban areas compared to rural areas, and a significant share of households reported reduced income from various sources in the aftermath of the second wave of the COVID-19 outbreak. Lack of money was the primary reason for not being able to access medical treatment as cited by 78 percent of households according to the same report.

The Ministry responsible for health in the country is the Ministry of Health and Child Care (MoHCC). The ministry has, through the National Health Strategy (NHS) developed a strategic direction for the provision of healthcare services in Zimbabwe. The strategy is aligned to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 3 which aims at providing equitable quality health care services to all Zimbabweans, with a focus on promoting primary health care. The key priorities are to reduce morbidity and mortality due to such diseases as HIV, TB, and Malaria. The country has a financing strategy broadly aimed at increasing domestic financing for health.

In line with the 2021 Mid-Year Budget Review, allocation to the health sector in vote appropriations basis stands at 13% of the total budget for 2021, which amounts to ZWL54.7bn

(USD169.9million). While this is an increase from the 10.1% allocated in 2020, it still falls short of the 15% target outlined in the Abuja declaration. Zimbabwe continues to rely heavily on external financing for health, making the healthcare vulnerable should the development partners withdraw their support through apathy or fatigue. Donors are projected to provide about USD496million towards health in 2021, far more than what the government has allocated. From 2020 Fiscal Performance Review, the development partner support accounts for over 80% of the health expenditure.

There is need to develop domestic health financing models and strategies to capacitate the public health service delivery systems at the same time avoiding dependent on donor financing which is unsustainable. Over 70% of Zimbabwe's population lives in the rural areas, and that is where there is greatest need. One of the donor-based programs the country is reliant on is the Health Development Fund - Results Based Financing Programme (HDF-RBF) which has been making a huge impact in the rural areas. The HDF-RBF programme is supporting 42 districts and was set up by the government and partners in the Health Development Fund (HDF) including European Union (EU), UK-Aid, The Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the Vaccine Alliance (GAVI) and Irish-Aid.

With UNICEF support, Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Care is implementing a clinical mentorship programme in 20 districts, which have low coverage indicators for maternal, newborn and child health. The programme is designed to strengthen health worker skills and improve the quality of care before, during and following childbirth. The program is also supporting mothers' shelters which are assisting to reduce the hardships mothers face just before birth such as having to travel long distances just before birth. The shelters house mothers up to 6 weeks before giving birth, and they prioritise first time mothers and mothers with high-risk pregnancies.

In the latest Multiple Indicator Cluster Surveys (MICS) 2019 report, Maternal mortality rate dropped significantly from 614 deaths per 100,000 live births in 2014 to 462 in 2019. This significant drop is in part attributed to donor funded programs like the mothers' shelters such as one located in the rural Tonga speaking region of the Matabeleland North Province in Binga and another in Maphisa District Hospital in Matabeleland South Province, which are all beneficiaries of the HDF-RBF programme. United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) states that "even though the trend in the last 5-10 years shows a decline, the ratio is still unacceptably high." The rate of decline of these key indicators leaves the country off track to meet many of the targets set by the sustainable development goals by 2030.

Mothers in urban areas have not been spared the challenges faced by those in rural areas. In most public hospitals and clinics, shortages of essential resources in maternity wards have seen midwives ask pregnant mothers to bring their own razor blades, gloves, rubbing alcohol and lights, amid mass power outages and shortages across the country. Workload burdens, knowledge gaps and staff attitudes are major challenges at health workers' level.

At Mpilo hospital in September 2021, Phindile* gave birth via caesarean section but her son had complications immediately after; he needed to be admitted. The paediatric section has no room for mothers to stay with their admitted children, and she therefore has to sleep on the floor in the room with the child. Some services that appear incidental to the needs of a new born child, our hospitals are not able to provide, such as beds for admitted infants' mothers. Phindile remains at Mpilo with her son whilst she deals with her own growing medical complications from the pregnancy such as swollen feet and a swelling stomach. Due to financial constraints, Phindile will not be able to support both hers and her son's medical expenses.

Poverty and being unable to work during lockdown mean most mothers cannot afford medical care and fees if and when complications arise as is the case with Phindile. There has been an increase in the use of home delivery with

unskilled birth attendants under unhygienic conditions as a result. This is also crippling the country's progress on the percentage of pregnant mothers attended by skilled health personnel due to unsafe home deliveries.

