



Dialogue Meeting Report

"Unpacking the Zim Asset and 2015 cluster plans: the residents' priorities and needs in the context of Mutare"

Mutare Museum, Mutare

10th October 2014

Background

The government of Zimbabwe is implementing the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim Asset), a national economic blue print which is going to guide national development policies in Zimbabwe in the next five years (October 2013- December 2018). The five year economic blueprint's mission is to provide an enabling environment for sustainable economic empowerment and social transformation to the people of Zimbabwe. Anchored primarily on four clusters and two sub clusters, the execution of the plan is expected to stimulate the economy and reverse the current economic stagnation. It is also expected to bring about real social and economic transformation to ordinary Zimbabweans, the rural and urban poor, a segment that constitute the majority of the populace.

Currently, there are government processes underway to develop 2015 Zim Asset cluster plans. As part of the government's consultation process, the Office of the President, a leading government agency in the implementation of Zim Asset plan, invited the Poverty Reduction Forum Trust (PRFT) through Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (MOPSLSW) to participate in the development of the Social Service and Poverty Eradication Cluster plans for 2015. Following its participation in the one week government workshop, PRFT realized the need for continuous engagement with ordinary residents to give them platforms to share their views on national development plans. PRFT values broad based consultation on national development plans which gives ordinary residents an opportunity not only to hold policy makers and duty bearers accountable but also for them to exercise ownership and take part in national development programs. More so, PRFT thinks that the national economic blueprint should be customized at local level where residents are able to identify areas of priority in their locality and take part in solving some of the specific problems they are facing.

It is against this background that PRFT, a civil society organization whose main goal is to inform and influence poverty reduction strategies and sustainable human development through research on poverty, engaging with policy makers and promoting broad-based consultative dialogue convened a half day dialogue meeting in Mutare. The aim was to sensitize residents on the national development plans and the dialogue was held under the theme *"Unpacking the Zim Asset and 2015 cluster plans: the residents' priorities and needs in the context of Mutare"*

Dialogue Proceedings

Introductions and Expectations

The dialogue meeting was opened with a round of introductions led by the facilitator, the Mutare Residents and Ratepayers Association (MRRA) Director, Mr David Mutambirwa. Among other organizations represented included Mutare Business Affirmative Group (MBAG), Consumer Council of Zimbabwe (CCZ), Kumakomoyo community radio, Mutare Residents Association (MRRA) and Zimbabwe Chamber of Informal Economy Association (ZCIEA). During the self introduction process, the participants shared their workshop expectations. Below were some of the expectations from the participants;

- To know more about Zim Asset and how it will help to address unemployment in Mutare
- To know key government policies in place to fulfill the aspirations of Zim Asset especially in the context of Mutare
- To know how Zim Asset will eradicate poverty
- To know how Zim Asset aims to improve the livelihoods of the vulnerable citizens such as disabled

Opening Remarks and Workshop Objectives

After the introductions, PRFT's Programs Officer, Mr. Tafara Chiremba welcomed all participants to the dialogue meeting. In his opening remarks, the Programs officer indicated that the organization of the dialogue meeting was part of PRFT's efforts to fulfill its mandate to influence the formulation of pro-poor policies and sustainable development through carrying out research on poverty-related issues, engaging with policy makers and promoting broad-based consultative dialogue on national development processes. According to Mr T chiremba, the success of any government programmes or policy is based on government's commitment to consult all relevant stakeholders affected including the ordinary citizens. He also highlighted that residents should be aware of government programs and plans in order for them to monitor and evaluate government promises and hold policy makers accountable.

Dialogue Objectives

The dialogue meeting was premised on the following specific objectives;

- To raise residents' awareness on Zim Asset and inform them on the 2015 national development plans
- To provide a platform for Mutare residents to set out their local specific priorities within the four Zim Asset cluster framework and share opportunities in Mutare which can be utilized to fulfill the aspirations of Zim Asset

- To explore opportunities in which residents/ CSOs can build partnerships and synergies with government and other development players to implement their own developmental initiatives linked to Zim asset.

