

SADC, AU and UN monitors/observers should supervise next elections, says general public

In the month of September 2011, the Centre for Community Development in Zimbabwe (CCDZ) held a series of community meetings and road shows in Mashonaland East, Central and West and Midlands Provinces. The districts visited include Marondera, Mutoko, Mudzi, Wedza, Mhondoro, Chihota, Murehwa, Karoi, Hurungwe, Majuru, Mazowe, Chiweshe and Chirumanzu areas which were generally no-go areas for the civic society and non-ZANU P.F political parties before the inception of the inclusive government. The main thrust of the outreach was to update the citizenry on the Constitution-Making process, as we also urge the people to register as voters in preparation of both the constitutional referendum and the general elections. This opportunity was also used to inform and educate citizens on the minimum conditions of a free and fair election and the general state of the Global Political Agreement.

In Marondera, at the meeting held at Dombotombo, participants insisted on a new Constitution first before elections. They were of the opinion that this would safeguard their votes and ensure a proper transition of power as well as enable a free and fair election. They also said that civic education and a clean voters roll are a pre-requisite to free and fair elections. The participants demanded impartial and objective monitors from the international community. They went as far as to suggest the powers of an international peace keeping force that would be empowered to impose a curfew at night to deal with violence and abduction of people which normally takes place at night.

The participants were keen to be updated on the SADC facilitated mediation process as they were unsure about the dates of the next elections. They expressed frustration with politicians who unilaterally announce that there will be elections without consulting the people to find out if they are ready. A village head said the UN and SADC should provide non-partisan international observers in the coming elections and not leave the responsibility to invite international observers to the



Some of the participants at a civic discussion forum in Chirumhanzu

ZANU PF Minister of Foreign Affairs, Simbarashe Mumbengegwi and Minister of Justice Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Patrick Chinamasa. "We urge the SADC Facilitator President Zuma to agree concretely with Prime Minister Tsvangirai and President Mugabe on the list of international observers that the Inclusive government will invite to monitor the planned elections," said one participant at the meeting held in Chirumhanzu in the Midlands province.

The participants were unanimous in demanding that these observers should be in Zimbabwe for the period six months before and after the election. Participants said this would guarantee their security, prevent electoral violence and facilitate a smooth transition of power similar to that of 1980. In Kotwa (Under Mudzi District), participants insisted that 48 hours is enough to count votes and declare a winner rather than the five days proposed by the Electoral Amendment Bill. They also insisted on a ward –based voter's roll saying that would ensure the removal of ghost voters.

The Electoral Amendment Bill, which if enacted into law will be the electoral framework for the next round of elections created much debate
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NYORESA KUVHOTA!

IKODZERO YAKO kuva mazviri

1. Une makore anopfura gumi nemasere here?

2. Wakanyoresa KUVHOTA here?

3. Nyoresa KUVHOTA izvozvi pasarudzo rebumbiro remutemo nekusarudza HUTUNGAMIRI hwenyika.

4. VHOTI yako inokosha ishandise.

Headlines:

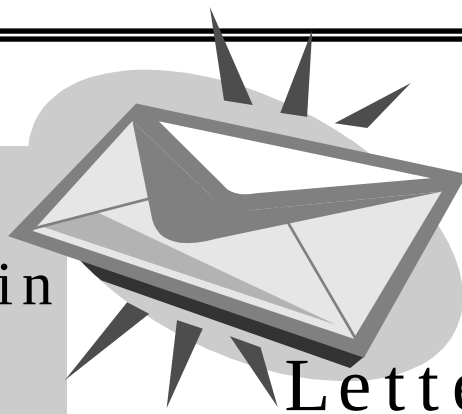
SADC, AU and UN monitors should supervise next elections

Views from readers/ Letters to the editor

Vanhu vanofungei nehurumende yemubatanidzwa GNU?

