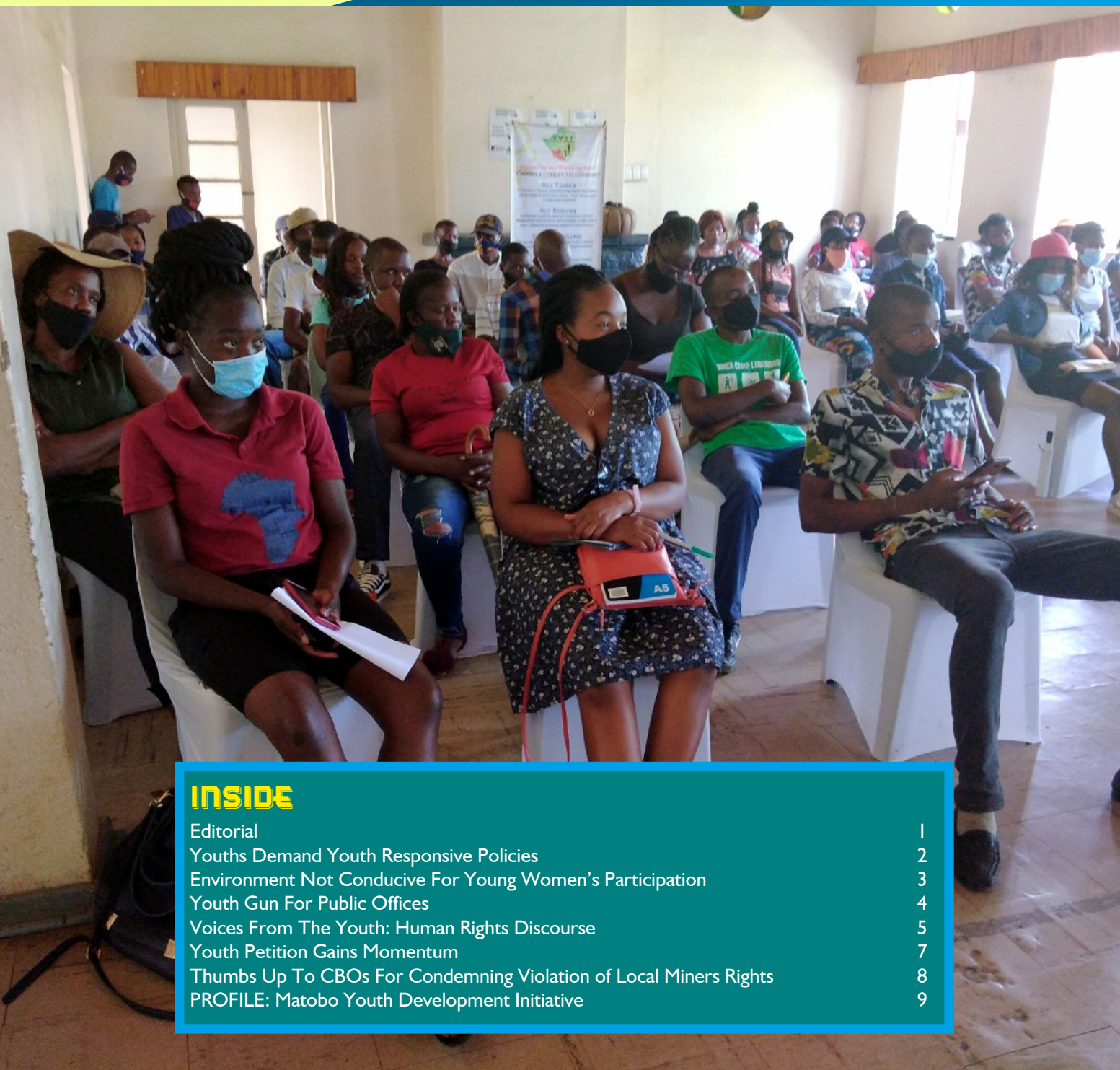




2nd Edition, March, 2021

BULLETIN THE MAT. SOUTH

The Voice of CBOs in Mat. South



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EDITORIAL

The previous edition of the Bulletin magazine looked at the role of CBOs in ensuring that young people enjoy their human rights. This subsequent edition continues to unpack the work of CBOs in helping young people demand youth-responsive policies.

