

CIVIL SOCIETY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION (CSPR)



RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE DRAFT FNDP BY EASTERN PPMT

VENUE: CHIPATA PROVINCIAL TEACHERS RESOURCE CENTRE

30TH JUNE 2006

Participants were drawn from non-governmental organizations, governments department and independent technocrats. The main purpose of the forum was to enable Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) Eastern Province to come up with reactions and recommendations towards the draft of the 5th National Development Plan.

BACKGROUND - EASTERN PROVINCE

The Eastern Province has a total area approximately sixty nine thousand and one hundred (69,100) square kilometers. It shares borders with Malawi in the east, Mozambique in the south northern province in the north and central and Lusaka provinces in the west. The province has eight districts administrative wise namely: Chipata (provincial capital) Chama, Lundazi, Mambwe, Chadiza, Katete, Petauke and Nyimba. The province is predominantly rural.

The province has two main geographical areas, which are productive and habitable namely, the plateau and the Luangwa valley. The savannah woodlands and grassland are the main vegetations in the province. The province has a tropical climate with three distinct seasons, the cool and dry season, the hot and dry season and the hot and wet season. The plateau has good soils and receives sufficient rainfall, making it a high potential area for agriculture production. The valley has isolated portions of fertile soils suitable for drought resistant crops. In addition, there are a number of tourism attractions such as the Ncwala, Tuwimba ceremonies and the famous south Luangwa National Park.

The following were the identified thematic areas which members participated in.

- Agriculture and Food Security
- Mining and Industry
- Health and Nutrition
- Education, Child and Youth
- Water and Sanitation
- Environment
- Governance
- Transport and Communication
- Energy
- Gender and HIV/AIDS

RECOMMENDATIONS ACCORDING TO THEMATIC SECTORS THAT SHOULD BE INCLUDED IN THE FNDP:

❖ ECONOMIC SECTOR:

i) AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SECURITY

- Government should establish food and agriculture processing industries in the province
- Timely delivery of inputs
- Provide market for agriculture produce
- Government must introduce loans to small scale farmer
- Re-introduce viable co-operatives
- Open the cooperative bank
- Construction of Dams where applicable

- Erect storage sheds in each ward
- Improve government flow price for staple food
- Support wetland farming
- Government should provide suitable transport for extension officers

ii) MINING AND INDUSTRY

- Government must provide loans to small scale miners and equity gender balance participation
- Explore minerals in Petauke, Lundazi and Chama districts in identified sites for gemstone
- Government provide scam scale miners with mining facilities
- Government must provide an enabling environment for registration
- Government must encourage local processing industries to finished goods i.e. tobacco, sunflower and groundnuts t
- Upgrade bicycle plant to a manufacturing industry

❖ **SOCIAL SECTOR**

i) HEALTH AND NUTRITION

- Government to provide CD4 Count machines to all district hospitals in the province
- Provide equipment to all district hospital for screening of diseases
- Upgrade Chadiza, Chama and Nyimba clinics to district hospitals
- Dispatch 14 doctors at Chipata general hospital
- Government must build more houses for health workers and improve condition of service for rural health workers in the province
- Government to recruit more health workers
- Equipping expectant mothers with skills in nutrition

ii) EDUCATION, CHILD AND YOUTH

- Government to provide and improve incentives to Teachers in rural areas
- Government should construct good house for teachers at each school in the province
- Government should regularize PTA contribution as this has a negative impact on free-education more especially in rural areas
- Government must provide furniture and necessary learning and materials to all schools in the province
- Up grade all primary schools into full basic schools
- Up grade Chipata College of education to offer secondary diploma courses
- Government must open a university in eastern province
- Re-establish recreation centres
- Provide Child and Youth friendly services in rural areas
- Government to open up employment opportunities for young people

❖ **WATER AND SANITATION**

- We appreciate government for considering safe and clean water regularizing water tariffs, construction of dams and boreholes. However, the engagement of the private sector in timely garbage collection has not been addressed
- Government to employ more health inspectors

❖ **ENVIRONMENT**

- Government should come out strongly in the sensitisation of preserving nature e.g tobacco growing be accompanied by tree growing

❖ **GOVERNANCE**

- Harmonize the decentralization policy with the FNDP
- Ensure Transparency and Accountability in government
- Good constitution and with good policies
- The provincial strategic plans must be reflected.
- Under local government sensitization and civic education, legal regulatory framework, institution and human resource capacity development must be included.

❖ **TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATION**

- Complete Chipata /Mchinji railway line
- Up grade Chipata Air port to international standards
- Government should tar Great East road from Nyimba to Chipata t
- Government should tar Chipata/Mfuwe road
- Rehabilitate all Districts feeder roads
- Provide good TV and Telephone network in the province

❖ **ENERGY**

- Connect Chama district to national grid
- Exportation of electricity for forex

❖ **GENDER AND HIV/AIDS**

- Women to be involved in main body of decision making
- Implement none gender discrimination
- Zonal clinics to screen and prescribe drugs for HIV/AIDS patients
- Government to fully support sensitisation programmes in every community and provision of VCT centres
- Government should provide home based care facilities especially in rural areas

❖ **GENERAL COMMENT OF THE DRAFT FNDP**

- The draft FNDP does not incorporate both provincial and district strategic plans
- The activities outlined in the draft FNDP are too general, they are not specific to which province they will be implemented
- The draft does not give a definite specific time frame for implementation of activities
- There should be harmony between the FNDP and the decentralization policy
- Under local government sensitization and civic education, legal regulatory framework, institution and human resource capacity development must be included.