

THE WHISTLE BLOWER



In 2017, the Municipality of Gwanda allocated some land to youth to use to develop themselves. However, this land has been taken over by Zanu PF under unclear circumstances and is currently being developed. Investigations revealed that some occupants acquired the land through bribery. Despite getting reports on this issue, the Municipality has not taken any action.

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The Editor's Note

Fight Against Corruption Continues...

Esteemed readers, it is my pleasure to introduce the 2nd issue of our Newsletter The Whistle Blower for the month of November. As CYDT, we would like to appreciate all those who contributed to this edition for it to be produced. The efforts displayed here are a reflection of our commitment to the fight against corruption especially in the mining sector so that communities enjoy their rights in a free and just environment.

This issue brings to you developing stories such as that of Matobo's Khuphuka Mining Cooperative and their conflict with gold baron Fisani Moyo as well as the conflict between Sifanjani Bhebhe and Zanu PF politician Trynos Nkomo. These cases have been ongoing for some time now and it is our hope that justice shall prevail and sanity return especially to these communities who have been hard hit by suspension of their activities. Resultantly, their livelihoods have been affected as they cannot conduct their mining activities since the issues are before the police.

The efforts by young people to fight for their rights have been recognised in this issue as we bring to you the actions taken by *Mzimuni* youth to petition government regarding access to documentation. It is our hope that this is the beginning of more action by young people to stand up and challenge government on issue that affect them.

The loss of the Greenland area to purported Zanu PF supporters which we have also covered here is a serious concern which we believe the Municipality must take urgent action to address. As an organisation we encourage young people to challenge the Municipality on this issue and we are ready to assist them on advocacy actions such as petitioning the Municipality.

We hope that you will enjoy this edition and encourage the communities to stop violence in the mining sector such as that which happened at Vhovha mine covered here. As CYDT, we urge communities, young people, miners and everyone to be ambassadors of peace and engage on peaceful dialogue to avoid conflicts.

It is my hope that as you read this Newsletter, you will be encouraged to fight corruption at whatever level. Remember, the road towards development of your community begins with a free and just society. A free and fair society is possible where I, you and everyone else play their part

Happy reading and Happy Festive Season !



Share your Story

Are you a victim of corruption? Do you suspect that someone is involved in corrupt activities? Let us cover the story. Get in touch with us through the following details:



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Corruption Victim Testifies

- Lost 760g of gold and gold ore equivalent to 10 truck loads.
- Gwanda police fingered in the corruption scandal.

Small scale miner Mr Sifanjani Bhebhe who has been involved in a long standing dispute with Zanu PF member Trynos Nkomo shared how he lost 760 grammes to Gwanda police during a stakeholders meeting organised by Community Youth Development Trust recently. As reported in the last Issue, Bhebhe has an outstanding dispute with Nkomo over mining at Bunny's Lucky D mine situated along West Nicholson.

He told participants that he had an agreement with purported farm owner Mr. George Mlilo (Zanu PF member) that he can conduct his mining activities in the farm. Bhebhe partnered with Nkomo who had the required documents to sell gold. The partnership did not last long as it turned out that Nkomo was a crook as he failed to give Bhebhe his share from the sales.

Seeing that the mine was rich in gold Nkomo reported Bhebhe to the police claiming that he had illegally mined and stolen his gold. This led to the arrest of Bhebhe who was in possession of 760 grammes of gold and gold ore which Bhebhe said was equivalent to 10 truck loads of 70 tonnes which kept by the police as exhibit.

However, it turned out that Nkomo did not have the necessary documents as proof that he owned the claim when he got Bhebhe arrested. Instead, Nkomo was brought before the courts as an illegal miner hence co-accused with Bhebhe for illegal mining.

Bhebhe shared that there has been no trial for the case and the gold and the ore which was taken as exhibit has disappeared in the hands of the police in Gwanda. A police officer attending the meeting confirmed Bhebhe's allegations but refused to provide more details as he feared victimisation which could cost him his job.

Bhebhe lamented the abuse small scale miners face from individuals such as Nkomo who enjoy political and financial power. He challenged organisations to continue fighting for the rights of small scale miners.



Sifanjani Bhebhe lost 760g of gold to Gwanda police under unclear circumstances

The meeting revealed that the Mines and Minerals Act was old, out dated and did not protect the interest of small scale miners. Such gaps have led to high levels of corruption whose fangs are sucking away the source of livelihood for the weak and powerless communities.

Systematic and well-coordinated, white collar corruption has resulted in double pegging of mine claims as testified by another small scale miner Thabani Nyoni during the meeting. Nyoni shared that he was forced to leave an initial area which he was allocated as it had been allocated to someone else.

Although representatives of the Ministry of mines shared that government was developing what the 'Cadastra system' meant to address double allocation of claims, participants felt that the challenges faced by small scale miners were deeper and needed

genuine will from the government to address them.