CCDZ commemorates International Peace Day

Tsamba kune Mupepeti weCommunity News Bulletin



Letters to the editor

Munokurudzirwa kunyora tsamba dzisina kurebesa kuti dziwane mukana wekupinda mubepa renyu, Community News Bulletin. Munokurudzirwa kunyora mazita enyu zvizere kunyangwe muchida kuti pazobuda mazita emadunhurirwa.

CCDZ iri kuita basa kuti dzidzisa nezvebumbiro nesarudzo

Muri kuita basa guru CCDZ kutidzidzisa zvebumbiro remutemo idzva nesarudzo. Asi toita sei nenyaya yekutya kwavanhu zvichitevera kushungurudzwa kwavakaitwa musarudzo dza2008. Vamwe vakafa, vamwe vakagurwa maoko uye vamwe vakamanyiswa vachisiya mhuri nezvipfuyo zvavo. Tinoziva sei kuti rwendo runo tinoponeswa nemaZANU.

Aldrin Makondiwa, Gambiza Village, Chirumanzu.

Tinoda zvinyorwa zveChishona kuti tinzwisise

Tinotenda zvikuru nebepa renyu. Tinodzidza zvakanwanda kubva mariri asi kuitira vamwe vedu vasinganzwisise chirungu, dai manyorawo nechivanhu kuti tiwane kubatsirikana takawanda. Rambai muchitizivisawo zvirikuitika muchitipawo zvekuverenga zvakanwanda.

Martin Muronza, Ward 11, Murehwa South.

Chirongwa chemaroadshows chakanaka chose. Chinokoka vanhu vakawanda chose uye mukunakirwa panenge pachitofundwa zvinhu zvakanakosha zvenyika yedu. Huyai kakawandisa kuno mutidzidzise zveconstitution. Rambai Makashinga.

Cde Tapinda Tapinda, Garabha, Wedza.

Dear Readers,

Please note that due to overwhelming responses to letters to the editor column, not all letters will be published in one issue. Your letters may be published in the next issue. You are encouraged to keep your letters short to enhance the chances of your letter being considered. We continue to thank you for your feedback to our bulletin. Keep up the spirit!

Dear Editor,

Please include HIV/AIDS programmes in what you do otherwise graves will go and vote when the elections come. Tapera.

Frank Muchetu, Hurungwe.

Dear Editor,

Can CCDZ do something to help our situation in terms of our salaries. Maybe you can help to ensure our voices are heard. The government is no longer taking our unions seriously. Please assist us to improve our welfare. Can't you also target our constituency in your programmes on participation in Constitution Making and Elections?

Civil Servant, Mhondoro

Dear Editor,

Why don't you involve us in your programmes? We are also interested in working with you here in Inzisa. We just hear of you in newspapers, SW Radio and Radio VOP. Please also involve us in your good work!

Lungile Ndubiwa, by e-mail

(from page 1)

at the meeting. The section governing Presidential run-offs was completely discredited by participants who said a run-off was a very bad idea and it created political tensions. The participants rejected a polling station based voter's roll as this would open them up to revenge attacks by losing parties or candidates. During debates on the Electoral Amendment Bill in Chapfika village in Mutoko, participants said SADC should be the ones to appoint Z.E.C since they are mediators.

Older participants said elections should be separated into general, council and presidential elections like those of 1980 as the lumping of elections creates problems of electoral violence and complex electoral fraud. Parliament was also urged to convene more public hearings than the twelve planned nationwide meetings to solicit public input in the Electoral Bill. Examples of MPs holding daily campaign rallies

throughout their constituencies in an election year were paralleled to the few public hearings that are to be held.

The participants were of the view that MPs can campaign circles around a constituency when they want to be voted into power, they should do the same when it comes to the Parliamentary public hearings on the Electoral Amendment Bill.