The MoHCC is called on to prioritise maternal health care by making arrangements for antenatal maternity waiting homes, and providing postpartum support. A look at the maternity and infant care sector at the moment shows that support for mothers and their families was identified as a gap. Post-natal care and monitoring are all rendered unavailable by the continued failure to meet the demands of doctors and nurses. Increased home deliveries escalate the risk of maternal mortality and morbidity, which in turn have devastating consequences for the baby and pose a high risk of mother to child transmission of HIV.

Budget execution is weak as evidenced by the huge deviations of actual expenditure from the approved budget. Weak budget implementation is the major obstacle towards achieving better health outcomes. There is a need to find alternative sources of funding, to reduce donor dependency and develop long term, sustainable health care provision strategies. The HDF-RBF and the EU supported National Indicative Programme under the 11th European Development Fund sought to improve the availability, accessibility, and quality of primary health services with a focus on key reproductive and child health services through rewarding health facilities by paying an agreed amount of money per every service offered and also paying quality bonuses as determined by the level of quality of service as determined by a checklist that is used to measure the level of quality."

In general, the more the number of clients that a health facility serves and the higher the quality of service the health facility offers, the more the money the health facility realises. "The question then becomes, what happens when donors for whatever reason can provide this type of incentive for quality service provision. If these concerns are not urgently addressed, the country risks reversing the gains made in the maternal health sector thus far.

Traditional leaders, healers and practitioners add their voice against child marriages



By Nhau Mangirazi

Traditional leaders, healers and practitioners have condemned child marriages and marrying off of young girls accusing some parents of taking advantage of their children in the harmful cultural practices.

They also described the practice as “outdated and exploitative” adding that it keeps young girls under bondage and without freedom of choice.

The practice, they added, was no longer applicable in the modern age.

In an interview, Zimbabwe National Traditional Healers Association president George Kandiero said some of the harmful practices, include paying off a girl child to avenging spirits and replacing a deceased sister with a minor infringed the girl child's rights.

“I don't believe it is good for the girl child. Some of these men are taking advantage of culture and marrying these young girls.

“They bring in all harmful practices that fuel early child marriages in the pretext of *kuripa ngozi*, that is, appeasing avenging spirits.

“In this modern age, it is unacceptable as paying off avenging spirits can be settled through cash payments or through

cattle which remains our source of settling debts culturally.”

Kandiero said there were various alternatives that can be used to appease the avenging spirits adding that the practices were also criminal in nature.

His sentiments came after the death of 14-year-old Anna Machaya after child birth at an apostolic sect shrine in Marange, Manicaland.

The teenager had been married off to a 26-year-old Hatirame Momberume who has since been arrested and is in custody facing murder charges.

Kandiero said there was need to rein in those practicing the out-dated rituals.

“Traditionally and culturally it is allowed to ask for a reprieve on any judgment after pleading including *kukumbiririra* where the accused will be allowed a time frame to pay off with cattle or money and that practice is accepted.

“Culture is dynamic and as custodians of culture, we are against those who abuse minors and those who violate young children must face the full wrath of the law as no one is above the law,” he said.

Chief Chundu, Abel Mbasera, from Hurungwe in Mashonaland West said traditional leaders were working hard to educate communities on the challenges of child marriages.

“As traditional leaders, we are advocating against child marriages. We are appealing to communities to respect the girl children and stop marrying off child brides.

“In Shona we say *regai dzive shiri mazai haana muto* meaning let the men wait for girls to be mature. We are glad that we have laws that say the legal age of majority as pegged at 18 years and this gives a leeway to the girl child not to be married off at a tender age,” Chief Chundu said.

An official with the Zimbabwe National Traditional Practitioners Association, Petronella Chiusari, said child marriages in Zimbabwe were being fueled by both cultural and religious practices that turn to be harmful to minors.

“These practices have been done since time immemorial because girls were not in a position to negotiate for their freedoms. As an organization that values girls so that they are respected, we strongly condemn such practices” she said.

According to the International Journal of Management and Social Sciences study carried in 2017, child marriages or early marriages especially in the Mashonaland provinces of Zimbabwe are caused by religious and cultural beliefs, parental expectations together with their low education.

The study noted that low academic performance and absenteeism from school caused by negative attitude towards sex education also contributes to early marriage among secondary school girls.