Currently mining is governed by the mines and minerals Act of 1982 which has been widely criticized for being outdated hence having many gaps that the powerful abuse for their own gains. The 2015 amendment Bill is yet to be passed into law as it also has contested provisions. Stakeholders challenged the ministry to establish an anti-corruption unit to address corruption in the sector.

They bemoaned lack of anti-corruption mechanisms such as whistle blowing will reduce corruption in the sector through exposing those involved in corruption. It was also recommended that the ministry should publicly announce anyone lodging a mining application for a mine claim for purposes of transparency when it comes to allocation.

The Vhovha Curse

- Gangwars leave one dead and others admitted
- The notorious *Amafilabusi* Gang involved

Artisanal mining has created a gangster mentality among the small scale miners with gangwars in the increase in Matabeleland South. In the past months, these gang wars have left some dead whilst others injured and hospitalised.

The latest clashes have been that involving the notorious *Amafilabusi* gang led to the death of Ndodana Ncube whilst Limukani Sibanda, Elias Sibanda and Khulumani Moyo were seriously injured and hospitalised.

One of the arrested artisanal miner Samson Chimbobodo from Vhovha mine had an encounter with *Amafilabusi* and shared that “The gang looked dangerously armed and showed that they were after blood, we had recently engaged in a fight with them over a gold rush area at Mascot mine in Vhovha area.” Chimbobodo is part of the gang accused of killing Ncube and injuring other members of *Amafilabusi*.

A man identified as Melusi Dube who was part of Chimbobodo’s gang felt they were justified to attack *Amafilabusi* as he said the gang went around terrorizing other miners. Dube said, “*Amafilabusi* gang always go around causing havoc in mining claims, they forcibly grab gold ore from other miners and control areas which are alleged to be rich in ore.



Machetes, iron bars , axes, and stones are the dominant weapons used by these gangs

Dube also highlighted that he believed they were the rightful owners of the claim as they were the first to discover gold there.

‘The place belonged to us because we first discovered the gold ore in the area. Most artisanal miners don’t have licenses to claim their territories, so it is now a question of standing up and fighting for your interest in order to survive in the’, said Dube.

The big task in the mining sector is for government to ensure that artisanal mining does not harm the community, but instead creates opportunities for poverty reduction in-line with Sustainable Development Goal (1) for sustainable development. As pointed out by Dube, the challenges of

artisanal miners are policy related. If small scale miners are given easy access to procure prospectus licenses, such gang wars would be avoided and violence amongst the miners and the community dealt with.

There are debates that these wars are partly funded by gold barons, politicians and power business people. The level of crime in artisanal and small scale mining which has injected a gangster mentality is the reason why some young people and women shun small scale mining.

As a result, young people and other social groups such as women find themselves excluded from local resources they should be benefiting from.

Khuphuka Mining Cooperative Saga Continues



Justice delayed is justice denied: Matobo's Khuphuka Mining Cooperative awaits justice regarding their case against gold baron Mr Fisani Moyo

Khuphuka Mining Cooperative was formed in 2007 by 13 artisanal miners in Matobo District. Initially, the group was in partnership with one mining guru identified as Stone and all was well until Stone introduced Mr. Fisani Moyo as another partner. Ever-since the introduction of Moyo, there has been conflict which have paralysed the group's mining activities as the partnership failed.

CYDT came to know about the story during its advocacy training with young people in Matobo district. As a result of the training, the group members gathered courage and reported the issue to the police at Maphisa Growth Point.. The case is under police investigation and the group has been barred from operating until the case is finalised.

The conflict between gold baron Fisani Moyo and Khuphuka Mining Cooperative has escalated as the Cooperative has been barred from operating at the Stella City mine.

Mr Godknows Ncube of Khuphuka Mining Cooperative reported that he was summoned by police in Maphisa on Wednesday 29 November on accusation that he had stolen gold ore at Stella City Mine. This was after a report was made by John Dube who works for Moyo that Ncube had stolen gold ore from Stella City Mine.

'I was shocked to be summoned by the police for such accusations because all along Dube has been passing me at my area of work busy as usual with the Hawkflight compressor. The moment he saw me carrying my ore he went on to report that I have stolen it. Surely what do these people want from us?' asked Ncube.

However, Ncube was not arrested after having giving his account of what had happened. He was told to inform other group members that they were barred from conducting mining activities in the area until the dispute was reviewed.

'I explained to the police that I did not steal anyone's ore. The police know about our challenges with Moyo as we have been going to them to seek for advice on the contentious issue of the mine. We have been to Gwanda and spoke to one officer called Ndlovu but no one has been able to break the impasse between the two parties', said Ncube.

He added that being barred from operating was a big blow to the group as mining was their only source of living. 'Working at the mine is the only thing that some of us knows, how are we going to feed our families if we are no longer allowed to work', asked Ncube.

