



# Poverty Eradication Newsletter (PEN)

MAKING A FACT: PARTICIPATION

ACCOUNTABILITY

COMMITMENT

TRANSPARENCY

**TOWARDS PEOPLE CENTERED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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## Civil Society Launches 5th NDP Input Document

On 31st October 2005, civil society launched its official input into the on-going formulation of the Fifth National Development Plan for Zambia in a document entitled: *"A 5th National Development Plan for Zambia 2006-2010: A Civil Society Perspective."*

The launch of the document was preceded by several activities undertaken by the civil society organisations, which included community consultations and analysis both at national and provincial level.

### CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATES IN THE NDP FORMULATION

In April 2005, the Government, through the Ministry of Finance and National Planning, uncovered a roadmap for formulation of the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP) for Zambia.

The plan is envisaged to replace the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP- 2002-2004) which Government was implementing as the key vehicle to reduce poverty in the country.

As CSPR's key area of operation since inception was monitoring and advocacy around poverty reduction issues with a particular focus on the PRSP, the Network felt it was important to engage in the formulation of the NDP since it would be government's key working document in implementing poverty reduction programmes, as well as broader national development plans.

Apart from participating in the government process through SAGs, CSPR decided to draw up and implement a civil society roadmap, which would complement the government process.

As a first step, an inception workshop on Civil Society's engagement in the NDP Process was held on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2005. The workshop brought together 230 representatives of civil society organisations from all provinces.

The inception raised awareness on the NDP, the government road map and the civil society roadmap. Government, the donor community and the UN were on hand to share their expectations from the NDP.

Fourteen (14) Thematic Groups were formed to give their input to key sectors of the NDP. The Provinces also formed their groups to give their input on what they would like to see in the NDP in relation to their provinces.

The Thematic and Provincial Groups held consultations and developed position papers which were submitted to Dr. John Chileshe who was contracted to edit report.

Provincial Consensus Building workshops were held in early August which culminated into the two day National Consensus Building Workshop on 31st August, 2005 for civil society to discuss and agree on the proposed position papers.

Thereafter, the papers were revised by the Groups based on comments and suggestions from the workshop and from the report editor.

The refined position papers were submitted to respective Government Sector Advisory Groups. The chapters were compiled into one document entitled *“A 5<sup>th</sup> NDP for Zambia: A Civil Society Perspective”* and was officially launched on 31<sup>st</sup> October, 2005.

The document was submitted to the Ministry of Finance and National Planning as Civil Society’s Official Input to the National Development Plan.

After formulation of the 5<sup>th</sup> NDP, CSPR intends to monitor implementation of the plans as well as step up on advocacy for pro-poor national development with a particular focus on the NDP.

## Government Willing to Partner for National Development

**Government is willing to work with organizations that will support its efforts in rebuilding the economy, says Minister of Finance and National Planning Hon. N’gandu Magande.**

Mr. Magande said this at the official closing of the National Consensus Building Workshop for civil society’s input into the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP) hosted by Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005.

The objective of the workshop was for the civil society to “solidify and build consensus on its key priorities and issues for Zambia’s 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan.

Honorable Magande said the workshop was an important forum not only for stakeholders, but also for the government, as it provided a new dimension in the planning process by laying emphasis on the bottom up approach, while encompassing many interest groups.

“The involvement of many interest groups confirms that the planning process is no longer a preserve of the government, but for all the citizens of the country, “he said.

Mr. Magande said government’s objective was to see a product that all citizens would appreciate as their own document.

He urged the civil society not only to participate in the formulation process but also help with the monitoring, implementation and evaluation of the NDP and the National Long Term Vision 2030.

And speaking at the same occasion, Civil Society for Poverty Reduction – (CSPR) Chairperson, Helen Samatebele, said the workshop was very exciting as it marked a significant point in the process of civil society engagement in the NDP process.

She said it was clear that a people centered National Development Plan is key in the fight against poverty and for a better Zambia.

The workshop that saw over 200 participants from different parts of the country agreed on thematic position papers.

The delegates at the workshop discussed various issues with focus on the identification of the growth areas in the districts, social and economic sectors as well as key recommendations that would ensure economic growth and poverty reduction in the country.

## “Let’s Make a PACT towards People Centered National Development”

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction – (CSPR) has urged the Zambian government to make a PACT of Participation, Accountability, Commitment and Transparency, with the civil society and the Zambian people in order to achieve people centered national development.

Speaking during the opening of the Civil Society Consensus Building Workshop for civil society’s input to the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP), held on 31<sup>st</sup> August and 1<sup>st</sup> September 2005 in Lusaka, CSPR Chairperson, Ms. Helen Samatebele

urged government to create space for civil society to sit on the National Technical Committee and the steering committee of the NDP.

“It is our expectation that this lobbying for inclusion will bare fruits through a government invitation to civil society representation to both levels. We have a strong belief that participation results in ownership, ownership result in support and national support will enhance the success of the plan,” she said.

Ms. Samatebele said there’s need for commitment from the highest office of the land, to the grass root for the NDP to be successful.

She called on government to be committed to ensure that civil society’s priorities are reflected in the draft and final NDP.

Ms. Samatebele emphasized that political will is needed to ensure that the people who need development the most, especially the poor receive it first.

She however, thanked government for inviting civil society to input in the NDP. She said that CSPR is committed to ensure that poverty becomes history for Zambia.

And speaking at the same event, Ministry of Finance and National Planning Principal Economist, Mr. Hibeene Mwiinga, called on the civil society and co-operating partners to partner with government towards national development.

Mr. Mwiinga said the development process is not for government alone but a duty of every Zambian and all stakeholders.

“The 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP) will not be prepared by government, it merely outlines what government wants to achieve. We are asking the civil society and stakeholders to work with government as partners in development,” he said.

Mr. Mwiinga revealed that the planning process will also result in the production of three outputs, namely the 5<sup>th</sup> NDP, the National Long Term Vision (NLTV-2030) and 72 District Development Plans.

He said the district plans are a major input to the NDP. He said once the district plans are approved they will be taken back to the districts for approval by the full councils and District Development Coordinating Committees (DDCCs).

Meanwhile, research findings of the PRSP evaluation showed that civil society played a remarkable role in the formulation of the PRSP. This was revealed by CSPR consultant, Chrispin Matenga at the same occasion.

Mr. Matenga said CSPR participated in all government constituted working groups and provincial consultations.

He however, said that the civil society was left out in the technical drafting committee for the PRSP.

Mr. Matenga said Zambia’s PRSP had not saved as an effective framework for harmonisation and alignment of development.

He also revealed that an evaluation established that PRSPs were implemented as “monotype” interventions that did not address all facets of poverty in a community.

And the report revealed that most communities attested to the fact that government poverty intervention was not visible in their areas.

## **“RECEPTION OF FINAL NDP DEPENDANT ON POLITICAL WILL NOT TO POLITICISE THE PROCESS”**

The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) has urged government to consider the civil society input into the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP), as this is a key litmus test of its commitment towards productive partnership for poor development.

CSPR Network Coordinator, Mrs. Besinati Mpepo said this at the launch of the Fifth National Development Plan for Zambia, 2006-2010: A Civil Society Perspective, civil society’s official input into the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) on 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005 in Lusaka.

Mrs. Mpepo said despite the short period given to formulate the five year FNDP, the civil society has been able to organise itself in constructive and timely engagement to the process through various civil society groups at national and provincial level.

She cautioned government that the overall positive reception of the FNDP is highly dependant on government’s ability not to politicise the formulation process and maintain a national spirit at all levels.

She recommended that once the FNDP is finalised, priorities of the document should be adhered to through out the implementation phase unlike the case with the just ended Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP).

