

C.C.D.Z intensifies outreach work in Masvingo districts

Staff reporter

In the month of December 2011, with five activities mainly targeted at Masvingo districts. C.C.D.Z continued with its community outreach programme, updating Zimbabweans on the current Constitution Making Process, the implementation of the Global Political Agreement as well as Minimum Conditions of a Free and Fair Election. An average of 150 people per each gathering attended the meetings. The decision to increase CCDZ's work and presence in Masvingo is informed by reported cases of increased intimidation led by war veterans and ZANU PF activists.

The meetings were held in Gutu. The first three meetings were held in Gutu at Matizha, Maungwa and Chisheshe Shopping Centers. The other two were held in Masvingo high density suburbs, Rujeko Township with the last one being held at Chivi Growth Point. C.C.D.Z worked alongside Community Based Organizations which include Masvingo United Residents Association (MURA), Chivi Residents Association (CHRA), Gutu Youth Forum and Community Tolerance, Reconciliation and Development (COTRAD).

Several issues arose during these civic discussion meetings. On polling station-based voting, there was a general fear that citizens will be vulnerable to retribution by losers in their constituencies. The issues of continued harassment and intimidation were topical. The participants also spoke about the importance of an independent electoral body to run the elections and expressed doubt about the independence and capacity of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to deliver credible elections. Similarly, the demand for a professional and non-partisan security sector as well as unbiased and informative media was very prominent.

The issue which however took centre stage was that of the neglect ion of the people in the province by the political leadership. An elderly woman at the Chivi meeting expressed her disgruntlement with the status quo saying that the political leaders have neglected the people who voted them into power. She said politicians elected into office by the people must always serve the people saying in Shona, 'kana muchida zvedu tipeiwo (if you want good things from us then do the same to us as well).

Most of the participants who attended the meetings professed ignorance about the Constituency Development Fund (C.D.F), with some saying they only heard of it in the media when the budget was announced." *Takangoihwavo ichitaugwa navaBiti pabudget, zvakahoitika sure kwazvo ndimi munoziva, dzimwe nhambo mari yacho ichi muzhira kuuya. Zvizhinji haikona zvinongopererako, kuno mounza mafufu,* (We just heard about it when Minister Biti was announcing the

budget) said Mrs. Masekesa, a prominent human rights activist in Rujeko Township.

With regards to public hearings on The Electoral Amendment Bill, CCDZ noted that 87 % of the people who attended the meetings did not participate in the process. Councillor Adrian Mazambani of Gutu South Ward 8 explained that, they only got the message about the hearings on the eve of this programme. He complained that besides being denied information by political opponents, there are some officials within the same political parties who also sit on information for their own selfish gains and millage.

One old woman in Chivi whom we cannot name for her safety said that she did not personally go because her views will not be taken seriously. We have said many things which we want our leaders to do but to no avail, she said. This view was also echoed in Rujeko Township and at Gutu where participants stated that political tensions were high during the Constitution Making Outreach hence they were afraid it could happen again, maybe this time resulting in an increase in violence.

Meanwhile, the people in Masvingo generally CCDZ for establishing Community Working Groups (CWGs) to spearhead local-level/community organizing. "This allows having meaningful and appropriate programmes based on knowledge of the place, contrary to a situation whereby people just come from any other part of the country to impose their programmes." said Mr. Matubvunye, a member of Chivi Residents Association.



Chivi Residents scramble for the Community News Bulletin at a CCDZ Community Meeting

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:

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Communities get raw deal from politicians

Nhau mururimi rweChishona

CCDZ holds strategic plan

Letters to the Editor

The problems society faces in relation to gender based violence present themselves on daily basis and should not attract prominent coverage only during the sixteen days of Activism against Gender Violence Awareness Campaign. It should be done throughout the year.

Gracious Kashora, Chivhu.

