

In case you missed it

NANGO presents a monthly magazine to update you on developmental issues you may have missed during the course of the previous month.



Advocacy

Civic spaces

Meaningful participation

Research

Enabling environment

Capacity building

Policy dialogues

★ *Reviewing the course of past events* ★

#ICYMI

NANGO calls for stakeholder involvement in policy and legislative development

NANGO urges the Government to employ public consultative approaches when developing national and legislations instruments. This comes after prolonged realisation and recognition of exclusion of the public in the various legislative and policy reforms that have been promulgated by the Government.

Section 13 on National Development, subsection 2 of the Consitution provides that 'Measures referred to in this section must involve the people in the formulation and implementation of development and programmes that affect them'. Thus, the Constitutional provides that the Government must involve the people in formulation of policies and legislations.

Recently, the Government instituted Statutory Instruments (SIs) that have a negative bearing on the welfare of the general public in particular the SI 142/19 and SI 145/19 to mention a few. Evidently, these were developed without an iota of public involvement. These were developed without due diligence and without respect for the right to administrative justice as guaranteed in Chapter 4 Section 68 of the Constitution.

The Government has an obligation of consulting citizens before announcing and effecting any legal and policy instruments. The public have the right to administrative conduct that is lawful, prompt, efficient, reasonable, proportionate, impartial and both substantively and procedurally fair. Ownership and buy-in of new policies by the public is imperative for the success of new policy reforms yet there are several policies that the Government has developed and went on to implement without effective public participation and engagement.

Due to this, NANGO calls on government to follow due process and respect administrative rights ahead of effecting any legal instrument that affects the day to day lives of Zimbabweans.

NANGO is the officially recognised coordinating body of NGOs operating in Zimbabwe. It is the largest umbrella body for non-governmental organisations and was established in 1962. It is a non-partisan, non-profit making and non-denominational coordinating body of NGOs in Zimbabwe. NANGO is mandated by its membership to coordinate the activities of NGOs, represent the NGO sector and strengthen the voice of NGOs in Zimbabwe.



#ICYMI

NANGO irked by continued shrinkage of civic space

NANGO notes with great concern the continued arrests of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) officials and sternly condemns efforts to inhibit operations of civil society by Government. The shrinking of civic space is exacerbating by day and this is against the expectations of citizens on the 'Second Republic' which projected itself as an inclusive, open, tolerant government that wants to distinguish itself from the past experiences.

Within a period of one week we have about seven CSO officials who got arrested at the Robert Mugabe International Airport. These include, Tatenda Mombeyarara, George Makoni, Nyasha Frank Mpahlo, Gamuchirai Mukura, Farirai Gumbonzvanda, Rita Nyamupinga, and Sitabile Dewa. The notion of arresting to investigate infringes on the rights of citizens, as there will be no recourse after.

The State, to a greater extent, has violated section 50 of the Constitution on the rights of arrested and detained persons. The treatment which some of these have been subjected to is inhumane. Further, confiscation of properties of arrested individuals is strongly condemned.

The charge of subverting a constitutionally elected government is unjustified and unwarranted. This charge is now a fashionable justification of arresting CSOs whose critic is not palatable to Government.

NANGO calls on government, in particular the Security line Ministries, to desist from willy-nilly arresting of CSOs and targeting their officials. CSOs play a key role in contributing towards national development and have never waived from this role. It is therefore, imperative to choose to dialogue rather than arrest officials where the Government may be ignorant on the work of NGOs. Government should not set barriers or intimidate institutions that aim to bring sustainable development to Zimbabwe.



You are invited to participate in an online dialogue with the following objectives:

- To enhance understanding of the TSP through dialogue among citizens, civil society, the private sector and other non-state actors;
- To contribute input into future development plans; and
- To expand scope for constructive dialogue, engagement and accountability among citizens and the government on development planning, monitoring and implementation of the TSP.

To participate, please visit <https://www.globaldevhub.org/Zimbabwe-TSP>

The online consultation will present four key areas:

- Discussion 1: Reforms and Policy Responses;
- Discussion 2: Relevance - Today and Tomorrow;
- Discussion 3: Implementation and Monitoring; and
- Discussion 4: Transparency and Accountability.

Online Discussions

3 June to 3 July 2018

#TSPTalk

#TSPTalk

#TSPTalk

#TSPTalk

EU launches agricultural growth program

The government of Zimbabwe and the European Union (EU) launched the Zimbabwe Agricultural Growth Program (ZAGP) Fund which is expected to boost the livestock sector, maximise smallholder farmers' profits and improve competitiveness on domestic and international markets. The programme will be implemented by EU partners over a four-year period and is worth US\$45 million.

