



The Mat. South Bulletin

4th edition
October, 2021



INSIDE

Editors Note	1
Youth welcome 25% youth quota recommendations	2
Revisiting Parly recommendations on access to documentation	3
ACBOS Meetings expand engagement spaces for CBOs	4
Hands of hope Trust gives women hope in male dominated society	5
Youth leadership Bootcamp: Youth demand leadership positions	6
Societal attitudes: a hindrance to women's political participation	8
Beitbridge youth yet to register to vote as access to primary documents remains a challenge	9

Editor's Note

This newsletter provides insights on the state of youth representation and participation in decision making processes. It presents young women and men's point of view on the parliamentary portfolio committee on youth, sport, arts and recreation's recommendation to the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs to submit a bill to Parliament by 3 December 2021, amending the Constitution to increase the youth quota from 10% to 25%. It also provides data on the role played CYDT's implementing partner, Hands of Hope Trust (HoHT) in empowering women and girls to realize their full potential.

Reading this latest edition will help you understand challenges faced by youths to participate in socio-political processes which include lack of access to primary documents like National Identity cards which has prevented many youths from registering to vote. Therefore this newsletter also implores duty bearers to improve service delivery which will enhance more youth to register to vote. It also covers the first ever Youth Leadership Bootcamp that sought to support youth leadership journey, inspire, motivate, draw attention to and raise quality of youth work. You can also find out the recent contributions and achievements of Alliance for Community Based Organizations (ACBOs) in this newsletter.

Happy reading!!!

Facebook: Cydt MatSouth **Twitter:** @CydtMat

Website: www.cydt.org.zw

Youth welcome 25% youth quota recommendations



The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation has recommended that the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs submit a Bill to Parliament by 31 December 2021, amending the Constitution to increase the youth quota from 10% to 25%.

This recommendation comes after the Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT), pursuant to section 149 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, petitioned the parliament demanding an improved youth participation in all decision-making platforms.

Accordingly, the petition was referred to the Portfolio Committee on Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation for consideration. Thus, the Portfolio Committee considered the petition and resolved to inquire into the issues raised in the petition.

The committee received oral evidence from CYDT on 25 February 2021 to get insight into specific issues that needed to be addressed. The committee also gathered evidence from Kirsty Coventry, the Minister of Youth, Sport, Arts and recreation on 29 April 2021 on measures being implemented by her Ministry to ensure youth participation and representation at all levels of governance.

As much as CYDT petition was clear on the need for a 30% youth quota, the recommendation by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee has been most welcome by the youth who instigated the writing of the petition. Allan James Dube, a youth based in Gwanda Town, hailed the recommendations by the committee and is eagerly waiting to hear what the

Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs would say about the bill.

“This is a most welcome recommendation by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation. Even though we are short by 5% as we called for 30%, I am so happy that we almost got what we wanted,” he said.

“The ball has now been thrown to the Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs Ministry, I hope that they will do us youth right. It is very important that they submit this bill for youth emancipation,” Dube said.

The Parliamentary Portfolio Committee for Youth, Sport, Arts and Recreation in its report to the third session – ninth parliament highlighted five recommendations, including the 25% youth quota. Some of the recommendations are that the ministry should expedite and put in place the National Youth Act by 30 September 2021 and ensure that the act addresses all youth concerns.

“The Ministry of youth, sport, arts and recreation should ensure that the Zimbabwe Youth Council decentralises its structures to promote effective coordination, supervision and fostering of youth activities at all levels,” the report reads in part.

The Committee further recommends that the Ministry should ensure all election processes for Zimbabwe Youth Council are regulated by Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to ensure transparency and fairness.

To page... 5

Revisiting Parly Recommendations on Access to Documentation

Zimbabwe shall soon have general elections billed to be in the early months of 2023. As political parties and people alike prepare for these elections, there has been an outcry from young people on the access to documentation enabling them to be involved and be part of the electoral process.

These documents include birth certificates and national identity cards, the primary documents. In December 2018, the Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) sent a petition to Parliament highlighting challenges relating to issuance of primary documents. The Petitioners' prayer was that Parliament should take measures to ensure the protection of the right to birth certificates and identity documents.

