

The official newsletter of Youth
Alliance for Democracy

Youth Electoral Bulletin

A CENTENARY OF STRUGGLE...

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Cry Beloved Young Woman Cry ... A Special Feature for the International Women's Day

Equal access to education, training and science and technology:

Pathway to decent work for women

Young women continue to drown in the doldrums of marginalization and its consequences namely poverty, limited or no access to meaningful participation in national issues and vulnerability to a multiplicity of diseases and as such their life expectancy continues to dwindle more than their elderly counterparts. The advocacy around issues of empowerment are benefiting the few already "strategically positioned women," who are mainly those aged 40 and above as evidenced by the composition of women in decision making bodies such as houses of assembly and cabinet. The 50-50 representation in parliament being catered for will not benefit young women much if the stated trend is to continue. Obviously the meaningful involvement of young women will not materialize suddenly if it is not advocated and lobbied for now. Of the 19 percent of women in decision making bodies, Sub Saharan Africa, only 2 percent are below the age of 40 reveals a **2009 United Nations Human Development Index Report**.

This situation only testifies that some women are biting cakes which are too big for them at



the expense of the rest of marginalized groups with specific categories of underprivileged women who are the majority. In most cases the elite women speak on behalf of all the women despite necessarily being acquainted with the challenges confronting them and the coping strategies. This results in the top-bottom approach where ill-conceived and ill-planned solutions are prescribed to young women, who in most cases might not require such a reaction to their challenges. The fact that there is no desegregation as to how the 50 percent for women in representation will be distributed leaves a lot to be desired. It leaves those strategically positioned jostling for posts to the disadvantage of the more downtrodden and majority, the young women below the age of 40. The plight of the disabled young women, rural dwellers and minority groups remains unsolved. A scenario where those in those in disadvantaged situations get access to fight for their well being is the best sustainable remedy to the challenges they face. Let's imagine a situation where a young woman living with HIV articulating on her challenges with regards to stigma, economic challenges and/or romantic life, prescribing what is best for her. Contrary to that in all media spaces and capacities there is just a chorus sung from the same hymn with the same voice. This a total disfavor to the young women's fraternity.

Most of the programs which are carried out by old elite women 'on behalf' of their underprivileged counterparts lack sustainability and the monitoring and evaluation is



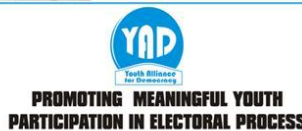
Women pose for a photo at an international women's day commemoration

only based on gatherings made courtesy of conferences, workshops, meetings, you name it. This becomes a service delivery for the sake of doing it, when most women would not have benefitted as conceptualized. Such kinds of programmes only benefit and further upgrade the few organizers and nothing much comes the way of the mentioned downtrodden group. The marginalized groups continue to praise sing those in positions of authority and men take advantage of such pandemonium to use such women as mediums to effect whatever policies they want to women. This becomes a case of indirect rule by men, hence the status quo whereby men call the shots continues unabated.

Some women also surprisingly take an active role in inciting violence when their counterparts are the main victims of such evil acts, an example which quickly comes to mind is the Mbare Chimurenga choir made up of fifty women.

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"I Demand to be Equal."



STAND UP AND TAKE ACTION:
END VIOLENCE NOW

Youth Electoral Bulletin



Violence discouraged in Chikomba

"YAD Public Meeting"

Date: Thursday 17 March 2011

Venue: Nyamutamba Hall

Time: 11:00-14:00

Adm: Free

All are welcome.

Chikomba West

The electoral conflict management meetings under the theme: 'MITIGATING ELECTORAL CONFLICT AND VIOLENCE... TOWARDS A NON-VIOLENT SOLUTION ORIENTED APPROACH TO VIOLENCE' have cascaded to Chikomba West in Makotore village, 36km north of Chivhu town.

The meeting drew 200 youths as participants while district political parties' youth from the three political parties in the inclusive government took a swipe on political violence citing that youths were being used for no or little gain. There was a single voice against political violence and a consensus that youths should shun political violence and work towards a common agenda of strategically positioning themselves in the country's governance and future. A local Apostolic Faith Mission pastor, Pst. Chako gave a strong word about God's hate of violence whilst Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights' Tinei Mukwewa also made a brilliant presentation on human rights defending, implications of perpetrating violence to individuals and societies and steps to take in the wake of human rights violations. Testimonies were also given as to the state of affairs on the political terrain in the area. A bleak picture was given, with the mentioning of being forced to go to ZANU PF rallies, buying party cards, selective application of law on lines of political affiliation, partisan distribution of food aid and also banishment from attending MDC functions. They were also reports that the inclusive government has since expired hence the rivalry between ZANU PF and MDC formations have been rekindled.

Intra party political violence is also a cause for concern in Makotore Village - a fist fight broke out between Joseph Muchena who was pro-Mutambara and someone who just identified himself as Andrew who claimed to have been delegated to grace the meeting by Professor Ncube. Villagers also cited that COPAC taught them about their rights that need to be included in the constitution and allocated less time to collecting people's views. To this day people from Makotore village await COPAC's return to collect their views.

