

Selfish Chiefs, headmen blasted

This story was first published in the Daily News, compiled by Maxwell Sibanda, Daily News Assistant Editor

Communities around the country have lamented the selfishness of traditional leaders who recently demanded hefty allowances, guns, vehicles, boreholes and control of Constituency Development Fund (CDF).

Philip Pasirayi, the Centre for Community Development in Zimbabwe (CCDZ) Director said, "communities recently visited so far-Mashonaland West, East and Central, Masvingo and Midlands-felt that the chiefs' demands were too personal."

"In recent CCDZ community meetings held on local government and service delivery, attended by an average of 100 people per meeting, participants felt chiefs were not doing anything spectacular that warrants those hefty allowances," said Pasirayi.

One youthful participant at Murereshi Village in Magunje said, "the chiefs only desired material things while on the ground they were doing a shadowy job."

Participants in Chiweshe's Gweshe area lambasted the move as well, saying that, "a good chief is protected by his own people and they can only fight him in the event he was not serving the people well."

In further questioning the reasons why there is a feeling that chiefs were performing below standard, it came out that, "most of them have since become enemies of their own people, particularly those who do not support ZANU PF," said the CCDZ director.

A young woman in Doro Village, Under Chief Dendera said, "We always get threats that we will be displaced from this area for supporting MDC and we are excluded from some provisions distributed by chiefs."

Pasirayi said, "the majority of participants also complained about the bungling by minister of local government, Ignatious Chombo in community related issues."

This was mainly raised in Murehwa where the minister is said to have told the citizens that, "chiefs had the rights to do whatever they deemed necessary in the communities since they were the custodians," he said.

Pasirayi said in Chirumanzi South, "Chief Nhema was urged to displace Tendekai Mugova, a youth who had exchanged harsh words with the chief at a beer hall." The village heads have also been painted with the same brush with communities accusing them of being partisan.

An alarming revelation by communities in Chivi was the fact, "that almost all village heads supported ZANU PF", said Pasirayi.



CCDZ Director, Mr Philip Pasirayi (seated) has no kind words for selfish chiefs.

A village head at a CCDZ Community meeting in Chivi hastened to defend that position arguing that they were intimidated into doing so. "We are forced to act as such (being partisan) because failure to do so risked either being removed from your position or being beaten up.

Pasirayi said, "it became apparent from the meetings that the headmen were actually involved in mobilizing people for political meetings." They were blamed for giving updates of what was prevailing politically in their respective communities to the ZANU PF leadership.

Women lamented their discrimination at the hands of chiefs. Chief Nyakunhuwa, whose chieftainship in Zaka was mentioned, having said that the role of women was just to assist men as they instructed them, said the CCDZ leader. CCDZ Information Officer, George Makoni said they assured the villagers that their concerns about partisan traditional leaders would be raised at government level.

We want to assure them that we will raise their concerns with the inclusive government.

Traditional leaders are not supposed to behave as political commissars of political parties, "said Makoni.

He however added that in some areas CCDZ was working with progressive chiefs who were sticking to their role as custodians of culture and not mixing that with politics in violation of Article 14 of Global Political Agreement.

***Mhirizhonga inokanganisa
budiro yeMatunhu***

Headlines:

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Nyaya yekushandiswa zvisiri pamutemo kweConstituency Development Fund yotsviridza

GNU urged to curtail excessive powers vested in Local government Minister

NGO BAN IN MASVINGO RETROGRESSIVE

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Kuseka nhamo serugare.Chinonyanyoshungurudza vana veZimbabwe munzvimbo zhinji dzatiri kushanyira ndechekuti pamusoro pemari yavanobhadhara yemutero, vatungamiri vakapihwa mari yeConstituency Development Fund (CDF), yavasina kushandisa nemazvo panyaya dzebudiriro dzematunhu. Vanhu vazhinji waitokatyamadzwa kuti pane mari yakadaro yekusimudzira matunhu akasiyana-siyana.

Pane dzimwe nhengo dzedare reParamende (MPs) dzaiti kungopfumbatidzwa chete mari iya \$50 000 vaibva vaita museve waenda neuma. Vanhu vazhinji havazive kuti mari idzi dzakashandiswa sei. Mamwe maMP vakatotenga zvigayo zvavo nemotokari nekuvakisa dzimba.

Chimwe change chichitosvora vanhu munzvimbo zhinji idzi zvakare, kusasumwa kwevanhu zvinoda kuitwa nekumbonzwawo pfungwa dzavo.Kune dzimwe nzvimbo vanhu vaingokaruka zvonzi tovaka dhibha, asi ivo vanhu vaine pfungwa dzekuvaka zambuko. CCDZ yaikomekedzwa kuti inoudza vatungamiri kuti vanofanira kugara pasi nevagari vemunzvimbo dzavanotungamira vonzwa kuti vanodei.” Unogona kumhanya kunotenga munyu ipo pasina usavi', vakadaro vamwe mbuya vakwegura kwaChihota.