Policies that will successfully deal with concerns raised by young people which includes the issue of representation and participation in socio-political spheres. Youth representation and participation in parliament has been a subject of intense debate since Zimbabwe gained its independence, however, in recent years the subject has gained momentum.

One of the reason the topic is gaining more attention is the role of CBOs in helping young people speak out against issues they feel are not in their best interests. As a result, young people are putting pressure on the government, demanding that it prioritise the issue of amending the constitution to improve their representation.

CBOs are helping young people engage local leaders and other stakeholders to help them in their struggle for an improved youth representation in parliament. It is encouraging that

young people have become confident to speak out against poor service delivery and social injustices happening in society.

One article in this magazine consists of different views from young people unpacking the various challenges they are facing in their respective locations. Some of the issues raised include the poor state of the education system, the abuse of local miners' rights by Chinese miners, lack of access to Sexual Reproductive Health Rights and corruption by political leaders.

As CBOs are the watchdogs that monitor activities conducted by local and national leaders as well as condemn instances where human rights violations are taking place, in this magazine, we also show how CBOs joined forces to condemn Chinese brutality on vulnerable local miners.

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YOUTHS DEMAND YOUTH RESPONSIVE POLICIES



are not citizens-in training, a role where they are often pushed back by education and political institutions. They are actors of today's democracy," Dzokurasa said.

There is also a need for young people to demand community meetings with their local councillors and legislators as a way of participating in policy formulation and change. This idea came as a realisation that the councillors and (members of parliament) MPs are policy makers and it is their responsibility to formulate policies. Therefore, youth can be able to set the agenda through these monthly meetings.

Active and engaged young people can be a source of government innovation and improved service. By encouraging youth to participate in open government initiatives, governments can create a positive impact on a personal level and with regard to the overall development of societies and economies.

For instance, governments can encourage the development of new innovative industries and initiatives whilst young people can provide governments with fresh ideas and approaches and ensure that policy outcomes are responsive to the concerns of young people.

Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) recently held youth policy forums in five project areas namely; Gwanda, Beitbridge, Matobo, Bulilima and UMzingwane in Beitbridge, where the main objective of the meetings was to find strategies and mechanism on how to continue to lobby for the development and adoption of policies that promote youth participation and influence in governance processes.

The policy forums came after the youth in the same project areas were trained on public policy formulation. Youth across the project areas highlighted that their participation in policy formulation is essential, if not the most important principle for democracies.

Gift Dzokurasa, a youth from Beitbridge, said organisations that emphasise the importance of youth participation to foster young people's active citizenship, enhance their integration and inclusion and strengthen their contribution to the development of democracy.

"Active participation of young people in decisions and actions at all levels is essential in order to build more democratic, more inclusive and more prosperous societies. Young people

"Policies are formulated at council chambers and in Parliament. As youth, we cannot all go to the chambers but we can influence policy change or formulation through our respective councillors and members of parliament. Therefore, we need to be always in touch with our representatives," Susan Ncube from Gwanda, said.

"I suggest that we create platforms where our councillors and MPs meet youth once in a month so that they can hear of challenges we are faced with, so that policies they formulate can respond to these challenges."

In Bulilima, Mthokozisi Mpofu said: "Difficult as it is to make our voices heard; young people provide value in improving policy outcomes and influence. Young people are not 'victims' or 'problems' as often claimed, but diverse and critical stakeholders in democracy."

The government of Zimbabwe has been advised by youth to have open strategies and initiatives that aim at supporting democracy and inclusive growth. These are important tools to increase transparency, accountability and integrity, whilst building stronger relationships between government and citizens.

"Open government and stakeholder participation initiatives should include specific efforts dedicated to reaching out to the most relevant, vulnerable, underrepresented, or marginalised groups in society," advised Leader Zaba from Plumtree Town.

Although youth are a highly heterogeneous group with different backgrounds, skills and capacities, Zaba said they often find it more difficult than other segments in society to make their voices heard. Youth can be considered as one of the groups that requires specific efforts, he opined.