C.C.D.Z, I thank you for allowing me space in your informative monthly newsletter. Allow me to air my views concerning priorities of the marginalized in Zimbabwe. 75% of the disabled do not have birth-certificates and identity cards. In your campaign against voter apathy, find something to help this disadvantaged group. Secondly AIDS came around in 1988 but disability has been there from time immemorial and when it comes to prioritization AIDS takes a leading role why?

Andrew Moyo, Chirumanzu

It is unfortunate that the council refurbished facilities in Bulawayo to please President Mugabe who came for the conference for a few days yet ignoring other service delivery issues that need urgent attention. It feels like city residents who pay bills to the council are not important compared to President Mugabe and his ZANU PF supporters who attended the conference.

Rodrick Fayayo, Director, Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association (BUPRA)

With all the violence that the country has witnessed during the Constitution-making process and during the parliamentary public hearings on the Electoral Amendment Bill and Human Rights Commission Bill how can we expect a free and fair election? I am not a prophet of doom, but I foresee bloody elections in the next round.

Shayne Mutema, Bindura

C.C.D.Z why don't we hear you fighting against illegal sanctions in your programmes. In your honest opinion what kind of development when people are poverty stricken due to illegal sanctions imposed on the innocent civilians by America and its British allies. What kind of development do you deal with. Be clear lest you will be labeled enemies of the revolution

Cde Sinyoro

If chiefs and village heads are interested in representing political parties, why can't we have elections to choose them, so that their bias towards political parties can be justified? We are fed up with their discrimination of some people in our communities based on political affiliation.

Potifa, Murehwa

Tsamba kune Mupepeti weCommunity News Bulletin

Ini Maonero angu Registrar General anofanira kungoita zvebirth certificate, mapassport nemadeath certificate osiira zvevoter's rolls nemaelections kuZimbabwe Election Commission (Z.E.C)

Mike Chikwaya, Gokwe

Nyaya yekuti zita rinongowanikwa papolling station imwechete, zvinoita kuti ungovhotera ipapo chete inokonzeresa kuti vanhu vazotambudzwa nevanenge vakundwa musarudzo. Zvinofanira kupararira neward rese.

Taurai Mudzonga, Wedza.

Hazvigone here kuti mbeu nefertiliser zvigovewe nemapato akazvimiririra (MaNGO) kuitira kuti tese tiwane, vasingatsigire ZANU PF vofa nenzara mumaruzevha umu makangotarisa vana veZimbabwe.

Mercy Parehwa, Mutoko

COPAC kubva zvayakatora pfungwa dzedu haina kumbozodzoka kwatiri. Tinoda kuzivawo kuti yakupera kunyorwa constitution itsva. Dai vakasiya zvinhu izvi zvichiitwa nemaN.G.O vakaita saana Crisis Coalition, Zimbabwe Human Rights, ZESN neC.C.D.Z

Sinyoro Sinyoro, Mhondoro Ngezi

Chitupa change chinotora mari kubhanga, chinotoresa vana vangu mabirth nekuita tumwe twese twunoiwa nechitupa. Pakunovhota sei ndichizonzi ndiri mubvakure. Kwakoshei kuvhota kudarika zvimwe zvese izvi. Ini zvinondogumbura, dai hurumende ichibva yatirambidza kubhadhara mitero yacho.

Arnold Phiri, Shamva.

Ko budget risati rabuda sei musingauye muchitibvunza zvatinofunga sezvamunoita paConstitution neElectoral Ammendment Bill. Tinozongonzwa rakubitswa chete kuparlament sei?

Taurai Moyo,

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.

Communities get raw deal from politicians

In the months of December 2011 and January 2012 as CCDZ was embarking on the project on: 'Capacity Building of Grassroots Communities and local leadership', two main problems were raised by communities. These are lack of consultation of communities and partisan distribution of resources earmarked for the community.

There was a unanimity over the imposition of ideas and implementation of projects by local leadership which include counselors, chiefs, Members of Parliament and village heads. The most astonishing was the revelation in Chirumanzi's Gambiza area where citizens were just called to receive cotton seeds despite the fact that their land is not suitable for cotton farming.