CCDZ is continuing to hold more community meetings and road shows in Mashonaland West, Midlands and Masvingo with the overall aim of playing a pro-active role in ensuring the meaningful participation of communities in the Constitution Making process and the next general election. The voter turnout in the next Constitutional Referendum will be used as a litmus test in terms of voter turnout.

Vanhu vanofungei nehurumende yemubatanidzwa G N U?



Talent Musarurwa weCCDZ achidzidzisa vechidiki kwaMurehwa nezvekodzero dzavo sevana veZimbabwe

Mukufamba kwakaitwa neCCDZ munzvimbo dzakasiyana-siyana nechirongwa chehurukuro yebumbiro remutemo nesarudzo, vatori venhau veCommunity News Bulletin vaiita tsvakiridzo maererano nemafungiro evanhu panyaya yehurumende yamubatanidzwa nezvimwe zvakanakisa zviri mugwaro rinoumbiridza hurumende iyi (G.P.A). Kuti zvinyatsobuda zvakanaka pane umwe mutambo waitwa. Paibvunzwa vanhu kuti ndeipi mhuka ingaenzaniswe nehurumende yemubatanidzwa uye nemhaka yei. Iri ranga risingori dambe chete nekuti paitozobuda dzimwe pfungwa maererano nezvigumbu zvine vanhu nehurumende iyi, zvavanotarisa uye maonero avanongoitawo zvinhu zvinechekuita nematongerwo avo muno munyika. Hezvinoi zvimwe zvakanakisa muhurukuro idzi. Hatikwanise kunyora mazita chaiwo evanhu vakataura mashoko aya nekuti zvinogona kuzovashungurudzisa.

Anonymous, Marondera anoti:

Hurumende iyi ndinoifananidza nerwaivhi. Ndinodaro nemhaka yekuti inoshanduka-shanduka. Nhasi inotaura izvi mangwana yofuma yotaura zvimwe. Kuti ndikupei muenzaniso VaMugabe vanombotaura kuti tabatana navaTsvangirai asi mangwana vofuma vachishoropodza zvisina kana akamboona.

Anonymous, Gweru anoti:

Ini ndinoifananidza chihurumende ichi netsvukukuviri. Nyoka ine misoro

miiri. Sei ndichidaro? Iye zvino vamwe varikuti mutungamiri ndiVaTsvangirai vamwewo vachiti ndiVaMugabe. Umwe anenge achidhonza achienda nekwake umwewo achikwevera kwakewo. Zvinoita kuti tisazive kuti ndezvipi chaizvo zvinoita. Hurumende iyi yakangofanana neyaive naVaMuzorewa naSmith tichangowana kuzvitonga kuzere.

J.B wekuShamva anoti:

Maonerewo angu inini hurumende iyi yakafanana nechiremba-remba. Hauzive kuti ishiri here kana kuti imbeva. Vanhu varimo zvavanofunga hazvitomboenderana. Ndofunga muri kuziva zvandiri kureva. Handidi hangu kuzotapwa mukana. Ndapedza.

Potipher, wekwaMurehwa anoti:

He-e kwanzi Head of State and Government and Commander-In-Chief of Zimbabwe Defence Forces, hazvina kana nebasa. Isu chatinoda munhu ane rudo nevamwe kwete anoda kuzvipa masimba anoenda enda. Simba ririmatiri isu vanhu nekuti tisu tinovhota.

Grace, wekuMuzarabani anoti:

Isu tinotenda masangano akaita seCCDZ, Crisis Coalition neHeal Zimbabwe nekutibatsira. Vanhu vazhinji kuno takapazirwa nekupisirwa dzimba uye chikafu chakaparadzwa muna2008. Tinotenda nekubatsira uye kuramba muchitidzidzisa nezvekodzero dzedu.

Anonymous wekuVhudzi, Chirumhanzu anoti:

Tinotenda CCDZ neZimRights nedzidziso yenyu kunokuChirumhanzu. Rambai makadaro uye muende kune dzimwewo nzvimbo dzakatitenderedza kuti vanhu vose vazive chokwadi.

