

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.



★ *Reviewing the course of past events* ★

#ICYMI

People with disabilities need representation in commissions

Following an announcement by the Parliament of Zimbabwe requesting for someone to fill in a vacant post that has arisen in the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, the people living with disabilities have called upon the supreme body to consider one of their own for the position.

The post became available after one of the commissioners, C.T Khombe resigned on the 31st of October last year.

“Accordingly, the Standing Rules and Orders Committee is hereby calling on the public to nominate persons to be considered for appointment to this Commission,” read part of the job advertisement.

The Standing Rules and Orders Committee of the Parliament of Zimbabwe is mandated in terms of sections 237 and 243 of the Constitution, to nominate candidates for appointment by his Excellency the President to serve as Commissioners on the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission provided for in Chapter 12 Part 3 of the Constitution.

However, members of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission must be chosen for their integrity and their knowledge of and understanding of, and experience in, the promotion of human rights.

Albino Trust spokesperson Bruce Nyoni, representing the community of people with disabilities has called upon the Parliament of Zimbabwe to consider nominating people from their constituency for the post that has arisen in the commission.

Nyoni said the fact that they do not have any representative in the Commission, has always been a worrisome issue.

“The parliament should consider a candidate from people with disabilities community. As people with disabilities, we feel that we need to sensitize on ownership of the commission so that we will also be meaningfully represented. We need to have a voice in the commission,” said Nyoni.

He added; “If represented, it will also allow some reforms to be done with our community being considered as well.”

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#ICYMI

Calling for inclusion in independent commissions

It is the belief of this community that being part of parliament is important. When people from a marginalized group get a foot in the political process, that group – both their faces and their interests – begin to be represented.

People with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty, have no formal qualifications or be unemployed than their non-disabled counterparts. People with disabilities are also affected by issues that affect every other member of the community.



Nyoni said it is not easy for a commission that does not have a person from the disabled community to thoroughly look at issues affecting the constituency let alone dimensions to mainstream policies.

“Truth be told, there are barriers everywhere, even the most basic things like being able to use public transport with a wheelchair or communication without a sign language interpreter,” said Nyoni.

He added; “People with disabilities need support but that does not make them any less capable of delivering competently.” – by Fadzai Ndangana

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

Online discussions
to interrogate
national policies

Denial of ZBC's biased coverage buttresses calls for its transformation

The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) on 23 May 2019 denied before the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Information, Media and Broadcasting Services that its coverage is biased. Intriguingly, ZBC chief executive officer, Patrick Mavhura, and head of news and current Affairs, Gilbert Nyambabvu, said it was just a perception that ZBC was biased in its coverage.

Mavhura said it was due to such perceptions that some political parties refrained from inviting ZBC to their events because they believed they would not be given fair coverage.

MISA Zimbabwe is disappointed that ZBC fails to acknowledge these anomalies as an opportunity for them to address the findings and shortcomings identified by observer missions to the 2018 elections. This comes at a time when a Cabinet taskforce has been set up to look into the findings and recommendations with the view to implementing them. However the information on the progress in this regard remains scarce.

The issue at hand, which Mavhura and Nyambabvu seem to have missed, is not whether ZBC covers or does not cover opposition party activities, but that when it does, its coverage is biased.

It is such denials and intransigency that buttress and justify increasing calls for the transformation of ZBC into a truly independent public broadcaster.

Digitisation

ZBC said by the end of the digitisation programme they would run six additional television channels. MISA Zimbabwe, however, notes that in its submissions on digitisation, ZBC did not clearly outline how the broadcaster plans to give space to alternative political voices through the six television channels. ZBC is constitutionally mandated to provide fair and balanced coverage to diverse groups in society.

Meanwhile, this means that of the envisaged 24 television channels upon completion of the digitisation process, at least 18 will possibly be licensed to additional player in the broadcasting industry.

MISA Zimbabwe hopes that government will therefore not allocate more than six channels to ZBC when it has outlined in its submissions to Parliament that it is not in a position to run six such channels.

