
NEWSLETTER

DEVELOPMENT WATCH VOLUME 4, ISSUE 3

In Retrospect: NANGO Statement on 2022 By-Elections held on 26 March 2022

25 March 2022: As the 2022 by-elections, to be held tomorrow the 26th of March, are around the corner, the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) implores all stakeholders to be peaceful and tolerant as we go to cast our votes tomorrow. We are one Nation and one People who should coexist and develop our great Nation of Zimbabwe.



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Letter to the Editor

The year, 2022, is a very special year for the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) family. For starters, it marks the 60th Anniversary year since the establishment of the Association.



We take this as an opportunity to reflect and evaluate the journey that we have walked this far. No doubt, it has not been easy especially with the current Covid-19 pandemic coupled with the shrinking operating environment for Civil Society Organisations (CSOs).

Regardless of all this, the association remains committed to creating an enabling operating environment for Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) within Zimbabwe. Thus, faced with the Private Voluntary Organisation (PVO) Amendment Bill, we will continuously engage with various stakeholders as we try to develop a common understanding and make sure NGOs can continue to operate without any obstacles that might hinder them from achieving their objectives and mandates. NGOs remain committed to complimenting government efforts as we contribute towards the achievement Agenda 2030, and successful implementation of the National Development Strategy I.

#CovidIsNotOver #StaySafe #MaskUp

Mr Ernest Nyimai
Head of Programmes
NANGO

Designed By
Chris Katsaura



In Retrospect: NANGO Statement on 2022 By-Elections held on 26 March 2022

25/03/2022

Harare: As the 2022 by-elections, to be held tomorrow the 26th of March, are around the corner, the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) implores all stakeholders to be peaceful and tolerant as we go to cast our votes tomorrow. We are one Nation and one People who should coexist and develop our great Nation of Zimbabwe.

NANGO upholds that by-elections give the general citizenry an opportunity to participate in democratic processes through exercising their right to vote. As we draw closer and closer to the by-election's day, we note the zeal the nation has to exercise their democratic rights and the commitment by key stakeholders to holding free and fair elections.

In view of the above, NANGO with its membership to a greater extent contribute towards the creation of an enabling environment that allows for such a process to be undertaken in a free, fair and peaceful environment thereby enhancing the credibility of the election outcome. Thus, NANGO observation team working under the National Peace and Reconciliation Committee (NPRC) will be observing the by-elections tomorrow. Our observers will take note of how accessible the polling station is to People with Disabilities (PWDs).

Furthermore, our observers will document the voting process, starting with the procedures of opening the polling stations, the voting, conduct of the voters and the general environment of the polling conditions. Lastly our observation mission will witness the closing of polling stations, counting of the votes and transmission to the designated command centre.

NANGO echoes that it is in the best interest of all Zimbabweans for the government to ensure that the political and social environment is conducive for there to be an enabling environment so that citizens can exercise their rights and privileges. We all need to work together towards holding peaceful by-elections.

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'Boys suffer sexual abuse in silence'

By Nhau Mangirazi

A REPORT by Farm Orphans Support Trust (FOST) has revealed that boys also suffer sexual abuse, yet it usually goes unreported and taken lightly.

The study was done in collaboration with the Department of Social Development, the Zimbabwe National Council on the Welfare of Children, Family Support Trust, and Simukai Child Protection programme. It was launched in December last year to understand the nature, causes, and drivers of sexual abuse and exploitation of boys.

FOST Executive Director, Blessing Mutama, said that gender norms and masculinity prevented men and boys from reporting sexual violations against them because of the stigma associated with it.

Implemented in Bindura, Harare, and Mutare districts, where FOST is working with orphans and vulnerable children, the study provided in-depth insights into social, cultural, and gender-related factors influencing sexual abuse

of boys.

“It also included how social norms around gender shape and influence the sexual abuse of boys; and the nature and adequacy of support available for boys who are victims of sexual violence, including what is already being done to ensure that these boys grow up in a permanent, safe and caring family, or in quality alternative care where needed,” Mutama said.

He said during the research, they found that most boys were reluctant to report sexual abuse due to stigma, while friends were likely to turn them into a laughing stock.

“Given the high unemployment rate in the country, societal pressure leads some of these boys to venture into livelihood activities where they are vulnerable to sexual exploitation,” the study noted.

