

2019



## End Of Year Report

# Community Youth Development Trust

*-Fostering youth led community development-*

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**Dear Partner**

2019 was yet another year of tumult, as the economic and political environment continued to worsen, causing anxiety as hopes faded for a long awaited promised improvement in living conditions especially to the young people. This has increased levels of frustrations to the youths seeing that they have failed to reach their potentials due to lack of employment and the strategies for a quick economic recovery.

Generally, the year 2019 has been a difficult year for the organization in as far as programming is concerned considering the indications towards the closure of the civic space by the state actors. In some districts such as Matobo and Mangwe the organization was threatened with termination of the Memorandum of Understanding on unclear allegations.

However, this year young people demonstrated the courage, conscience and persistence to rally behind each other by collectively voicing up in defence for their rights. They have assumed urgency and responsibility to hold leaders to account and demand transparency in all public processes, which is a positive indication of CYDT work across the province. Youth have

become ambassadors for local development and improved service delivery in their localities. As an organisation we have managed to motivate youths to stand for their rights and assume determination in representing their issues across sectors hence an increase in youth participation and representation in local leadership structures. This was through capacity building initiatives targeted to young women and men in all district making the province.

As part of its growth and expanding its cover-

## Director's Note

age, CYDT managed to add 2 more districts, which then informed programming in Insiza North and South. All this was necessitated by the demand from other elected and community leaders who invited the organization after realizing the impact it has on youths lives. It is paramount to note that the two mentioned districts are historical not easy to penetrate due to their political history. As such, this cause for celebration as we note that our pro-

gramming has managed to give birth to a significant change of attitude where staunch politicians now believe in youth emancipation. These leaders have become CYDT allies who have taken the lead in defending the organization in any forum.

Taking cognizant that CYDT was born out of the desire to contribute towards empowered and self-sufficient youth that is geared to hold those in authority to account and also foster a culture of active youth participation in all processes, the organization has managed to live by its mandate and carries the history of responding to the challenges faced by young people thus from local to provincial level.

Despite being a community based organization, CYDT managed to conduct few national level advocacy and received positive media coverage and support from other non-state players. The organization continues to nurture separate young women safe spaces/forums, where young women are equipped with life skills to defend their rights and cause for implementation of gender responsive service delivery.

CYDT would like to acknowledge support rendered by the following partners. We really appreciate your support given so far:

Project Name	Funding Partner	Project areas
Enhancing Youth Voices In Governance	NED	Gwanda, Bulilima, UMzingwane Beitbridge
Defeat Corruption, Save the Community & Build the Future Campaign #ZeroTolerance	GIZ	Gwanda, uMzingwane & Matopo
Strengthening youth engagement in Local governance to further grassroots development	Diakonia	Mangwe, Bulilima & Gwanda Central and North
Moving Mountains: Building a critical youth movement towards good governance	PACT	Gwanda, Bulilima, Mangwe, Insiza South, Matobo, Beitbridge & Mzingwane
Human rights Defense	Lifeline	Youth Activists – Youth In Mining – Gwanda and Matobo

In fiscal year of 2019, we found much reason to celebrate, even as we moved forward boldly with our work in the country's severely marginalised province of Matabeleland South. Our programming has managed to incorporate asset based community development programming where we motivate youths to realize the capacity they have in changing their current state. As a result youths have managed to

mastermind the sustainable implementation of community project, own community processes that speak on development and addressing the service delivery needs. To date the organization has managed to encourage young people to start village savings and pass on goat rearing projects as a way of returning youths and creating a sustainable community capital. Since the start of these projects youths are

becoming responsible in shaping their destiny, which is a cause for celebration.

As we did then, so must we act boldly now, armed with programming initiative that deliver results to thousands of youths and is bound to transform the lives of many. With your continued support, we will continue to shine and grow beyond.

Thank you.



Sichasisile Ndlovu

Director

## Chairperson's Message

Despite the various challenges that characterised the operational space in 2019, Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT), continued to grow through its various programmes implemented throughout the year. All this was made possible by our implementing partners and friends who supported the organisation in various ways.

We appreciate all the support and hope that 2020 will be even a better year as we continue with our mandate of creating spaces and empowering young people to participate and contribute to development processes in their communities and at national levels.

As an institution, we are proud of the impact we are having in transforming communities especially young people who are our major focus. Our work has not gone without recognition as evidenced by our Best Communicator Award from NANGO we clinched for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year running.

We have also managed to develop ourselves to be a powerful voice for young people in Matabeleland South hence addressing issues of corruption, access to documentation, social service delivery among others. Our partnership with stakeholders such as the Portfolio Committee on birth certificates, National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, Ministry of Mines and minerals and various other development players points to the importance of our work and our inclusive approach to development and social change.

It is our hope that we will continue to work together with various partners and stakeholders towards empowerment of young people for the attainment of good governance. We hope that we will continue to contribute towards development of better policies, reduction of corruption and improved social services by our local government institutions.

To our staff members, let's keep the fire burning!

*Zwakala Ntanga!*

# Operational Environment

## ● Political Environment



Matabeleland South remain gravely disturbed by the socio-political developments that continue to play a toll on the economy of the country. The ongoing political challenges has plunged the country into a wave of uncertainty and turmoil. On the other hand, majority of citizens presume that the country is experiencing a reversal of democratic gains due to increase state repression, crackdown on dissenting citizen voices and the resultant decline of citizen participation in civic engagement spaces. This has attracted the condemnation of the ongoing political crisis as the worst ever in two decades.

This is despite the fact that citizens had their hopes reviewed when they witnessed the end of president Robert Mugabe's catastrophic rule

in November 2017, thinking that the 2<sup>nd</sup> republic as popularly known will put the country on a new path of peace and prosperity.

This year, citizens received more news of abductions, and political motivated violence with less response from the law enforcement agents. More so, those who seek to engage the government on issues of welfare and remuneration, no one cares to listen and make objective analysis; instead such issues are politicised and attract a militaristic response. Matabeleland South was not spared from the attempted abduction by members of the ruling party as they continue to enjoy protection which comes with political orientation.

On the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2019 there was an altercation between ZANU PF youths and a known civic activist Kukhanyakwenkosi Mkandla, as a result the ZANU PF youths tried to abduct Mkandla who was lucky to be rescued by vendors who surrounded the car and threatened to pelt it with stones in Gwanda.

Few days down Mkandla was summoned to court facing assault charges. All this proves that rule of law continue to favour those from the ruling party at the expense of the disgruntled citizens. All this cripple youth effective and active participation and engagement on issues affecting their well-being.