Dzimwewo nyaya dzakakosha dzaibuda chose inyaya yeutano. Matambudziko acho aisanganisira kushayikwa kwemishonga, kushomeka kana kusatovapo zvachose kwaanamukoti muzvipatara, mifambo mirefu pakunorapwa uye kubatwa nekuseri kwemaoko nevashandi vepazvipatara. Pazvikoro vazhinji vaichema kudhura kwemari dzekubhadhara chikoro, kushomeka kwemabhuku uye kuti vadzidzisi vashoma. Vana vari kufamba mitunhu mirefu kunodzidza,zvinokonzera vazopedzisira vongovata kuchikoro panzvimbo yekudzidza.

Vanhu vazhinji vaitaura kuti gurukuota rezvemari Hon Biti havafanire kupa maMPs mari vasati vatarira magwaro anotaridza kuti mari yacho ichashandiswa sei uye kuti vanhu vakabvumirana nazvo here. “Tinokumbirisa vaHonourable Tendai Biti kuti vasaburitsa mari yeConstituency Development Fund kumaMPs kusvika vagutsikana kuti mari yacho ichashandiswa sei uye kuti vanhu nematicouncillors vakabvumirana nazvo here”, vakadaro vamwe amai pamusangano wakaitwa neCCDZ kwaChirumanzu kuMidlands province.

Pamisangano iyi CCDZ yakavimbisa vanhu kuti nyaya dzavo dzichaturwa



Vellim Nyama CCDZ Advocacy Officer, achitsanangura nezvebumbiro remutemo, kwaKazangarare, Karoi.

kuvatungamiririri vehurumende kuti mari dzinopihwa maMPs dzibatsire munyaya dzebudiriro.

Vanhu vanoti makanzuru haasi kushanda nesimba

Mukufamba kwanga kuchiita CCDZ mumaruwa nechinangwa chekudzidzisa vagari nezvekodzero dzavo maererano neukama hwavo nemakanzuru, madzishe, masabhuku neumwe hutungamiri hwematunhu, vanhu vanga vachitaura zvavanofunga nenyaya iyi.

Nyaya yakanyanyozeyewa yaive yekuti vagari vemunharaunda dzakasiyana-siyana varikushungurudzwa nekubisa mazakwatira emari kukanzuru, asi pasina kana chine kumeso chiri kuitwa nemakanzuru aya.Tarisiro yevazhinji yanga iri yekuti mihoronga iri mumigwagwa inovharwawo, zvoita kuti kufamba mumigwagwa kuite nyore.

Matambudziko emabhazi ari kunzvimbo dzakaita saanaRosa kuChiweshe, Doro kuMagunje, Gambiza kwaChirumanzu, Chinorumba kuZaka kanakuChamapango kwaMurewa inokonzerwa nekuipa kwemigwagwa. Zvokwadi mugwagwa ungaite kunge une mihomba yembambaira, akabvunza umwe mukomana wechidiki kwaGutu.



Mhomho yevanhu yaive pamusangano weCCDZ kuTrojan Mine Hall.

*Every citizen has a right to
PARTICIPATE IN ELECTIONS
and to VOTE for
political part of choice*

GNU urged to curtail excessive powers vested in Local government Minister

PRESS RELEASE

The Centre for Community Development in Zimbabwe (CCDZ) expresses its disappointment and concern over recent developments by the Minister of Local Government which serve to militate against positive service delivery in urban and rural councils.

It is clear that Minister Chombo is targeting MDC councils that he wants to neutralize ahead of the planned elections in 2012/2013. Although there might be genuine cases of corruption involving these officials, it is baffling why it is only officials from one political party in the inclusive government that are targeted. There is urgent need for reforms in local government to rid it of partisan interference. The imperial powers vested in the Minister must be curtailed. There are plenty of suspected/reported cases of corruption in ZANU PF-run councils which are never investigated.

In almost all rural communities where CCDZ is working there are reports of ZANU PF councilors diverting agricultural inputs for their own benefit at the expense of the intended beneficiaries; the communities Minister Chombo is also deliberately disregarding the people's will by using imposing the so-called 'Special Interest' councilors in wards where MDC-T won.

Equally worrying is the Ministers interference with traditional leaders. CCDZ notes with great alarm the unilateral the installations and removal of chiefs and the creation of new Headmen and Village Heads in former commercial farming areas.

The Minister has also announced that the Ministry of Local Government will in the next eight months create new boundaries for chiefdoms. Given the already partisan approach to local government issues, there is a possibility that this is a deliberate political move to give chiefs who support ZANU PF an advantage over those perceived to be MDC. In light of this, CCDZ takes this as defacto delimitation ahead of the impending election. Delimitation of constituencies is the purview of the Delimitation Commission as per the Electoral Act. The Minister of Local Government is acting ultra vires powers by tampering with traditional chiefdom boundaries to give ZANU PF an electoral edge over other parties.

We suspect that the distribution of blankets, food, agricultural inputs and the electrification of chiefs' rural homesteads could be a ploy to 'buy' the loyalty



Women attending CCDZ constitution making and elections update meeting at Chirikadzi shopping centre Bindura.

of chiefs ahead of the next elections. This would be in violation of the Traditional Leaders Act which stipulates that chiefs should not be involved in political matters.