In the exercise of its oversight role, Parliament was obliged to assess and oversee the adequacy and effectiveness of policies and practises of the Registrar General's Office in the provision of birth and national registration in frontier provinces, particularly, in Matabeleland South.

The Parliament made its own investigations through the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Defence, Home Affairs and Security Services and it recommended the following measures to be undertaken in order to alleviate the plight of the citizens:-

- The Registrar General's department should streamline requirements for obtaining primary documents taking into account the peculiarities of border areas by 31st December 2019.
- The Ministry should undertake public awareness programmes on the importance of acquiring primary documents so that future generations are not disenfranchised and deprived of their citizenship status as a result of their parents who may not be so appreciative of the need to acquire such documentation by 31st December, 2019;
- The Ministry conducts massive mobile registration exercises as an all-year-round programme instead of carrying the exercise at specific times; i.e. around Christmas holidays when it is envisaged that those working in neighbouring countries would have come into the country for the festive season. The time and



allocation of resources may be problematic hence the failure to achieve the intended noble objectives;

- The Ministry should give a special dispensation for those who fall victim to natural disasters such as floods, lightning and infernos. These should be given amnesty to acquire their primary documents without any cumbersome procedures by 31st December, 2019;
- That the office of the Registrar General be decentralised to all parts of the country by 31st December 2019 to make it easy for people in the hinterland to acquire documents, a service currently available in urban centres;
- That reliable transport, preferably four-wheel drive type of vehicles, should always be availed to assist in conducting periodic visits to outreach areas;
- The Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage should undertake on-going refresher courses and training in customer care for officers so that quality service may be provided by the department in the province.
- The Registrar General's office should create facilities for birth certificates at early child development (E.C.D) centres by 31st December 2020.
- The Registrar General's office should immediately relax search penalties for lost documents.
- There is need for a continuous monitoring and evaluation framework that enhances parliamentary oversight on the Registrar General's department.

CYDT is saddened by the fact that out of these 10 recommendations made, only a few have been implemented. Hence, there is a need to re-engage Parliament as failure to do so, a lot of young people could fail to see the ballot box come 2023.

ACBOs Meetings Expand Engagement Spaces For CBOs



Community-based organisations (CBOs) in the southern region of the country have described meetings organised by the alliance of community based organisations (ACBOs), as safe spaces for learning, mentorship and growth for both existing and upcoming organisations.

For the past year, the Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) has been coordinating ACBOs meetings for the Southern region and to date, five meetings have been held.

Speaking at a meeting held recently in Bulawayo, Julieth Nkiwane, Director for Women Development Association in Zimbabwe said the platform provided by CYDT has contributed to her growth as well as for her organisation.

She said the platforms helped her hold honest conversations with herself, noting down the positives and negatives to find a way forward.

"I honestly appreciate the space provided by CYDT to coordinate ACBOs meetings for the Southern region. I have realised growth in my own personality as well as that of the organisation," she said.

"I have really changed how I do

things and this has had a positive impact on the organisation. During these meetings, we advise each other, share successes and challenges. I noted that my organisation has been lacking in terms of policies, therefore, these meetings taught me that it is important to have policies even for vehicles. In the event that there is a donor that would want to buy us a car, all the proper documents including a policy to that regard would be in place," Nkiwane said.

Realising that most CBOs do not have funding for their activities, the space has been providing sessions to try and impart information and knowledge on proposal development.

These sessions teach organisations on how to come up with ideas for a proposal, objectives, intervention methodology and messaging. So far, two organisations have managed to get funding for their activities due to these platforms.

Programmes Manager for Hands of Hope Trust, Acquelline Nyere said: "It has been really difficult to respond to proposal calls because I was not really sure on what I was doing. This session has really helped strengthen my

capacity. It now sounds easy after these exercises we have done." "As Hands of Hope Trust, we are also grateful for the mentorship we got from CYDT. As an organisation, we have a grant supporting our activities, we hope that this space shall continue to impart positive knowledge to us so that we grow," Nyere said.