“While the marriage laws have been aligned (to the Constitution), the study revealed that parents are still ignorant about many issues regarding child marriages hence the need for countrywide campaigns on the effect of this practice both on individuals and community as a whole,” the study said.

Despite campaigns done in Zimbabwe through different platforms such as Girl Child Network, Gender Policies, Child Line, UNICEF and government, child marriage is still on the increase in Zimbabwe.



According to latest statistics, Mashonaland Central province tops with (50 percent), Mashonaland West (42 percent), Mashonaland East (36 percent) and the Midlands (31 percent),

In Manicaland, the prevalence rate stood at 30 percent with Matabeleland North at 27 percent while Harare, Matabeleland South and Bulawayo are at 19 percent, 18 percent and 10 percent, respectively.



'Civic Society Voice on the International Day of Peace Commemorations'



It is great an honour to be part of this momentous event, the Commemorations of the International Day of Peace (IDP) 2021.

Allow me to start by thanking the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission for facilitating this key discourse and platform that plays a pivotal role in shaping the narrative around peace, conflict prevention, management, resolution and transformation. Indeed, the mandate of the Commission is at the epicentre of shaping the direction and extent of peace agenda in our country.

My sincere thanks also go to Government for demonstrating its commitment to really work around the issues of addressing the effects of violent conflict by putting in place institutions that are mandated with that responsibility and allocating resources to support that agenda.

I'm so delighted and grateful that though we are still within the period of COVID-19 which has impacted and reformed in a huge way, the way we programme our actions today, we still have a platform to convene and have deliberations on the ideals of peace and tranquillity. This dialogue is very crucial as it has a dual responsibility of contributing towards conflict prevention and at the same time resolving some of the grievances that the communities, public and the aggrieved may be having.

It has to be known that, a peaceful environment is fundamental to the achievement of inclusive and sustained economic development that will ensure that there is poverty alleviation, reduction of inequalities, promotion

and protection of human rights including the rights of the environment.

Societies that are peaceful are positioned for stellar economic and social development.

This year's International Day of Peace commemorations are running under the theme "Building Back Better in the aftermath of Covid-19: Pathways for Peace" As the nation and the globe at large recognise the implications of COVID-19 in exacerbating conflict and violence across the communities due to various reasons chief amongst them being loss of livelihoods, increased inequalities, rampant and wanton abuses and further marginalisation.

COVID-19 has further compounded and exposed the glaring susceptibilities of a greater number of citizens to issues of conflict and violence. The pandemic has come with a surge in human rights abuses, stigmatisation, discrimination, and animosity, which further escalate the existing challenges of conflict and violence. Thus, our responses to the scourge of the pandemic further educated us that there is need to mainstream and cultivate the ideals of peace in the response mechanisms. This is key to ensuring a more just, inclusive and peaceful nation.

We are reminded ladies and gentlemen, that conflicts can be solved in a sustainable way if we are able to address sources and drivers, which to a greater extent are related to unfairness, injustice, poverty and inequality, disempowerment and disrespect amongst others.



Embracing Zimbabwe in PEACE

We saw that women, youths and children have been further exposed to more dreadful abuses perpetrated on them. This then saw a fractured society that needs more healing than ever before. It is against this background that we note that the theme of this year's International Day of Peace is very appropriate in guiding our key interventions to resolve the simmering and evident forms of conflicts within our societies today.

Conflict resolution and management cannot be ignored, but should be addressed and worked on, the more it is delayed the more it gets concentrated. As such timely resolution is better for a stitch in time saves nine.

As we continue to live with the COVID-19 pandemic, we are inspired to adopt ways of collectively working together to help everyone and in particular the marginalised to recover better and build resilience, this is pivotal in...transforming our country into a more equal, just, equitable, inclusive, sustainable, and healthier state.

As I have already alluded to, this starts with prioritising peace more, and taking a more proactive and responsible role in spreading peace and protecting peace when it is threatened, in our own lives and the country at large.

The observance of the International Day of Peace provides a valuable opportunity for us to assess our progress in the peace agenda, and to resolve and commit to do more together, for issues of peace are everyone's responsibility.



The UN General Assembly has declared this as a day devoted to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire.