ENVIRONMENT NOT CONDUCTIVE FOR YOUNG WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION



Many societies put up barriers that exclude and disadvantage young women by not recognising their rights, needs and potential. Hence, the reason why there are few young women in leadership positions. Young women are subjected to a lot of abuse, name-calling and marginalisation once they start showing interest in leadership positions.

For those who are already in the leadership positions, they have their own fair share of challenges. They have to constantly manage conflicting perceptions about their identities. They are burdened with the task of being hardworking and successful employees, while also managing the image that women should be compliant and passive, and dealing with the pressure to prove their skills, experience and authority as millennial.

The Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) took to the streets of Matabeleland South to hear young women's views and perspectives on how the current environment is conducive or not to accommodate them in leadership positions, seeing that an election is imminent in Zimbabwe.

Talent Mavunila Moyo from Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe Gwanda Chapter said even though progress has been made in increasing the participation of women in politics in Zimbabwe, the advancement has always been channelled to the elderly women rather than young women.

"The current environment is not conducive for young women. If you realise, efforts are channelled to the elderly women, leaving the young women out in the cold. Most organisations

do workshops with the elderly forgetting the young women," Moyo said.

"In these workshops women are provided with the skills and knowledge on how to face these challenges, therefore making them ready to deal with any challenges. In all this, young women are not included, therefore, leaving them vulnerable. We need capacity building programs that are specific to the young women so that they also gain the skills to face these challenges," she said.

Ntandoyenkosi Sibanda from Bulilima concurred with Moyo, citing cyber bullying as one of the reasons why young women were shying away from taking up leadership positions.

"I believe cyber bullying is one of the factors that make the environment not conducive. Joanna Mamombe (Member of Parliament) and her colleagues have been bullied and it is not proper for young women to experience that kind of bullying, no matter what they have done," she said.

"Another factor is that of recalls that were done sometime last year. I believe the recalls made a negative impact on women. Political wrangles and party ownership also left a toll on women in politics for example confusion on who wins, all this shows the unstable environment we are living in."

Sibanda added: "The truth is, it has always been hard for young women to penetrate into leadership positions and the current environment has also made them fear the unknown.

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YOUTH GUN FOR PUBLIC OFFICES



Integration of young people into key strategic leadership roles is essential for sustainable economic development. Despite historical evidence of young people's contributions in driving changes in political systems, they face multiple forms of silent discrimination and limited opportunities to participate in formal and informal leadership roles.

The challenge of youth integration into key strategic leadership roles in Zimbabwe has to do with the mistrust and greedy leaders who refuse to charge young people with a responsibility to lead and be part of decision making processes.

Undeterred by the glaring challenges blocking their participation in the elections, 35 youths from different political parties and districts of Matabeleland South have come forward as aspiring candidates for 2023 general elections either as councillors or members of parliament (MPs).

These youth were recorded during the intergenerational dialogue meetings organised by Community Youth Development Trust. The intergenerational dialogue meetings were organised to enhance the organisation's journey around mentoring upcoming youth leaders and promote mutual learning and coaching. The youth have been motivated by the fact that young people constitute more than 60% of the population yet they are lowly represented in decision making spaces.

Admire Ndlovu, one of the aspiring youth candidates, said he is tired of complaining from the terraces.

"I took this stance because as a young person I am tired of complaining from the terraces, so I want to be the change that I want. I need to do more in emancipation and empowerment of young people. I am capable of taking bold decisions,

determined to work for the betterment of young people, and I have the will to manage and rectify issues and more importantly I stand for what is right," he said.

Another young person, Nicholas Ngwenya said: "People should not be questioning as to why young people like myself want to contest for positions in the 2023 general elections. Politics is not for the elders alone, it is also for us the young people. There are a lot of challenges we are faced with and I believe if I am voted to be a councillor for my ward, I will make sure youth get what they have always wanted because I understand their needs, hence pushing for them in the council chambers."

Young people's participation in governance processes particularly in the electoral process is one of the means through which democracy in the country can be entrenched and transparency and accountability achieved. Though elections constitute one of the most important benchmarks towards participation in development, participation of young people in Zimbabwe is still very low and least impactful.

What this means is that young people's voice and views are not heard and the country is run mainly by leaders who largely do not have the requisite capacity to lead and transform the economy.