Kana muine mamwe mawonero makasununguka kuti fonera panhamba dzinoti +263 (04) 776 038,

Dandemutande redu rinoti : www.ccdz.org.zw

Makasununguka kuti nyorera pa E-mail:

centrefordevelopment@gmail.com/info@ccdz.co.zw.



Mhomho yevanhu kwaChirumhanzu inofara nebasa rinoitwa neCCDZ munharaunda mavo

Iva nhengo yeC C D Z! Usasarire muzvirongwa zvinoita kuti izwi rako rinzwikwe pazvinangwa zvenyika yako.

Ikodzero yako kuti unzwikwe.

Land line: 04 - 776038

Email: centrefordevelopment@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.ccdz.org.zw>

CCDZ commemorates International Peace Day

CCDZ joins the rest of the world in commemorating International Peace Day. A United Nations Resolution established the International Day of Peace day in 1981 to coincide with the opening of U.N General Assembly. The first Peace Day was 21 September 1982.

'Make your voice heard' is the theme of International Peace Day of 2011. This theme pays tribute to the many civil society activists who lent the strength of their imagination to peace-building. In the process some have lost their lives, families, physical/mental ability whilst some have either been internally or externally displaced. CCDZ is proud to be associated with the courageous and resilient citizens who will not tire to fight for peace in Zimbabwe. Peace is the most critical ingredient of development in any nation. Absence of peace results in instability, insecurity, lack of investor confidence and poverty. Such a scenario increases desperation; a root cause for vulnerability of the less privileged and the down trodden in the communities. Child abuse, HIV/AIDS, high crime rate, immorality and drug abuse among other things are on the increase as a result of lack of peace in the country.

In this context it is critical to state that peace is not only the absence of war. A nation where unemployment is hovering above 80%, poverty datum line around \$700 and exorbitant health and education fees for the ordinary Zimbabweans, it is absurd to talk of peace.

Since the inception of the Inclusive Government in February 2009 there has not been progress in line with National Healing as stated in the Global Political Agreement. The perpetrators of violence in 2008 remain free. In most instances, as noted in CCDZ community outreaches, people are still scared to air their opinions on democracy and governance issues such as Constitution-Making, the Global Political Agreement, National Healing Process and Elections. There is no guarantee that the people will not be intimidated and abused in the next general elections. Elements which terrorized mainly the Movement for Democratic Change formations in the 2008 aborted presidential run-off are still in control and as evidenced at the First All Stakeholders' conference of the



CCDZ Programmes Officer Tsungai Vere outlines provisions of the Electoral Amendment Bill

Constitution-Making and in the outreach they still intimidate and terrorize citizens with impunity. CCDZ maintains that as long as people are living in fear, with some areas being no-go areas for civic society and that hate speech continues, free and fair elections will remain a mirage. Without a free and fair election, there won't be peace in this country.

CCDZ calls upon all pro-democracy forces to take action and promote peace throughout the country. This can be done through educating the communities on peace building and conflict management, lobbying policy-makers to establish the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, Truth and Reconciliation Commission. They should also agree on how victims of political violence can be compensated and rehabilitation of perpetrators of political violence.

CCDZ remains committed to advancing the Minimum Conditions of holding peaceful free and fair elections in Zimbabwe. CCDZ further urges the Southern African Development Community Facilitator His Excellency President Jacob Zuma to continue to broaden the consultative process to ensure that views of a broader spectrum of Zimbabwean citizens, are also included in national dialogue.



Members of Domboshava community are updated on the Constitution-Making process

REGISTER TO VOTE!
It's YOUR RIGHT to participate
1. Are you above 18 years?
2. REGISTER NOW to vote in the Referendum and ELECTIONS.
3. Are you registered as a VOTER?
4. Your VOTE counts, use it!
5. Registration is an ongoing process, take your National I.D. and REGISTER NOW.