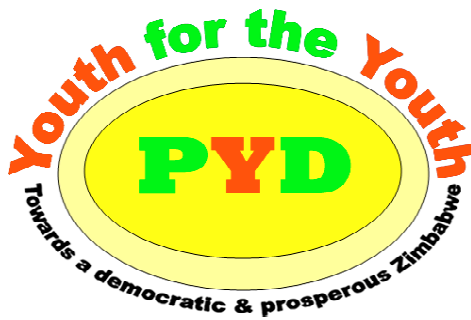




Platform for Youth Development



Checheche growth Point

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Zimbabwe

Being a report submitted to Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition for a Consultative meeting held on 26th of February 2011 at Chinyamukwakwa business centre in Chipinge

Introduction and Background

Platform for Youth Development Trust (PYD) in collaboration with Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition organized a community meeting at Chinyamukwakwa business centre in Chipinge. This was a second meeting of these two organizations with the first one having been done at Chisumbanje Primary school. The meeting was well attended with close to four hundred people of whom ten were traditional leadership inclusive of Headman Chinyamukwakwa with nine being his kraal heads. The community meeting was intended to consult the people on their reaction to the apportionment of 35 thousand hectares of land to Macdom Investments. The meeting was chaired by Takawira Mupakati while Claris Madhuku and Clifford Hlatywayo were the main speakers. Vote of thanks was given by Headman Chinyamukwakwa. Of the participants 45 percent were women with 60 percent being the youths.



Pictures A and B shows part of the crowd who attended the public hearing



On picture C and D are the Claris Madhuku and the secretary Clifford Hlatywayo addressing the villagers. The land dispute which started in 2008 has no option but to involve the residents who must validate the proceedings. Platform for Youth Development was involved in this dispute for two major reasons, which are to mitigate the conflict and also to protect the community. The community was advised that the matter is now being discussed at the level of the government ministries namely Minister of Agriculture,

Mechanization and Irrigation development led by Joseph Made; State Enterprises and Parastatals led by Gordon Moyo, Prime Minister's Office led by Morgan Tsvangirai and President and Cabinet led by Robert Mugabe. Infact, the Prime Minister's team was supposed to address the residents on the 25th of February. The meeting stressed the importance of the community to be united against their political orientation for the sake of protecting their land rights.

Clifford Hlatywayo who entertained the community to speak out, chronicled how the liberation was fought for the sake of the land and people's rights over their land provisions. He defined development as a process involving consultations and legitimate agreements signed as memorandum of understanding. He assured the community that the organization in partnership with Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition and other progressive forces will leave no stone unturned in serving the interests of the community.



On picture E and F are the residents who aired out their concerns. Speaker after speaker expressed disappointment at the way Macdom Investments was behaving. Since up to 100 percent of the Chinyamukwakwa people are resident on the disputed land no meaningful planting has been done. A high number of the residents who tried to brave up and planted had their crops ploughed down. Names of the people whose land was ploughed were provided. The presentations were so emotional to the extent that one of the old man shed tears while declaring war on Macdom if his land was going to be claimed.



On picture G and H is the community being addressed by headman Chinyamukwakwa. Chinyamukwakwa chronicled how the officials of Macdom and the District Administrator called meetings in which they simply instructed traditional leadership to inform their communities not to plough because the land was now leased. The meetings were not interactive but merely instructions and orders. The headman was so clear and constantly referred to the other nine of his kraal heads as witnesses to his statements.

He warned the PYD and Crisis team to take this consultation very seriously and be on the side of the people. He warned that if this consultation was being made to joke with the people, very serious consequences were going to happen. In a style that proved his acumen as a leader, he categorically stated that he was against leaving behind the legacy that of Lobengula who sold land to the whites in return for sugar (connotation for the ethanol and sugar plant). The community would clap hands for him each time he would say *hatidi nevhu redu!* (*we do not want with our land*).

Way forward

- That Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition and Platform for Youth Development provides direction and protect the rights of the community in this dispute
- That advocacy and a robust media strategy is adopted to counter media blackout on this dispute from the community side
- Pressurize the government of Zimbabwe to intervene in this dispute but on the side of the people
- That PYD continues to interact and communicate with the community until the dispute is settled amicably.