

Southern Province Response to Draft FNDP

Introduction

We have been part of the initial processions in the province. We would like to move away from the theories of the FNDP into its practices in trying to deal with the poverty and its effects on the lives of people of Zambia. Us in provinces see poverty; experience it while some people imagine it. We see it and that is why we came up with the following recommendations.

Agriculture

In our input to the FNDP as a province, we made various recommendations, and glad that some issues have taken on except the following;

1. Provision of profitable, efficient Readily available market for agriculture produce such as; maize, milk, beef etc. As FRA is not doing enough and private so called brief case men take over.
 - Government should construct dams for irrigations projects to over come drought situations which lead to hunger etc.
 - Government should introduce irrigation schemes/programs in areas where there is already availability of water e.g. Siavonga, Keemba etc.
 - Eradication of tsetse flies.

Education

- Government should construct more basic and high schools to accommodate more pupils if free basic education is to be meaningful or realistic.
- Rehabilitate school infrastructure e.g. class rooms, laboratories.
- Employ more teachers.
- Come up with more or another school for children with special needs. Currently we have only one school in Choma, St Mulumba which is providing special education to children with special needs.

Health

- Although government has promised construction of health infrastructure, the province experiences services shortage of health personnel such as nurses, Doctors. In some places where personnel may be available, drugs are not there, eg Nkanda nzovu government case elaborate.

Road Infrastructure

- Government should not wait for road rehab. In order to build bridges damaged during rain season in Gwembe, and also other roads which were temporally maintained as these should facilitate agriculture activities.

Water Sanitation

- Government should expand existing water reservoirs to meet, the high water demands for people and animals needs.

Mining - Was Omitted By Government But We Feel;

- Government should invest and explore more minerals in the province. This leads to creation of mining investments and in turn creates employment and revenue.

Government should check the safety of miners in the current mining activities i.e. mamba coal mine, Kalomo Mapatizya mines etc.

- Government to increase investment opportunities by instituting the policy which will attract investors in the province.

Environment

- Government should strengthen and sensitise communities and stake holders the environment policies.

Resettlement

- Government should increase settlements to 10 hectares to enable people to have meaningful productive land taking into account the various needs of the communities such as water, fire wood, roads/passage, grazing areas etc.

Tourism

- Government should recognise other tourism attractions in the province.

Forestry

- Government should share forestry management strategies with stake holders. Southern province is slowly becoming a commercial charcoal production area.

Cross Cutting

- Gender

* HIV/AIDS-Provision of FREE ARVS. This is the wake of the high HIV/AIDS prevalence in southern province.

Conclusion

- Government should provide us with targets / indicators on its commitments against which we shall monitor and evaluate the level of success of FNDP e.g. number of health centres, schools, rehabilitated roads, dams, dip tanks etc.