The CSPR Coordinator noted that a number of recommendations in the PRSP, such as the abolishment of the office of the District Administrator, were not given due consideration during the implementation stage of the PRSP.

Mrs. Mpepo stressed that her organisation will be keen to follow how government envisages financing and implementing the FNDP which should include the canvassing of various stakeholders to align their developmental programmes towards the priorities of the plan.

“CSPR also hopes that the resources saved from the recent debt relief initiative would be utilized to the benefit of the ordinary citizen and towards the priorities of the NDP,” Mpepo said.

And speaking at the same event, CSPR Monitoring and Evaluation Program Management Team Chairperson, Mr. Grayson Koyi re-affirmed CSPR’s commitment to partner with government in improving the welfare of the Zambian People.

Mr. Koyi said that the civil society shall ensure that the FNDP is based on people’s participation and ownership, and not kept as a mere public relations gimmick.

He emphasised that the civil society shall endeavor to be transparent and committed to make government more accountable to the people.

“We expect accountability from Zambia’s cooperating partners as well. We will therefore, not shy away from demanding for accountability from donors. If it is good operation for Zambia, it must equally be good operation for those whose resources are being committed to Zambia’s development cause,” he said.

Meanwhile, CSPR has recommended that the FNDP must adopt a direct approach to an employment strategy framework.

Presenting the report at the same event, CSPR consultant Dr. John Chileshe said the framework must guide the nation on job creation in the short, medium and long term and provide for an institutional mechanism for coordinating and linking micro and macro and all sector strategies and programme on employment.

On the constitution, the civil society has recommended that the new constitution should be adopted by a constituent assembly or another popular body.

The report observed that experience has shown that parliament is not representative enough of all the various social interests in the country, and the formulation of the new constitution should be more inclusive, broad based, gender representative and encourage the participation of the citizens so as to achieve the required legitimacy and durability.

Some of the recommendations from the Fifth National Development Plan for Zambia, 2006-2010: A Civil Society Perspective, are as follows:

On Gender, the civil society has recommended that:

- a) There should be affirmative action, use of quota system and strong political commitment at all levels of policy making necessary to deal with gender issues and to improve the situation of women and the attainment of 30% women representation in decision making without further delay.
- b) 50% of nominated Members of Parliament should be women.
- c) Women and men should have equal opportunities in attaining financial independence should be the cornerstone of the nation gender policy.

On Industry, the report says that Zambia requires an annual Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth rate of 10% if the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are to be met by 2015 and generate the number of jobs needed to underpin acceptable standards of living for the citizens.

- a) There is need to encourage the banking sector to develop facilities for affordable long term credit and venture capital financing.
- b) Create an environment that will support public/private partnership in infrastructure development especially in rural areas.
- c) Finalise an empowerment policy and develop an empowerment programme.

And on Health and nutrition, the civil society have recommended that the Bureau of standards, Medical Council and Drug and Poison council should be strengthened to ensure that they monitor the various aspects that affect the health of Zambians.

The civil society emphasised that there should be adequate funding allocated to enable the regulatory bodies be functional and a mechanism to ensure that the regulatory bodies carry out their mandate.

## **CIVIL SOCIETY RAISES AWARENESS AROUND THE NDP**

To complement government’s efforts in order ensure high participation and ownership of the National Development Plan, Civil Society embarked on awareness raising activities. These included:

**Production of a television documentary**, “Making a PACT towards People Centered National Development”. The documentary depicts government’s formulation process as explained by Ms. Josephine Mwenda, a Principal Economist at the Minister of Finance and National Planning. It also highlights the role that CSPR has played in the formulation process and future plans in relation to the NDP. In addition, there is a cross section of views from various Zambians on their expectations from the NDP.

To meet its major objective, the documentary outlines how Zambians can participate in the formulation, implementation and monitoring processes of the NDP. It ends with a provoking question: ‘CSPR is playing its role, are you?’

**Radio Live Phone in Programmes:** CSPR sponsored two live phone-in programmes on Radio Phoenix. The first programme discussed issues of the formulation process, explaining the history and concept and formulation process of the NDP. The second programme discussed the expectations and content of the document. On both occasions, the

programmes featured representatives from the Ministry of Finance and Civil Society. Both programmes highlighted citizen's participation and need for sense of ownership of the Plan.

**T.V Discussion Programme:** CSPR also sponsored a live-phone-in discussion programme on ZNBC television. The programme had the same objectives and took the same structure as the radio programmes.

Apart from the above, there was **wide media coverage** of CSPR's activities around the National Development Programme in both print and electronic media, including community radio station based in the provinces.

## *“A 5th NDP for Zambia, 2006-2010; A Civil Society Perspective”*

### Some Key Recommendations

#### 1. Education, Youth and Child Development

- Expand and improve access, retention and equity; arrest declining standards and low progression rates, especially for girls; + better trained teachers, more school facilities and teachers' houses
- Youth: educational and skills development and unemployment
- Children: Child Protection Act; + a comprehensive Early Childhood Care, Development and Education policy

#### 2. Health and Nutrition

For health, the focus is on availability of health services and equity of access, with special attention paid to human resource development and retention

#### 3. Water and Sanitation

- Water is a human right; this right should be fulfilled for all Zambians as quickly as possible. This should also involve community participation in implementation
- The priorities are rural water supply and sanitation and peri-urban water supply and sanitation

#### 4. Social Protection

- The recommendations on Social Protection focus on the destitute and low capacity households

#### 5. Macroeconomics

- Promotion of economic diversification
- Macroeconomic stability
- Development of a comprehensive trade policy
- Institutionalisation of a debt management policy

#### 6. Agriculture and Food Security

- Development of Agricultural Irrigation and Conservation
- Development of Infrastructure and Extension Services
- Development of Agricultural Marketing
- Equitable access, ownership, and control over land and increased security of tenure
- Sector Development Reform Programme
- Encouraging the banking sector to develop facilities for affordable long-term credit and venture capital financing
- Widening the tax base and reducing taxes
- Implementing the 'Buy Zambia' campaign

#### 8. Mining

- Review of the legal framework, including amendments to the Mines and Minerals Act
- Mining diversification
- Strengthening of geological survey data
- Support to small-scale mining

#### 9. Employment Promotion

- The FNDP must adopt a direct approach to employment promotion by designing and implementing an Employment Strategy Framework
- A Poverty Datum Line should be established
- A Labour Market Information System should be established

## 10. Environment

- Building national capacity for more effective environmental management
- Developing a national community based natural resource management policy to guide participatory approaches in environmental and natural resource management
- Supporting civil society, the private sector and knowledge and research programmes that reduce poverty through better environmental management

## 11. Gender

Among the priorities in gender are:

- 50% of the nominated Members of Parliament should be women
- A full Cabinet Minister for Gender
- Establishment of a Gender Commission
- Affirmative action to achieve the minimum of 30% representation at all levels
- Adoption of Gender Mainstreaming and a Woman's Rights based approach in policy development and implementation

## 12. HIV/AIDS

- The Principle of Three Ones requires that there should exist one national strategic plan, overseen by one national coordinating body, and one monitoring and evaluation plan
- Civil society will, therefore, continue to buy into the intervention strategy plan that is being developed by all HIV/AIDS stakeholders in the country
- 10% of the national budget should be devoted to HIV/AIDS programmes

## 13. Governance

- Repeal and enactment of the Constitution
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Electoral Reform Technical Committee
- Completion of the process of reforming laws relating to promotion of a free media
- Implementation of the Decentralisation Policy

## 14. Information and Communication Technologies

Key recommendations concerning ICTs are:

- Finalising and adoption of a National ICT policy
- Establishment of Development Ignition Points
- Establishment of Centres of Excellence in institutions of higher learning
- ICT studies should be compulsory in all private and public schools

## 15. Chapters 15 to 20

### Recommendations from Eastern, Luapula, Lusaka, North-western, Southern and Western Provinces

- Connection of the remaining districts to the national grid
- Tarring of the local roads and streets
- Rehabilitation of bridges
- Supply of free ARVs to all the health centres in all districts
- Construction of new rural health centres in each district by 2009
- Construction of modern market facilities in all the districts.
- Provision of CD4 count machines in all health centres
- Rehabilitation of farming training centres in all the districts
- Establishment of a university bursaries office in each province
- Sinking of boreholes in all the districts
- Establishment of orphanage centres in all the districts
- Development of a localized curriculum

The document can be downloaded from our website, [www.cspr.org.zm](http://www.cspr.org.zm)

*Well Researched Issues Key to Parliamentary Debates – MPs*

Members of Parliament (MPs) greatly depend on partnerships with civil society organisations such as CSPR for well researched issues in order to debate and influence policy through parliamentary debates.