The key issue for young people in Zimbabwe is the ability and capacity to be involved in the decision-making process that informs policy interventions. For them, one of the main criteria on which people should be allowed to participate in the political process is a basic level of knowledge and capacity so that participation in essence is well informed, structured and relevant to the issue or sphere in question.

This alone justifies the need for a broad base for participation to be created for the youth. This, however, is not the case in Zimbabwe. Young people are generally excluded from the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of programs, interventions and policies that ultimately are meant to benefit them. This has several negative consequences.

"Our leaders have let us down especially when it comes to policy formulation. I really do not blame them because it is us who vote for them without checking if they are capable of doing their job spotlessly. I, therefore, suggest that anyone who wants to contest elections should have a basic level of knowledge and capacity so that they are able to hold sound discussions structured with relevant knowledge to respond to the current challenges," Charlotte Ndlovu, another youth, said.

However, the aspiring candidates have made a call to the government to adhere to the Constitution of Zimbabwe Section 20 (1) that points out that the State and all its institutions and agencies of government at every level must put in place measures, including affirmative action programs to ensure that youth have access to appropriate education and training and to have opportunities to associate with, be represented and participate in political, social, economic and other spheres of life.

VOICES FROM THE YOUTH: HUMAN RIGHTS DISCOURSE

Young activists and advocates can help change the status quo and help transform lives by advocating for the implementation of policies that are in tandem with human rights. They are capable of piling pressure on the government to scrape or amend policies that do not comprehensively serve the people's interests.

Young people voices can hold leaders and duty bearers to account, demand justice for people who have been violated as well as devour the existing bearers retarding their access to human rights. In essence, for meaningful change to happen, young people must take center stage, be the catalyst of positive action rather than taking the backseat while human rights violations are deteriorating.

While young people are key players of change, they also need support and grooming to be able to act properly in the sociopolitical spaces. With the help and support of Community Based Organisations (CBOs) in Matabeleland South, young people are currently in a position where they understand that speaking out against sociopolitical and economic injustices is the foundation of their future.

As a result, this article breaks down views of young people with regards to the state of governance and human rights in Zimbabwe. Explore how the outbreak of COVID 19 exacerbated human rights abuses as well as get to know how authorities have failed to uphold human rights. Young people voices will bring into awareness the specific human rights that have been violated and the existing

Bhekimpilo Mbedzi
-Beitbridge-

and are financially handicapped to be able to participate in online lessons.



It's within several entities, institutions and communities that our human rights situation has deteriorated. To start with, it might seem unreal but to me almost all of our human rights have been violated or rather deteriorated.

It is also disturbing that while our parents have been on lockdown and school activities suspended, schools still require full payment of fees. In addition, some schools continue to review and increase school fees. Where will our parents get the money especially in a country with a marginal number of employed citizens? The cost of education has become unbearable for many.

It's such a sad and painful scenario that the rights we enjoyed when we were growing up are deteriorating. The government, local leaders and those with economic power do not respect human rights and marginalised groups are always at the receiving end of the wanton acts carried out by those in power.

There are teachers who now conduct private lessons in their respective homes but they charge too much for students to be able to attend. The right to health has also gone worse in recent years. The situation exacerbated during the outbreak of COVID 19 pandemic.

The rights which mostly are of significance and which I believe have gone worse are the Right to health, Right to education, Right to food and clean water as Environmental rights and Political Rights.

The poor state of health centers which resulted in the premature deaths of infants in hospitals. Pregnant women are the most affected as they regularly attend clinics for check ups. Nurses are striking citing incapacitation leaving thousands of people seeking checkups in limbo. Sometimes ambulances do not arrive to collect emergency cases.

These rights are important to our livelihoods. In recent years, the right to education has deteriorated. The government has failed to come up with practical strategies to look out for the needs of children.

On the right to food and water, the government claimed to give out allowances and grants for marginalised groups but nothing really materialised since last year. The issue of water challenges continues to trouble citizens.

The teachers have been striking hence the poor results especially in disadvantaged communities of Matabeleland South. For instance, the poor Grade Seven results that recently sparked debate even in parliament exposed the extent in which the right to education has deteriorated. As students we lack proper tools to pursue our educational activities.