The failure to address the long standing dispute between Moyo and Khuphuka Mining Cooperative reflect the challenges faced by small scale miners in Matabeleland South. The case raises questions and buttress allegations that small scale miners are at the mercy of powerful individuals like Moyo.

The case further brings forth the short comings of legislation and application of the law which benefits those with power. In a democratic society where justice prevails,

this case should have been dealt with long back and amicably resolved.

Although the President recently said young people in mining should form groups so as to benefit from government input in the form of machinery, some young miners dismissed this as the old political rhetoric meant to mislead the public. This is because similar government pronouncements in past have tended to benefit Zanu PF youths as evidenced by the contested Youth Fund whose beneficiaries were Zanu PF members.

James Dube, a small claim miner in Gwanda said as long as corruption has not been dealt with, young people in the region will continue to suffer. Responding to the president's sentiments, Dube said 'Mining activities in the country have been marred by corrupt practices. Up and until we deal with corruption, these funds that the president is talking about will benefit Zanu PF youth's.

The fight against corruption in the mining sector remains a big challenge in that those involved in corruption are a network of the power blocs that enjoy political and financial power.

16 Days of Activism Message from CYDT

As we join the rest of the world in the commemoration of the 16 Days of Activism our message is ...



Gwanda Youth Petition Parliament Over Access To Documentation

Beneficiaries of the Youth Led Advocacy Champions training in Stanmore area under ward 4 have taken action regarding the issue of in access to documentation in the area. Led by the Mholi Khumalo, the Chairperson of the Youth Champions for the ward, these young people rode on the 'ease of doing business' wave to petition the government to expand that 'ease' to the Registrar General's office under the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The petition that acknowledges that the Constitution of Zimbabwe provides for the protection of all citizens wherever they may be, and guarantees every citizen's right to a name and an identity and travel document. It also recognizes the right of all Zimbabwean children to birth records that ensure their right to an identity document, as it accords with the best interests' principle in matters of children, in sync with international legal instruments to which Zimbabwe is party.

As such it goes further to underpin parliament to act accordingly and ensure that stringent measures are put in place to deal with registrar general's officials who fail to do their work diligently towards promoting access to documentation. The petition was submitted by Mholi Khumalo and 2 other youth champions from ward 14 and 3. Moreso, these trained youth champions have managed to become

active project pioneers who take their time to conduct door to door advocacy in their respective wards, engaging villagers on challenges faced on Access to Documentation.

So far they have managed to assist 15 people to have their children registered majority being from ward 4 Stanmore village. They write reports and send to the office every week which is a clear sign of project ownership by beneficiaries and we hope that this will lead to a sustained advocacy which goes beyond funding period. Community Youth Development Trust recognizes this as a Success Story in that it is a first that ordinary young people petition the Parliament to address the in-access to documentation which is a violation of human rights that are clearly provided for in the constitution.

Secondly, these young people have been self-motivated to take action towards assisting the community deal with challenges faced when trying to access documentation. This was not the case before and the 15 success cases documented reflects on the immediate impact that this project has had as the problem of in-access to documentation is being addressed by the community itself with young people leading the process.

Greenland Saga:

Zanu PF Takes Over Land Allocated to Youth



This land was allocated to youth in Gwanda by the Municipality but has been taken over by Zanu PF members

authorities have not taken any action on the issue despite wide residents concern about politicization of the land. Young people who were supposed to benefit from the area through construction of a Youth Centre which will act as a skills development facility are once again affected by the political environment and poor governance. In what was supposed to make their dreams blossom has remained a dream.

Nkululeko Moyo, a youth who works as an assistant builder in this area narrated that his efforts to get a stand were futile as stands were only accessed by Zanu PF supporters. Narrating his story, Moyo said 'I work here as an assistant builder. I tried to get a stand while they were still available but because the development of the area was managed by Zanu PF people I failed.'

Youth empowerment is the creation of an enabling environment for the youth to have the freedom to choose, to participate in and take decisions in matters affecting them and be ready to accept the consequences of their decisions. Empowerment enables the youth to be active participants in both the process and product of development. It has a democratising impact.

However it is a different a case for the youth in Gwanda as Greenland, an area they were allocated by the Municipality of Gwanda in 2017 is now illegally occupied by elderly people. Greenland is situated in Ward 8 in Gwanda Urban near Garikai/Hlalanikuhle housing area.

It was allocated to young people just before the 2018 harmonized elections as part of the youth initiative scheme and the Mayor, confirmed that the allocation is recorded under council minutes. It has turned out

that the allocation was just but a political strategy meant to lure votes from young people as the Municipality was controlled by Zanu PF.

One of the beneficiaries only identified as Charles said the allocation was a political move meant to boost Zanu PF as the party has power over the Gwanda council. Charles said corruption was rife at Greenland as one had to bribe those responsible for development of the area to get a stand.

