

Manicaland CSO Position Paper Socio-Politico and Economic

Presented by Regai Tsunga at the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition: CSO
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Preamble

Concerned about the socio-politico and economic challenges engulfing the nation and with specific reference to our Province, CSO partners met in Mutare on 16th November, 2016 with a view to coming up with issues for action

In view of the above following slides are relevant.

Social Challenges

Recreational Facilities

- Not inclusive but exclusive and elitist
- Inadequate equipment
- Corrupt disposal of recreational spaces

Internal Displacement

- Diamond mining induced displacement
- Inadequate or absence of social services and facilities (schools, clinics, potable water, etc) in areas of relocation
- Disease outbreaks
- Exposure of IDPs to various harmful elements (snake bites, harsh weather, etc)

Child and early marriages

- Due to sickening poverty and profound economic hardships
- Increased risk of the spread of HIV/AIDS
- Increased incidences of abuse of the girl child
- Jeopardises success, education, health and life opportunities for girls
- Need for awareness and practical action to stop child and early marriages

Corruption at City of Mutare

- Misappropriation and theft of funds paid by vendors for vending sites
- Unpaid salaries for long periods have fueled corruption amongst council staff

Economic Challenges

Company Closures

- Leading companies have closed permanently in Mutare (MBPM, Karina, etc)
- Low capacity utilization of the firms that are still functioning
- Loss of jobs and sources of livelihoods
- Company closures and job losses are attributed to bad government policies e.g. the indegenisation policy of the 49/51 fame

Agriculture Sector

- The sector has progressively deteriorated over time with some hitherto productive farms now virtually derelict (eg Kondozi)
- Produce exports from some of the farms now history
- Former farm employees now redundant
- Poor roll out of the land reform programme responsible for poor rate of return on the farms

Tourism

- The sector is not performing at optimum capacity
- Rates at tourist facilities remain too high and unaffordable for the average local and international tourist
- Facilities are deteriorating and require a facelift (Mtarazi Falls, Vumba, Odzi Country Club and Nyanga)

Political Challenges

Corruption

- Abuse of power by political heavy – Diamond revenues
- Corrupt selling open spaces for selfish ends

CSO Operating Space

- MOU Challenges with local authorities – armtwisting tactics
- Police clearance and authorisations
- Political interference in CSO/NGO/humanitarian organisation interventions
- Low/diminishing funding for our programmes and projects

Devolution

- Constitutional provision on decentralization have not been implemented
- Decision making remains largely centralized
- Mayors and Councillors constrained in decision making due to political party whipping

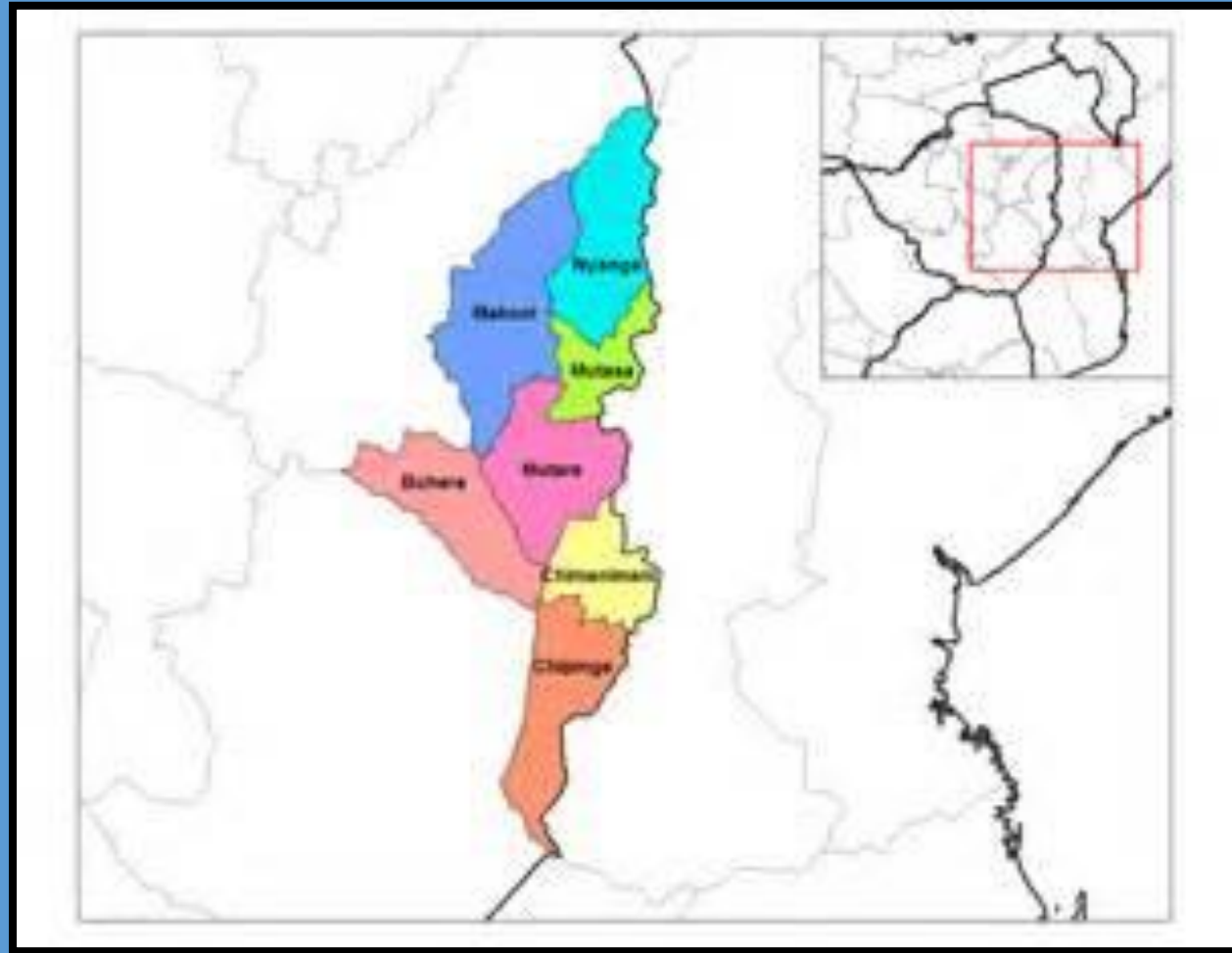
Partisanship and Polarisation

- People lack support of political leaders in expressing themselves
- Partisan distribution of resources (housing stands, food aid, agricultural inputs)

Recommendations

- CSOs should engage with government at its various levels on key policy issues
- Government must review the indigenization law to make it more investor friendly
- Mobilise citizenry for participation in governance issue including service delivery by local authorities
- Engage political parties to redirect councillors role in serving the residents
- Engage and petition councils, parliament and the executive arm of govt on key policy and service delivery issues
- CSOs should re-energise fundraising efforts to maintain strong presence within communities as we approach 2018

Thank you



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