

National Constitutional Conference on Women's Rights to Land and Natural Resources, 10 -11 February 2010

Day 1

The Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ), in partnership with Action Aid International and Women and Land in Zimbabwe convened a successful two day National Constitutional Conference on Women's Rights to Land and Natural Resources in Harare. The conference was attended by more than 170 participants from relevant ministries, civic groups, women farmers and WCoZ membership. The Minister of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development Dr Olivia Muchena, urged women to use the current constitution making process to demand their rights to land ownership and full participation in Zimbabwe's economic development. Other highlights of the first day include presentations from Women and Land in Zimbabwe; Zimbabwe Environmental Lawyers Association; Zimbabwe Farmers Union; ZWLA and testimonies by women farmers who spoke about their challenges and successes.



WCoZ National Coordinator, Netsai Mushonga; WCoZ Board Member & Director Zimbabwe Women Writers, Audrey Charamba seated with Dr Ovilia Muchena, Minister of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development at the conference.

Day 2

The Deputy Prime Minister Thokozani Khupe, gave the key note address which dwelt on the recognition of women's role in economic development. Speaking on the last day of the conference the DPM Khupe, said women owned 1% of immovable assets in Africa despite working hard in economic contributions. She also reiterated that women need to capitalize on the constitution making process, speak with one voice and clearly articulate their issues. Other speakers on the day included representative Mrs Makuku from the Ministry of Land and Rural Resettlement and Acting Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs Ms Mabhiza. Closing the two day conference, the WCoZ Chairperson asked women to critically evaluate their situation and work towards changing it by participating in the constitutional reform process.



Deputy Prime Minister Thokozani Khupe flanked by directors of ceremony Dr Tsitsi Choruma, Action Aid Country Representative (left and Emilia Muchawa, WCoZ Chairperson and ZWLA Director.

Pact Networking Meeting

PACT Zimbabwe held a partner networking meeting for its partners who are working in the constitutional making process on Thursday, 11 February. The theme for the meeting was "Effective collaboration in the constitution making process". The meeting offered an opportunity for Pact partners to receive an update on the status of the constitution-making process in Zimbabwe, activities by different partners, and possible areas of collaboration. Partners discussed the different opportunities for civil society to engage in the

constitutional process. Organisations were encouraged to understand the political context as it relates to the constitution; use mini crises that are happening as possible opportunities for re-engagement with the process; conduct civic education and co-ordinate efforts for maximum impact.

Upcoming Events

International Women's Day

8 March 2010

Harare Gardens

Join in the "Text E'm Campaign" "

Text E'm Campaign" which asks you to send three text messages to the three members of COPAC everyday, one to each chairperson. Please do not phone them as they can then sue us for harassing them. We would want each COPAC chair to receive at least 1000 messages per day from different phones. This is urgent so start texting, now.

The numbers are as follows;

Paul Mangwana – (ZANU- PF) – 0913 261 510

Mukosi – (MDC-M) - 0912 254 348

Douglas Muwonzora – (MDC-T) – 011 436 881