For example, the study said in Bindura some boys ventured into artisanal mining, dealing in drugs, and engaging in sex work to fend for their families.

In Mutare, some boys were said to have reported that some women took them to their homes for sex.

“They ask you to thoroughly bath, and sometimes they give you new clothes and you sleep with them. After that, they give you money, so what is wrong with that? We know that they are as old as our mothers but if you are a man and you are offered sex and you refuse, others will laugh at you because you will be a coward,” the study revealed.

Padare programmes officer Melisa Nyoni said COVID-19 negatively affected boys due to family discords.

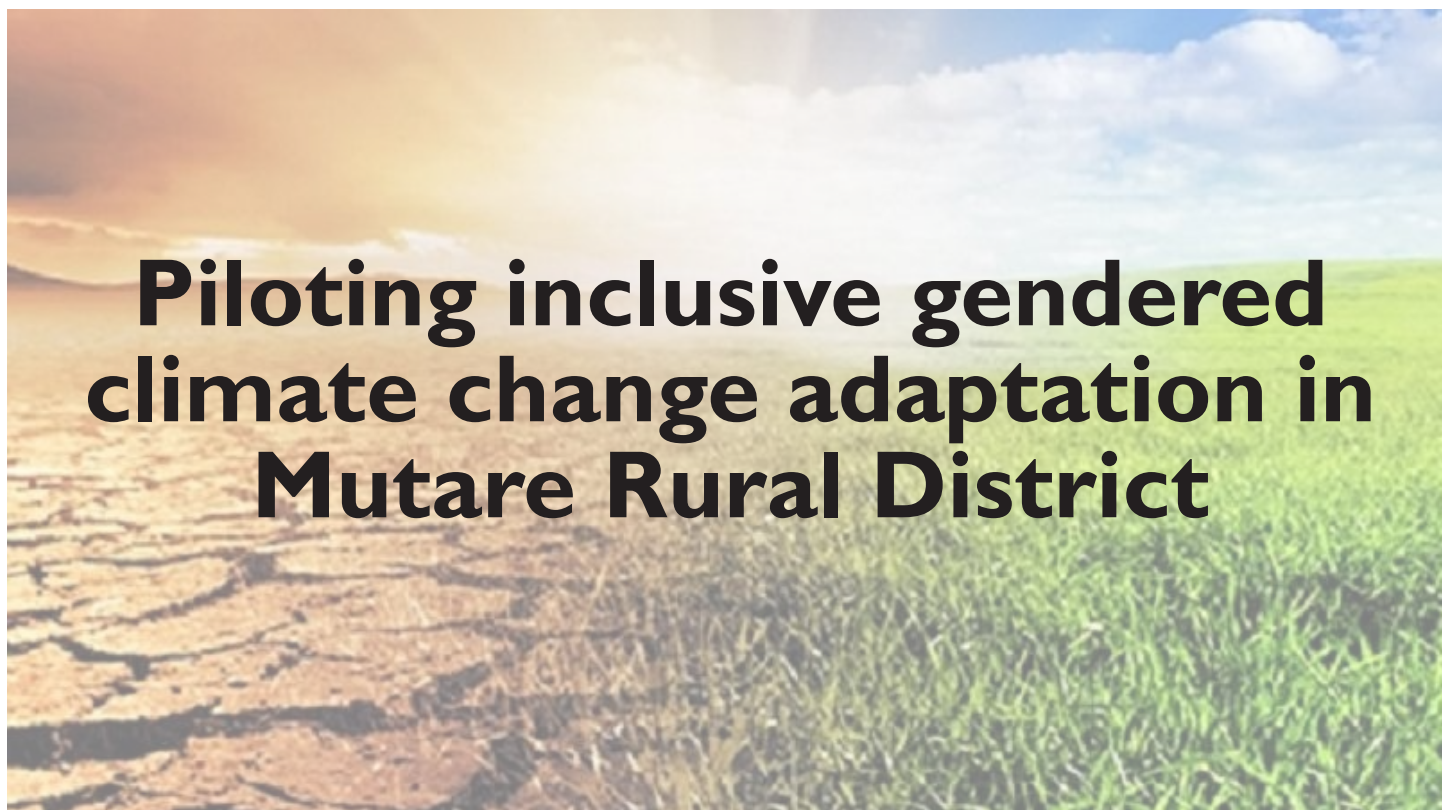
“We have challenges of poverty, redundancy, peer pressure as most drivers of abuse on boys during the pandemic era,” Nyoni said.