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Their jingle 'VaMugabe vanofamba nemamonya' (Mr. Mugabe enjoys the company of hired thugs) does not only perplex the minds of any person of average prudence but disillusion, as to why they decide to obtain such cheap popularity. This really proves how some women have accepted enslavement at the hands of men.

In the wake of such a scenario the prescribed solution for women is to also take an audit as to the balance of representation within the stated human specie. There is nothing wrong with distributing leadership posts along interest groups such as the physically challenged, the young and the minority groups. In a women's assembly/league why would one region dominate everything when it is assumed that it is a national organ of a political party. There must also be advocacy around catching them young, for example that popular episode of toys whereby boy child is a recipients of car toys or video games when a girl receives dolls and utensils. Such awarenesses should be done. There is also a critical women group namely single mothers, normally they are left out in youth programmes and at the same time, they are either left out or stigmatized in mainstream women's programmes. There must be a vibrant organization for such a group for it is a reality that they do have many challenges just like any other marginalized group within the women's fraternity.



Part of the crowd at a YAD meeting in Chikomba

"Villagers await COPAC's return to collect their views."

Headman assaulted for attending YAD meeting

Wedza

In another unwarranted perpetration of violence Sabhuku Jera was attacked by ZANU PF youths for attending a Youth Alliance for Democracy meeting dubbed: mitigating electoral conflict and violence.....Towards a non-violent solution oriented approach to violence.' This incident occurred on the 1st of March 2011, following the above mentioned meeting held at Wedza Growth Point on February. They knocked at his door around 9pm, threatening to burn his home if he failed to open the door within a minute. The moment he opened the door, the youths started assaulting him using clenched fists, booted feet, claps and they also poured opaque beer all over his body to the chagrin and amazement of his children and grand children who also came out after hearing the noise. They were accusing him of working in cahoots with regime change agenda agents. "Unoshanda nevanihu vanoda kubvisa vaMugabe marhe muno tinokugadzirisa" (You are working with people who want to remove Mr Mugabe. We will deal with you accordingly). They said as they left his homestead. They also threatened to burn his homestead if he participated in such any NGO activity again.

Headman Jera managed to crawl back into his house, sent a call me back message to the Youth Alliance for Democracy Chairperson-Wedza Chapter Morris Shayanewako (25) who immediately called. He visited the place early the next morning and they made a police report. Amongst five youths who assaulted him he managed to identify three of them as Kenny Chigodora, Wellington Mutasa and Tawanda Jongwe all renowned ZANU PF activists. The police managed to arrest Chigodora whilst the other four are still at large. Youth Alliance for Democracy has since made a report to Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights and the lawyers are already working on a lawsuit whilst the found suspected assailant is in police custody.

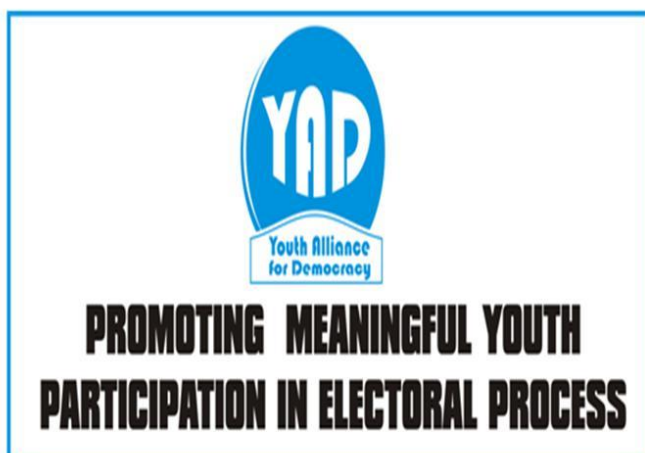
Meanwhile Headman Jera is recuperating at his Wedza homestead. For more details you can call him on 0733 309 708 or the Wedza chapter chairperson's number 0774038327.

Youth Electoral Bulletin

YAD to rock Chitungwiza

Youth Alliance for Democracy will next week host a public meeting under the theme: Mitigating Electoral Conflict and Violence... Towards a non-violent solution oriented approach to Violence. About 300 youths are expected to attend.

The resolution to take this programme to different areas was made following the initial workshop held at Ambassador Hotel with youths from ZANU PF and the two MDC formations and civic society, policy makers, Ministers and Police representatives. There was a unanimous agreement that the workshop should be taken out of hotels and to communities, with the same approach of engaging youths from political parties inside and outside the Global Political Agreement. So far the project has reached Wedza and Makotore Village, Chikomba West. It is expected to cascade to all provinces before elections. For more details watch this space.



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This Week's Wall of Shame

Kenny Chigodora - Hwedza

Wellington Mutasa- Hwedza

Tawanda Jongwe - Hwedza

Joseph Muchena - Chikomba

Mudzengerere- Ward 4, Mbare, Harare

This Week's Comments:

“ Rambai makadaro vakomana, murikurova basa.”
Noah Chimbani – UK

“This is a creative and Alternative way of portraying positive message, please don't loose heart and keep the good work, however we await for the print version, so you reach remote communities.”
Anonymous, Harare

“Please cover a wider area, we in Kadoma have participated in YAD programs, it will encourage the youth if their voices are heard in this publication.”
Victor Nyatsanza, Kadoma
YAD Chapter Chairperson

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