International Day of Peace, continue to demonstrate that in the current context peace is still a fragile dove, thus our precious dove still needs much more protection. I recognise, that in other jurisdictions today they fly the peace doves. This is symbolic to new beginnings, love and peace. Thus, releasing peace doves uplifts our hopes for true celebrations of a peaceful country. As we may not have the opportunity to fly doves today, we however are expectant to receive the peace, love and dawn of new beginning in our work places, communities, and country at large. This is key for a better nation we all cherish and love and will bequeath to the future generation a nation known for peace and tranquillity.

As Civil Society we join the efforts of the Government, National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, United Nations family amongst other stakeholders as we focus on recovering better for a more equitable and peaceful country. We celebrate and advance peace, further demonstrating our commitment to be partners and players in ensuring a peaceful and prosperous Zimbabwe. We castigate all forms of abuse, violence and hate speech online and offline, and by spreading compassion, kindness, and hope in the face of the pandemic.

As we draw closer to the 2023 harmonised elections, we hope that we will work together to ensure that these plebiscites are undertaken in a violent free environment. This has to start from now so that we may not be taken aback by possible eruptions of violence linked to the elections.

There is need to investment more through the fiscal policies to support the ideals of peace, our NPRC should be adequately funded to support their actions towards peace. Peace is a key enabler for sustainable development. Thus, without peace we will not be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, Vision 2030 and also the implementation of the National Development Strategy I will be compromised.

For the country to build back better there is need to bring on board all stakeholders who play a pivotal role in ensuring that there is peace in the nation. As such community engagement targeting the hard-to-reach areas, women, youths, persons with disabilities are crucial.

With such diversity and wealth of knowledge and experience on peace issues in attendance today in this International Day of Peace Commemorations, we are well placed as a nation to raise the bar in our peace endeavours, and to contribute towards better ways to achieve deeper and sustainable peace. Our previous lessons and experiences are key in informing our future interventions.

As CSOs we remain committed to contribute towards a peaceful Zimbabwe.

And, I personally believe, that a better Zimbabwe is possible. If we all, as the public infuse interactions with the values of peace, fairness and human dignity we will surely conquer. Our dream is for this generation, is to bequeath a peaceful Zimbabwe to the next generation and be accounted for as the generation that left an indelible mark of peace that will not be erased. We have all what it takes as a nation to play that role, yes through the NPRC.

I wish you all a very meaningful and inspiring International Day of Peace Commemorations!

Happy International Day of Peace 2021.



INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

www.nangozim.org #PeaceDay 21 September 2021

Theme: Recovering Better for An Equitable and Sustainable World

“Our dream is for this generation to bequeath a peaceful Zimbabwe to the next generation” - NANGO

Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal. Happy World Peace 2021 Day!




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be motivated

success is not final, failure is not fatal: it is the courage to continue that counts
Winston Churchill

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Newly licensed Kariba community radio to empower rural citizens



By Nhau Mangirazi

MOLA- The Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) recently awarded community radio licenses around the country. The licenses were issued to Radio Bukalanga, Matobo Community Radio Trust, Chimanimani Community Radio Station, Vemuganga Community Radio Trust, Ndau Community Radio Trust, Twasumbuka Community Radio Trust, and Madziwa Community Radio Trust.

Kariba district was allocated a community radio station under Patsaka Nyaminyami community radio that is trading as Kasambabezi FM. It will cover nine urban and 12 rural wards of Kariba district within Mashonaland West province.

The station coordinator John Chirinda said the latest development will help in empowering communities to access information about themselves and their aspirations.

"We welcome the latest move by BAZ as it will help communities to communicate amongst themselves in their languages, cultures, and local dialects including Tonga, Shangwa. Community radio has brought people together in

terms of different sectors including youths, women, people living with disabilities.

"We will set up ward communities so that every story is covered. We are excited that the radio will be broadcasted in native languages like Tonga in different dialects as well as Shona dialects such as KoreKore Shangwes in Kasvisva, Musampakaruma in Kariba rural.

"We are thrilled that we will have a radio that will speak to us and it will teach us for community development. We are going to hear the correct drumming in terms of tradition and local culture,"

He however said the latest development will help communities to engage with both private and public institutions to access information under the Freedom of Information Act.

"If citizens want to access information from councils, they will certainly use local languages such as Tonga or Shona requesting for that. Our community radio will be the ideal platform to empower communities about the Freedom of Information Act and how it helps public institutions to be accountable to citizens" added Chirinda.