# Operational Environment

## ● Economic Environment



The country is going through its worst economic crisis, with no sustainable measure to ease the situation. Informal market continue to influence pricing of basic commodities resulting to inflation rate shooting up to 300%. Despite all the mechanisms by the Reserve bank of Zimbabwe to weaken the parallel market and improve cash access by citizens, the parallel emerges stronger and perpetuate the increase in cash crunch.

The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has tried to introduce statutory instruments earmarked to strengthen the economy with no success. On the other hand, fuel prizes are changing every Sunday with some service stations in the outskirts of Gwanda, Beitbridge, Matobo and Plumtree charging ZW20,00/per litre and fuel prizes change for the worse every Sundays across all service stations.

The country has glided back to economic situation well before 2008. All this impact negatively to the programming of CYDT, considering that Matabeleland South province is hard hit by drought and targeted audience prioritise activities with handouts for them to get something to take back home. However, there is need for the organization to continue seeking collaborations with organizations that promote livelihood support so as to return youths and ensure that they find opportunities to change their current financial state.

More so, the ailing economy, have seen most of the population in Matabeleland South resorting to mining as their major foundation of employment. They have embraced artisanal and small scale mining as the main source of livelihood despite the exacerbated corruption challenges they encounter.

Reports reaching our office confirm that, the same youths who are into mining are failing to make ends meet due to political connected individuals who have made it a routine to swindle off gold panners' hard earned gold and money.

However, CYDT has managed to encourage and educate community structures such as Community Whistle blowers to organize those affected by corruption and make official reports to police. This has received a positive response as cases are being reported on a daily basis and some are documented by community reporters who contributed to CYDT Newsletter **"The Whistle Blower"**



# Operational Environment

## ●Social Environment



Social, Matabeleland South continue to be hard hit by unfair distribution of financial and social welfare resources from the central government owing to the fact that it is regarded to be the least populous province with a population of about 683,893 as per 2012 census statistics. The central government has not yet considered that many people have moved into

the province either in search of gold or business opportunities.

This came out during one of the engagement forums that youth held with their provincial leaders in September, where a senior government official openly said even the devolution of power financial cake allocated to the province

is far less as compared to other provinces and will not be of major impact.

As a result of this and other reasons the province suffer exclusion from other beneficiary projects. It has also created a serious scramble for local resources which has contributed to gang wars, slow paced development and extremely poor service delivery.



This report shall give an outline on CYDT 2019 advocacy work, detail major achievements and challenges. It shall also give overview on notable factors affecting active youth participation and engagement in the province. A critical analysis on what needs to be done to promote youth effective participation and engagement in life processes will be shared towards the end of the report. Projects that were implemented during the course of the year shall be summarized at the same time prioritising results achieved. This will be a way of demonstrating CYDT commitment to further youth emancipation and influencing institutionalisation of youth engagement by government so as to remove the political tag given to the advocacy especially in polarized communities like Matabeleland South province

Fortunately, CYDT work managed to gain ground during the course of the year, with more community leaders starting to support the initiative and becoming allies in most of the community initiated youth led advocacy initiatives. In Mangwe and Bulilima and Gwanda rural districts, the organization managed to establish active youth advocates who are able to conduct and mobilize support for the local base advocacy around improved service provision – as a way of influencing implementation of services that speak to their daily needs and welfare.

It is with so much pleasure to communicate that the youth formed **Water Committee** in Plumtree town managed to organize and mobilize local resources and held an activity which became the 1<sup>st</sup> Water All Stakeholder Indaba. The meeting was attended by key stakeholders in Plumtree that included the policy makers, duty bearers, Immigration department, Social Welfare and other Local government officials. It was in this meeting where stakeholders appreciated the involvement of youth in such spaces as they conquered that young people have proved their

commitment in issues of community development and service delivery. Youth confidence in outlining issues contributing to water challenges were admired and adopted as a wellresearched and evidence based report considering that their report was supported by facts from their community service delivery scorecard.

Whereas in Gwanda, youth are now regarded as key stakeholders in many sectors which has seen the acceptance of CYDT as the main body of youths in the districts. This has seen the organization getting so many invitations from government departments which proof that they have managed to embrace youth inclusion in all processes because most of the meetings that CYDT has recommended youth participants were mainly for project planning. As a result, the organization –partnered with the local ministry of youth, sports and culture on convening provincial consultations on the youth development policy where youth from all districts forming the province were invited and made their presentations and written submissions basing on the Youth Provincial Key Policy Demands/Asks toolkit produced in the



During the course of the year, CYDT managed to penetrate Insiza districts where inventions have managed to influence behaviour and attitude change by community leaders as far as youth participation, involvement and engagement is concerned. As a result, we have youths who have been recommended to represent other young people in community leadership structures such as WARD and VILLAGE Development Committees. This is a first in Insiza District and the initiative was well received by both local and district leaders.

In Beitbridge, Plumtree and Gwanda, the organization has managed to lobby youths to influence development of youth policies and local authority level so as to ensure that youth engagement mantra becomes a policy process. This has seen these local authorities consulting youths on issues they want to be included in the policy with Gwanda Municipality having finalized the process.

## Report Summary & Key Milestones

course of the year by CYDT through a massive consultative process.

