

THE WHISTLE BLOWER



Popular artist popularly known as Madlela Skhobokhobo performs during an anti-corruption roadshow at Ultra High near Iman Gold Mine Community Youth Development Trust have gone further to engage him as an anti-corruption ambassador as part of its effort

Inside this Issue

- Editor's Note-The Anti-corruption fight continues...
- #ZEROBRIBE Campaign Continues
- Small scale miner dies in mine shaft
- Corruption erodes Women Participation in Mat South
- CYDT engages Madlela to fight corruption
- Fighting corruption requires political will
- 'Give us EPOs list'-Miners

The Editor's Note

The anti-corruption fight continues...

Esteemed reader

It is my pleasure once again to bring to you *The Whistleblower*, our newsletter covering corruption and rights issues in the mining sector in Matabeleland South. This is evidence of our commitment as an organisation to continue fighting corruption despite the threatening operational environment worsened by lack of political will to truly and honestly deal with this monster-Corruption.

This Issue covers a number of stories on issues affecting young people, women and miners in general in Matabeleland South. As covered in the previous editions that 95% of the mining land in the province is now under the EPOs, miners are demanding a list of the beneficiaries. This is a way of calling for transparency and also to understand who exactly has benefited from this government move. Whilst we await for the government to make public such a list, we have increased our efforts in the fight against corruption through engaging the popular Bulawayo Musician *Madlela* to be our ambassador in this journey. Having worked with him before, we believe through music, Madlela will spread the message, raising awareness and understanding that corruption is the key monster that requires a collective effort to fight it. Therefore our #ZEROBRIBE Campaign continues as we call for political will from our leaders to genuinely address corruption in all levels and spheres of our society.

It is my hope that this Issue will not only enlighten you but also motivate you to join the call for the fight against corruption, starting at your own community for a better future. As for the young reader, especially in Matabeleland South our plea is for you to join our network and be a Change Maker in your community through reporting corruption and contacting us through the provided details in this newsletter.

Beyond Matabeleland South, young people, our future is now, our struggle is real, victory is certain. Let's continue to engage through social media and any other platforms, share ideas and establish solutions to problems we are currently facing. Your Voice is your right!

Zwakala Ntanga

Share your Story

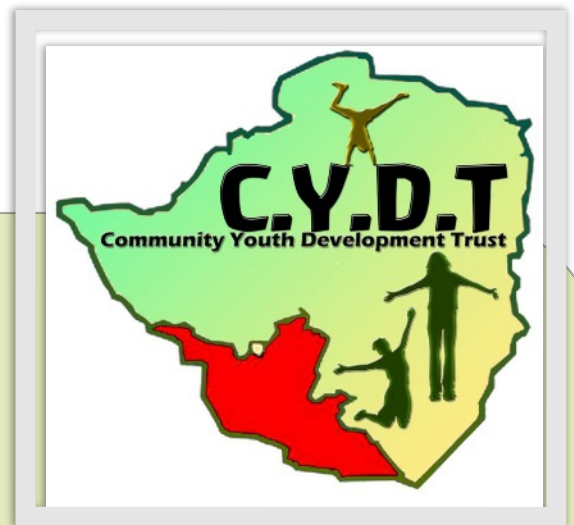
Are you a victim of corruption? Do you suspect that someone is involved in corrupt activities? Let us cover the story. Get in touch with us through the following details:

Visit Us: No4, Rainbow Mall 1st Avenue Gwanda

E-mail: cydtmatsouth@gmail.com

Tel: +263 842821711

Twitter: @CydMat or **Facebook:** Cydt Matsouth



#ZEROBRIBE Campaign Continues



BELOW: Musician Madlela (grey jacket) performs on stage at Ultra High recently.

Corruption is one of the reasons behind Zimbabwe's economic woes.

As such, all citizens—both young and old—should stand against it, lest the whole nation perishes.

Government should capacitate the police and the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission, to fight the vice.

All sectors of the economy, especially mining sector, should be cleaned.

For instance, mining sector is currently saddled with archaic laws and policy inconsistencies that are fuelling corruption in government and aiding plundering of mineral resources by foreign companies.

The failure by government over the years to overhaul the mining sector and introduce policies that guarantee inflows to fiscus to sustain the country's developmental needs has impacted negatively on the economy and increased the vulnerability of communities living in resource rich areas.

Gang wars in the mining sector, especially in the small scale and artisanal mining sector, has been an apparatus that has been used by perpetrators of corruption to protect their illegal interest in the mining sector using violence.

In a bid to combat corruption, Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) recently conducted a roadshow campaign in Ultra High near Iman Gold Mine.