Child Protection advocate Chinga Govhati said: “Boys are being affected by sexual violence over the years and are victims of sexual abuse.”

Young Women Christian secretary-general Muchanyara Mukamuri said: “While it is widely believed that women are abused physically and sexually more than men, men often suffer emotionally silently and do not report such abuses.

“This is because societal norms play a part against crying out loud when men are being abused.”

Mukamuri said some male victims of GBV (gender-based violence) end up having mental health problems. In its recommendations, the report urged more research into sexual abuse of boys, as well as community awareness campaigns on the issue.



During these times of climate crisis, the plight of women in rural communities has increasingly become dire as they have to live up to dwindling arable land, water sources and farming-based livelihood opportunities. Given the key role that women play within

these households, their ability to adapt and cope with the changing environment is continuously tested as they are left with no choice but to innovate around sustaining their livelihoods and of their families in the face of climate change.

Today, families still rely on women to facilitate provision of basic services like food, energy, shelter and water, even when such resources are now more difficult to acquire.

To promote awareness on the rights of women affected by climate change in Manicaland province, Green Governance Zimbabwe Trust (GGZT) is piloting its gendered programming in Mutare rural district. This project has been themed Woman Can Adapt. With three distinct goals, the Woman Can Adapt (FemAdapt) Project builds a core grassroots movement of climate activists through tailor made training, mentoring and skills development.

The project also promotes, through a select key activities, awareness on the rights of women affected by climate change, and contributes towards improving their adaptive capacity to the changing climate. Institutionally, it also advocates for the development of a local level gender sensitive climate change response strategy.

The project is being piloted in Mutare Rural District Council as an extension of localised interventions to strengthen rural communities by creating interface dialogues with duty bearers and the public sector officials. Funded under the Embassy of the Kingdom of Netherlands Human Rights Innovation Fund 2021, this project feeds into our thematic programming areas by enhancing inclusive, participatory and people-centered climate governance.

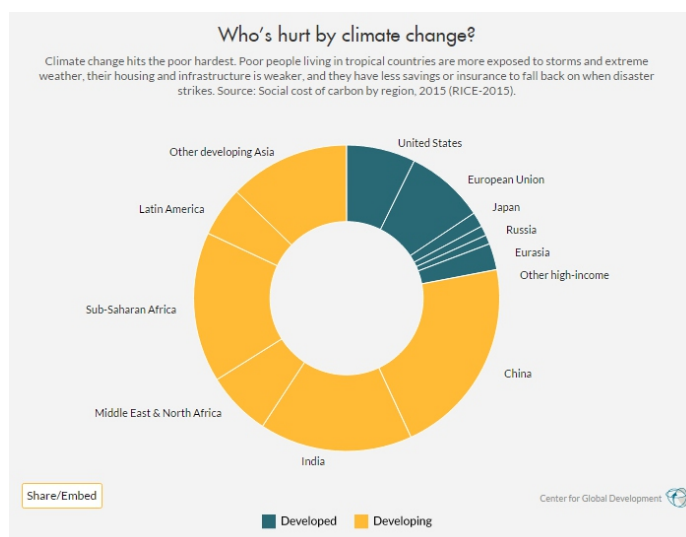
It is GGZT's vision that natural (capital) resources governance should translate to gender sensitive and inclusive sustainable development. It is the organisation's firm belief that no development is sustainable outside deliberate attempt to empower vulnerable groups, specifically those affected by climate change. In the same vein, GGZT implemented the Women and Land Project in Chimanimani district, informed of the need to build grassroots capacity and skills of women affected by Cyclone idai. The outcomes of the project include addressing

contentious land tenure rights and exposed the foregoing skills gaps in rural communities.

Zimbabwe has for decades endured constrained macro-economic conditions periodically worsened by droughts and erratic weather patterns. For Manicaland province, the 2019 Cyclone Idai was a devastation of huge proportions. Government officials state conservatively that currently in Manicaland a staggering 12 000 households are currently facing food insecurity, as poor rains and erratic weather patterns are impacting harvests and livelihoods.