The ZAGP program mainly targets small to large scale livestock producers, private sector integrators, processors, research organizations, farmers unions and financial service providers among others. ZAGP, which is covering all the country's 10 provinces, will address the weaknesses and gaps in the livestock sector that have prevented the industry from growing.

Under ZAGP, there will be knowledge and innovation services delivered by agricultural education, extension and research in animal disease control and food safety, institutional reforms and policy alignment. The program is focusing on different value chains and projects within Zimbabwe namely; beef, poultry, dairy, pig and goats, focusing on productivity, production and incomes to their potential.

The EU Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Timo Olkkonen said that ZAGP is the main program in agricultural growth in Zimbabwe. "There is need for political willingness to address structural bottlenecks such as security of tenure on land, which is crucial for domestic or foreign investment," he said.

He expressed concern over the challenges in the livestock sector which he said were affecting production.

Ambassador Olkkonen said "The price of feedstock has increased to more than 50 percent in one year, which will have a terrible impact on the competitiveness of the feed

intensive sectors like pig, poultry and dairy in comparison with other sub sectors; there are also regular outbreaks of animal diseases like new castle and foot and mouth diseases that are not contained by the surveillance and disease protection systems".

The Ambassador also clarified that the ZAGP will reduce risk perception in the livestock sector and will encourage more investment which will improve productivity and competitiveness in the domestic and regional markets.

He called for more efficient ways to use resources and supply food for the population of Zimbabwe to ensure the country is self-sufficient in terms of food.

The Provincial Affairs Minister for Mashonaland West, Mliswa-Chikoka, who was standing in for the Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement, Perrance Shiri, said the nation's agricultural growth program in is line with the Government of Zimbabwe's commitment to transform agricultural systems, increase agricultural production, create greater access to markets and increase investments in livestock value chains.

"Zimbabwe has taken a deliberate policy to promote investment in the agricultural sector due to its importance to the economy. The livestock sector has the potential to increase the country's contribution to food security and nutrition, foreign currency earnings as well as the creation of employment throughout the livestock related value chains," she said.

"Although the livestock sector continues to record steady growth, there are a number of challenges limiting its contribution to the national economy. These include access to finance and market, diseases leading to low productivity," said the Minister.

Gender & Corruption

Section 17 of the 2013 Constitution of Zimbabwe provides for gender balance, specifically full participation of women in all spheres; and taking legislative measures to ensure that both genders are equally represented in all institutions and that women constitute half of the membership of all Commissions and other elective and appointed government bodies.

The revised National Gender Policy (NGP) of Zimbabwe was launched on 6 July 2017. It sought to domesticate the SADC Gender Protocol and, more importantly, it was the first sign that the government recognized the deep scourge afflicting the country and was making efforts to eradicate it. The Constitution itself is engendered on the principles of equality, freedom and dignity. These find expression in the emphasis on gender equality promulgated by the constitution, the foundation for the enactment of laws and independent commissions that seek to promote and uphold gender equality and equity, these include the Gender Commission and Human Rights Commissions. Some of the themes in the SADC Gender Protocol that were also adopted in the NGP include: Gender, Constitutional and Legal Rights, Gender, Economic Empowerment, and Gender, Politics and Decision Making.

- Women are less involved in bribery and are less likely to condone bribe-taking. Various research have shown that corruption is less severe where women hold a larger share of parliamentary seats and senior positions in government bureaucracy and comprise a larger share of the labor force.
- Corruption most often leads to disruptions in service delivery, poverty and suffering. Women, children and other vulnerable groups suffer the most from the effects of corruption.
- It is preposterous to assume that simply the physical presence of women in decision making will result in desirable outcomes without addressing many other things, such as the nature of the state, prevailing culture of decision making, dominant political parties and cultures.
- The government has expressed desire to root out corruption as witnessed by the Operation Restore Order of November 2017, the reconstitution of the Anti-Corruption Commission and subsequent formation of Corruption Courts.
- To date there has not been a single successfully prosecuted corruption case in the country.
- The country has no law/ legislation in place to guarantee prosecution of corruption cases.

Recommendations

- The country needs to develop, adopt and operationalize urgently an anti-corruption strategy.
- Specific anti-corruption laws to be developed and enacted.
- Improve on transparency and accountability at all levels of state institutions.
- Increase number of women in positions of power across all sectors.

Corruption and gender inequality are closely connected. Men and women are affected by corruption in different ways, and are subjects and objects of different corrupt practices and behaviours. Gender inequality breeds corruption and vice versa...A gender perspective is necessary if we are to find effective strategies to combat corruption and achieve sustainable development.