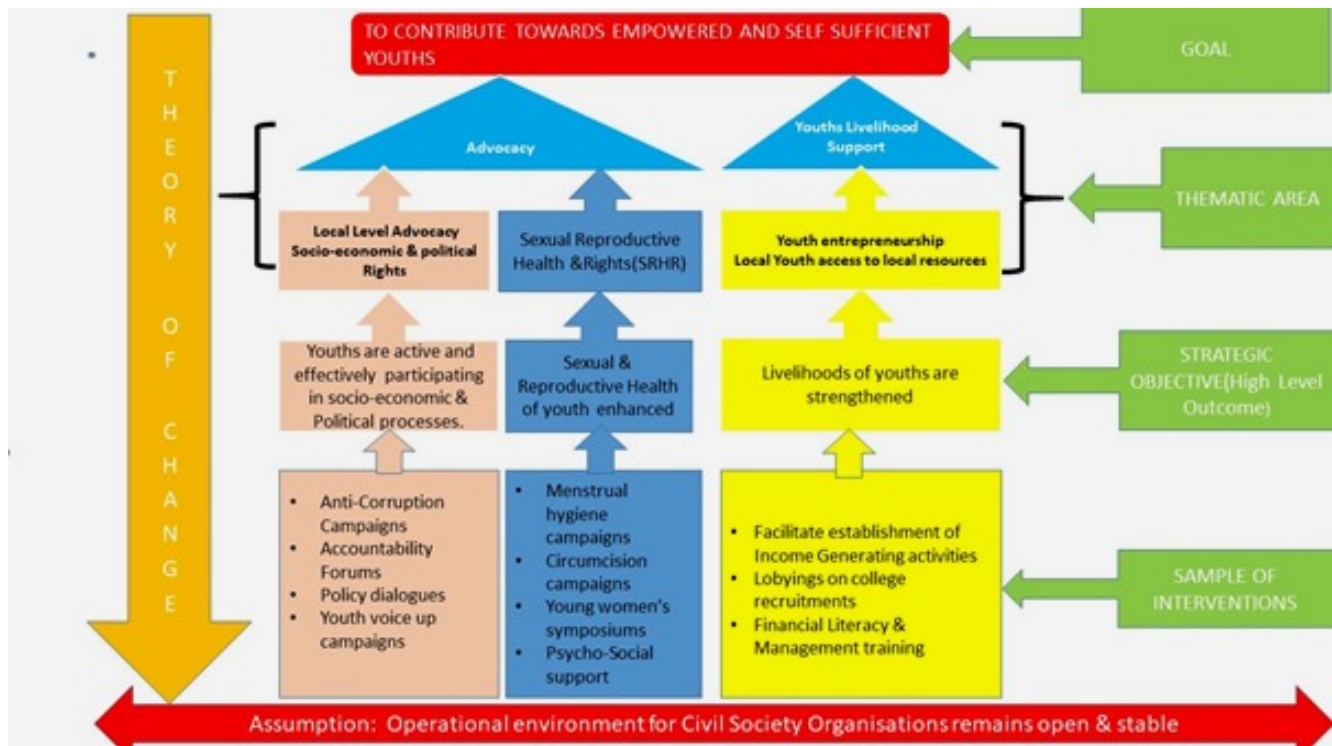
However, our main flagship achievements during there year are:

1. Production of a 20 minute documentary on Provincial Youth Key Policy Demands/Asks. The documentary was shared across to local and national leaders (Parliamentary youth portfolio committees and ministry of youth)
2. Managed to hold evidence based advocacy on the plight of small scale & artisanal miners
3. Held the much talked about 1<sup>st</sup> Anti-corruption Indaba which attracted so much mainstream media coverage
4. Convened 1<sup>st</sup> Provincial Stakeholder Indaba on Youth Welfare in Gwanda and the meeting attended by Parliament
5. Managed to coordinate and collaborated with youth organization across the province for the success of united youth advocacy on social, political and economic issues.
6. Documented and shared community stories around the fight against corruption in the mining sector.
7. Successfully petitioned a number of government departments and parliament on issues around youth welfare.
8. Held district based anti-corruption campaigns and partnered with crowd puller artists such as Madlela in mining pone areas.
9. Exacerbated the call for a constitutionally supported Youth Quota System, which we started in 2018. This was done though position papers to parliament and president and we received adequate media coverage on the matter .
10. Won the NANGO Communicator of the year award for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time.
11. Managed to hold Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning processes with youths – a process that allowed young people to evaluate CYDT programming and CYDT to learn youth priority for 2020 – this was done to ensure youth influence in project desire and planning.

The organisation niche and focus remain unique and appealing to our stakeholders. The fact that we promote youth and adult partnership motivates even community elders to support the initiative and have a buy in in all youth lea advocacy initiatives.

More so, the organisation remains committed in achieving its goal as communicated by the below pasted 5-year strategic plan map adopted in December 2018. As such all our work seeks to contribute to the three thematic areas on this strategy and are guided by the strategic

objectives as indicated. To date the organization has facilitated formation of 5 youth-led livelihood projects that include market gardens, goat rearing, Internal Savings & Lending Services in Mangwe, Gwanda and Mzingwane.



## Zooming Into Factors Limiting Active Youth Participation in Matabeleland South



*This young person makes a contribution during a meeting. Promoting youth participation was a key focus for CYDT in 2019*

Generally, issues limiting youth participation in the province are crosscutting. There are structural norms and traditions that continue to inhibit youth engagement and participation in local communities considering that Matabeleland South is patriarchal in nature and surrounded by a number of traditional shrines which emphasizes on observance of traditional norms and culture. Many at times youths are left out on traditional functions and court hearings, making them a useless stakeholder yet our elders look upon them as future leaders. The questions remain to say where will these youths learn from.

This then drive to the point that mentorship and will to model youth to become effective leaders remains a challenge. In addition, deficiency of political will to cause total implementation of the constitution remain a major factor considering that some constitutional provisions such as

section 20 and 264 speak to youth and active citizen's participation in local affairs. Therefore, there is no motivation to cause substantiated youth participation and involvement. Realizing that section 20 of the constitution, which provides for youth participation and freedoms is not in tandem with other national policies on youth empowerment and development, this then becomes a barrier to base youth advocacy in the constitution alone seeing that the constitution is not fully empowering a young person hence the need for constitutionally supported **'Youth Quota'**.

It is so sad to note the continuous use of youths as pawns of violence by prominent political figures, which then becomes a conflict between youth advocates and these politicians who are gaining from raising an ill-informed and domicile young person who is dependant to small token from politicians. This is a reason why

youth emancipation is quickly labelled as a political wagon earmarked to favour opposition politics in Matabeleland South, a process which cripple the efforts made so far.

Last but not least, failure to fully reform and reconstruct by our government, has become a major cause for youths to take a back step in all processes. Youth lack motivation to initiate processes that lead to democratisation and good governance. There is generally lack of trust and faith by youths in government institutions and political formations hence leading to an inactive young generation who is not able to demand accountability and transparency. Increase in corruption and lack of stringent measures to address continue to limit youths from benefiting from local resources hence suppress opportunity around economic development