What makes this a climate change induced human rights issue is that, whilst the government is mandated to protect women's right to and easy access to clean water, health and shelter for its citizens, their priorities only favour the elite. For women in rural areas who heavily rely on rain fed subsistence farming, the situation has become dire with the dearth of urban support which has also dwindled with the drop in wage and salary employment.

It is GGZT's belief that by blending climate change and gender within the broader development matrix in Mutare District - by and large rural Zimbabwe, women can steer sustainable community development, poverty alleviation, food security and demand protection of their rights.



Mukuru is one of the largest money transfer providers in Africa and a leading Next Generation Financial Services Platform that offers affordable and reliable financial services to the emerging consumer.

The foundation of our business was built by providing the continent's migrant diaspora with safe, convenient international money transfers. From this base we have grown a wide range of products and services that take their cue from our customers' needs and aspirations for greater financial security and a better life.

To this end, we continue to build a highly robust and resilient physical and digital financial payments infrastructure across Africa that unlocks new value-added services for our loyal customers.

As a fintech provider, Mukuru has underpinned its successful customer engagement strategy with the ability to 'speak the language' of its users and gain grassroots understanding of the unique pain points each consumer faces in each market. Our service leverages over 170 Mukuru Orange Booths and a partner network of over 500 locations to facilitate swift and secure USD cash remittances in Zimbabwe.

Mukuru has more recently expanded into business-to-person transfers, leveraging its extensive physical and digital value chain in Southern Africa to provide regional payroll, bill settlement and humanitarian aid services to organisations' within the NGO sector. It is fiercely committed to its corporate social responsibility across geographies, showing care for vulnerable persons through tailored customer journeys and support interventions.

Mukuru's Enterprise Payment Platform offers aid organisations and employers a tech-based solution to distribute humanitarian aid. Mukuru uniquely operates a fully independent and resilient international USD and ZAR cash supply chain in Zimbabwe. Operational capacity is

designed for scale, with our cash logistics and physical cash disbursement footprint able to respond rapidly to changes in remittance volumes or geographic reach.

Mukuru offers a cost effective, fast and fully traceable way to payout aid and grant money that support millions of the most vulnerable people in the world. Payments can take place from any country and tailored foreign exchange solutions allow for local or international source of funds. Mukuru can payout in accordance with any aid organisation's policies.

Mukuru's Development Impact

- Remittances are lifeline payments to recipients in developing countries.
- Cash used for critical sustenance: living expenses, school fees, utility bills etc.
- Key contributor to poverty reduction.
- Remittances provide a crucial contribution to developing countries' Gross National Income and balance of payments.
- Mukuru has a global best in class safety plan for its staff and customers, including a range of unique capabilities given its technology and scale.
- Proprietary AML and fraud-prevention software; committed to best practices and compliance with relevant rules and regulations.



The nexus between environmental protection and sustainable development.



By: **PACDEF**

Ambitious objectives and goals allow us to chart trajectories, articulate strategies, and fundraise/mobilise resources. Goals create global narratives that define national and local priorities and actions. We are always setting goals as humans.

At the United Nations Sustainable Development summit in September 2015, 193 government heads agreed to 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) covering all aspects of sustainable development in particular the economic, social and environmental dimensions. At the 21st Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP21) in December that year, all UN members states committed to staying 2 Degree Celsius of Warming worldwide and to reach zero net carbon emissions in the second half of the century.

Naturally, these goals are highly ambitious – articulating high expectations – and universal, committing all countries to their implementation. These goals have and will continue to help frame policies and regulations for the period of 15 years beginning 2015, requiring action across the world and

accountability by all actors. The 17 SDGs build upon Millennial Development Goals (MDGs), and they follow on previous commitments to enhance development and to operate within environmental limits.

The SDGs incorporated an environmental dimension both collectively and individually. They emphasise the connection between poverty eradication and environmental sustainability – as well as the importance of efficient use of resources and meaningful contribution from multiple stakeholders. Some SDGs that incorporate environmental dimensions are SDG 13 (on climate action), SDG 15 (on life on Land), SDG 14 (on life below water), among others.

It is through various targets attached to the goals that the fundamental connections between the environment, economic well-being, and social development are reflected. Thus, the environment plays an important role in the healthy living and existence of life on earth. Earth is a home for different species including humans, and we all are dependent on the environment for food, air, water, and other needs. Environmental and natural resources preservation is vital and can contribute to the economic growth of a country; but it is also susceptible to the extent that their utilization, management, and sustainability can be affected by the performance and deeds of various factions within the society. Therefore, it is important that every individual saves and protects the environment.