Political rights have also been affected for instance the suspension of by-elections. The ruling party continues to carry out its activities; conducting large gatherings which makes the suspension of by-elections wrong.

The educational institutions are in a bad state. Classrooms are dilapidated while the furniture is not up to standard. At time of COVID 19, E-learning is now the way to go, however, this is a challenge as many young people do not own smart-phones

It seems the law is only applied to the people opposing the government only. Right now some wards do not have councillors as a result of the suspension of by-elections. People need their local leaders to speak for them with regards to issues affecting them but how will they achieve that if their leaders are recalled much worse without replacements.

Continued >>

VOICES FROM THE YOUTH: HUMAN RIGHTS DISCOURSE



**Constance
Maseko**
-Gwanda-

Human rights are heavily violated to begin with, access to public transport is a challenge. The ban of private

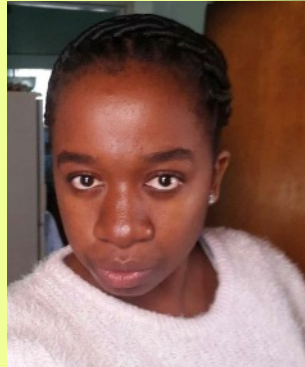
taxi increases burden on the ZUPCO public transport service provider which is failing to fully service the community as the demand is overwhelming. Private taxis were used for emergency cases complementing the failing ambulances that do not arrive in time. With ZUPCO being the only legal public transport service provider, citizens now fail to quickly access health services in the event of an emergency case.

Access to health service is also a challenge. Gwanda has no district hospital, but a provincial hospital and a poly clinic. The challenge is, provincial hospitals are more expensive than the district hospital, and hence more cost in accessing health services. While the poly clinic is serving the town and the surrounding peri-urban, the staff to patient ratio is overwhelmed, robbing the community of adequate health service provision.

Right to security has deteriorated. The town has seen an increase in burglary cases and merchant armed robbery, the security force "police" is doing little or nothing to ensure safety in the community. People have learnt to cope with violated human rights, however, the adapting methods employed fuel bribery and corruption. The private taxis have to bribe the traffic police for them to operate without being penalized.

The rights to shelter and privacy have also been affected for instance the case of "one room fits all" in Ward 4 in Gwanda. People seek health services from health practitioners outside the authorised health service institutions. Back yard service provision has emerged rampant in the community due to limited access to health service from the clinic and the hospital.

Rights to life that is free from discrimination for people living with disabilities is heavily violated as most public buildings and public transport are not disability-friendly.



Ntando Sibanda - Bulilima

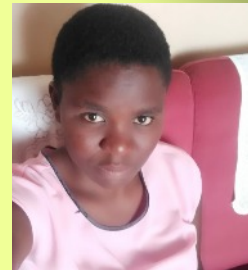
Firstly, when it comes to freedom of association we have seen people leaving in fear of being associated with an opposition party.

The government announced that gatherings were limited but the fun thing is that since the lockdown, government officials have been seen hosting public gatherings while other officials from the ruling party have conducted rallies.

Disturbingly, not a single official was brought to book. This shows that freedom of assembly was only restricted to marginalised groups not to the ruling party or the government. It shows the extent in which COVID 19 has further disadvantaged marginalised groups. The government has indirectly used COVID 19 to strip away human rights.

The rights of women have also been affected during the pandemic especially their sexual reproductive health rights. Many young people are failing to get hold of contraceptives while before the lockdown was eased, many women failed to go to the clinic for their regular check ups.

In addition, there are also cases of rape that have been recorded which further reveal the impact of COVID 19 on women.



Similo Ndlovu - Umzingwane

The state of governance and human rights is bad in Zimbabwe and young people are the most affected as it is their future that is being put in jeopardy. Those with economic and political power seem to be above the law and human rights.

They always get away with human rights violations for instance the issue of Chinese miners who for a longtime have been abusing local miners. Political leaders who are supposed to look out for the needs of the people are involved in corruption which cripples the exact way of exercising human rights.

High levels of poverty has affected the right to education. Many young people cannot afford to go to school due to lack of money to pay school fees as well as buy stationary. It is through poverty, that young girls are forced into child marriages rather than go to school.