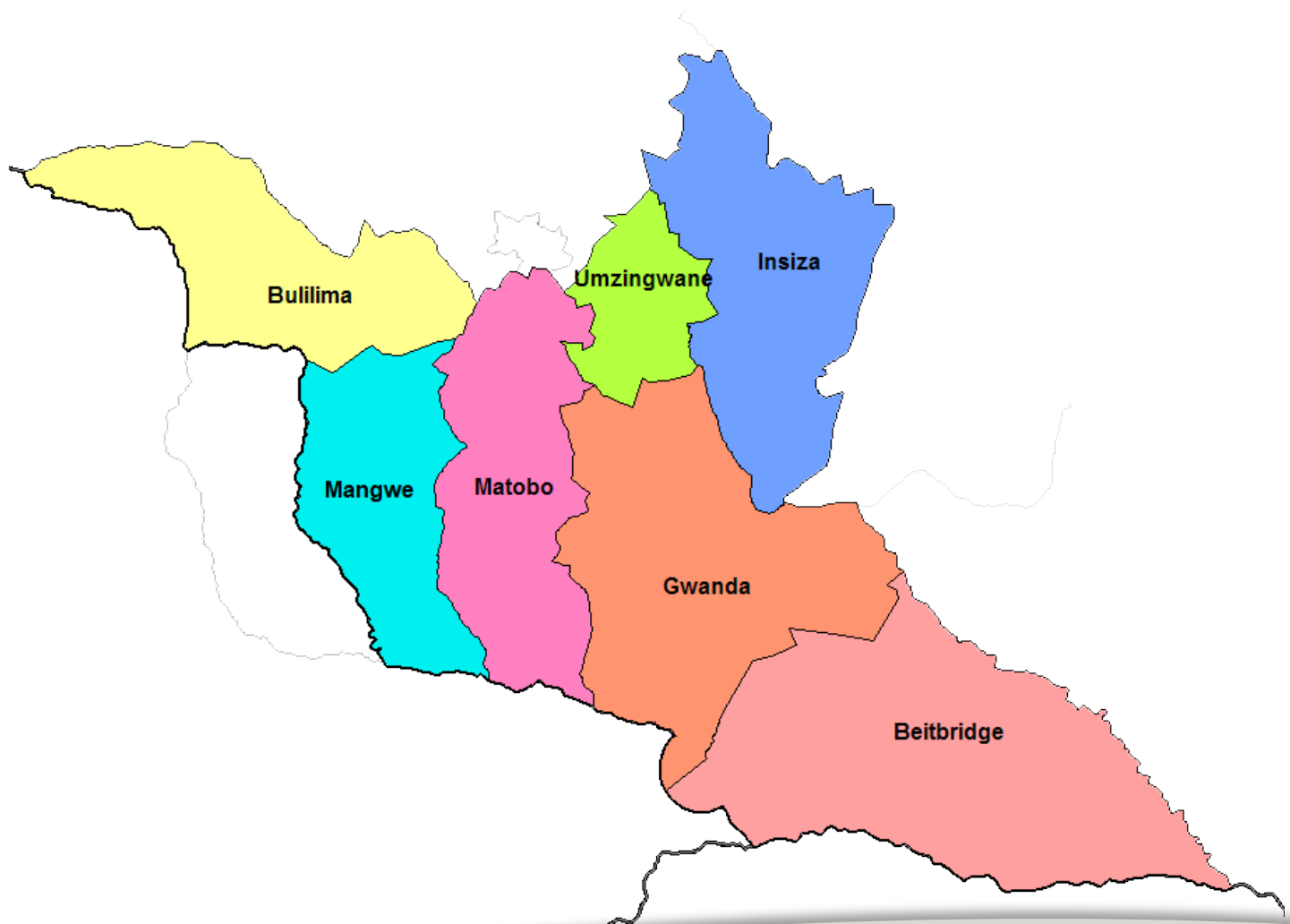
Meanwhile, CYDT has managed to cultivate and nurture a culture of youth active monitoring, documenting and reporting on community circumstances that continue to impinge on youth active involvement and participation. These have been shared through social media platforms and Newsletters who are sometimes reproduced by national based organizations.

Subsequently there is a thin line between youth participation and operating environment hence we share the following as some of the impinging factors:

1. Politicization of community aid by community leaders
2. Unfair distribution or allocation of state resources i.e. Command Agriculture where youth continue to be side-lined
3. Outdated policies that do not apply to the current political, social and economic dispensation i.e. the Mines and minerals act still speak of land thus between Zimbabwe government British agents, Youth development policies.
4. Lack of political will to address calls by youth to reallocate 95% mining land that was given to EPOs to the youths
5. Introduction of more restrictive laws such as MOPO
6. Failure by the state to prosecute perpetrators of human rights violations; the conflation of the State and ZANU-PF institutions leading to abuse of state resource for party business;
7. Complete disregard of the law by the local authorities leading to capricious limiting of operational space especially to CSOs and CBOs, unlawful termination of MOUs without following proper procedures
8. The capture of State institutions; disregard by the State for the rule of law and judicial independence; and shrinking space for civil society organisations

## Geographic Coverage

CYDT operates in Matabeleland South and currently covers 6 districts namely, Gwanda Central, Gwanda North, Beit Bridge East, Mangwe, Bulilima, Mzingwane and Matopo. Establishing work relations with youths in these districts was made easier by the unwavering support of our numerous development partners who believed in us and saw the hidden potential.





## Our Programming



Building on previous gains that sort to mobilize a coordinated youth voice on issues of democracy and electoral process. The organization took a step further by providing safe spaces for youth engagement and effective contribution to improved service delivery and leadership in Matabeleland South province. All this was premised on the realization that young people make up an ever-growing portion of the provincial population. As of 2012 census, the number of youths between age of 18 to 35 was pegged at 62% of the provincial population. This then force the emerging provincial question on the role of youth in addressing the issues relevant to their future such as service provision, politi-

cal and economic discourse. As such, 2019 programming was mainly on empowering youths to engage effectively and take an active role in critical leadership spaces earmarked for societal change and improving human rights.

As such the organization adopted new ways that fostered ownership and sustainability of its programming beyond funding. The saw young people taking the lead in planning, implementing and documenting of activities. Throughout the year and across all project CYDT adopted and mainstreamed **Asset Based Community Development Programming** – where we built on the existing assets or potentials that the

youths already had, made them realize their uniqueness, potential and capacity they have in changing the current narrative around youth engagement and participation and community level. The program informed vigorous youth mobilization so that they come together to realize and further develop their strength. This proved to be a milestone and a sustainable way of programming apart from the usual **Deficit Based Approach** where we used to focus and dwell much on identifying needs without working towards addressing them, now with this approach youth identify their needs and initiate how they can address them without relying much on CYDT

## 2019 Topical Activities

### ●Provincial Anti-Corruption Indaba

In a bid to re-affirm the commitment in the fight against corruption in Matabeleland South and reflect active integration of bottom up citizen action and top down policy in the anticorruption chain, CYDT convened a Provincial Anti-Corruption Indaba where stakeholders from across all sectors and duty bearers were invited. The Indaba was attended by participants drawn from all the 7 districts forming the province and those from national level.