The relationship between population growth and environmental degradation may appear rather straightforward. Generally speaking, as the human population grows, consumption of natural resources increases. More people demand more resources and generate more waste. More humans consume more freshwater, more land, more clothing, etc. One of the challenges of a growing population that is sharing a limited number of resources strains the environment. Both domestic and global population growth is adding to conflicts over water, energy, food, open space and wilderness, transportation, and infrastructure. When looking at the impact of human activities however, the relationship is complicated by the wide variety of government policies, technologies, and consumption patterns worldwide.

The misuse of natural resources by human beings is the major cause of the degradation of the natural environment and climate change. Environmental impact ranges from the destruction of lands, buildings, flora and fauna, and there is the destruction of crops and loss of lives. Man's needs have wiped out more than half of the forests around the world. As a result, the world has seen natural disasters like floods and tropical storms. The Manicaland Province has been one of the provinces most affected by disasters, taking into account Cyclone Idai and the recently discovered Tropical Storm Ana.

An example can be drawn from the Dangamvura mountain case in Mutare where there was a conflict between the general citizenry and a mining company regarding a mountain that had to be used to mine quarry. The mining company withdrew from the mountain as an Environmental Impact Assessment had not been done by the city engineer. The outcry was that mining in the mountain would result in wide deforestation, environmental degradation due to uncovered pits, as well as dust pollution to the nearby communities. Moreover, culturally, mountains are heritage sites which are considered sacred. This dispute revealed a

clear indication of local awareness of the detrimental environmental effects of uncurbed activities such as mining.

More advocacy and capacity building is crucial in communities to enable them to understand the nexus between environmental protection and sustainable development. Civil Society Organizations like Peace Building and Capacity Development Foundation (PACDEF) have been implementing a climate change and gendered analysis project supported by Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA), where they are planting trees for communities in Gatsi ward 6 in Mutasa district.

It is an encouragement to all, to plant a tree and contribute to development.



Community members together with PACDEF planting trees in Gatsi

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Young People Take the Lead in Protecting Our Planet A **In The Decade Of Action**



By: *Tinashe Muzama*

Young people are taking action to stop climate change. Climate change is the greatest threat facing people and the planet today. Young people are increasingly being seen as cogs in the effort to undo that damage. Young people in Mutare, Zimbabwe under the banner of Manica Youth Assembly (MAYA) have kick-started the year 2022 by embarking on an afforestation program to respond to the massive deforestation crisis around Dangamvura Mountain in Mutare as most of its land has been cleared for urban farming by locals and also for quarry mining by a Chinese company. This is in line with SDG 13 which advocates for climate action.

In this Decade of Action, young people are the drivers of Global Goals. Current generations are the first to feel the impacts of climate change and they are the last generation positioned to effectively mitigate its possible effects. Climate change is already having a disproportionate effect on people living in marginalised communities, these include the youth.

Climate issues impact all 17 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Young people have been and are still active architects in the implementation of sustainable development goals. Youth-led action on climate change has provided a track record of success. Climate action will fail without the inclusion of the voices of the younger generations. Young people are experiencing changes to their environment and climate – from droughts

and high temperatures to flooding. These changes have diverse impacts on young people's futures and livelihoods, from farming to non-agricultural businesses. Youth voices are therefore vital in addressing climate change. It is particularly worth noting that the majority of the world's young people are from countries most severely affected by climate change.

Much like other actors, young people are responding to climate change by adopting environmentally friendly farming practices, planting trees to create shelter from harsh winds, identifying multiple/alternative water and energy sources, or moving away from agriculture entirely. The youth have however expressed concerns over what they perceive as government inaction to address climate-related disruptions.

There is a paramount need for Mutare urban to take advantage of the offcuts from commercial timber plantations to provide energy for domestic use instead of cutting down indigenous trees that take time to grow and have cultural significance to the lives of people. It is said that Zimbabwe is losing forests at a rate never seen before through deforestation. The major drivers of deforestation are brick molding, charcoal making, firewood selling, and the use of fuelwood for cooking. From 2001 to 2020 Mutare lost 8,59kha of relative tree cover, equivalent to a 100% decrease since 2000 and 6.3% of the global total. Between 2001 and 2012, Mutare gained 1.45kha of tree cover region-wide, equaling to 3.2% of all tree cover gain in Manicaland.