This came to light at an initial meeting held to form the CSPR – MPs Committee on 14<sup>th</sup> November, 2005.

The MPs observed that unlike other countries, MPs in Zambia do not have research assistants and thus depended on such alliances for information. They said that MPs do not have full knowledge of actual funds allocation, disbursement and utilisation.

CSPR can help by providing such information in a suitable form.

The MPs advised that it would be important to strategise on the practical arrangements of the committee so as to ensure that research is well used. They advised that CSPR should as much as possible try to send their research material to parliament.

It was also observed that there has been a constant friction between civil society and MPs in the past because the former have never understood the operating environment of the latter and such a committee would help create understanding.

The MPs thus encouraged CSPR to sensitise people on the operations of parliament so that the nation understands what the duties of parliamentarians are.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan, it was recommended that there is need to involve MPs so as to create a sense of ownership. This would reduce the risk of future leaders abandoning the Plan once they assume power. The MPs were informed that one of CSPR's advocacies was that MPs should be allowed to debate and adopt the NDP before it is finalised.

CSPR recognised that in order to enhance pro-poor policy advocacy, MPs are key partners, since they are the mandated representatives of the people, as well as legislators who approve national legislation and resource allocations. It is for this reason that CSPR, through the Information Dissemination and Advocacy Programme Management Team, decided to form the CSPR-MPs Committee.

The CSPR – MP's Committee is meant to be an advocacy initiative aimed at providing opportunity for the key stakeholders in National Development, the MPs, to partner with civil society and actively participate in formulation of pro-poor development policies, as well as to ensure that the national budget is used as a tool to align sector plans in order to deliver and meet the objectives to be spelt out in the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan, and other pro-poor policies.

The CSPR-MPs Committee aims to draw on the existing Civil Society local and external capacities, experiences and ongoing research, budget tracking and monitoring activities to inform its work.

The Main objectives of this committee are:

- To provide information based on research to MPs, the media and other key stakeholders in order to enhance debates on poverty related issues.
- To influence the Poverty Reduction Program (PRP) budget allocations outcomes in parliament through improved budget debates among MPs.
- To raise the poverty reduction profile in future government plans like the NDP in line with our vision for a poverty free Zambia.
- To get feedback on research findings from MPs in order to compile reports in such a way that findings can be used as a basis for informed debate on poverty related issues during parliamentary debates.

## **ZAMBIA'S LIFE EXPECTANCY DROPS**

The proportion of citizens with little chance of living long, being educated or enjoying a decent livelihood, stands at 46.6 percent, according to the 2005 HDR, Zambia's Human Poverty Index (HPI).

Over half of the 67 percent of Zambians considered poor, according to government estimates, are unlikely to survive to the age of 37.5 years, which is the country's new life expectancy.

According to the 2005 Zambia Human Development Report (ZHDR), the life expectancy threshold was 45 years.

The Report was launched on 8<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 in Lusaka by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

However, the 2005 HDR noted that Zambia has made tremendous improvements in addressing HIV/AIDS as well as posting improvements in the combined gross enrolment ration for primary, Secondary and Tertiary education from 45 percent in 2004 to 48 percent in 2005 while the gross domestic product (GDP) per capital has increased from US\$ 840 in 2004 to US\$ 877 in 2005.

And Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) Chairperson Ms. Helen Samatebele said the statistics were depressing for Zambia, because instead of making progressive strides, the country is declining on some of the critical areas in Human Development terms.

Ms. Samatebele said such statistics clearly show that the country is at cross roads and has a long way to catch up with progressive countries like Norway and Seychelles the best performer in Sub-Saharan African. She said being rated 166 on the Human Development Index (HDI) should be a wake up call for the Zambian government.

“It is simply not acceptable that a country that got independence 41 years ago, endowed with abundant human and natural resources and not having experienced and civil conflict can have such statistics,” she said.

She observed that the Millennium Development Goals will not be attained by the year 2015 at the rate the country is going.

Ms. Samatebele said the civil society believe that the sad trend can be reversed if only key priorities areas that will make a positive impact on poverty eradication so as to create wealth for every Zambian are addressed by the government.

She urged government to use the human development to help in fine tuning of the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan that it is formulating.

And speaking at the launch of the report, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) resident representative Mr. Aeneas Chuma said he feared that least developed countries would continue to fare badly on the Human Development Index (HDI) unless the developed countries honored their commitments on improving aid and trade conditions.

Mr Chuma stressed the need for concerted efforts to improve performance. He said at national level, the inequality indicators should instead of having a drawback, be the navigation tools for prioritizing public policy. He said at international level, there is need to interlink trade, aid and security, which are critical to attaining the Millennium Development Goals especially in developing countries.

“Half measures will not work. The world is at cross roads to make that choice. If we fail now, it will be a tragedy for the world and the world will have broken the promise to halve poverty by 2015,” Chuma said.

### **Relationship between Poverty and HIV/AIDS is Bi-Directional – UNFPA**

*The relationship between poverty and HIV/AIDS is bi-directional, it's a factor that exacerbates the impact of HIV/AIDS, says United National Fund Population Agency (UNFPA) Country Representative to Zambia, Mr Deji Popoola.*

In his official opening speech at Civil Society for Poverty Reduction 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Network Council held on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005 at Andrews Motel in Lusaka, Mr Deji Popoola emphasised the importance of the existing relationship between HIV/AIDS and poverty. He stressed that amidst rocketing figures of AIDS infection in Africa standing at 9, 500 everyday, where in Zambia girls are five times more likely to be infected, Mr Popoola said that UNFPA has always underscored the importance of empowering women to stem the AIDS crises, citing cultural and social beliefs about women contributing to their vulnerability in this epidemic.

He further added that girls orphaned by AIDS face stigma and poverty and are often unable to stay in school and opt to trade sex for survival not only for themselves but sometimes for their siblings.

The UNFPA representative quoted a great African leader who once said, “The world’s biggest killer and greatest cause of ill health is poverty. Poverty is the main reason why babies are not vaccinated, clean water and sanitation are not provided, curative drugs and other treatments are unavailable and mothers die in child birth.”

The quote clearly married well with the CSPR Network’s objectives through various activities to contribute to poverty eradication.

Mr Popoola explained that the gaps between the rich and the poor population groups, ages and sexes are widening and that the rich keep getting richer while the poor are pushed further down the ladder.

Mr Popoola concluded with a symbolic way to address the pandemic.

“Together we must build on advances and intensify the struggle to conquer HIV/AIDS. In the era of advanced information communication technology where everyone is familiar with www.com indeed our www.com in the fight against AIDS simply implies that We Will Win.”