Meanwhile, the southern region members of ACBOs recommended three more organisations to be admitted to ACBOs. The three organisations showed interest within the alliance after realising the positive change amongst other CBOs, hence the need for them to align with the alliance.

Pick Nkomwa from Nkomwa Foundation said he is most humbled to be associated and be part of the group.

"We are an organisation that works with people with disabilities; therefore, we are humbled to be associated with CBOs in the southern region of the country. This is a step towards achieving inclusivity in all sectors and at all levels and I am hopeful that I will learn a lot from this space," Nkomwa said.

Hands of Hope Trust Gives Women Hope in a Male Dominated Society

Hands of Hope Trust (HoHT), is a women-led organization, whose niche is in empowering women and girls to realize their full potential.

The organization was founded by Millicent Nhutsve and other concerned women in Zvishavane District in 2014 and was registered as a Trust in 2016.

The major thrust of the organization is to empower women and girls so that they realize their full potential through advocacy, lobbying and capacity building.

The organization is currently operating in Zvishavane and Mberengwa districts in the Midlands province.

HoHT was formed after the realization that women in mining communities face a lot of challenges as mineral rich areas often attract political and economic interests which result in corruption and power struggles.

Women as primary caregivers suffer the most as their livelihoods are directly or indirectly dependent on mining activities.

Some of the challenges faced by women in Zvishavane are lack of access to opportunities in the extractives sector, violence and intimidation from "makorokoza", broken families as a result of migration of men from one mining point to



Millicent Nhutsve

another, poor social services because of overpopulation, political discrimination among others.

It is in light of this that HoHT seeks to fill this void through educating and empowering women with knowledge and life skills so they rise above these challenges and excel.

"As a community based organisation (CBO), we have managed to mobilise women regardless of their social status. We are targeting both rural and urban parts, and as of now we have a Memorandum of Understanding with Runde Rural District Council which has made it easy for us to reach out to most communities," says Nhutsve, HoHT director.

She said women in the mining communities should be economically empowered so as to limit their vulnerability.

HoHT's vision is to establish a

To page...7

Youth welcome 25% youth quota recommendation

From page....2

The Ministry of Justice should amend the Electoral Act to provide for the modalities for the realisation of the amendment to the constitutional provision for 60 women to include young women and young women with disabilities by 31 December 2022.

For a long time, youth have been extremely underrepresented in political spaces. Those who have tried their luck during political national elections have underperformed mainly due to financial constraints. As a result, the dominating age group in parliament starts from 35 years going forward.

While the Constitution Amendment Bill 2 signed into law this year was a positive development, the 10 seats set aside for youth in parliament are still not enough as they mean that only one young person is a representative of a whole province in parliament.

In addition, youth can only get to Parliament as members of political parties, making it difficult for those youth interested in public places but not wanting to be associated with any political parties.

Therefore, it is the hope of the CYDT that all the 25% youth recommendation shall be positively acted upon so that young people are included and involved in spaces to participate and come up with youth centric policies that will eventually emancipate young people from the challenges they face, be it socially, economically or politically.

Youth Leadership Bootcamp: Youth Demand Leadership Positions



Expansion of spaces for youth engagement is critical to empower young women and men as today and tomorrow's leaders.

Young people are capable of being agents of change and critical stakeholders in advancing economic and political development.

As a result, the Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) conducted a first ever Youth Leadership Bootcamp which sought to support youth leadership journeys, inspire, motivate, draw attention to and raise the quality of youth work.

Vibrant youth from Matabeleland South districts were happy to take part in this Bootcamp that gave them an opportunity to review and analyse the current economic and political landscapes; analysing existing gaps as well as recommending youth friendly strategies that could be adopted by duty bearers.

The participants called upon local leaders, government and other strategic stakeholders to support youth participation in all decision making processes.

The bootcamp capacitated young people with the necessary skills and confidence to take up leadership positions at local and national level in the upcoming 2023 elections and influence policies responsive to their needs.

Youth said the country's political environment is not conducive for them to take up leadership positions despite being equipped with the knowledge and skills to lead.

