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Kadoma welcomes partnerships with NGOs

His Worship the Mayor of Kadoma, Alderman Action Nyamukondiwa, commended the good work of that is being carried out by NGOs in communities.

The Mayor said the theme 'Fortifying inclusive spaces and partnerships for sustainable development' resonates well with the way business is done in the city adding that his council endeavors to include and consult all stakeholders including children and vulnerable groups in matters that affect them, like service delivery.

2

Shrinking civic spaces

The presenters concurred that democracy is regressing and there is need for realignment and repealing of laws, constitutionalism, open dialogue between all citizens, CSOs and government, robust resource mobilisation and civil society that is coordinated and is guided by an integrated development approach that takes into consideration district development frameworks. All the presenters highlighted existence of competition on sustainable development interventions which has become a major drawback.

3

Zim's weak public finance management

A development consultant recommended that the contentious 2% tax should be ring-fenced for provision of free basic primary education, health care and water with noticeable results. He anticipated that this would bring the much needed buy in of the tax given its widespread condemnation and resistance. One of the directors disputed this saying it is a way of normalising a wrong. Instead NGOs should condemn all unjustified imposed policies that lead to further impoverishment of citizens.

The NGO directors urged government to walk the talk and ensure policy coherence to avoid policy conflict and reversals.

“Let us tell the story of women but remember to tell it with dignity.” - Audrey Charamba

What NANGO members want

- Inclusion of youth in civil society decision making platforms
- Vibrancy of all NANGO sectors
- Decentralisation of advocacy work
- Meaningful participation and influence in national policy formulation processes
- Unity of CSOs
- Knowledge management and documentation
- Transformative CSO governance instruments and practices that promote and support equal participation of women in leadership positions
- Strengthened regional offices with adequate resources to sustain themselves
- Stakeholder mapping to identify active members' challenges and strengths.



4

Dire state of the economy

To effectively contribute towards improvement of the state of the economy in Zimbabwe NGO leaders were encouraged to gain economic literacy, mobilise citizens and movement towards strong social accountability monitoring and have a coordinated collective response to emerging challenges.

What stakeholders can do differently is to investment in social services, recognize women’s unpaid care work, formalization of the informal economy and strengthen policy coordination and implementation of home-grown sustainable policy positions.

5

Integral components of national development

Government should strengthen citizen engagement in policy formulation and implementation. This should be done through a top down approach were citizens can freely participate.

Government should adequately fund critical institutions like police, judiciary, in-order to ensure access to justice for citizens and adhere to the 15% Abuja Declaration in order to improve access to health services. The government has been urged to urgently address the issue of doctors' incapacitation and improve the working conditions and welfare of primary healthcare workers.

6

NGO Awards

Government Department /Ministry of the Year: **Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development.**

Donor/Development Partner of the Year: **European Union.**

Human Rights Role of Honour Award: **Zimbabwe Lawyers For Human Rights.**

Community Development Award: **Women in Communities.**

NGO Sector of the Year: Youth and Women's sector

NGO Communicator of the year: **Community Youth Development Trust.**

NGO Director of the Year Award: **Barbara Matsanga**

“ Once written you have to stand by it. You may have said it to see whether you believed it or not. ”

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