Speaking to CYDT, Charles said, "People who occupy the area, got the stands through bribing those in charge of that area. There is multiple ownership of the stands in the area and if you are not from the party (Zanu PF) then there is no place for you. Some even go as far as pretending to support the party so as to get stands."

The Greenland case is evidence of the rife of corruption in Gwanda town as the local

He added that young people remained sidelined in development projects and relegated to menial jobs that had little benefits. 'There is no development for us here as we are only made to do the dirty work and small menial jobs that don't pay. The place is also now a hub for illicit trading of beer and drugs', said Moyo.

From the information gathered, it is alleged that those given authority to oversee the place are always soliciting money from the owners of the stand on the basis that if they don't comply, they will lose their stands.

The Gwanda Municipality acknowledged having received reports that there was illegal development of the area but have not taken any action. The irony is that Greenland is located about 10 metres from the council offices. This raises questions why Council is turning a blind eye on an illegal activity happening near its offices.



Report corruption to the Anti-Corruption Commission on the Toll Free: **08010101**

The Update Corner

'#SayNo2Corruption

Corruption in Zimbabwe is a complex crime that often evades justice because of lack of evidence in many cases to prove against the corrupt individuals. One of the reasons why corruption has been difficult to eradicate in our society is that, the law has been less effective in bringing to account the criminals that engage in corrupt activities. In some instances the law serves the ones who are able to buy justice using monetary power and political influence.

The ineffectiveness of the law in fighting corruption has promoted the culture of impunity which has protected criminals, who continue to prejudice communities of their precious resources. However the training of whistle-blowers by CYDT in the campaign against corruption has made it possible for the organization to identify and document corruption cases that have been for long not reported.

The stakeholder meeting that was conducted in Gwanda with the help of whistle-blowers managed to present a case of corruption that involved individuals from the Ministry of Mines. The organization invited the victim, Sifanjani Bhebhe to present his case amongst stakeholders, as he felt that justice had been unfair to him in solving his case against Trynos Nkomo who had corruptly prejudiced him of his gold ore, which he had right to claim.

A speaker from the ministry of mines and from the police was invited so that they could deliberate on the issue. Despite the attendance by the law enforcement and the ministry of mines, there was no viable answer from the relevant stakeholders in ensuring justice and transparency in solving the corruption case involving Bhebhe and Nkomo.

However the whistle-blowers promised to push for justice and ensure that justice was served where it was due hence Bhebhe promised to offer the whistle-blowers evidence that he was corruptly robbed of his mineral wealth.

The present police force refused to give comment regarding the issue. The ministry of mines shared with the participants the law that governs the mines mineral act, but also



Participants during the Stakeholders Meeting in Gwanda

refused to address the issue concerning Nkomo and Bhebhe. The stakeholders conducted in Matobo also revealed another level of corruption, where the issue of tributaries in Stella Mine has left the local community languishing in poverty and seeking to evict Moyo, a gold baron who is in partnership with Lucky Heather (Known as Stone), the owner of the mine, from controlling mining developments in their community.

Through discussions during the meeting to contextualise the advocacy and mobilization approaches that could be adopted to curb corruption that is practised by Moyo, it was noted that the small scale mining sector in the area is stratified, dominated by various structures of power in which the miners are located at the end of this power pyramid, hence also lacking representation.

The whistle-blowers who were also part of the meeting reported that Moyo did not want to give tribunal agreements to Khuphuka co-operative because he wanted to influence the prices of the gold ore mined in Stella City to his own gain, in the process prejudicing the locals and the co-operative who are also partners in the mine. CYDT as an organization is following the developments and mediating to promote transparency, conflict resolution and sustainability between the two co-operate players in Matobo district.

As an organization, seeing that there was need to go beyond naming and shaming in the fight against corruption, CYDT decided

to compile a documentary, in order to reach wider audiences in the advocacy against corruption. The documentary will go a long way in the enlightening of communities on the awareness against corruption and also serve as an institutional memory for the organization.

Realizing that most people are very much informed and influenced by social media, it is one of the reasons why CYDT decided to document its unearthed corruption cases by the whistle-blowers, in order to influence the local community to stand up against corruption, and also to reach a wider audience beyond the physical reach of the organization in the advocacy against corruption.

The organization also conducted its first annual general meeting in electing board members that would feed in to the mission and goals of the organization. The meeting provided a platform for youth participation upon the organization's visions and missions in promoting youth engagement in social, political and economic circles of life. As a result of the annual general meeting, CYDT will conduct an annual strategic plan that will shape the visions and goals for the organization for the next five years.

As an organization that had sought its goals in curbing corruption in the mining sector, part of the strategic plan would be how to enhance and upscale our goals towards ending corruption not only in the mining sector but also in the local governance.