The place is close to where small scale artisanal mining activities are conducted and right in the community which harbors most of the artisanal and small-scale miners of the district.

The efforts were a step forward towards ensuring that the plundering of gold in resource rich areas through corruption is combated.

The level of participation by the young people and artisanal miners, coming out to have a voice against corruption was a comprehensive approach complemented by the community of the area and other stakeholders that had come to witness the occasion.

What stood out of the roadshow campaign is the boldness of the participants to openly speak out about acts of corruption that are perpetrated by the authorities. Whistle-blowing is a sign of standing against corruption and the input of the rejuvenated whistle blowers holding their placards written No To impunity, Corruption Is a Crime, motivated the participants to openly share their stories.

Performances from Madlela S'khobokhobo, the ambassador of the campaign and from local artists, showed the power of music and art in bringing people together towards encouraging and motivating locals to save their communities by defeating corruption and building a future that has no room for tolerance of corruption.

The presence of the state security agents could not deter the enthusiasm of the participants who clad in t-shirts written #ZeroBribe and speaking out without fear against corruption.

Transparent International Zimbabwe played an important part in giving out one on one consultation by the side and this allowed participants to share their corruption cases that they had encountered.

Young women came out to voice how they were abused in the mines and the failure of the authorities to arrest the criminals that forcibly take their gold ore. They also named four officers who are employed by ZRP Gwanda under CID Gold section as chief culprits who demand foreign currency from the artisanal miners and young women who are in mining.

It was said that Detective Dube has no kind gesture to those refusing to pay bribe. The miners who shared their stories lamented

DID YOU KNOW?

Zimbabwe was ranked 160 out of 175 countries, according to the 2018 Corruption Perceptions Index reported by Transparency International

on the level of violence that is bedeviling the small-scale/artisanal mining sector because of corrupt barons connected to the political elite and in offices in high authority who are promoting terror gangs in mine affected areas while enjoying impunity from the state
To page 8...



Small scale miner dies in mine shaft

CLOSURE of space in the mining sector as well as poor wages have caused young artisanal miners to engage in unsafe and illegal mining activities, a situation that has resulted in the loss of lives for some of them.

Zimbabwe's mining sector is hard to enter especially for artisanal small scale miners due to excessive regulations, exorbitant fees, introduction of EPOs which gives an individual or mining company exclusive rights to search for minerals, among other barriers.

For instance, for miners to operate lawfully, they have to comply with at least 13 different laws regulating the sector such as the:

1. Mines and Minerals Act (Chapter 21:05);
2. Explosives Regulations
3. Mining (General) Regulations
4. Mining (Managements and Safety) Regulations
5. Mining (Health and Sanitation) Regulations
6. Mines and Minerals (Custom Milling Plants) Regulations

7. Gold Trade Act
8. Precious Stones Trade Act
9. Environmental Management Act
10. Environmental Regulations
11. Forestry Act; Water Act
12. Zimbabwe National Water Authority Act and;
13. Base Minerals Export Control Act.

As such, artisanal miners are left with no option but to engage in illegal mining, oblivious of the dangers associated with it.

Recently, a 20 year-old Ndabezinhle Mpofu of Thandanani village under Chief Mabhena in Gwanda, died in a mine shaft trying to steal gold ore.

According sources, Mpofu woke up late in the middle of night and went to Bina Mine 4 where he was employed and tried to steal gold ore.

He reportedly lit the explosives which detonated while he was still inside, resulting in the shaft collapsing, killing him the process.

Mpofu's brother Kholwani whom they were working together in the mine, said his brother was tired of earning paltry salary, hence the decision to engage in illegal mining.

"At around 0100hrs in the morning, we heard an explosion from the mine shaft and we went to check the cause of the explosion. We discovered that Ndabezinhle had died inside the mine shaft. The matter was reported at Gwanda ZRP province on the 25th of June 2019," he said.

Gwanda is rich in gold but, surprisingly, young people in the area are not benefiting from it.

Instead, they are being subjected to slavery by mining companies where they are given paltry salaries. Further, the operational conditions are a health hazard as there is lack of provision of adequate health safety clothing by these companies. All this is evidence of poor governance as there is lack of adherence to safety health measures by these companies.

Corruption erodes Women participation in Mat south



WOMEN in Matabeleland South are between a hard rock and surface, suffering the scourge of corruption--endemic as it was--as well as violation of their rights.

According to the baseline survey recently conducted by CYDT, it came out so loud during data collection that young women in Matabeleland South province are particularly susceptible to double jeopardy--as the province continue to grapple with violations of women rights that have resulted in gender inequalities.