Honorable M. Chombo from the parliamentary portfolio committee of mines and minerals de-

velopment, Dr. Onesmus Nyaude from the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) and chiefs from Maphisa, Mzingwane and Gwanda were among the top delegations. Speaker after speaker applauded CYDT for convening such a high powered meeting which seeks to consolidate efforts around improving protection measures of the artisanal and small scale miners. They pledged their support to ensure that legislative measures are in place so that ASMs are protected by law and accorded respect they deserve as major contributors of the economy.

Hon Chombo explained how their committee is seized with corruption matters from the Matabeleland and Midlands mining sector and promised that the committee will respond fast and positively if citizens push through petitions. The indaba received resounding media coverage both from the state and private media. Through such activities, working relations have been built and shall be nurtured for the positive outcomes of the advocacy beyond project life. <https://www.chronicle.co.zw/ministry-to-tackle-corruption-in-mining-sector/>

### ●Provincial All Stakeholders Indaba



Having managed to document and produce the Provincial Youth Key Asks toolkit, CYDT took the opportunity to publicize and amass support from relevant stakeholders so that the toolkit becomes a reference document in all key processes that seek to promote democracy and good governance. All this was premised on the need to create a web of supporters who are keen to press on and ensure that youth key asks are adopted and shape the planning at all levels in Zimbabwe.

Having managed to share summarized youth key asks through a documentary with the line ministry, CYDT had to take a step further and engage policy makers at parliament level so that they interface with the youths, get to understand issues impinging on them and collectively identify solutions to the later. This



was a way of promoting youth engagement in defining their future because CYDT trust that anything for the youth without the youth is not for the youths.

The Provincial Stakeholder meeting was attended by youths from all districts forming Matabeleland South, Chiefs, elected leaders at local authority, constituency level and those from parliament, line ministries and other networking CSOs. A 34year old Chief N. Ndiweni from Kezi made an emotional presentation on the woes of being a young chief. He was of the opinion that the society is not yet ready to accept young people as opinion leaders hence the need for the parliament to come up with legal instruments (**Youth Quota**) that seek to improve youth leadership and protect its existence.



His presentation made parliamentary portfolio committee representatives to intervene and commit towards lobbying for the protection of young chiefs. It was motivating to get a confirmation that majority of the key asks have since been adopted by parliamentary portfolio committee as part of its 2019 -2020 work plan. This was a clear impact of the project which was well taken by the youths though they urged CYDT to continue bridging the engagement gap so as to pressure for total implementation. Having noted the opportunity brought by this project, CYDT shall continue to lobby youth to define their destiny and hold leaders to account so as to improve their situations.



## ● Young Women Accountability Forums & Service Delivery Campaigns



*Young women during accountability meeting in Gwanda Town*

Holding separate young women social accountability forums managed to entice them to be active advocates for improved social service delivery in their districts. This can be further attested by their active role in conducting local level service delivery advocacy campaigns such as #ImprovedAcces2Water – Plumtree and #Right2Shelter- Gwanda ward 4.

Young women in Gwanda developed a position paper to the council demanding the council to address state of housing and shelter in ward 4, which the council responded by addressing water and sanitation and promised to work on state of housing in the coming year as it need proper planning and resource mobilization.

In Plumtree water committee is chaired by a young woman Tahana Dube and many members are young women who have been active in demanding quick reaction- water woes in Plumtree. Ward 2 Gwanda North, young women are leading a committee on Refurbishment of mother's shelter at Silikwe and Mzimuni clinics.

## ●Service Delivery Anti-corruption Campaigns



*This pace in Greenland area was awarded to youth by Gwanda Town Council for the construction of a Youth centre only to be taken over by Zanu PF supporters*

CYDT managed to hold anti-corruption forums throughout the year and discussions were around ending corruption that continue to limit service provision at local authority level. These forums gave policy makers and other local government stakeholders opportunity to denounce corruption and make commitments towards fighting corruption that has eroded hope around improved service delivery.

These campaigns ensured that local authorities maintain transparency and accountability on funds released by central government as Devolution Funds towards improving services delivery. As such youths and the community at large were informed on the total received by local authorities and are able to track on the funds using information given, a process that will reduce misuse of funds leading to failure to account.

In plumtree and Gwanda local authority chairperson and Mayor openly declared that practical measures to ensure that all moneys release under devolution benefit citizens have been put in place, a move that guards against corruption. However, these forums were well received by both rights holders and duty bearers

## ●Zero Bribes Outreach Programme

Natural resources especially in the extractive sector hold the potential to turn the economic fortunes of the country around through value addition and beneficiation. However, the sector is often clouded with lack of transparency and accountability resultant from lack of proper policies and legal instruments governing the management of mineral resources in Zimbabwe.

All this leads to lack of systemic legal framework which speaks to the protection of Artisanal Small Scale Miners, who have become the major contributors to the national revenue cake. The ongoing gold mobilization in Maphisa, Gwanda and Umzingwane districts by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe through state security operatives have been condemned by rights holders as the breeder of corruption.

Noting that it has created fertile ground for bribes and extortion of vulnerable artisanal and small scale miners CYDT tracked the process through the Zero Bribe outreach teams and the whistle blowing clubs. This led to successful campaigns and motivated youths to commit to the fight against corruption in the mining sector. This remains active campaign in Maphisa, Gwanda and Mzingwane districts.



## Running Projects

### ● Strengthening Youth Engagement in Local Governance To Further Grassroots Development Project



Driven by the adage that young people are a major national resource and inheritors of Zimbabwe's future society and therefore they should be protagonists of their own development and take charge of their destiny – CYDT continue to sensitise youth to play an active role in influencing service delivery that meet their social needs.

The project has managed to raise necessary awareness to the rights holders on the roles and responsibilities of local authorities in ensuring comprehensive services delivery. It also capacitates and empowers youths to hold their leaders and duty bearers to account and this makes them shift focus from expecting improvement in service delivery without

them taking active role in the process. Through this project we have managed to create a responsible young generation that is knowledgeable of their rights and entitlements hence promote active engagement thus between youths and local leaders.

The project is supported by DIAKONIA under its project that it seeks to strengthen democratic local governance in Zimbabwe. ***There is admission to that effect particularly by local leaders in Mangwe...they openly acknowledge efforts by CYDT to bring youth to local governance space.***

### *Top Line Achievements*

- Community leaders assuming role of being project champions and youth advocates - by lobbying for the inclusion of youths in their internal processes
- Change of attitude and behaviour by solution holders – now embrace youths as key stakeholders of local governance
- Increased youth representation in local leadership structures- at least 2 seats reserved for youths (WADCOs, VDCOs)
- Motivated youth that initiate community level advocacy around service delivery (Water Committee, Young women in Silikwe, Mangwe)
- Established youth structures able to conduct community advocacy initiatives earmarked for improved service delivery outside CYDT platforms – Water committee in Plumtree managed to hold Stakeholder Water Indaba
- Increased participation of youths in budgetary processes in all project areas
- Project has placed CYDT as a key stakeholder in local authority processes – Gwanda and Plumtree – where org is invited to sit in their internal meetings
- Documented factors limiting effective youth participation in local governance.