Key Address – Mutare Business Affirmative Group (MBAG)

In his address, Mr Charles Samurivo highlighted key challenges that Mutare is facing within the Zim Asset framework. The two critical challenges he raised were de-industrialization and unemployment. He indicated that Mutare has a lot of potential to fulfill the aspirations of Zim Asset, especially in the areas of employment creation and eradication of poverty. For example, he cited Mutare's close proximity to the sea as an opportunity to create the nation's import and export hub for both processed and semi processed products. He recommended that the underutilised land owned by Old Mutual should be used for creating this hub. The Chairman of the business group cited the lack of legal and policy reforms as a deterrent to the success of Zim Asset's objectives in Mutare. Some of the policy strategies that Mr Samurivo recommended for Zim Asset to benefit Manicaland province include:

- A national strategy that introduces zoning to ensure equitable distribution of opportunities and the control of Harare based monopolies i.e. to ensure a market for Mutare manufactured products that in turn create local employment. He gave two cases of the uneven playing field between Harare and Mutare firms operating in the same industry namely; Quest – Hutong versus Zhoutong, Bakeries- Dods vs Proton.
- Narrowing of the buy Zimbabwe campaign into Manicaland to ensure local employment and regional liquidity through improved money circulation.
- Regional contracts for regional players, local tenders to local players (decentralization of tender system in housing projects)

According to Mr Samurivo, there is need for a thrust that ensures revival and sustenance of local firms, creation of employment through value addition and beneficiation at local levels and expanded revenue for local authority and improved service provision.

Presentation on Zim Asset

The PRFT's programs Officer presented on the key highlights of the Zim Asset and its policy strategies. Zim Asset is a cluster based plan with four main clusters and two sub clusters. The four main clusters are as follows:

- Food Security and Nutrition
- Social Services and Poverty Eradication
- Public utilities and Infrastructure
- Value Addition and Beneficiation

The two sub structures are:

- Fiscal Measures and public administration
- Governance and performance management

Below is a summary of the main four clusters and the policy strategies under each cluster.

Food Security and Nutrition

The thrust of the Food Security and Nutrition Cluster is to create a self-sufficient and food surplus economy and see Zimbabwe re-emerge as the “Bread Basket of Southern Africa”. The cluster seeks to build a prosperous, diverse and competitive food security and nutrition sector that contributes significantly to national development through the provision of an enabling environment for sustainable economic empowerment and social transformation.

Key cluster policy strategies

- Avail adequate and affordable inputs
- Capacitate AGRIBANK to provide concessionary loan facility
- Implement contract farming
- Implement Presidential Input Support Scheme for Vulnerable groups; Import maize grain
- Distribute maize to needy provinces
- Provide food relief to vulnerable social groups from Stocks in GMB depots
- Align labour laws to productivity
- Review interest rates
- Improve access to finance
- Conduct quality nutritional surveillance, monitoring and evaluation on a regular basis;

Social Services and Poverty Eradication Cluster

The thrust of the Social Services and Poverty Eradication Cluster is to enable the Government of Zimbabwe to improve the living standards of the citizenry for an empowered society and a growing economy. The government will implement programs that will curb collapsed social service delivery, deterioration in public infrastructure, increasing poverty, etc.