This is worsened by patriarchy, social discrimination grounded in exclusionary cultural practices that are also against the provisions of section 80:1-3 of our Constitution.

Having seen that lack of political will to end corruption in all sectors has created additional obstacle to young women to meaningfully claim what is rightful theirs and also enjoy local benefits brought by the influx of minerals across the province, it is

paramount to note that the real cost of corruption goes beyond economic cost.

It grossly affects citizens' daily life, leading to poor health and education system; injustices particularly to the most vulnerable group such as women.

It has killed so many women as compared to the previous citizens' unrest and maybe the past genocides.

More so, corruption weakens accountability structures which are responsible for protection of human rights.

It has grossly contributed to a culture of impunity.

It is evident that corruption has devastating impact on young women who are always on the receiving end because it continues to breed unequal societies.

Corruption also renders young women as the most vulnerable group prone to all forms of abuse.

In Matabeleland South, chances of young women's meaningful development and empowerment have been eroded by the increasing level of corruption in all sectors.

They have been closed out from accessing local aid from state institutions because they cannot pay to get services as they cannot afford the prize tag. They have been forced to give sexual favours for them to have mining rights in surrounding mines.

For them to get a better offer, they are forced to corruptly give in their bodies, which later present them as women of loose morals.

Therefore, it is high time stakeholders build synergies around gendered impact of corruption and appreciate that corruption adversely affect women.

We need gender lens, thus if the country is committed in the fight against corruption.

Corruption is cancerous and bad for economic development. As such, it should be eliminated at all costs. In a bid to fight the vice, Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT), a youth organisation that promotes good governance and democracy in the society, recently engaged a rhumba musician, Madlela Skhobokhobo (MS) as its anti-corruption ambassador to use his musical prowess and art to fight the scourge. Our reporter speaks to Madlela over the issue. Find below excerpts from the interview

Q: We understand that CYDT has engaged you as its anti-corruption ambassador. When did this happen and why?

MS: Am not sure about the exact dates but I think it's about two months ago. I should think the reason they choose us is because of the following we command in Matabeleland which makes it easier for their message to reach out their targeted audience.

Q: Do you think corruption is also rife in rural areas?

MS: Corruption is everywhere. Where there is a person there is a possibility of corruption regardless of where they stay.

Q: What kind of corruption do people in rural areas engage in?

MS: I have heard stories about land issues corruption where village head will give land to undeserving people because they paid them something. Money seems to be the most motivator for corruption in most cases. Corruption is also rampant in the mining sector whereby mining claims are corruptly awarded and we are saying this must stop. Remember, resources that are in Zimbabwe belong to all Zimbabweans regardless of tribe, colour or political party one belongs. They must be shared equitably.

Q: What have you done to eliminate or fight corruption in rural areas?

MS: I have been going around with CYDT preaching an anti-corruption message. We have been also encouraging people to engage in honest dealings so that we both fight corruption and build a corrupt free society.

Q: Which areas in Zimbabwe have you visited, preaching the gospel of anti-corruption?

MS: It's mostly in Matabeleland; we have been to Mawabeni, Gwanda, Maphisa to name a few.

Q: Do you think your efforts are going to bring desired results?

MS: We are hopeful that people are hearing this message and it will influence them not to engage in corruption but at the end of it all, it's up to a person to decide to do the right thing. We can only advise and encourage.

Q: What do you think government should do to eliminate corruption?

MS: The government must play a huge role in arresting and persecuting those found involved in corruption. Their place is behind bars. But the government cannot do it alone, people must be whistleblowers, report any kind of corruption so that we clean our country from such. It is time to build.

Q: How can ordinary people in rural areas eliminate corruption? Or what can they do to eliminate corruption?

MS: By not getting involved in corrupt activities. If we can all take a stand and say 'not in my name' then we will have a corrupt free

CYDT engages Madlela to fight Corruption



Madlela Skhobokhobo

society.

Q: What are the effects of corruption to Zimbabwe as a country and to ordinary people?

MS: It feeds on the soul of the country. We won't move our country forward as long as we have people stealing from the country. Remember corruption is tantamount to stealing.

Q: Do you think corruption in Zimbabwe will ever be eliminated?

MS: Yes, if we all work together with a common mind. We have seen other countries doing it. What can fail us if we pull to the same direction? Nothing. We only have this country and surely we don't want to see it being eroded by the scourge of corruption.

Fighting corruption requires political will



President Mnangagwa has failed to decisively deal with corruption which has brought the country to its knees.

Zimbabwe, which is currently drowning in corruption, can heal and reform from corrupt practices as long as the much-needed political will and commitment is harvested.