They bemoaned a hostile environment, lack of resources and patronage politics that have extremely affected their livelihoods and political participation.

"In the past years, we have seen young people being used by leaders to perpetuate violence and mobilize voters. We have always been relegated to running errands yet we are capable of being leaders too. If only we could be given opportunities," said one of the participants.

Therefore, there is a need for an environment that empowers youth to assume leadership at community and national governance. Young people also said they fail to penetrate the leadership structures due to political patronage that seem to be the new normal in party structures.

They also alleged lack of adequate financial resources to successfully campaign as independent candidates during elections as Zimbabweans tend to shun poorly resourced candidates in favour of candidates aligned to a party with financial backing.

"We are rejecting candidates with potential, candidates who genuinely want to develop communities while electing leaders solely based on partisan loyalty. At the end of the day, we have incompetent and corrupt leaders," a Bootcamp participant claimed.

There should also be clear policies that are youth friendly and allow for transference of power and positions to youth. Speaking at the boot camp, CYDT Director Sichasisile Ndlovu encouraged young people to be effective leaders who are committed and lead by positive action.

She said youth should be allowed to explore in order to realise their full potential in leadership positions.

CYDT hopes to facilitate more programs like the Youth Leadership Bootcamp that will build a healthy relationship among the youth as well as bring young people's concerns to duty bearers' attention.

Hands of Hope Trust: Gives Women Hope in a Male Dominated Society



From page.....5

society that truly empowers and provides equal opportunities to women and girls to reach their full potential in their socio-political, cultural and economic development. Its mission is commitment to the reduction of vulnerabilities and all forms of discrimination against women and girls in a democratic society by advocating for their rights, advancing their capacities to lead, organise and tell their story.

HoHT works with girls (0-18 years) and women (18 years and above).

The CBO's thematic areas are gender justice, health, economic empowerment, research and training.

"We have partnered with various organizations like Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT), Musasa, Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe, Institute of Young Women Development, Legal Resources Centre among others, and through these partnerships we have done a lot of awareness campaigns on issues around our thematic areas," says Nhutsve.

Some of HoHT's successful interventions include improving civic participation through spearheading conversations on women's participation in politics as well as holding leaders accountable through

roundtable discussions and radio programs.

Some of the highlights include the "Meet the Candidate" program during the 2018 pre-elections period, as well as economic justice programs in partnership with the Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development.

HoHT has also engaged with women with disabilities as part of the disability inclusion campaign, as well as improving sexual reproductive health through donating sanitary wear to underprivileged girls, thereby fighting period poverty which is a serious challenge in most communities.

HoHT has also implemented a movement called #FeminineFridays on their social media platforms as a way of giving space to women in Zvishavane so they can tell their success stories and how HoHT has played a part in their lives.

"As an organization, we have seen a lot of loopholes which need to be addressed and we have been trying by all means to address inequalities that exist in mining communities. Currently, we are co-implementing a project with CYDT hoping to encourage women to take up political spaces ahead of the 2023 elections and we hope for the best," Nhutsve says.

Societal Attitudes: a Hindrance to Women's Political Participation



Young women in Zvishavane have identified societal attitudes as one of the major hindrances to their active participation in the political sphere.

Hands of Hope Trust (HoHT) hosted a young women's forum to capacitate young women with knowledge on their civic rights and the importance of political participation.

The inaugural forum was attended by 27 young women from Zvishavane, with more similar engagements expected with more young women. The participants discussed how traditional and religious beliefs have resulted in negative perceptions towards women who are involved in politics.

A participant at the forum said women in politics are often harassed with hate speech and threats of violence.

"We have seen many female candidates being called names and insulted during the campaigning period. Even those who are elected and are now councillors or ministers have negative labels attached to their names. This is due to perceptions perpetuated by society that for women to make it, they must have done it

by sleeping their way to the top."

"No one wants to go through such attacks, hence, most of us shy away from participating in political issues," she said.

Lack of access to information and education on rights were also noted as other major barriers.

Women's voices are often under-represented on issues of governance and development due to various socio-economic, institutions and cultural barriers.