In Godzi Village, Chiweshe, one elderly man narrated that their community was not informed about Constituency Development Fund(CDF); they were just invited at Gweshe Secondary School where some buildings had been roofed whilst desks were bought using the stated funds. "They should have consulted us before doing that. What if we wanted a dip tank first?", said the elderly man.

In all the areas visited by CCDZ in Mashonaland West, Central and East provinces, citizens were complaining that the council just imposed a three dollar annual tax fee per household. There were also widespread complaints that citizens were not invited for the budget meetings. "Two or three people who work for the council just sit down and come up with a budget, maybe according to what they read in their books whilst at school", said one headman in Doro Village, Hurungwe. About 69 % of the people who were asked about the supposedly consultative processes such as public hearings on the Electoral Amendment Bill, Constitution Making Process and local government, expressed ignorance about those processes and issues at stake.

It also emerged that most things which are supposed to help communities are being distributed on partisan lines. These include agricultural inputs, food and even anti-retroviral drugs. The agricultural inputs are going to communities courtesy of The Presidential Input Scheme, nonetheless only ZANU P.F supporters are benefitting. In Karereshe Village, Karoi, perceived MDC-T supporters were reportedly told to source their own resources from the West who are their masters.

The food being distributed by NGOs such as World Vision, Care International and Catholic Relief Services is also reportedly being hijacked by politicians. The fertilizer and seeds provided by government through the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) in areas like Muzarabani, Mutoko, Murewa, Uzumba , Marondera , to mention a few areas has benefitted mostly ZANU PF members.

One common thing in all these instances is the fact that usually there is friction between ZANU PF local leadership and M.D.C-T leadership. For example in Magunje's ward Budwell Chasara 23 the Member of Parliament Hon Toro Chambati was voted on M.D.C-T ticket whilst the counselor, Clr Chasara is ZANU PF. In some constituencies where ZANU PF councilors were trounced they are still being recognized as winners and do have more control since they have access to resources. They can also hold meetings whenever they like compared to MDC-T officials. In constituencies where there is an MDC-T councilor, citizens are not allowed to attend meetings called by the councilor as they are deemed MDC-T meetings.



A discussion on the minimum conditions on free and fair elections at Maungwa business centre in Gutu



CCDZ Board Chairperson Mr Earnest Mudzengi follows proceedings at the strategic planning meeting held in early January

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>

Nhau mururimi rweChishona

Mhirizhonga yezvematongerwo enyika iri kuramba kupera kunyangwe zvazvo kwave nehurumende yemubatanidzwa. Izvi tinozviona kuburikidza nezviitiko zvirikuoneka kubvira pakaitwa hurumende yemubatanidzwa iyi. Chinenge chirikunyanyokonzera dambudziko iri inyaya yekuti hutungamiri pachahwo hausikutaridza kuti hune chido chekubatira pamwe. Kutukana, kupomedzerana mhosva, nekuszadzisa zvakanwiranwa kuti ndizvo zvichazoitwa kuti hurumende yemubatanidzwa iendeka nemutoo kwawo ndizvo zvimwe zvirikukonzera kuti parambe paine makakatanwa.

VaMugabe vakataura kuti havachadi kunzwa nezvemirizhonga yezvematongerwo enyika hurumende yemubatanidzwa ichingotanga. Chinokatyamadza ndechekuti mhirizhonga iyi inoramba ichienderera mberi. Pakaitwa musangano wekutanga webumbiro remutemo unonzi 1st All Stakeholders Conference, nyika yakaomerwa nemate mukanwa kuona vechidiki veZANU P.F (Mayouth) nevarwi verusununguko vachikanda maforogo nemapanga kuvanhu vanga vauya kumusangano uyu. Chikonzero chiri chekuda kuti usaitwe. Hutungamiri hwehurumende hunosanganisira vaMugabe, VaTsvangirai navaMutambara hwakasvoropodza chiitiko ichi zvikuru.