Community Radio

A community radio station is one that is operated in the community, for the community, about the community and by the community.



Hurungwe Community Radio board chairperson Joel Zilala congratulated Kariba district for leading the way in getting a community-based license in the province.

"We are happy that Kariba district through Patsaka Nyaminyami trading as Kasembebezi community radio will be propping community voices for development. It is a thrust as Hurungwe Community Radio that we will work for hand in hand with them as we share the same vision of empowering communities about their own stories being told in local languages. We are happy as this a positive development for freeing of airwaves by the Government," said Zilala.

NEED AND ROLE OF COMMUNITY RADIO

- It is functioning as a Public Relations Tools for rural development.
- Community radio stations are operated, owned, and driven by the communities they serve.
- In many parts of the world today, community radio acts as a vehicle for the community and voluntary sector, civil society, agencies, NGOs and citizens to work in partnership to promote community development.
- By the core aims and objectives of this model of broadcasting, community radio stations often serve their listeners by offering a variety of content that is not necessarily provided by the larger commercial radio stations.

Patsaka Nyaminyami board chairperson Stephen Murota based under Chief Negande welcomed the awarding of the radio license.

"This is the hour of our happiness and joy as Kariba community. The community radio broadcasting license came at the right time as we need our local stories coming out from locals," he said.

The community radio has been given 18 months to be on air.

"We are hopeful to manage as a community-centered project for development. We want the community to contribute towards all the needs of the station to avoid

few people claiming or monopolistic tendencies.

"It is part of employment creation for the locals as community structures will be set as soon as possible with each ward having a committee elected by the ward members.

"These committees will all have representation on the following sectors as women, youth and people with disability," Murota added.

Zimbabweans have been pushing for community radio stations in a move aimed at availing local and developmental stories at lowest levels.

BROADCASTING AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE



PRESS STATEMENT

15 September 2021

LICENSING OF COMMUNITY BROADCASTING RADIO STATIONS

The Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe would like to announce that it has licensed eight (8) more Community Radio Stations. The licences have been issued to the following applicants:

APPLICANT TO BE LICENSED	COVERAGE AREA
1. Radio Bukalanga (Pvt) Ltd	CRS 2A: Mangwe, Brunapeg, Maphisa
2. Matobo Community Radio Trust	CRS 2B: Ndolwane, Plumtree, Empandeni
3. Chimanimani Community Radio Station Trust	CRS 4A: Chimanimani, Gwendingwe, Rusitu
4. Vemuganga Community Radio Trust	CRS4B: Chipinge-Checheche, Chibuwe
5. Ndau Community Radio Station Trust	CRS 4C: Mahenye (Garahwa)
6. Twasumbuka Community Radio Trust	CRS 7A: Binga, Kamativi and Siabuawa
7. Patsaka Nyami Nyami Community Trust t/a Kasambabezi FM	CRS7B: Kariba, Mapongola,
8. Madziwa Community Radio Trust	CRS 10: Shamva

After licensing the stations should be operational within eighteen (18) months failure of which the licenses will be automatically revoked as stipulated by the Broadcasting Services Act.

Eng M. Chakanyuka
Acting Chief Executive Officer
BROADCASTING AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE

My Puzzle

U	V	O	R	G	A	N	I	S	A	T	I	O	N
O	L	Y	T	I	C	A	P	A	C	I	A	E	D
G	R	L	P	N	C	I	V	I	C	M	N	N	L
N	O	I	T	A	T	N	E	M	U	C	O	D	V
A	E	V	I	S	U	L	C	N	I	R	B	S	O
N	V	V	E	B	A	A	S	P	E	H	R	T	L
S	V	N	L	R	E	S	E	A	R	C	H	R	U
I	L	A	D	E	M	O	C	R	A	C	Y	E	N
Y	R	A	T	N	U	L	O	V	R	L	G	N	T
I	P	R	O	P	O	S	A	L	A	S	L	T	E
R	N	C	S	R	C	E	A	B	L	V	C	H	E
L	I	A	V	E	H	E	O	T	S	E	M	E	R
L	C	C	P	O	U	L	I	G	D	S	S	N	Y
N	T	Y	O	D	G	D	H	V	T	E	S	A	O

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