While the political scene in Zimbabwe has not inspired much confidence for aspiring female candidates, patronage-based politics and gender inequality continues to widen the gap in politics.

Kudakwashe Mutikani, a woman's rights advocate, said women in Zimbabwe should draw lessons and inspiration from Rwanda where the majority of parliamentary seats are taken by women.

He said the involvement of women in civic, electoral and democratic processes will bring sustainable development to communities and the country at large.

Beitbridge Youth Yet to Register to Vote as Access to Primary Documents Remains a Challenge

Despite the fact that birth certificates and national identity (ID) cards are crucial documents establishing citizenship rights and officialising individual entitlements, the Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) has established that a number of young people in Beitbridge do not have these important documents.

As such, due to their failure to have these documents, young people are failing to register to vote. In a youth policy forum conducted in Lutumba, Beitbridge, almost half of the 30 youth that attended the meeting did not have the IDs.

One of them, Panashe Moyo, a 21 year old young woman, said she is failing to secure identity particulars for herself and her two children

“I am failing to get an ID because I do not have a birth certificate. My mother died while giving birth to me and I was left in the care of my maternal relatives,” Moyo said, adding that her mother’s family was refusing to assist her in identifying her father’s relatives.

“So, I am failing to find anyone to help me get this document,” she said.

As the country heads towards the 2023 general elections, the calls for youth to register to vote have intensified. Registering to vote gives one the power to choose who to represent them in council and parliament.

According to the United Nations’ basic elements of voter registration; in almost all countries, voters must be registered in order to be eligible to participate in an election.

Voter registration is intended to ensure that everyone entitled to vote can do so, to prevent ineligible persons from voting, and to guard against multiple voting by the same individual.

The accuracy of the voter register is a key element in ensuring that all qualified constituents can enjoy the right to vote. At the time of this writing, the majority of youth in Beitbridge and surrounding areas were not yet registered to vote.

Mholi Khumalo, a young person, said: “This has always been the case since time immemorial. Young people have been having challenges in accessing documentation and the government has not really shown commitment in fixing this challenge.”

“I wonder what is so difficult for the government to pass an instrument, the same way they always do when announcing lockdown, for everyone to get documents without having to produce documents that will never be there,” he said.

On 10 December 2018, CYDT sent a petition to

parliament, highlighting challenges relating to issuance of primary documents. The petitioners’ prayer was that Parliament should take measures to ensure the protection of the right to birth certificates and identity documents.

In the exercise of its oversight role, Parliament was obliged to assess and oversee the adequacy and effectiveness of policies and practises of the Registrar General’s Office in the provision of birth and national registration in frontier provinces, particularly, in Matabeleland South so as to determine the right to a name and access to relevant documentation as well as downstream rights such as the right to education and other social services.

The prayer also beseeched Parliament to recommend that the Registrar General’s Office adopt policies and practices that take into account peculiarities of border areas in ensuring that the rights and interests of children are protected and to call upon the Office to adopt measures that redress the prevailing challenges in the affected areas.

Meanwhile, the birth and death registry has not issued out birth certificates for children born after 30 March 2020 when the government imposed a lockdown on various activities to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Acting registrar-general Henry Machiri was quoted in the Herald saying no penalties would be levied for late registration since the prevailing law had been overtaken by COVID-19 prevention regulations passed by the government. The law stipulates that a child must be registered within 42 days of birth.

“The COVID-19 restrictions have created a backlog. All children born before the period will be registered after the containment measures have been lifted. Once the restrictions are lifted, the department will put in place measures to ensure that all births born before the period are registered,” he is quoted as saying in the Herald Newspaper.

Responding to the acting registrar general’s comments, young people said his statement did not speak on the challenges that have always been there even way before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sokhuthula Mpofu said access to documentation has always been a challenge, therefore authorities must not use COVID 19 pandemic as an excuse.

“It is not a secret that Zimbabwe has always had a challenge when it comes to access to documentation. We have old people who have never had a birth certificate in their lifetime. What is the government saying about them? We need solutions now. People have to register to vote so they can make their own choices,” Mpofu said.