## ●Anti-Corruption Advocacy



Realizing that corruption remains one of the main governance deficit in Zimbabwe and has been high on the governance agenda. Despite the president's seemingly commitment, lack of political will overshadow the desire to curb corruption hence the initiative by CYDT to continue complimenting government's effort to fight against corruption by embarking on a project called ***Defeat Corruption, Save the Community & Build the future Campaign.***

The project was premised on the notion that if left unattended, corruption has a potential to breed unequal societies and renders vulnerable youths to be prone to further manipulation by those who are political connected and have resources. This was based on evidence that corruption has a devastating impact on marginalised communities especially the youth and women.

This can be attested by the increasing levels of poverty which continue to affect these groups within the province, with more impact

in mining districts. As an organisation that seek to create safe spaces for meaningful youth development and empowerment, CYDT embarked on an advocacy journey around increasing awareness on ending corruption especially in the mining sector where majority of youths found solace for livelihood.

The project was premised on the notion that if left unattended, corruption has a potential to breed unequal societies and renders vulnerable youths to be prone to further manipulation by those who are political connected and have resources. This was based on evidence that corruption has a devastating impact on marginalised communities especially the youth and women. This can be attested by the increasing levels of poverty which continue to affect these groups within the province, with more impact in mining districts.

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and empowerment, CYDT embarked on an advocacy journey around increasing awareness on ending corruption especially in the mining sector where majority of youths found solace for livelihood.

The above mention campaign which is supported by GIZ has been exacerbated by the fact that corruption has become a norm and is now accepted among all segments of life particularly in the central government and mining sector while impacting negatively on the economic justice of the country as well as youth economic empowerment. As such a number of efforts have been made to raise awareness to the youth to stand against corruption which has seen them taking a stand to name, shame and report on corruption cases.

This has also informed the documentation of community stories on the fight against corruption and the continued efforts by community groups to raise awareness through conducting outreach exercises.



## Top Line Achievements

- Publication of a quarterly community newsletter “the whistle Blower – CYDT managed to keep communities, local and national stakeholders informed on the cases of corruption in the mining districts (Maphisa, Gwanda and uMzingwane) and impact of it
- Significant change of attitude and behaviour by solution holders and duty bearers – The campaign later received so much support from local solution holders and duty bearers – where leaders started to offer venues for anti-corruption related meetings and follow up actions
- Coordinated debate around protection measures for miners – United voices which later led to the formation of the provincial small and artisanal miner’s association. The association include few officials from local RDCs, Community Share Ownership, women and youth in mining.
- Documentary detailing plight of small and artisanal miners- the documentary continues to be used as evidence for lobbying for policies that seek to tighten miner’s legislative protection
- Youths managed to win back their mining land – a group of young people successfully took their mining grievance to high court and were granted mining rights against top politician
- Aggrieved miners in Maphisa were able to fight their cause and later given their mining land portion back – Khuphuka members
- Increased level of participation of young men and women in CYDT campaign activities
- Increased awareness, resistance and reporting of mining and local governance related corruption by young people.

## ●Enhancing Youth Voice in Governance



*Charlotte (in red pants) from Plumtree emphasises the importance of engagement during a Leaders-Youth interface in Plumtree*

*The young man standing calls for the need to create job opportunities for young people at Plumtree border post*



Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) rolls out a project supported by the NED that seek to promote youth leadership in governance and democracy in Matabeleland South Province. With previous support, CYDT mentored local youth to take on leadership roles which saw some of them being elected to office, and the organization has taken the lead

in organizing around youth issues in the province. CYDT will continue to create platforms for its youth networks to engage in local and national reform efforts, including through the lobbying for adoption of the already existing provincial youth manifesto. Through this project, CYDT enable youth opportunity to influence critical governance processes so that

youth related issues are prioritised during the planning and implementation of government projects. CYDT will coordinate with an alliance of community organizations throughout the country to defend and expand civic space for youth participation outside of Zimbabwe’s major cities hence promote community based organization work and existence

## Top Line Achievements

- Managed to build a coalition of youth led organization in Matabeleland South.
- Managed to foster unity of purpose among youths of different political, social and economic backgrounds so that they able advocate and lobby for issues of their interests.
- Increased youth leadership capacities through coordinated mentorship and coaching.
- Managed to consolidate Provincial Youth Manifesto and popularise it.
- Established working partnership with organizations that specialize on Arts for democracy – Victory Siyanqoba
- The fact that the government mulls to introduce 10 parliamentary seats that will be granted on proportional representation equates to the pressure that youths have managed to build since the first Endowment support until now. This dated back to previous **petitions and position papers.**
- Recognition of the organization to represent Matabeleland South Youth in critical spaces i.e. NPRC spaces, local decision making (Council Committees and Provincial Youth Ministry processes). All these are despite the fact that the organization has no valid Memorandum of Understanding with the local authorities but because of the sterling work and the demand by youths, authorities are forced to work with CYDT as the board of youth.
- 13 youths have submitted their applications to the ministry of youth for them to be part of the National Youth Council. This is an indication of change of attitude by the right holders in that they now want to be fully represented. These youths submitted their application to their respective youth district officers. In Bulilima 5 applied of which 2 are young women, Gwanda 4 young women applied, 4 in Beitbridge also applied.

## ●Moving Mountains: Building a Critical Youth Movement Towards Good Governance



*Lungile Dube-elected Vidco member in Datata Village, Gwanda North*

From April to September 2019, CYDT implemented a project dubbed: **Moving Mountains: Building a critical youth movement towards good governance** across Matabeleland South. The project was supported by PACT – Zimbabwe and managed to create opportunity for CYDT to program in areas with low civic work such as Beitbridge, Gwanda South, Mzingwane, Insiza South and Matobo North. As such, all intended objectives and

outcomes were met and impact continue to be felt.

This can be attested by the ability by youths to unite and act collectively towards influencing democratic and accountable governance. This comes after a realization that youths were failing to find each other and coalesce on issues affecting them as young people thus before the project. Consequently, the project managed to strengthen youth active participation and influence in decision making processes at local level considering that they managed to put across their priority policy list before the policy makers.