The various points that Mr Popoola raised in his official opening was echoed by CSPR Executive Director Besinati Mpepo’s press statement released on 30<sup>th</sup> November in observation of World AIDS day.

Mrs. Mpepo said though CSPR was opening it’s second AGM on 1<sup>st</sup> December, the Network would still observe the World AIDS Day as it relates to the challenges of poverty.

“During this time, we too will join the rest of the world to reflect on the issue of HIV/AIDS and the fundamental challenge it poses to the fight against poverty.”

She further gave a background of Civil Society Organisations’ efforts to address the HIV/AIDS pandemic and explained that over the past four months, over 230 civil society groups had worked on key recommendations for Zambia’s 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan.

In particular Civil Society had noted that HIV/AIDS was the biggest challenge to development with a prevalence rate of 16% with AIDS orphans in Zambia aged below 15 standing at 500,000.

Mrs. Mpepo emphasised that under the formulation of the 5<sup>th</sup> NDP the pandemic should be addressed in a more holistic manner, integrating it in all curricular.

Mrs. Mpepo outlined that anti-retroviral drugs should be made more accessible to employees in critical sectors without losing sight for equity. Orphans and vulnerable children should be given special attention addressing their psycho –social needs.”

She called for government to ensure that at least 10% of the 2006 budget goes towards the fight against HIV/AIDS.

CSPR challenged all stakeholders to scale up the fight if Zambia is to make headway in national development, poverty eradication as well as being on the path towards achieving Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

It is clear that the 2<sup>nd</sup> AGM brought up a distinct relationship between poverty and HIV/AIDS as Mr Popoola illustrated.

It is hoped that Civil Society’s Input into the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan specifically supporting the HIV/AIDS programmes will be reflected in the final NDP and ultimately implemented.

The CSPR AGM had an attendance of one hundred and twenty-five members, visitors and participants. The first day, 1<sup>st</sup> December, coincided with commemoration of the World AIDS Day. Despite this, CSPR did not leave itself out in commemorating the Day. Before all official speeches and remarks could be made, a solemn celebration was held led by Fr Pete Henriot of the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR), who guided the meeting through a special AIDS prayer in line with this year’s theme: “Stop AIDS: Keep the Promise”. A litany of Beatitudes on HIV/AIDS was also recited.

### **GTZ/DED Introduces Join in Circuit on AIDS, Love and Sexuality in Zambia**

German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and German Development Service (DED) has introduced the Join in circuit (JIC) on AIDS, Love and Sexuality in Zambia.

In cooperation with the National Centre for Health Education in Germany (BZGA), GTZ has since 2001, supported national initiatives to fight HIV/AIDS in Russia, El Salvador, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Mongolia with a new approach of living and learning. This instrument is called “Join in Circuit”.

The JIC is a mobile, interactive and edutaining exhibition. The mobile learning instrument has 6 stations on core topics of HIV/AIDS which are contraception, STI and HIV/AIDS, Ways of transmission, body language on sexuality and living with HIV/AIDS. A maximum of ninety participants can pass through 6 learning stations in groups of 15 participants in approximately two hours.

The JIC concept includes interactive and competitive games which are combined with interviews, team learning, role plays and a wheel of fortune. One JIC can be easily transported from one place to the other on a pick –up truck. The JIC equipment in Zambia has been produced by the Kalingalinga Youth Resource Centre in Lusaka.

The JIC initiative is targeting pupils, teachers, students, farm workers, police, soldiers, prisoners and health personnel. The JIC is endowed with experienced and trained facilitators that guide participants through each station. The initiative expands existing knowledge on HIV/AIDS, other reproductive health issues and complement methods of health education in Zambia. JIC key messages are: inform yourself, protect yourself and others, and show solidarity with people living with HIV/AIDS.

In May 2005 a team of organisations and other cooperating partners traveled to Mozambique to learn from the JIC initiative which was a success in that country. Back home in Zambia, in September 2005, the initiative was introduced and adopted taking into consideration, the Zambian cultural setting. In September 2005, a total of 30 facilitators were trained in interactive and facilitation methodologies.

The JIC was introduced during a 5 days workshop held at Serenity Lodge in Lusaka. The Thirty facilitators trained came from the Youth Association of Zambia, Contact Trust Youth Association, Students Partnership Worldwide, and Society for Family Health Care international, all based in Zambia. Two participants came from Zimbabwe. The workshop was facilitated by Luitgard Matuschka who is JIC Master Trainer based in Mozambique, Christoph Mueller, GTZ and Hannelore Gut, DED in Lusaka.

During the workshop, various presentations that included a scenario of HIV/AIDS in Southern Africa, public health service responses to HIV/AIDS, medical aspects of HIV/AIDS transmission, STDs and family Planning, positive living and ARVs were presented and discussed..

JIC cooperating partners are: Youth Association of Zambia (YAZ), Contact Youth Trust Association (CTYA), Students Partnerships Worldwide (SPW), Ministries of Health, Education and Youth, Sport and Child Development. The production of the JIC initiative in Zambia has been supported by the Aids Foundation Muenster in Germany and UNICEF and Misereor Germany.

German Technical Cooperation and the German Development Service will continue to offer technical coaching, monitor and evaluate quality and impact of the initiative in Zambia based on international standards. The JIC newly introduced in Lusaka will slowly spread to the provinces starting with Southern, Central and then to North western province.

For details contact [Lorriane.mupeta@gtz.de](mailto:Lorriane.mupeta@gtz.de) and Hannelore Gut at [gds@zamnet.zm](mailto:gds@zamnet.zm).

## **“Let’s Scale Up the Fight Against HIV/AIDS If Zambia Is To Make Head Way In Poverty Eradication”**

Today Zambia joins the rest of the world in observing World AIDS Day. At the same time, the CSPR network gathers for its Annual General Meeting on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2005. During this time, we too will join the rest of the world to reflect on the issue of HIV/AIDS and the fundamental challenge it poses to the fight against poverty.

Over the past four months, over 230 civil society groups have worked on key recommendations for Zambia’s 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan. During this process civil society has noted that HIV/AIDS could well be the greatest development challenge Zambia is facing today, especially with the high prevalence rate of 16% and the increasing number of AIDS orphans currently estimated at 500, 000 below the age of 15. Further, the significant loss of trained professionals – doctors, nurses, teachers and administrators threatens to reverse the social and economic achievements and poverty eradication efforts that different stakeholders are engaging in. Moreover, due to the HIV/AIDS pandemic, scarce time and financial resources are being diverted to caring for the sick or attending funerals thereby limiting the ability of care givers to provide basic necessities for their families.

It is for this reason that civil society, in its input to the Fifth National Development Plan (FNDP) currently under formulation, insists that the FNDP should mainstream HIV/AIDS in a more holistic manner, integrating HIV/AIDS in all curricular. Anti-retroviral drugs should be made more accessible to employees in critical sectors without losing sight of the need for equity. Orphans and vulnerable children should be given special attention by addressing their psycho social needs. Furthermore, Government should ensure that at least 10 per cent of the 2006 budget goes to the fight against HIV/AIDS. To ensure effectiveness, Zambia should employ the principle of the ‘Three Ones’ – ‘One National Strategic Plan’, ‘One National Coordinating Partnership Body’ and ‘One Monitoring and Evaluation plan’.