Key cluster policy strategies

- Availing and increasing economic opportunities for women, youth and vulnerable groups (economic empowerment and employment creation)
- Undertake a national blitz to rehabilitate water supplies, sewerage systems, roads, health facilities, waste management, schools and social amenities in all local authorities

- Strengthen Public Private Partnerships (PPPs)
- Invest Community Share Ownership in infrastructure development
- Effective community engagement
- Capacitate Local authority development(finance, equipment and human resources
- Prioritize development of vocational and technical skills, including psychomotor (e.g. artisans)

Infrastructure and Utilities Cluster

The Infrastructure cluster is focused on the rehabilitation of infrastructural assets and the recovery of utility services in Zimbabwe. These services relate to:

- Water and Sanitation infrastructure
- Public Amenities
- Information Communication Technology (ICT)
- Energy and Power Supply
- Transport (road, rail, marine and air)

Key cluster policy strategies

- Adopt Private Public Partnerships
- Provide concessions to private sector service providers
- Mobilise local communities into water points management committees
- Engage private sector to maintain borehole equipment
- Refurbish, upgrade and construct health facilities
- Refurbish existing power infrastructure

Value Addition and Beneficiation Cluster

The value addition and beneficiation strategy is anchored on the private sector taking a key role in the funding and execution of the activities contained therein with government providing the necessary support in terms of alignment, consistency and cohesion of policies e.g., the Mineral Development Policy, Local Authorities Licensing and Regulation Policy etc. The thrust of the cluster is to improve production and implementation of goods and services through value addition and beneficiation. Key areas under value addition and beneficiation include:

- Energy and power

- Agriculture/ Agro- processing
- Manufacturing
- Mining
- Human capacity building and development

Plenary session

Following the presentation by Mr Chiremba, the dialogue was opened up and participants debated on key issues around Zim Asset plan. Participants felt that there is need for a monitoring mechanism to see whether the government is making progress and fulfilling its promises as enshrined in the Zim Asset especially in the areas such as social welfare, health, education (BEAM) and empowerment projects for vulnerable citizens. Lack of policy framework to guide contract farming emerged to be one of the key challenge in achieving food security and poverty reduction in Mutare. Participants indicated that most farmers are continuously depending on private companies to secure seeds and as a result, they are ending up in seed slavery because they are not able to pay and meet all contractual obligations every year. The residents cited the lack of favorable policy framework as one of challenges preventing them from participating in economic empowerment programs. One key policy issue raised by one of the participants is the restrictive law in the energy sector (particularly in areas of pricing) which is making it difficult for skilled individuals to attract investors and venture into private energy generating projects.

Break away sessions

The participants were divided into four groups, each group representing a specific Zim Asset cluster. The purpose of the group work was to give the participants more time to debate and discuss more on specific priority issues in Mutare guided by the Zim asset's four cluster plan framework. Below is a table summarizing the work on four clusters presented by the groups during the plenary session.

| Zim Asset Cluster | Key Challenges | Opportunities | Key recommendations | Key community led initiatives proposed | Potential partners and areas of assistance |
|------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|---|
| Food Security and nutrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drought • Dilapidated irrigation system • Late distribution of inputs • Poor marketing of agricultural produce • Late payment of farmers by GMB • Lack of proper laws on contract farming | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rich soils • Favorable rainfall • Availability of dams • Big perennial rivers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Affordable inputs supplied (the present Sedco maize seed price was considered as unaffordable) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban gardening (vegetable growing) <p>there is a group of women involved in urban vegetable/ carrots growing (under ZCIEA)</p> <p>Another group is doing production of beans and</p> | <p>Civil society organizations, Government (Ministry of Small to Medium Enterprise), private business, and livelihoods organizations</p> <p>Government/ civil society can facilitate</p> |