Government support have always been a problem as only a few have their fees paid by the government.

YOUTH PETITION GAINS MOMENTUM



One member of the PCYAR, Hon Omega Sibanda said that “youth are able to stand and field themselves as candidates without a quota provision.”

However, CYDT representatives in the meeting explained that young people require support. For instance, many of them lack proper funding to partake in a serious political campaign, an explanation that was backed

SINCE 1980, the subject of youth representation and participation refuses to go away as youth remain unsatisfied with the current provisions of the Constitution regarding their inclusion in parliament.

Public debates intensified last year, especially during the public hearings period of the proposed Constitution Amendment Bill 2 that seeks to set aside 10 seats for the youth.

The overall youth reception revealed that many of them were not satisfied by the Bill, saying it was not enough. As a result, Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) teamed up with the youth to petition the parliament, seeking for an improved 30% youth representation in parliament.

This petition managed to stir debate at parliament, with the recent development being the invitation by Parliament for CYDT to come and defend the petition through a ZOOM meeting.

In the meeting, the CYDT representatives and board members managed to defend the petition and recommendations were made for the petition to be taken to consultation level.

The meeting was between the Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sports, Arts and Recreation (PCYAR) team who are also Members of Parliament and various young people from Matabeleland South. Members of the PCYAR asked for clarity as well as proposed recommendations that could help CYDT and the youth in their quest for an improved youth representation and participation.

One of the major arguments of the petition is that having a single youth representing each province in parliament is not enough as there are many issues that need to be solved among youth.

Responding to this argument, the PCYAR said it was concerned about the lack of youth representation in parliament when they are the majority and also backed by the constitution that allows youth as young as 21 years to run for political office.

up by Hon Tavengwa Mukuhani, another committee member.

Tavengwa alleged that the reason why there are few young people in parliament is because they do not have enough resources to stand as political candidates. Therefore, there is a need to sit down and explore the real challenges which are stumbling blocks of young people's representation and participation in parliament, he said.

CYDT representatives explained that there is a need for an enabling environment that will pave the way for young people to participate in politics; develop political structures that allow youth to express themselves, giving them chances to show the public what they are capable of.

The representatives probed on how youth can become councillors and Members of Parliament without being necessarily politicians or being party members of a political party.

In response, Hon Sibanda explained that councilors and Members of Parliaments cannot be divorced from politics as those positions are political positions.

In other words, one has to be politically active to run for public office or a seat in parliament. He went on to say that youth are free to run as independent candidates if they do not want to be affiliated with a political party.

However, being an independent candidate does not mean one is not a politician. The PCYAR said the setting aside of the 10 seats for youth as proposed through constitutional Amendment No. 2 shows the government's commitment in addressing marginalised youth.

The PCYAR encouraged CYDT and the youth to re-strategise and polish up its primary demands and proposals so that when PCYAR approach relevant authorities, they will be carrying proposals that are practical.

A decision with regards to the petition submitted by CYDT will be finalised soon as advised by the PCYAR.

THUMBS UP TO CBOS FOR CONDEMNING VIOLATION OF LOCAL MINERS' RIGHTS

Community-based organisations (CBOs) exist to defend and protect the rights of marginalised groups. They are the voice of the voiceless; questioning the day to day social, political and economic injustices being done by those in positions of power.

It is this reason that various CBOs recently endorsed a petition that was initiated by Matabeleland Institute for Human Rights (MIHR), demanding that the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) and Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) conduct thorough investigations on the cases of Chinese miners' abuse of marginalised local miners.

These CBOs include Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT), Women's Institute for Leadership Development, Matobo Youth Development Initiative, Rural Communities Empowerment Trust, Community Podium, Christian Legal Society Zimbabwe, South Western Region Gender Network, Ibhetshu likaZulu, Greater Whange Residents Trust, Gweru Residents and Ratepayers Association and Lupane Youth for Development and Masvingo.

The endorsement of the petition that indicated that several cases of Chinese miners abusing mine workers in the country have been recorded in areas like Insiza District, Gwanda, Bubi, Hwange, Gweru, Matobo, Masvingo, Mutare and other districts of the country where mining takes place, showed the commitment of CBOs in fighting for the rights of marginalised and vulnerable groups.