On this world day of AIDS, CSPR calls on all stakeholders to scale up the fight against HIV/AIDS if Zambia is to make head way in national development, poverty eradication and be on the right path towards the Millennium Development Goals. Stakeholders should undertake an interventionist approach that includes prevention, treatment, information and literacy, accessibility, equity, comprehensiveness and quality care support. **No Excuse Keep the Promise!**

### **Rank Poverty Eradication 1<sup>st</sup> for Zambia!**

Press statement made by Mrs. Besinati Phiri Mpepo, CSPR Executive Director – Released on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2005

## **2005 CIVIL SOCIETY DAY: WORKING TOWARDS PEOPLE CENTERED NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) successfully held the third annual Civil Society Day on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2005 at the Arcades Shopping Mall in Lusaka. This year’s theme, “Making a PACT towards a People Centered National Development” was particularly in line with civil society’s activities around the 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan (NDP). The theme reiterated CSPR’s call on the Zambian Government for the need for true partnership in issues of national development. PACT stands for Participation, Accountability, Commitment and Transparency for Zambia to make headway in development.

The Civil Society Day attracted over 25 civil society organisations that set up exhibitions and presentations. The Honorable Minister of Community development and Social Services, Mr. Ronald Banda, echoed the importance of the Civil Society Day as a platform for CSOs to interact and share best practices, not only amongst themselves but also with the general public.

The atmosphere at the event consisted of colorful displays set on tables with banners belonging to various organisations from diverse sectors dealing in pro-poor development such as youth, human rights, food security, gender, health, micro-finance, governance, disability, etc.

Various organisations distributed pamphlets, books, magazines and brochures, showed videos and gave one on one presentations around the work of their organisations

## Partnerships Key to Fighting Poverty

In her remarks at the official opening ceremony, CSPR Chairperson, Ms. Helen Samatebele said that the day was important as it allowed concerned organisations to display their efforts on tackling poverty in the country.

“Through this Civil Society Day, we as civil society wish to make statements that the mission of addressing poverty should not be left to civil society alone but is a task that requires partnerships among key players interested in seeing an end to the suffering of the people in this country,” she said.

Ms. Samatebele further noted the uniqueness of this year’s civil society Day; “This year’s day comes at an opportune time when government is busy with the process of formulating the country’s 5<sup>th</sup> National Development Plan through the Districts, provincial and National consultations. As Civil society, we have taken up the challenge of mobilising our input into the NDP.” She informed the Minister.

## Government’s Desires Stakeholder Participation in Fight against Poverty

Honorable Ronald Banda plainly stated government’s position with regards the Civil Society Day in his Official opening remarks.

“This year’s theme is clearly in line with government’s intention and commitment to involve the Zambian people in processes to draw up plans and strategies for tackling poverty in Zambia.”

Mr. Banda further urged the organisers to continue with the Civil Society day as it brings government and civil society together.

He called on the participants to continue taking part in the event as what they would gain would go a long way towards their objectives.

“To all those participating, to you all I say please keep it up. I trust that the experiences and ideas shared today will make for an even stranger bond among civil society, the general public and the government, in the resolve to fight poverty in this country,” he said.

After the official opening remarks, the Deputy Minister made a tour of the stands and engaged actively with those responsible.

The day was spiced up with music from the Kamoto ‘Zuba ni Moto’ Cultural Ensemble and upcoming musician LV of the ‘No Sweat no Sweet’ fame.

## PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS AND THEIR PROFILES

**1. *Anti-Voter Apathy Project (AVAP)*:** Concerned with elections and advocates for all to turn out and vote. It promotes democracy and elections by popular leadership.

**2. *Association of Micro Finance Institutions of Zambia (AMIZ)*:** AMIZ is the apex institution for all micro finance institutions in Zambia. It aims to facilitate, support and upgrade the activities undertaken by members and represent them in the best way possible. The vision of AMIZ is to see a strong and viable micro-finance sector in Zambia, through quality service delivery.

**3. *Catholic Commission for Justice Development and Peace (CCJDP)*** Concerned with issues of economic justice arising from the implement of national and international policies.

**4. *Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR)***

The Network of organisations working on issues of poverty, with a focus on poverty related advocacy based on research participatory poverty monitoring and expenditure tracking. They are the organisers of the event.

**5. *Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (Luapula)***

Holds workshops and seminars sensitising the community in ways of reducing poverty percentage. Provides civic education on the formation of the constitution. Educates women on their rights in particular dealing with health and girl child education.

**6. *Christian Children's Fund (CCF)*** Focuses on Child Poverty, particularly in health and education. Aims at providing access for children to primary healthcare and quality education.

**7. *Commonwealth Forestry Association***

Promotes the well being of forests, forestlands, forest habitats and those who depend on them in order to reduce poverty. The organisation put up an outstanding exhibition of a tree of wild fruit and some artifacts made from the fruit, such as salt sellers, clocks, bangles, etc.

**8. *DISACARE***: Focus is to produce and provide mobility aids for people physically challenged

**9. *Evangelical Fellowship of Zambia (EFZ)*** Mother body of all Evangelical churches in Zambia. Carries out Social and Developmental projects besides Evangelism, it is involved in relief food distribution, livestock and re-stocking, skills, HIV/AIDS etc.

**10. *Green Living Movement***: Deals in Agro forestry, environment and sustainable agriculture. Teaches farmers about organic farming and aims at preventing poverty in rural areas by teaching how to grow various crops through sustainable agriculture.

**11. *Habitat for Humanity***

Builds houses for communities in need. Ensures communities with income can get a loan and Habitat builds a house that they later on pay back for.

**12. *Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR)***

Researches and highlights issues involving economic and social development to attain poverty reduction.

**13. *Micro Bankers Trust (MBT)*** MBT is a settler organisation under the Ministry of Community and Social Development. It was formed after the I Days. This year's day looks more organised as participants are polished up and stands look bright and confident. It makes headway as more are enlightened about what the organisations are doing.

**14. *Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council***

Umbrella organisation for member NGOs dealing in gender and development issues. Its vision is empowerment of women in capacity building, communication and advocacy, as well as basket fund.

**15. *One World Africa***

Focuses on Information Communication Technologies (ICTs) for development. Tries to incorporate technology in development. Aims to get information to the people using ICTs.

**16. *Operation Young Vote***:

Aims at broadening the participation of youths in the electoral process so as to enable them assume an influential position in the determination of the destiny of their country. The organisation works with the youth to enable them claim their place in Zambia's democracy by utilising their collective potential.

**17. *Organisation Development Community Management Trust (ODCMT)***

They aim to build capacity in community based organisations in order to carry out their activities effectively. ODCMT advocated for poverty reduction through fair trade terms between the north and the south.

**18. *Programme Against Malnutrition (PAM)***

Initially organisation was established as a relief program in response to 1993 drought but moved on to Developmental programmes looking at Poverty Reduction. Addresses Food Security, Nutrition and Health as well as Livelihoods.

**19. *Society for Women and AIDS in Zambia (SWAAZ) Lusaka***

Main objective is to reduce vulnerability of women due to HIV/AIDS and other related issues. Empower women with HIV/AIDS information

**20. *Sports in Action***

It is a sports and development NGO that revolves around the betterment of people's quality of life through sports and recreation. The organisation believes that sport and recreation are pegs on which various programmes can be hanged.

Development through sports is a vehicle through which the essential commodity called development can be delivered regardless of its form or size.

**21. *Steadfast Action Foundation (SAF)***

Works with the rural communities on the projects defined by the communities themselves. SAF provides sustainable community care within the existing helpful cultural practices and traditional institutions for orphans, the aged and the poor. It also offers training in practical survival skills tailored to meet local needs with emphasis on rural communities and youth in particular. This year, the southern province group of Steadfast Action Foundation exhibited at the Day.

**22. *SWAAZ(Solwezi) Kilelabalanda:***

Empowers widows with various skills and runs an orphanage

**23. *Youth Media***

Youth Media is a Zambian youth NGO that specializes in Information, Education and Communication. The objective is to provide information to young people about sexuality using various forms of media. Youth Media are the publishers of the Trendsetters Newspaper.