Recommendation

MISA Zimbabwe therefore urges ZBC to come up with measures that ensure diverse and impartial coverage of different political parties and other dissenting voices, views and opinions.

Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs

- The re-settlement of families to temporary camps in Chimanimani continues. A third camp site, which is nearing completion, will cater for another 42 families. However, 346 individuals who are in four collective centres will require alternative temporary accommodation.
 - Long-term settlement planning remains a concern. It is expected that temporary camps will be required until the end of 2019.
 - The Displacement Tracking Mechanism (DTM) assessment at the village level has been completed covering 104 of the worst-affected villages.
 - Early recovery assessment and planning is nearing completion. The World Bank has concluded its field mission rapid assessment and estimates that the recovery cost will be \$640 million.
 - About 250,000 people have received food assistance, including 50,000 vulnerable people (children under age 5, pregnant and lactating women, people living with HIV and the disabled) who have been reached through blanket supplementary feeding.
 - The second and last round of the oral cholera vaccination (OCV) campaign in Chimanimani and Chipinge districts is underway.
 - Funding commitment for the response remains at under 50 per cent (\$27M) and insufficient to cover ongoing multisectoral interventions.
- 250

250,000

people covered with
food support

38,000

children back to
school and supported
with education
materials

14,348

mothers received
Infant and Young Child
(IYCF) counselling

8,500

children reached
with Child
Protection support

175,000

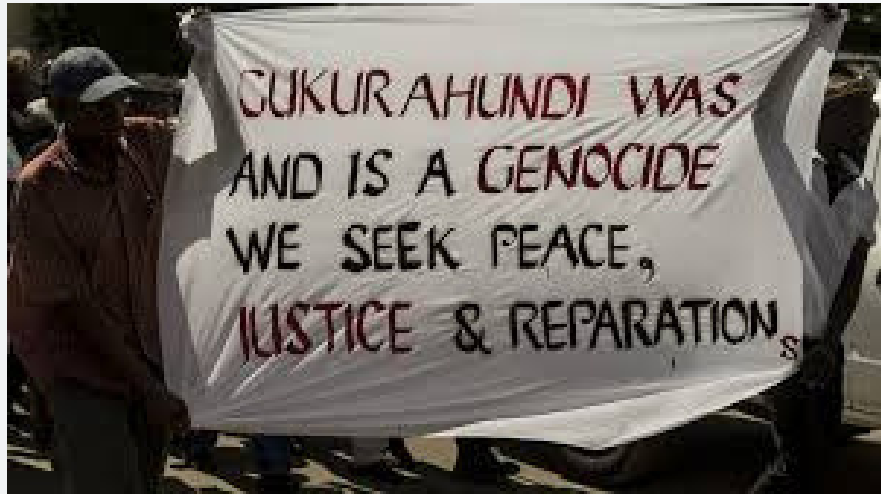
people received
WASH support

This Situation Report is produced by OCHA Regional Office for Southern and Eastern Africa in collaboration with humanitarian partners. The Situation Report builds on Flash Updates No. 6 and provides more detailed information on the situation and response. It covers the period from 14 – 21 May 2019.

Gukurahundi top priority in 2019 – NPRC

The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) has made Gukurahundi their first priority for this year in line with their mandate of conflict resolution, peace and reconciliation in promoting nation building.

This was announced during a two day outreach program that was held in Gweru on 15 and 16 May 2019 where the NPRC met stakeholders representing women, local leadership, youths, politicians, churches and



Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) to discuss how the conflict resolution exercise should be mapped.

Chairperson for the Victim Support Gender and Diversity Thematic Committee, Commissioner Netty Musanhu, said that the critical mandate of the commission is to look at Zimbabwe's not so pleasant past and reflect upon it in the context of rehabilitation, making amends, resolving current conflicts and then recommending laws and policies.

Youths, politicians, women and CSO's in the Midlands region are optimistic that the NPRC will reveal societal ills and bring perpetrators to book while promoting justice and accountability. Representatives from these different sectors also said that it is about time Zimbabweans put aside their differences and worked together towards nation building and sustainable development in this poor economy. By Nozipho Rutsate

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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