Western Region NPRC Peace Committee selected



The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission successfully held its Provincial Peace Committee selection and induction meetings across the Western Region (Matabeleland South, North and Bulawayo Provinces), each training lasting 2 days between the 10th and 18th of June 2019. The meetings were chaired by the NPRC Chairman Rtd Justice Selo M. Nare, assisted by Commissioners Leslie Ncube and Lillian Chigwedere. Each meeting was attended by stakeholders from various sectors that include political parties, civil society, churches, traditional leadership, various government departments and other organised groupings. Of particular note was that in each of the three trainings a review of conflict issues to be addressed was conducted and in all the three provinces Gukurahundi emerged as a top priority, in Bulawayo metropolitan province the second issue was deindustrialisation, in Matabeleland South and North it was the issues of identity documentation which tie in access to education and national resources.

Following the intensive two day engagements in each province a 30-member Provincial Peace Committee was selected in each province. The committees are each chaired by the NPRC's Commissioner Leslie Ncube with the assistance of two vice chairpersons (one male and one female) democratically selected from among the committee members. The committees are to work guided by the ten functions of the NPRC as set out in Section 252 of the Constitution and the NPRC Act (Chapter 10:32). Particularly the committees shall amongst many other duties work to promote peace within the province, create or facilitate spaces for dialogue, engage in confidence and trust building and conduct other activities necessary for the prevention of violence and promote peace. Furthermore, the Provincial Committee's shall work towards facilitating for the selection of district peace committees.

Quota system should be extended



The way the quota system has been implemented in Zimbabwe still has gaps in as far as addressing the fundamentals is concerned. It needs to be cascaded down, so it reaches the local authority where there should be reserved seats for women even at urban and rural councils,” implored Kauzani.

He reiterated that the quota system apart from being extended should be devolved to meet the needs of women in stimulating their participation in governance issues.

National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (NANGO) has urged the Government to extend the period of the quota system of women participation in issues of governance.

The umbrella body of NGOs said the current 10 year period which is expiring in 2023 according to the current Constitution has not guaranteed full involvement of women in governance and political administration in the country.

Speaking during a one day consultative meeting with duty bearers on raising awareness on levels of participation of women in governance, organised by Women Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ), NANGO Manicaland Provincial Coordinator Joseph Kauzani underscored that the way the quota system has been implemented in Zimbabwe since its promulgation in 2013 after the new Constitution that is entirely premised on homegrown solution, it still had gaps as far as addressing the fundamentals is concerned.

“As an umbrella body of NGOs in relation to enhancing women participation in position of authority, we think there is need for the quota system period to be extended since it seems the ten year period (2013-2023) as provided for in the current Constitution has not yet guaranteed full involvement of women in governance and political administration in the country.

The outspoken NANGO boss said the 60 seats in Parliament are not guaranteeing gender equality but are only guaranteeing gender equity of which the obligation Zimbabwe had signed and ratified at international level speak of something else.

“The 60 seats in Parliament reserved for women are not guaranteeing gender equality but are only guaranteeing gender equity of which the obligation Zimbabwe had signed and ratified at international level claims we should be flying at the same wave length with men. There is no agreement on how the framework of the quota system should be handled hence the decision making processes have not met the fundamentals. The quota system should not be politically oriented but should also assimilate itself in other sectors of the Government,” he added.

WCoZ Manicaland chapter chairperson Selina Marewangepo weighed in saying Zimbabwe as

Quota system should be extended

a nation has deep rooted social and cultural beliefs that act as barriers within societies hindering women participation in active politics.

She said apart from women organizations playing their part in lobbying for women participation in governance issues, there was need for leadership and mentorship coaching for women so that they regain confidence and self-esteem to qualify for leadership positions they are crying for.

“Globally it is only the affirmative action that has enhanced women participation as well as quota system. Our societies have taught us that there are positions meant specifically for men in organisations no matter how learned and qualified a woman can be. We believe as women our affirmative action policies need to be strengthened so that we remove the deep rooted social, cultural, economic, religious, political and legal barriers that hinder women participation.

“There is need to extend that to local levels of authority so that even NGOs can exhibit what they are pushing for even in their structures. There is need for leadership and mentorship coaching for women especially in terms of governance issues so that they regain confidence and self-esteem to qualify for leadership positions they are crying for. The legal policies and frameworks in place at present are not enhancing women participation,” she said.

Marewangepo highlighted that at present the quota system was acting as a tokenistic way of women's participation just to appease the women's movement.

She urged political parties in the country to amend their party's constitution with regards to the quota system before it can be adopted and implemented at national level.

Disclaimer

The contents of articles from independent writers do not necessarily reflect the position and resolve of NANGO. NANGO provides platforms that promote national dialogue on topical and contemporary issues that affect Zimbabweans in one way or another.



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