**24. *Zambia Civic Education Association (ZCEA)***

Seeks to assist the democratic process in Zambia as well as to promote justice by creating greater understanding of human rights instruments and helping with implementation and review of provisions.

**25. *Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD)*** Coordinates and promotes social development agencies, particularly NGOs and CBOs to enable communities become self reliant and self- sustaining.

**26. *Zambia National Women’s Lobby Group (ZNWLG)*** A national organisation working around advocacy on gender related policy issues in order to reduce poverty in Zambia.

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## Reactions to the Constitution Review Commission Interim Report and Draft Constitution

### INTRODUCTION

The Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) is hereby submitting its comments and observations based on the Interim Report and the Draft Constitution of the Mung’omba Constitution Review Commission (hereinafter referred to as” “the Commission”). These comments are based on what CSPR submitted to the Commission on 07 September 2004.

CSPR would like to acknowledge the good work of the Commission in making considerations and recommendations to particularly address the much needed reforms in the management of public finances.

Therefore, CSPR’s comments focus on what is contained in Part XVII (Public Finance and Budget) of the Draft Constitution; Chapter 21 (Public Finance and Budget) and Chapter 22 (Auditor General) of the Interim Report.

CSPR is particularly concerned with issues related to:

- the enhancement of Parliament’s role in the management of public finances;
- the need for the Executive to be obliged to obtain prior approval of Parliament before incurring any supplementary expenditure or making modifications to the estimates and expenditure;
- the need for the Executive to provide details of expenditure for the preceding financial year to enable Parliament make informed decisions;
- the Auditor General’s report to be submitted simultaneously to both Parliament and the President; and
- the introduction of a clause to protect funds designated for poverty reduction activities.

### OBSERVATIONS AND COMMENTS

#### 1. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION IN BUDGET PREPARATIONS

The recommendation to engage the public in the preparations of the Budget during initial stages [article 328(3)] and at committee stage [article 328(7)] is indeed welcome, for this will instill public participation and ownership of the Budget. This participation must go beyond merely being consulted to include joint decision making, initiation and control.

Moreover, CSPR supports the provision for National Assembly to enact legislation (Budget Act, article 329) that would define elements such as the method for the preparation of the budget, sources of the Budget, people's participation (at ward, district and provincial levels), and the Minister's submission of anticipated revenues and expenditure to the appropriate committee at National Assembly for prior consideration before the preparation and submission of actual estimates for the financial year.

CSPR agrees with the Commission that preparations of the Budget should not be a preserve of the Ministry responsible for finance; hence, the demand for the introduction of a legal framework for the budget process. Such a law is necessary to regulate the preparations of the Budget.

## **2. ROLE OF PARLIAMENT**

CSPR acknowledges the Commission's observation that there should be a constant interaction between the Executive and the Legislature in planning and formulating of the budget, to provide for checks and balances.

Thus, CSPR supports the Commission's recommendation for a participatory budget formulation process to be clearly stipulated in an Act of Parliament, the Budget Act (article 329).

In addition, "the institutional and human resource capacity of the National Assembly should be strengthened and that this should include the establishment of a Budget Analysis Division and provision of skills training programme to MPs" (Interim Report, Chapter 21).

### ***(a) Supplementary Budget***

CSPR upholds the Commission's recommendation that any supplementary estimates of revenue and expenditure should be approved by the National Assembly before expenditure is incurred (articles 325 and 326).

Notably, that "expenditure in excess of or outside the annual budget should be prohibited and the Constitution should provide that Parliament must give prior approval to any expenditure that may exceed the budget" (Interim Report, Chapter 21).

The proposed articles 325 and 326, moves away from the status quo where Parliament was legitimising expenditure that has already been incurred. Provisions in the current Constitution necessitated this: article 115(2), empowers the President in certain special circumstances to authorise expenditure without waiting for Parliamentary approval; and article 117, empowers the Minister of Finance to authorise substantial modifications to spending without seeking prior approval from Parliament.

Moreover, CSPR supports the Commission's recommendation to oblige government to release "approved budgetary allocations on a quarterly basis, in full and on time, to the institutions and bodies entitled to the allocations" (article 330). The general public should equally have access to such information.

### ***(b) Amending the Budget***

CSPR agrees with the Commission's recommendation that Parliament should be vested with powers to approve and to amend the estimates of revenue and expenditure, but does not agree with the Commission's recommendation that Parliament should "not vary the total estimates of revenue and expenditure" [article 328(8)].

CSPR is of the view that Parliament should equally have powers to increase the resource envelope. While we agree with the Commission's observation that such powers would require the Executive to move tax and revenue measures, this should not be an obstacle to empowering Parliament.

Government can still build corresponding institutional capacity to assess and absorb changes whenever they arise. Therefore, the national Assembly should be allowed to alter the total government resource envelope, or to make re-allocations to priority sectors.

### ***(c) Government Financial Report***

CSPR supports the recommendations of obliging government to release the Financial Report to the Office of the Auditor General within six months after the end of each financial year [article 333(1)] and the Minister of finance to submit the Financial Report before the National Assembly within nine months after the beginning of each financial year [article 333(4)].

## **3. AUDITOR GENERAL**

### ***(a) Auditor's Report***

CSPR agrees with the Commission's recommendation that the Auditor General's report should be submitted to both the President and the National Assembly not later than nine months after the end of each financial year [article 337(4)]. CSPR is of the view that the word "simultaneously" should be introduced in clause 4 to read "submit simultaneously a report ..."

#### ***(b) Erring Controlling Officers***

CSPR supports and acknowledges the significance of empowering the Office of the Auditor General to make recommendations on erring Controlling Officers to the Director of Public Prosecution, the Anti-Corruption Commission, the Parliamentary Ombudsman or any other law enforcement agency for prosecution [article 337(1),(e)].

In the view of CSPR, it is equally desirable that Parliament is empowered to recommend appropriate action on erring Controlling Officers to law enforcement agencies for prosecution.

#### **4. "RING-FENCING" POVERTY REDUCTION PROGRAMMES FUNDS**

CSPR observes that the Commission does not explicitly address in its reports the question of including "a clause in the new Republican Constitution to protect funds that are designated for poverty reduction activities" from abuse and misapplications.

However, the analysis done by CSPR on government's commitment to actual releases and expenditure on poverty reduction programmes in previous years reveals that government did not adequately and fully fund poverty reduction programmes. Usually government does not honor its obligations to disburse 100% of those allocations. Instead these funds are diverted to less productive sectors.

CSPR is of the view that no budget line allocated to poverty reduction programmes should be moved to another concern no matter the pressure on Government to look for funds to meet a 'non-poverty reduction' concern.

In effect, unless the Constitution clearly states that such funds should not be diverted as is the case with funds meant for debt servicing, domestic interest rates and maintenance of constitutional offices, there is no legal guarantee to prevent such diversion.

### **CONCLUSION**

In conclusion, CSPR would like to commend the Commission for recommending constitutional provisions to enhance the role of Parliament and of the public in the management of public finances and preparations of the national budget.

CSPR, however, in keeping with its vision of promoting "A poverty free Zambia," notes that an effective management of public finances requires a strong institutionalised participation based on sound legal framework.

Therefore, reforms in this regard will aim at ensuring an efficient, equitable and transparent management of public resources. CSPR hopes that these recommendations will be reflected in the final report of the Mun'gomba Constitution Review Commission.

### **Zambia's Legal System has not Effectively Addressed Women Exploitation and Marginalisation**

The Civil Society has observed that Zambia's constitutional and legal system in the last 40 years has not addressed women exploitation and marginalization effectively.