As a result of this project a direct impact has been noted where, youths have been accommodated to local and traditional structures as part of the leadership. In Gwanda North – Nkashu, Dema, Stanmore, Sikhunkwe villages which are part of ward 1 and 3, youths are now in Ward development committees. Community Youth Advocate chairperson for Insiza South District – Yourwill Moyo was voted in absentia as the district youth coordinator at full council

meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> of September 2019 at Insiza Rural District Council in Filabusi whereas some youth now seat in Village Development committees at Bekezela, Vokola and Shangani.

In Plumtree town, our board member Leader Zaba and other members of the Community Youth Advocates structures are now regarded as key stakeholders in all local platforms and are referred to as the point persons for youths by key government departments including the district administrator. As such they were requested by the ministry of youth, arts and culture in their district to identify youth thus from Bulilima and Mangwe who attended the hearing on national youth policy review held in Gwanda.

The ability to create spaces for youth inclusion by local leaders contributes towards demonstrable social change. CYDT can safely confirm that attitudes around youth inclusion and engagement are now changing for the better especially by local leaders and government departments.

### *Top Line Achievements*

- Managed to penetrate districts where there is low civic activism due to political inclination
- The project activities received so much mainstream media coverage including ZTV, which saw CYDT being cited as one of the organization contributing positively to the affirmative action by the government
- The project managed to bring about best practices where CYDT managed to work with youth organizations, local authorities and ministry of youth district offices promoting a purposeful coordination
- Project managed to enhance capacity and confidence levels for the youths who managed to take turns to chair and present during these meetings
- Produced 20 minutes long documentary on provincial youth policy demands.

## ●Enhancing Local Governance in Zimbabwe

The project was a ground level villagers-service provider social facilitation intervention aimed at expanding the capabilities of the rural youth to enjoy their rights. Therefore, the project promoted the transfer of rights into entitlements and eliminating structural barriers that inhibit rural youth from accessing equitable service delivery.

As a result of this project priority and collective development was achieved in Mangwe and Gwanda North districts where councillors managed to notice that straining the already scarce financial resources was not fielding desired community development hence the need to rank lined up project and channel funds as per their urgency or priority list. The project offered feasible entry point for addressing underlying drivers of poor service delivery. It made rural youth to be aware of their

rights and became authors of the community development they wanted to see hence increasing their participation in local processes. Therefore, the project gave local communities in the selected districts an opportunity to initiate priority projects and lobbied for their adoption by the Rural District Council (RDC) social services committee and other key local stakeholders during an **All Stakeholder/District-wide indaba**.

The idea was to build support of the identified project from all stakeholders so that such projects are fully supported, funded and implemented. Efforts to lobby funds from the Constituency Development Fund (CDF) to be channelled towards furtherance of the chosen priority project are still being made.

### *Top Line Achievements*

- Produced 2 training manuals which have become organization's intellectual manual (community Advocacy and Coordination Manual, Local Governance and Leadership Training Manual.
- Managed to identify Marula Secondary School as priority project and the school is now functional



## Lessons Learnt

- **Once given space** - Youths exhibit a high level of confidence in their engagement with duty bearers.
- **Upon realizing youth potential** - Local leaders embraced youth as key stakeholders of local development and planning.
- **Use of traditional leaders to mobilize youths in rural areas** – addresses some patriarch factors that impinge on youth emancipation
- **Clearly defined mandate of the organization** - encouraged youth and leaders engagement and participation
- **Capacity Building** - assist rights holders to define their place in governance processes hence motivate their participation
- **Engagement of local leaders** - is key for project success and sustainability
- **Devising ways of returning youths increase their loyalty and commitment to CSO programing** – livelihood projects (Mangwe Madabe – Ezimnyama, ward 8 Gwanda rural)

## Ways of Building On Lessons Learnt

- Continue providing safe spaces for youth engagement
- Maximize o promoting youth leader interface
- Continue to encourage youths active participation in local affairs
- Use local structures to mobilize more youths for incremental purposes
- Continuous engagement of solution holders so that they own the process and safeguard against project failure

## Areas of Comparative Advantage /Good Practices For Learning

- **Giving youths autonomy** – Involve them in activity planning and implementation – promotes ownership and sustainability
- **Engage rights holders** to get to know their priorities and be flexible enough to tweak a bit so that org remains relevant
- **Transparency and accountability** – helps rights holders to domesticate organization's expectations
- **Establish and nurture relationship** with strategic offices – have side to fall on when the other fails to materialize, identify allies in strategic offices, communities and operating spaces
- **Introducing a livelihood component** – helped org to gain acceptance from youths and community leaders

## Dealing With The Prevailing Context: Political & Human Rights Trends & Implications

- **Increased surveillance** – state security agents intimidating both secretariat and project beneficiaries. Close monitoring results in participants failing to freely express themselves during activities. Pestering calls from the state security wanting information from officers and frequent visits
  1. How we handled this situation – we co-operated and gave them more information that cleared misconceptions of the those in authority concerning CYDT work.
  2. -By so doing, we managed to minimize intimidation and surveillance
- Established working relationship that made officers not to be overbearing and intimidating, whenever they attend our processes, to allow the youths to participate freely, and speak out.

## Perceived Political Alignment

- Having noted that organizations working on governance issues are perceived to be moving a political agenda – CYDT has decided to work closely with all political parties and ensure that youths from all political formations are invited. To organize youths in Matabeleland South beyond partisan political spaces - We have actually established contact persons from all parties that are dominant in Mat South.
- This was after we realized that duty bearers and elected leaders from the ruling party were now eschewing themselves from our processes.
- After adopting that stance – all our activities have become a sort after by all leaders from all political formations and are regarded as a key platform for youth engagement
- In a nutshell we have adopted a **non-partisan approach and stance**. We are very much clear about that in all our engagement processes.
- Misinformation on social media - **And those we do not worry about, because our defense comes from the elected leaders working with us, as well as state security agents attending our platforms.**
- As CYDT we noted that there is severe erosion of civic space, increasing repression of civic actors evidenced by the increased surveillance of non-state actors, point in reference - sentiments that continue to make media rounds about CSOs being agents of regime change and working against the government.
- This has seen those in authority demanding periodic reports from CYDT and for them to be part of the activities all the time – as such CYDT decided to comply with their demands by inviting them to attend and inform them of possible activities.
- We believe they have noted that there is no security threat in all our processes, hence they are still attending our activities.