Trees provide benefits such as firewood, sawn timber, pulpwood, building material, wood for crafts, fodder, fruits, honey, mushrooms, *madora*, bark for ropes, medicines, watershed protection, arrest development of gullies, provide windbreaks, climate change mitigation, prevention of soil erosion, wildlife habitat, property value appreciation and the general beauty of our landscape.

Young people are approximately 67.7 percent of the population in Zimbabwe; they therefore have a significant role to play in environmental and conservation efforts that will improve livelihoods and promote sustainable development. Empowered youths are aware that inactivity on their part is not an option. Youth participation in activities ranging from deforestation, disaster management, or discouraging animal ill-treatment is therefore high in the region.

Youth participation should be sought and increased at all levels ranging from grass root activism, to policy bodies, to Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). The deterioration of the natural environment is a principal concern of young people as it has direct implications for their well-being both now and in the future. The natural environment must be maintained and preserved for both

present and future generations.



BVTA submits Youth Model Policy to BCC



By BVTA

Bulawayo Vendors and Traders Association (BVTA) last month submitted the proposed Youth Model Policy to Bulawayo City Council (BCC), following young informal traders and stakeholder consultation dialogues on strategies on how to enhance the livelihoods of young

informal traders.

The organisation has been working with young informal traders under a project titled Strengthening The Livelihoods and Resilience of Urban Youths. The project aimed at strengthening the democratic space and human rights of young people in Zimbabwe in the context of the Government's COVID-19 response and envisioned opening business spaces and opportunities for young informal traders.

The BCC Youth Model Policy was presented in a Stakeholders Policy Dialogue meeting where young informal traders made additions to the policy, leading to the proposition of the development of a Youth Model Policy by BVTA.

The Youth Model Policy was received by Honourable Deputy Mayor Councillor Mlandu Ncube and Councillor Jabangwe amidst BVTA young informal traders.

Mlandu expressed his gratitude to the organisation on its efforts to assist young informal traders and working with BCC.

“The Youth Model Policy highlights some of the deficiencies that young informal traders encounter,” Langton Moyo, a policy developer told The Vendors Voice. “It aims at strengthening youth development interventions, participation, partnerships and to provide a framework to mainstream and integrate youth issues,” continued Moyo.

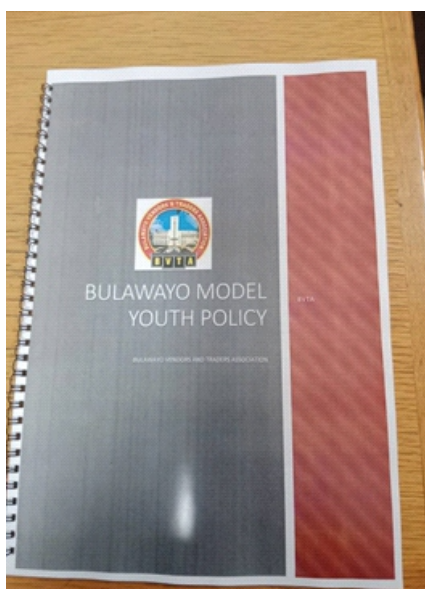
“We want to be engaged by the council in meetings and activities so that we also contribute to the development of our communities,” Juliet Samison a young informal trader told The Vendors Voice.

Podzani Tshuma said that as youths they are happy that BVTA has finally submitted the proposed Youth Model Policy.

“We hope that the proposed Youth Model Policy will be looked into so that us as young people can be allocated stands in conducive spaces, have refurbished youth centres and get jobs,” continued Tshuma.

Our Story

Bulawayo Vendors and Traders organisation of vendors and informal opportunities for the urban poor in existing policy and legal constraints and conscientising its members about the Constitution of Zimbabwe. BVTA Bulawayo on the 30th of October 2015.



Association is a membership based traders that exists to expand economic Bulawayo. BVTA's work includes identifying facing informal traders, seeking solutions their socio-economic rights as enshrined in was registered through a Deed of Trust in

Vision

BVTA envisages an inclusive local vendors and informal traders to have key contributors to economic growth

economy that recognises and enables sustainable livelihoods so that they become and development.

Mission

Our mission is to offer coordination, capacity building and business support services to vendors and informal traders.

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