Non-Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) Executive Director Ms. Engwase Mwale said this when she officiated at the launch of an updated book entitled "Beyond Inequalities; Women in Zambia" by Zambia Association for Research and Development (ZARD). The book was launched at the ZARD Offices on 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2005.

Ms. Mwale said that Government is aware of the gender imbalances in social, economic, culture and political sphere, which have prevented women who comprise 51% of the population, from contributing effectively and benefiting from the development process.

She noted that many disciplinary practices are legal under customary law and serve to legitimize negative rules and norms practiced by government departments.

She emphasised that obstacles to gender equality lie partly within the government itself.

Meanwhile, Ms. Mwale said the identification of the cause of problems women face plays an essential role in the design and implementation of appropriate strategies to resolve them at national and regional level.

"Effective strategies to address these myriad challenges in actualizing the empowerment of women, can only be developed if the causes are identified," she said.

'Beyond Inequalities; Women in Zambia' is a publication aimed at providing accessible and current information on gender equality and the challenges in realizing women's empowerment in Zambia.

Both the 1998 and 2005 publications review the roles and responsibilities, access to control over resources, decision-making powers, needs and constraints of women.

## FAWEZA launches Girls' Technical Bursary Programme

Forum for African Women Educationalists of Zambia-FAWEZA Chairperson Barbara Chilangwa says support for girls' education through the Technical School Bursary Programme will make a difference with regards to access, retention, and completion of their schooling.

The Technical Bursary Programme is as a result of a study carried out by FAWEZA highlighting gender differentials in participation in Science, Mathematics and Technology (SMT) subjects.

FAWEZA conducted a research study on the performance of girls and boys in former boys only technical schools these being; David Kaunda, Hillcrest, Kambule and Solwezi.

The study clearly showed that there were disparities in the performance of girls and boys. In all four schools including the school of Natural Sciences at the national university, girls were underachieving in SMT subjects.

It was for this reason that FAWEZA deliberately included activities in the 2005-2009 Strategic Plan that were to enhance girls' performance in these subjects.

The study showed that many girls from disadvantaged families have potential to perform well in SMT subjects if given the opportunities to access schools that focus on SMT such as technical high schools. However some constraining factors to this include lack of financial resources and support to enroll in technical schools.

And so to try and address negative perceptions that pure sciences are only beneficial to male students FAWEZA in conjunction with the Ministry of Education and other stake holders has been formulating gender sensitive policies such as the 1:1 Enrolment Policy, turning boys-only schools into co-education schools.

Mrs. Chilangwa however pointed out that the above has only succeeded in increasing enrolment, progress and retention in basic and general high schools and further showed that girls were still under-represented at technical high schools.

The technical bursaries programme is being supported by the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

For the 2005 Annual work plan 400 pupils are to be supported. The bursary schemes implemented by FAWEZA will include mentoring and HIV/AIDS mitigating activities and community outreach to sensitise communities on the importance of supporting girls in SMT activities.

Since its inception a number of bursaries have been give out. Mrs. Chilangwa announced that so far this year the organization has given out 2, 593 bursaries to support the education cost of girls and boys from disadvantaged households in the six provinces targeted by the United States Ambassador Girls' scholarship programme, implemented by FAWEZA through the American government's African Education Initiative (AEI).

"FAWEZA has supported 1,303 girls and boys in basic and high schools, in addition to 1,217 girls who have been supported through Winrock International AEI girls' bursary programme. 73 girls were identified and referred to FAWEZA by the Maureen Mwanawasa Community Initiative (MMCI) and were supported by Family Health International through the Youth Net Programme," she explained.

The FAWEZA chairperson expressed confidence that the technical bursaries programme will increase the enrolment of girls at technical high schools, the ripple effect being an increase in girls taking SMT related training programmes and also an increase in women particularly in Science, Mathematics and Technology related professional career fields.

"The 56 girls who are the pioneers of this project have been supported for the full high school cycle at a cost of K123, 265 million. This is an assurance of support until they complete the high school education. Each scholarship supports all school levies and examinations, uniform costs and basic necessities such as toiletries," Mrs. Chilangwa said.

The FAWEZA girls technical bursary programme aims are as follows:

- to counter social, financial and cultural mitigating factors that hinder Zambian girls from accomplishing their education goals
- to improve access of girls to technical high schools
- To improve retention, progression, achievement and completion rates for high achieving SMT vulnerable girls at high school level.

Mrs. Chilangwa commended the spirit of partnership which has been demonstrated by the Ministry of Education, FAWEZA and the Royal Netherlands Embassy for the enhancement of Girls' Technical knowledge and skills.

Following Jubilee Zambia's successful campaign on debt cancellation for Zambia, the organization has embarked on another campaign incorporating Trade Justice for Poverty Reduction in the country.

Jubilee Zambia outgoing Coordinator Charity Musamba emphasized the definite link between Debt and Trade and the need for Zambia to concentrate more on achieving fair trade on the Global market.

Ms. Musamba was speaking at the launch of Jubilee Zambia's report *Zambia's Trade Situation: Implications for Debt and Poverty Reduction* on 29<sup>th</sup> September 2005 at the JCTR conference centre.

The report highlights Zambia's struggle historically to attain a balance of payment (BOP) because of trying to pay external debt, as well as importing more than exporting and brings out the potential role that trade can play in reducing poverty in Zambia.

Ms. Musamba said it is time everyone paid serious attention to linkages among debt, trade and poverty, especially now that Zambia is amongst the group of poor countries earmarked to receive significant debt relief.

Jubilee Zambia Provincial outreach Program Officer Mr. Saul Banda said that debt cancellation is not the only way to economic progress and that debt could not be overcome by ignoring the trade aspect.

Mr Banda noted the importance of the trade justice campaign as it is progressive, "civil society groups, international partners started looking at trade, development, justice and fairness in the trading system last year, there is still need for more research."

He further urged civil society to play a role in the campaign by identifying what policies government might have in place and how they affect the current trade system in the country as well as lobbying to influence trade negotiations.

"Civil society should campaign for trade justice and government should ensure it makes informed decisions on international trade protocols," he urged.

Jubilee Zambia has clearly stated that it demands for free and fair trade in the country.

To this effect Jubilee Zambia has called on all stakeholders to work towards reforming the current trade regime so that it serves to promote economic and social development in Zambia.

Ms. Musamba explained that the connection between debt and trade is seen between imports and exports.

"For Zambia, this balance has been a major determinant of the size and direction of international borrowing (the current account balance). For instance the present debt crisis is traced from 1973/75 oil crises and the decline in the copper prices at international market. The balance of payments deficit could only be mitigated by external borrowing from the International Monetary Fund, private, bilateral and commercial lenders," she said.

Following a preparatory meeting to the upcoming Hong Kong meeting on trade held in Livingstone early this year for less developed countries, key issues were brought up.

These being:

- Access to markets is restricted especially in the European Union (EU) by agreements made by the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- Western countries should cut down on standard requirements for produce which underdeveloped countries cannot meet and which further discourages trade.
- Financing of trade agreements is concentrated more in developed countries rather than developing countries.

The outgoing Jubilee Zambia coordinator appealed to all cooperating partners to coordinate and support free and fair trade adding that it is a continuation of debt cancellation.

She reiterated that the report was a technical analysis and needed advocacy and campaign both at local and international level.

