



## **Poverty Reduction Forum Trust's Position Paper on the New Government's Vision 2030 and Economic Reform Agenda**

This paper captures the Civil Society Organizations' expectations from government following the new President's Inaugural Speech delivered on 26<sup>th</sup> August 2018. Issues raised in this statement are complimentary to the President's Agenda and the forum recommends them to be considered since they are critical to the attainment of an inclusive national economic reform agenda.

### **National Vision 2030**

Our view is that the Vision 2030 and economic reform policy agenda is seemingly progressive, It presents several opportunities to the country and its citizens. However, PRFT believes that the realization of the national vision rests upon putting the interests and needs of the poor at the fore front. In line with this, the Forum recommends the following;

- There is an urgent need for government to develop institutional mechanisms that ensure all social groups are effectively consulted and their voices are taken aboard towards the generation of a shared National Development Plan. Specifically, there is need for specialized conferences for different cluster groups; social, economic and governance CSOs, among others to discuss issues under their thematic areas.
- We also recommend the revival of the tripartite negotiation forum which includes all stakeholders including CSOs

### **Trade, investment, Industrialisation and Employment**

We recognize that Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) plays a critical role not only as a tool to grow the economy but also as an avenue to create decent jobs and reduce poverty in the country. The government's plan in the next 100 days should take the following actions into account;

- Finalization of Currency Reform strategy to deal with the cash crisis and the price hikes
- The government Efficient, Effective and Transformative civil service
- The government is planning to embark on Audit of skills and competencies for the government and public institutions for effective and efficient civil service. In view of this, we expect the government to establish its position on this pending process and at-least witness the beginning of the process within the 100 day period

The following issues should be addressed in the medium term;

- Address Easy of doing Business in a holistic manner through provision of adequate institutional and legislative framework that supports investments in the formal and informal sectors of the economy.
- Industrial retooling through value chain mapping and development of strong research agenda on productivity capacities within the country
- Identification of industries and products that need to be liberalized or protected in the next five years
- Development of a comprehensive strategy to drive the decent work agenda
- Development of a trade and export policy under the Open for Business Mantra.
- The country needs to reform and build institutional capacities that are subservient to the constitution and laws of the country for enforcement and regulation purposes.
- Develop an independent institution that deals with cushioning domestic industry from massive competition
- Mapping and Reorganizing the informal sector for markets and domestic investment opportunities
- Skills retooling and capacities building for informal sector and small to medium enterprises to embrace opportunities
- Target vulnerable groups for financial literacy and skills retooling interventions
- Designing and Adopting a comprehensive Framework to target employment as a cross cutting issues in all Zimbabwe sectors
- Development of a New Debt Strategy ( New LIMA Strategy)

## **Devolution and Service Delivery**

The Forum comments the President for his pronouncement that his government is committed to the implementation of the constitutionally supported devolution agenda. However, we note challenges that can undermine Zimbabwe's capacity to implement devolution as enshrined in the new constitution. These include lack of urgency and political will from government to develop legislation and institutional arrangements that are in line with the constitution's provision on devolution. We expect the following to be done in the next 100 days;

- Establishment of multi - Stakeholder conference/consultations on Devolution
- Supporting creation alternative thinking and CSOs platforms on Devolution Narrative
- Financial Mechanism for Financing Devolution
- Embracing Constitutionalism through legislative reforms within the context of Devolution
- Supporting and strengthening capacity of Local councils to deliver improved service delivery

There is also need for government to design a Framework for Accountability for government and public institutions. The Forum expects this to be undertaken in the medium term. Priority should be given to the development of performance management tools for duty bearers and Councils.

## **ANNEXURE 1: LIST OF ORGANIZATIONS**

This publication is a product of the consultations undertaken with various civil society organizations on the 11<sup>th</sup> of September 2018. Organizations which took part and contributed to position paper are as follows:

1. The Poverty Reduction Forum Trust,
2. CARITAS Zimbabwe
3. Zimbabwe Women Bureau (ZWB)
4. National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (NANGO)
5. SEATINI Zimbabwe
6. Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development (ZIMCODD)
7. National Council of Disabled Persons of Zimbabwe (NCDPZ)
8. Youth Empowerment and Transformation Trust (YETT))
9. Centre for Conflict Management and Transformation (CCMT)
10. Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe
11. Spike Media
12. Zimbabwe Cross Borders Association
13. Action Aid Zimbabwe (AAZ)
14. Women and Law in Southern Africa
15. TALI Zimbabwe
16. Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCOZ)
17. National Association of Youth Organizations (NAYO)
18. HelpAge Zimbabwe
19. Harare Residents Trust (HRT)
20. Deaf Zimbabwe Trust
21. Zimbabwe National Council for the Welfare of Children (ZNCWC)
22. Methodist Development & Relief Agency
23. Catholic Agency for Overseas Development (CAFOD)
24. Transparency International –Zimbabwe ( TIZ)