The move to endorse the petition sparked praises from young people who said that it was heart-warming to see that they are not alone in the struggle for human rights especially in a country that has experienced human rights deterioration in recent years.

"We have suffered a lot in Zimbabwe. If you investigate and research, you will find that there are thousands of unreported

human rights abuse cases. Many of us no longer believe in the justice system of the country as those in power usually get away with it," noted Nicholas Ngwenya, a youth from Umzingwane.

Wisdom Ndlovu, another youth from Matobo, supported these claims saying sometimes going to report that your rights have been violated "is even more dangerous than remaining quiet. Therefore, it is encouraging to see non-governmental organisations coming together to fight for our human rights."

The youth reiterated that the information in the petition that alleges that Chinese miners have been abusing local miners for a long time was true and gave tangible examples of those cases.

"Chinese miners have been getting away with various crimes in recent years for instance last year in Matobo, artisanal miners accused Yakutsi Investments mining firm bosses of beating and paying them what is less than the hours they were working," one youth said.

"In Maphisa, artisanal miners under the Thuthuka Cooperation Group accused Chinese employers of beating them, of which all these cases went cold with time," another youth said.

The youth said by beating local miners, Chinese miners were breaking the law as the Constitution of Zimbabwe, Section 51 states that "every person has inherent dignity in their private and public life, and the right to have that dignity respected and protected" while Section 53 states that "no person may be subjected to physical or psychological torture or to cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment".

They also quoted other sections of the constitution such as Sections 54 and 55 which are against slavery, servitude and forced labour to further show that no worker in Zimbabwe must be subjected to inhumane treatment.

ENVIRONMENT NOT CONDUCIVE FOR YOUNG WOMEN'S PARTICIPATION

From page 3

Young women said they have to navigate the fine line of being an authentic and fierce leader and being liked. Melita Simango from Beitbridge highlighted that the societal cultural norms and stereotypes make it quite hard for young women to excel in leadership positions.

"Women are expected to be welcoming, caring and modest. When we encounter women who are direct and authoritative, it is in direct contradiction to what society believes about women," she said. Nokuthaba Ncube from Gwanda challenged women to stand up highlighting that "marginalisation and lack of young women in leadership positions thrives largely because the oppressed (the young women) are not fully capacitated to stand up against the oppression."

Increasing women's representation in the government will not only empower women, but is necessary to achieve gender parity.

Women's political empowerment and equal access to leadership positions at all levels are also fundamental to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and a more equitable world.

Meanwhile, a member of the Bulilima CYDT youth structure committee, Tahana Dube has been invited to be part of the EU Youth Sounding Board. The youth sounding board is a group of young people who will regularly meet the EU delegation and EU Member States in Zimbabwe to share ideas on needs, constraints and opportunities for youth with the aim of achieving youth-specific development gains for the EU's next programming cycle 2021-2027.

The Youth Sounding Board comes as a way of stepping up youth engagement to ensure that when shaping and implementing EU programmes and politics in Zimbabwe, the voices of young people are heard and taken into account.



Discent Dube - Director MYDI

Democratic local governance (DLG) is often regarded as a necessary precondition for transforming lives and livelihoods of people living in the rural areas of developing countries.

Community Based organisations have been quite instrumental in spearheading this transformation, with

Matobo Youth Development Initiative (MYDI) being one of the community based organisations that are making strides in Matobo District.

MYDI is a youth organisation driven by the passion to see marginalised areas developing and keeping pace with regional and global development. MYDI was established in March 2019 and registered in June 2020.

The organisation puts significant emphasis on developing the youth so they become responsible leaders in their communities and in society so they can contribute to the development of the communities that they live in.

It is the mandate of MYDI that young people have the potential to unlock the resourcefulness of rural and marginalised areas which are cut – off from development.

MYDI also recognises the importance of the girl child and seeks to ensure that they have adequate access to health care and have security from emotional and physical abuse which are rampant in the region.

MYDI also promotes self-sustainability, and its ideas are built upon the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and therefore, communities are engaged from grassroots level in order to be uplifted.