## Collaborations And Impact

CYDT does not operate in a vacuum, it has friends and sister organisations that continue to collaborate with. This is done so as to build consensus and necessary support on advocacy as we believe that advocacy is won through numbers. As such CYDT works with the following and has managed to establish itself as the coordinator of all youth focused organization within the province.

- Alliance of Community Based organisations
- Women Development Association in Zimbabwe
- Young Women's Alliance
- Youth Edutainment Services Trust
- The Watchmen Trust
- Matobo Youth Development Initiative
- Ministry of Youth, sports and culture
- Women Affairs
- Local authorities
- Ministry of Mines
- Secure Trust Africa
- Victory Siyanqoba
- National Association of Youth Organisations
- Zimbabwe Environment Lawyers Association



# Youth NGO demands list of Mat South EPOs

RED MUPONDE

NON-GOVERNMENTAL organisation, Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT), has petitioned government to release companies that were exclusive Prospective Partners (PPs) in Matabeleland South to the public. The petition, which was signed by 100 percent of min- abeleland South making it difficult for the government to enter the

to be transparent and accountable to ensure that rights and interests of young people in mining are protected and adopt measures to redress problems around that," read the petition seen by *Southern Eye* on Tuesday.

"In the interest of adopting the extractive industries transparency initiative (EITI), the ministry office needs to avail information to the local citizens so that it's clear on who is working in the province for possible partnerships and collaboration towards the good governance of our local minerals."

CYDT said the Constitution of Zimbabwe provided for the protection of all citizens wherever they may be, and guaranteed every citizen's right to access information.

"Recognising the right of access to any information held by the State or by any institution or agency of government at every level, in so far as the information is required in the interests of public accountability, in sync with international legal instruments to which Zimbabwe is party, Cognisant of the right to access to information provisions of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, the CYDT is hereby petitioning the government to release the list of EPOs in the province, their location and size."

19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which states that the fundamental right of freedom of expression encompasses the freedom to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media regardless of frontiers," CYDT wrote.

Government has reserved most mining land for EPOs which has made it impossible for new players, particularly artisanal miners to peg mines.

Last month, it said small-scale miners would be allowed to peg mining claims in areas that fall under EPOs. This is in line with new regulations currently under consideration.

Currently, the Mining Affairs board is considering applications of about 11 companies who applied for EPOs.

Some of the applicants include Canlite Mining Exploration (Pvt) Ltd, Infield Mining Exploration, Pearlmine Mining Exploration (Pvt) Ltd, DGL Investments, Zulu Lithium (Pvt) Ltd, Zimthal Tantalum (Pvt) Ltd, Primecraft Investments, Lambourne Limestone, Sinamatella Investments, Triminzim (Pvt) Ltd and RioZim.

The EPO applications that are under consideration are for areas such as gold, diamonds, platinum, chromium, vanadium, and other minerals.

## BRIEFS

### Cops in bribery storm

A MATABELELAND South gold miner, Gift Mzizi, has accused four police officers stationed at Gwanda Criminal Investigations Department (CID) gold section of demanding a US\$1 000 bribe from him for the release of his wife who was arrested on trumped-up charges.

Mzizi, who is a registered miner based in Maphisa, alleged that four police officers, only identified as Mandlenkosi Dube, Chede, Mthando and MaNcube, raided his home on January 30, searching for "illegal stuff."

Mzizi said the police officers arrested his wife, forced her to sign a warned-and-cautioned statement and told her that she should call her husband to come back home.

She complied, Mzizi said the police officers told him that his wife had confessed to a crime and she would be jailed for nine years. They then demanded a US\$1 000 bribe from him to secure his wife's freedom.

He said he managed to raise US\$500 and \$200 in bond notes. After the payment, they released his wife. Matabeleland South police spokesperson Chief Inspector Philisani Ndebele urged Mzizi to report the case to the police. — MTHANDAZO NYONI

### Imbiher stabbed over nool

Chirwoda: "It is not surprising, we are under the military government what do you expect?"

## Mat South youth petition pol

YOUTHS in Matabeleland South have petitioned their political leadership to push for social, political and economic inclusion of the young in governance issues among others to lift them out of poverty.

The petition is titled "Matabeleland South Youth Key Asks" details a number of political and socio-economic needs of the young in the province most of whom complain of joblessness.

The petition was drafted by the Gwanda-based youth civic group, Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) following consultative meetings organised by the CYDT and held in Gwanda, Bulilima, Mangwe, Mzingwane, Matobo, Beitbridge and Insiza district.

"The CYDT in collaboration with other civic society groups in Matabeleland South has unveiled a tool kit referred to as the Matabeleland South Youth Key Asks detailing political and socio-economic needs of the youth in the province."

"This tool has also been petitioned to elected leaders in Matabeleland South's seven districts, with a view of pushing for their buy-in to address the Key-Asks of the youth in the province," Sachemisi Ndlovu, the CYDT coordinator said.

Thousands of youth in Matabeleland continue to risk life and limb crossing the crocodile-infested Limpopo River to search of a better life in neighbouring South Africa, complaining that Zimbabwe

is failing them.

Ndlovu added that the tool kit was brought to the attention of the provincial government to attract necessary attention from both local and national leadership.

"It is the concern of the youth that there is no representation in key government positions from the country's youth. The youth need attention from the country's leadership for the development of the province."

Among the key asks, the youth called for job creation, empowerment, representation in government structures, public entities and the private sector.

## Youths unveil toolkit on socio-economic needs

BY NIKKI NDLU

THE Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) in collaboration with other youth organisations in Matabeleland South, has unveiled a toolkit referred to as the "Matabeleland South Youth Key Asks", detailing the political and socio-economic needs of youths in the province.

The unveiling of the toolkit comes in the wake of consultative meetings organised by the CYDT held in Gwanda, Bulilima, Mangwe, Matobo, Beitbridge and Insiza to gather the views of the youths in the province for input into the toolkit.

In a statement, CYDT coordinator Sachemisi Ndlovu said on August 30 this year, youth representatives from across Matabeleland South would engage the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Youth, Sports and Recreation to discuss the "key asks".

"This toolkit has also been tabled to elected leaders in Matabeleland South's seven districts, with a view of pushing for their buy-in to address the KEY-ASKS of the youth in the province," Ndlovu said.

"This is to ensure issues peculiar to the youths in the province are brought to the attention of the country's leadership for the development of the province."

CYDT said that there was the considered view of youth that the country's leadership for the development of the province was not doing well from the country's leadership for the development of the province.

"These are summarised as political, economic, social, cultural, and environmental. The youth call for a constructive dialogue between the youth and the leadership for the development of the province."

The youth also called for a constructive dialogue between the youth and the leadership for the development of the province.