During CCDZ activities, community members have reported that the so-called 'Special Interest Councilors' are being used for partisan purposes by Minister Ignatius Chombo. Others have gone as far as alleging that the Special Interest Councilors have become more powerful than the elected councilors. CCDZ urges these Councilors to invest their energy into solving the day to day problems which affect ordinary Zimbabweans such as the recent typhoid outbreak and other critical service delivery issues; rather than to meddle in petty political ploy.

CCDZ would also like to express its concern over the increased harassment of vendors and small scale business owners with links to political parties. Given the current estimated 80% unemployment rate, such actions have the same effect as Operation Murambatsvina in that they seek to destabilize the livelihoods of Zimbabweans who are not in formal employment.

It is our hope that the Second Draft Constitution of Zimbabwe will contain progressive provisions which constitutionalise local government matters and protect it from partisan interference by the Minister.



Participants following proceedings at a CCDZ meeting on local government and social service delivery At Chigwedere in Wedza

Ziva kuti ukatumwa kurova vatsigiri verimwe bato iwe
ndiwe unosungwa uye ngozi inovinga iwe kwete
akutuma.

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Letters to the Editor

Community News Bulletin continues to express gratitude to the support and feedback that we get from you. It is only through this commitment that we will be able to build better communities, promote peace, tolerance and development. *Community News Bulletin* Editorial Team reserves the right not to publish, edit or shorten articles sent to this column. The views expressed in this Bulletin do not reflect the position of the organization.

You can loot the Constituency Development Fund and we guarantee you protection

The Members of Parliament who abused Constituency Development Fund have been protected from possible prosecution, simply because ministers are also involved in this scandal. Where is Justice Sandura, who executed justice whether a minister is a culprit or not. Can we safely conclude that our Members of Parliament and Ministers are above the law? Most ministers are becoming richer with each passing day and some of them are allegedly using Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to benefit themselves. Surprisingly the Attorney General was recently reported to have ordered the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) to stop arresting corrupt MPs over misuse of CDFs.

Pained-Murewa

Where is money from Marange diamonds?

The inclusive government has failed to meet people's expectations of having

a transparent government. The inclusive government came into being promising people a 'honeymoon' and we hoped that finally our problems were soon over and also politicians and the government as a whole would be responsible. The Marange diamonds are smuggled out of the country by a network of some high-ranking government officials while civil servants cries for improved salaries are not listened to. We say Viva to Cde Raymond Majongwe and his colleagues who are fighting for better salaries for civil servants.

Joe, Chiweshe

ZESA switching off the poor whilst the elites continue to enjoy

We hear that both ZANU PF and MDC ministers owe ZESA money in unpaid bills. Why is ZESA protecting the political elite and switching off the ordinary people.

Vachinjanja, Mpatsi

Guns for Chiefs? Isn't that funny?

The request by chiefs for guns purportedly for their protection is a gimmick by a certain political party to use chiefs to intimidate the gullible rural folk into voting for it.

Morris Johwezha Shayanewako, Wedza

Press Release: NGO BAN IN MASVINGO RETROGRESSIVE

The Centre for Community Development in Zimbabwe will not stop its operations in Masvingo province or any other part of the country as long as government lacks capacity to provide better social services to the citizens. We are not surprised by the move taken by the ZANU PF leadership in Masvingo led by Governor Titus Maluleke to ban NGO operations in the province as this has happened in the past especially each time that an election looms.

Similar attempts by the government in 2004 when government drafted the NGO Bill to proscribe the operations of human rights and governance NGOs did not go any far because beneficiaries always co-operate with NGOs in the wake of government's lack of capacity to provide food, health and other social services.

CCDZ will continue to work in Masvingo to provide non partisan education and raise awareness on citizen rights. CCDZ is also working in the following districts: Bikita, Chivi, Nemamwa, Gutu and Masvingo urban and rural on peace-building and preparing communities ahead of the planned constitutional referendum and elections.

We are surprised that Governor Maluleke made the announcement that he was banning NGOs in Masvingo whilst he was flanked by members of the security services. We reiterate our calls that the inclusive government should not politicise the work of NGOs. The NGOs are doing fundamental work to complement government's efforts to deal with poor service provision and to promote peace in the rural areas following the violent and divisive politics of

the past years that has left most of our communities deeply polarized. We urge the ZANU PF officials in the inclusive government to respect the Global Political Agreement (GPA) especially art. XVI on the role of NGOs in humanitarian and food assistance.

Governor Maluleke is being hypocritical to ban NGOs in a province in which more than 70 percent of the people are starving due to food shortages. The governor should be wise enough to invite more NGOs to help ameliorate people's suffering in Masvingo rather than squeeze out the few that are operating in the province all for political expediency. What is also baffling is that the governor and securocrats who flanked Maluleke did not take action against Jabulani Sibanda, the war veterans Chairman who has been terrorising people in Masvingo province.

The attempt by ZANU PF officials in Masvingo to ban NGOs ahead of the elections is undemocratic. We want to assure the people in Masvingo that we will continue with our work and urge more people to participate in our programmes.

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