Zvaizivikanwa naMwari chete kuti pakunotora pfungwa dzevanhu munzvimbo dzakasiyana-siyana munyika yeZimbabwe pachave zvakare nekugeda-geda kwemeni. Vamwe vanhu vakatadza kutaura mumaruzevha, mapurazi nekumigodhi nenyaya yekuti ZANU P.F yakasarudza vanhu vanotaura. Vaityira kuti vamwe vanhu vavasingavimbe navo vanozokavira bhora musangob zvikanzvingidza gwara rinotorwa nemusangano weZANU P.F. Dzimwe nzvimbo dzakaita seMudzi neUzumba kwakamhanyiswa vanhu nevatsigiri veZANU P.F zvichitevera kutaura zvaipikisana nemusangano.

Muparamende chaimo mekuti munofanira kukosheswa vatori venhau vakapona neburi retsoni mushure mekupfochomeswa nevatsigiri veZANU P.F, zvisinei hazvo kuti mifananidzo yevanhu vanopinda muparamende inenge ichiokwa pavhidhio. Uyu waive musangano weHuman Rights Commission Bill. Hapana chakaitwa kuvanhu vakaita izvi asi shoko rekuti runyararo rinoramba richingotaurwa nehutungamiri kusanganisira naivo vaMugabe.



A young woman contributing to a discussion on the minimum conditions on free and fair elections at Maungwa business centre in Gutu

Pakushanya kwakaitwa neparamende vachitora pfungwa dzevanhu nezvekuumbwa kwemutemo mutsva wesarudzo (Election Amendment Bill) pakave nebokoshindi nemhere-mhere munzvimbo dzinoti Mutare, Masvingo, Gweru neKadoma. Vatsigiri veZANU P.F vaiti vakanzwa munhu otaura zvisingaenderane nepfungwa dzavo vaibva vatsenhura kambo kechimurenga, kana kutuka munhu nekumutysidzira. Paremende yakazongokurudzira vanhu kuti vaite zvekunyora pfungwa dzavo votumira kuparamende kuti dzizeyewewo, asi izvi zvinongotaridza mamiro achiri akaita nyika panyaya yerunyararo, kunyanaya apa patakatarisana nesarudzo. Nhepfenyuro ichirikungosvoropodza vanhu vanemafungiro akasiyana neZANU P.F. Inonyima mukana wekuti paburitswewo mamwe mafungiro anogona kunge akati siyane neZANU P.F. Izvi zvinotaridza kuti mhirizhonga ichirimo munyika kunyange tichiedza kuipedza.

Tinoda kunzwawo zvamunofunga maererano nenyaya iyi. Munogona kuti nyorera, kufona kana kupa vamiriri vaC.C.D.Z varimunharaunda menyu.

CCDZ holds strategic plan



CCDZ Director, Mr Philip Pasirayi (clad in a black jacket) listens carefully to a contribution being made at the strategic plan

CCDZ held a strategic planning workshop in early January 2012. The participants included CCDZ Community Working Groups, secretariat and board of governance.

The workshop was meant to map the way forward for CCDZ for the next 3 years (2012-2014) with the main objectives being to define CCDZ's strategic direction as well as to identify key strategic issues, to further improve the profile of the organisation, to forge strategic partnerships and strengthen the existing ones, to further improve the CCDZ resource mobilisation and management strategy. At the workshop, CCDZ revisited its mission, vision, values and goal.

CCDZ came up with four main programmes namely:

- i. Civic Participation and Education Program
- ii. Service delivery program
- iii. Peace building program
- iv. Livelihoods program

Among the key resolutions it was agreed that: Gender and the environment will all be mainstreamed in all the programs. This has been necessitated by the lack of participation of women in governance issues and the continuous degradation of the environment. There was also consensus on complementing the efforts of fellow civic society organizations and other stakeholders in promoting citizen participation in national development. It was also emphasized that CCDZ's programming will be incomplete without livelihoods projects as it is key in developing communities.