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| | | | | potatoes (Honde Valley) under ZCIEA | <p>training and research on urban agriculture to equip women in the project</p> <p>Resources (both financial and other infrastructure) can be generated through government initiated funding, links with development organizations supporting livelihoods projects</p> |
| Social Services and Poverty reduction | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Company closures and unemployment • Lack of adequate water supply • Power cuts • Lack of capital to start income generating projects • Lack of framework to regulate PPPs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Diamond companies in Marange | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transparency and accountability in Community Ownership Schemes to fund service provision and development projects | <p>leather processing project for disabled (project not running because of lack of capital)</p> <p>Poultry projects, Carpentry and sewing projects under ZCIEA</p> | <p>Government, civil society, Livelihoods organizations such as SNV</p> <p>Skills training can be supported by government through its training programs</p> |
| Value addition and Beneficition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • De industrialization • lack of funds for small projects on value addition, • lack of supportive government policies / laws to support value addition projects in energy sector | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Large hub for raw materials such as timber, diamonds, fruits and other agricultural produce, • power generation capacity, | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Harmonization of old law with new constitution, • investor friendly regulation to promote private project initiatives, • Completion | <p>Paper processing project owned by communities to support the media sector, honey making (Already there is a community project set to do honey making in Dora and Gombagomba but the project has not started due to lack of resources and training)</p> | <p>Communities need to partner with government (Ministry of small to medium enterprises) and other NGOs funding livelihood projects e.g. SNV</p> <p>Areas of assistance include, resources,</p> |

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| | and timber industry, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • centralization, • old laws/ policies e.g. mineral mining act of 1961 | strategic route to the sea, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • green market | of Pungwe pipe line project <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Policies to support value addition in timber industry in Mutare • Commissioning of more hydropower stations | | capacity building (training), supportive policy/ legal framework |
| Public utilities and infrastructure | Inadequate schools , hospitals, accommodation, water and dilapidated roads | Diamond mining companies in Marange | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing of a pro poor model for PPPs Key infrastructure projects required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hobhouse secondary school • Road- Jeff Road/ magamba • maternity hospital – Chikanga and Hobhouse | | Government and Mutare City Council, communities , diamond companies, Community ownership Trust, private companies and civil society |

Closing Remarks

The MRRA Director, Mr David Mutambirwa gave closing remarks. In his remarks, the Director applauded PRFT for organizing the dialogue meeting and bringing together residents, leaders of civil society and business community to discuss government's programmes and share views on what should be done for the national blueprint to benefit communities. He urged the participants to continue participating in future PRFT initiated platforms.

Dialogue in Pictures





Dialogue Meeting participants

| Name | Organization | Designation | Contact details |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|
| T. Mute | Resident(Chikanga 2) | resident | 0773176629 |
| David Mutambirwa | MRRA | Director | 0772273176 |
| Tawanda Nyamutumbu | PRFT | Finance Officer | 0712772628 |
| Tafara Chiremba | PRFT | Programs Officer | 0772570522 |
| Sean Ndoro | Ward 15 | Resident/ student | 0774 598447 |
| Grace Mlambo | PRFT | Enumerator | 0773 097417 |
| Patrick Muusha | PRFT | Enumerator | 0776476601 |
| Liberty Dimingo | C.C.Z | Complaints Officer | 0776103954 |
| Barnabas Masamvu | C.C.Z | Regional Officer | 0712 785866 |
| Mandy kanyemba | Freelance | Reporter | |
| Charles Tapfuma Samurivo | MBAG | Chairman | |
| Tineyi Mudzengerere | ZCIEA | Organiser | 0777122517 |
| Isaac Maranganwa | ZRP | Officer | 0774129361 |
| Mavis Mutumbi | ZCIEA | Chairperson | 0777748393 |
| T.O Nhachi | Kumakomoyo community Radio | Researcher | 0773115524 |
| T Musana | Resident | Resident | 0773 285604 |
| Kudakwashe Chisango | Ward 18 | Councillor | 0773 285604 |

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|---------------|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------|
| Ringisai Dube | N.C.D.P.Z (ward 6 Dangamvura) | National Secretary | 0772 893477 |
| John Nyamhoka | Ward 17 | Councilor | 0773268402 |
| Trevor Mutisi | Kumakomoyo Radio | Coordinator | 0772281715 |

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|---------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------|
| Elvis Shiridzinomwa | Ward 9 | Kumakomoyo Radio | 0773153558 |
| B.N Muza | Ward | Resident | 0772878217 |
| W Kwenda | EHPC | CEO | 0777765646 |
| E. Ziyera | Ward 9 Dangamvura | Resident | 0772486483 |