To this end research is used as a key source of information on ideas, projects, policies as well as stakeholders that have an influence in the region MYDI pledges to remain non-partisan and professional in its execution of duties.

Realising that most youths do not have an interest in community participation when it comes to development and advocacy since they aspire to cross over to neighbouring countries to find jobs, MYDI comes in as an ideal platform.

There is an opportunity to engage youths to be active in terms of development through enhancing skills, empowerment and promoting technology and science at grassroots level.

Women and children are also vulnerable to abuse, diseases and poverty, hence there is a need to address such issues as young people. The organisation seeks to help youths utilise the assets that are lying idle in their communities, promote education

especially STEM which will enhance skills for the learners in rural communities.

It also encourages the youths to know their rights and potential, through engaging and participating in community activities.

Membership is open to any registered CBO and CSO working in Matobo district which have common interest in the development of youths through the Asset Based Community Development model. MYDI has an interest in promoting young women through opening opportunities for them, hence it promotes 50/50 gender balance.

Key areas of interest

Through the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) model, the organization shall map the resources that the communities have which will form the basis of sustainable projects. As an example, the organisation will carry out a project to assess the number of community owned boreholes in the clusters and these will be categorised as functioning and not functioning.

This will enable the organisation to seek funds for the boreholes that are not working, based on the information from the ward coordinators. Most of the assets that will fall under the projects carried out by the organization will be mapped this way.

The use of media will be a priority as it will encourage people from the region to be aware of developmental initiatives that are happening around them.



Providing information will also be essential in creating a form of awareness into the plight of the disadvantaged and the needy that can access aid from well-wishers.

An online newsletter/ magazine will be designed and created that will provide information which will be circulated on social media.

The organisation also intends to create documentaries on the developmental projects that will be carried out, with the purpose of giving providing viewers with more knowledge and insight on Matobo district.

The vision of the organisation is to work for the students in order to achieve its objectives of putting the district on the regional and international map of excellence.

The organisation will play a key role in supporting students in different activities that include academics, clubs, sports, arts, culture and technological innovation.

The organisation will pursue different projects that include a mobile laboratory and library which will provide relief to learners as well as promoting STEM.

The organisation will work with learners in promoting cultural cognisance, by promoting arts and craft as well as putting emphasis on the history of the district.

Continued >

This is because the organisation values the input of the old generation who have the experience and basic knowledge that has the potential to groom the young generation to be responsible citizens that have close ties with their roots.

The concepts of changing the rural stereotype will incorporate the culture of the region and will make use of indigenous knowledge systems as a fundamental basis to development. It is the mandate of the organisation to engage fully with young people and high school dropouts for the benefits of exploiting resources in the region.

The most important component of developing the region is to ensure that innovative ideas are realised through funding through drafting business plans and proposals for individuals and cooperatives.

The key point to note is that most of the rural young people have suppressed their innovative mind-set since they do not believe it is possible to realise one's dream in a rural setting.

Therefore, the organisation believes in unlocking the potential of the future generation that will be responsible with changing the rural image. The organisation seeks to play a part in sensitizing

women on their basic human rights since they suffer prejudice at the hands of rapists and abusive male counterparts.

There will be key workshops to capacitate women with various skills that will equip them with entrepreneurial skills that will enable them to be independent. The organisation will work hand in hand in carrying out programs for sensitizing the community on health care as well as the basics of hygiene as way of ensuring a healthy lifestyle.

The organisation will also liaise with the law enforcement on the basics of law that protects women and their rights. The organisation will work hard to ensure that the health care delivery system is improved through sourcing the necessary items from the donor community. Women will also be encouraged to participate in various activities, as champions of women empowerment. They will be at the forefront of all development initiatives that can upgrade their lives.

MYDI has done a lot of collaborations and partnerships with organisations such as CYDT, SWRGN, ZLHR, VICET, ZIMCODD among many others. They have managed to make a name for themselves as the go to organisation in Matobo District.

Some Activity highlights

**The late MP
Lisa Singo
(maroon)
attending the
youth policy
forum in
Beitbridge**



**Gwanda youths participate
during meeting**



**Youths dance to a refresher during a Youth
policy forum in Beitbridge**



**Youth participate during a Youth policy forum in
Gwanda**