This was flagged out during the training of duty bearers on strategies to combat corruption in the mining sector which was organized by Community Youth Development Trust (CYDT) and facilitated by Transparent International Zimbabwe (TIZ) officials in Gwanda

The training was convened as part of the initiatives that seek to promote a collective approach in minimizing corruption that has found roots in the society.

This was after a disheartening realization on the effects of corruption on perceived community development projects and the welfare of the people. It cannot go unmentioned that corruption has robbed

young people from exploring economic empowerment projects at community level.

They have been relegated to poverty despite the influx of natural resources in their proximity such as gold.

The training which was attended by members from the police force, drawn from six stations around Gwanda, Environmental Management Agency (EMA), Ministry of Mines and Mining Development as well as councilors managed to identify synergies among stakeholders that could be used in maximizing a collective approach towards ending corruption at local level.

Some of the strategies agreed upon included an increase on awareness raising targeting the police and the entire community; maximize on stakeholder capacity building which can be held in partnership with ZRP so as to restore the lost trust and relationship between officers and the community; resuscitate suggestion boxes and follow on

the reports made; increase on information dissemination on corruption and ensure that those found committing such are dealt with through the detects of the law; ZRP anti-corruption wing to advertise their services and invite community to assist in unearthing cases. -

Government departments and CYDT would jointly lead the process.

'Resources that are in Zimbabwe belong to all Zimbabweans regardless of tribe, colour or political party'

- Madlela Skhobakhobo

STOP CORRUPTION

To report corruption or if you are suspecting corruption feel free to contact the Anti-Corruption Commission on the Toll Free Number: **08010101**

'Give us the EPOS list'-Miners

- Miners demand a list of individuals owning EPOs.
- 95% of mining land in Mat South now under the EPO.
- Small Scale miners condemn the move.

The issue of Exclusive Prospecting Orders (EPOs) is one of the contentious issues in the country's mining sector.

It creates conflicts, division, and above all fuels corruption in the mining sector.

Government, through the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development recently introduced EPOs across the country, thereby setting itself on collision course with small scale miners who are arguing that co-existence with EPOs has failed to be a reality on the ground.

Small scale miners argue that they have been left with no room for expansion as big mining companies had acquired huge chunks of land which they continue to hold without working year- after-year.

They also argue that there is no transparency on the issuance of EPOs.

As such, they demanded that government should avail a list of individuals or companies who have been granted EPOs for transparency and accountability sake.

"We believe by so doing, corruption in the mining sector would be eliminated. At the moment, there is no transparency with regards to issuance of EPOs," one miner said.

An EPO gives an individual or mining company exclusive rights to search for minerals and peg claims as well as protecting one from competition with other interested parties.

Zimbabwe Miners Federation (ZMF), the umbrella body representing small-scale miners, said citizens have a right to know companies or individuals who were granted EPOs.

"These are citizens, they need to know and participate. They have to know what is happening in their areas and who is doing that and who those companies are. Even if they are the local people, who are they? It brings transparency and good governance," ZMF spokesperson Dosman Mangisi, said.

An all-stakeholders meeting convened by CYDT recently in Gwanda to deliberate on the issues affecting the mining sector, revealed that 95% of the mining land in the region was under EPOs, meaning that only 5% of the land was left for all and sundry to get mining claims.

At the moment, there is no transparency with regards to issuance of EPOs,

#ZEROBRIBE Campaign Continues

From page 3...

In thin mine affected areas while enjoying impunity from the state security. The adoption of violence which is tactically enforced by barons with forging of illegal documents by officials of high authority in offices of power is negatively impacting development in resource rich the poor artisanal and small-scale miners who are used as pawns to perpetuate crime in extorting other gold miners of their mineral wealth.

The idea that artisanal or small-scale mining is a criminal activity has been used as an excuse by perpetrators of corruption to use gang violence to entrench their illegal mining activities.

CYDT with the rejuvenated whistleblowers who have been taught to be data extractors and coached on new skills and tools to employ in exposing and combating corruption, shall embark on investigative research for data driven and evidence-based advocacy in fighting

corruption. Impunity must be eradicated to arrest corruption and one way to eradicate impunity is through evidence-based advocacy.

The Zero Bribe Team Outreach shall be a strong movement of whistleblowers who shall conduct outreach exercises every month targeting artisanal and small-scale miners and educating them right in the field to stand against corruption and avoid being used as pawns of criminal activities.

Realizing the gap that exist for miners to access information, The Zero Bribe team shall also disseminate information on how the miners can formalize their activities to avoid paying bribes to barons and officials that prejudice them. They shall be encouraged to form joint ventures and associations which shall provide a solid foundation of artisanal small scale miners with government in order for them to advocate for the improvement of the sector.