In order to safeguard Zambia from further indebtedness and unfair trade practices, the report has proposed a critical mix of recommendations that would create a strong base of engagement on the need for free, fair and just global trading system:

1. Capacity building in trade issues: although Zambia has qualified negotiators; the capacity currently is inadequate and quite weak. Thus there is need to train and retain more people in issues of trade in the Ministry of Commerce, Trade and Industry (MCTI)
2. There is an urgent need for the government to send qualified attaches to foreign missions that are critical to Zambia's negotiations and trade interests like the USA, Brussels and Geneva.
3. There is need for increased and timely flow of information about the current issues that affect international trade between the stakeholders, i.e. the government, the civil society and the private sector. Furthermore, there is need to enhance coordination among the ministries and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) that share the responsibility of formulating trade policies.
4. It is important for either the MCTI or the private sector to undertake ex ante impact assessment studies of agreements and protocols such as the EPAs before they are concluded so that necessary precautions are put in place in order for the nation to benefit from the agreements.

5. It is also important to encourage full participation of non-state actors in the process of trade policy formulation and negotiations to strengthen the inadequate capacity at the MCTI and ensure that all issues that affect the economic and social sectors such as poverty are considered.
6. It is also important for Zambians to be encouraged to consume the locally produced goods to stimulate local production and reduce imports. This strategy is well developed in the Republic of South Africa where Non-Governmental Organisations/private sector promote the consumption of local goods through the slogan “Proudly South African.”

## CIVIL SOCIETY FOR POVERTY REDUCTION : NEW STRATEGY 2006-2010

*Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) held its Second Annual General Meeting of the Network Council on 1st and 2nd December, 2005 at Andrews Motel in Lusaka. The AGM was attended by 125 people who included representatives from member organisations at national and provincial levels. Observers from cooperating partners, government and other civil society organisations were also invited. Pages 10 and 11 give an overview of decisions made at the AGM.*

### CSPR Board ‘Beefed Up’

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the CSPR Network Council has elected one member and ratified nomination of another to fill in vacant positions in the Network Steering Committee (NSC).

The election was conducted to fill in one vacancy left when one of the NSC members, Mr. Savior Mwambwa, resigned his position. Mr. Muleya Hachinda contested the election and went through unopposed.

As per Constitutional requirement, the NSC was mandated to nominate two members to the NSC. In the 2004 AGM, JCTR was nominated. The NSC thus had to nominate one more organisation to sit on the NSC. The Civil Servants Allied Workers Union of Zambia (CSAWUZ) was nominated by the NSC and presented to the Council for ratification.

Mr. Grayson Koyi, who has been representing CSAWUZ, will represent the organisation on the CSPR Board of Directors. Both Mr. Koyi and Mr. Hachinda have been representing their organisations on CSPR since the Network’s inception in 2002.

#### The NSC membership is now as follows:

1. Ms. Helen Samatebele (Programme against Malnutrition) – Chairperson
2. Mr. Robert Kelly Salati (Operation Young Vote) – Vice Chairperson
3. Mr. Victor Kawanga (Commonwealth Forestry Association) – Treasurer
4. Fr. Roderick Kalasa (Catholic Agriculture Rural Youth Movement) – Luapula Province
5. Mr. Kabika Kakunta (Forum for Democratic Process) - North-Western Province
6. Mrs. Theresa Chewe (Southern African Center for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes)
7. Ms. Maria Pwele (Forum for African Women Educationalists in Zambia)
8. Fr. Peter J Henriot (Jesuit Center for Theological Reflection)
9. Mr. Grayson Koyi (Civil Servants Allied Workers Union of Zambia)
10. Mr. Muleya Hachinda (National Small Scale and Peasant Farmers Association of Zambia)

### HIGHLIGHTS from CSPR 2006-2010 STRATEGIC PLAN

In September, 2005, CSPR commenced work on a new Strategic Plan to guide its operation from 2006-2010. The last Strategic Plan came to an end in December 2005. The 2006-2010 Strategic Plan was adopted at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM). In addition to poverty monitoring and advocacy around poverty reduction issues, the focus has broadened to include pro-poor national development issues. CSPR will now be monitoring the National Development Plan. In the past, focus has been on monitoring implementation of the poverty Reduction strategy Paper, which came to an end.

#### Mission Statement:

“To actively and effectively contribute to poverty eradication and pro-poor development in Zambia through advocacy for responsive policy formulation and implementation, promotion of civic engagement in development processes, production of poverty related evidence and data; and provision of a platform for information and knowledge sharing at local, district, national and international levels.”

### **Vision for CSPR:**

“A leading civil society network contributing to pro-poor development at all levels in Zambia”

### **Vision for Zambia:**

“A Zambia in which all Zambians enjoy all basic needs”

### **Programmes and Strategic Objectives:**

Governance and Institutional Development: Strategic Objective 1: By the end of 2010, CSPR will be a motivated member driven network, anchored on strong governance principles and values, with effective programme implementation at all levels.

Research and Policy Analysis: Strategic Objective 2: By the end of 2010 CSPR will have effectively influenced alternative thinking and learning on pro-poor development and poverty eradication processes, through credible research evidence and policy analysis.

Civic Engagement and Advocacy: Strategic Objective 3: By end of 2010, CSPR will have achieved effective civic engagement in pro-poor development and poverty eradication processes at local national and international levels.

Information Management and Networking: Strategic Objective 4: By the end of 2010, CSPR will have developed and popularised information, and technical resources on pro-poor development and poverty eradication, which will form the basis for interaction, engagement and alliance building with civil society, the general public, government, cooperating partners and other stakeholders locally and internationally.

## **HIGHLIGHTS of CONSTITUTIONAL AMMENDMENTS**

Apart from amendments to align the mission and vision of the Network to the strategic Plan, the following were some of the amendments made to the CSPR Constitution at the AGM:

(I) Election for provincial representative to the NSC should allow all mandated Network Council members to vote as opposed to the current situation where only PPMTs were allowed to vote for provincial representatives to the NSC.

(II) PMTs should meet every two months. In the past, the PMTs met every month

(III) The Network Steering Committee had its name changed to Board of Directors. In the same vein, the position of Network Coordinator was changed to Executive Director

(IV) The Board of Directors shall fill in positions that fall vacant in the course of the year in an acting capacity. NSC may make recommendations for ratification of members they feel are suitable to fill in the vacant positions to the Network Council at the AGM, with an allowance for other interested organisations to contest the same positions in the AGM.

(V) The PPMT executive shall comprise nine members

(VI) All office bearers cease to hold office upon leaving their organisations and members who change organisations are not automatically members unless their organisation has been accepted by the network or unless they apply and are accepted as associate members. The member organisation should be able to identify a replacement for a person who leaves (in the case of office bearers)

(VII) The PPMT is the general membership at provincial level. The provincial general assembly is open to an unlimited number of civil society organisations. The PPMT executive is the executive body at provincial level.

(VIII) The PPMT executive should have tenure of two years with maximum of two terms. Election would be held every two years. The PPMT executive office bearer should have tenure of one year with a maximum of two terms.

(IX) At the provincial level, disclosure of unethical illegal and unfair practices or any practices that go against PPMT executive and not directly to the Board of Directors unless under exceptional circumstances that involve the executive.

### **The Draft NGO Bill - ZCSD's Areas of Concern**

The ZCSD through its interaction with NGOs feels that the provisions in the draft NGO Bill do not conform to, and are inconsistent with the present democratic dispensation as they had vested too much unilateral power in the Minister. Some of the key areas of concerns include the following:

- a) The Bill gives powers to the Minister to “*issue directives to the Registrar of Societies, and the Registrar is compelled to carry out the action*”. These directives include the de-registering of NGOs.
- b) The “*Registrar or an authorized officer may at any time order any organisation to furnish, within a specified time, the duly audited accounts of the organisation*”. Why should there be orders issued when there is already a provision for organizations to make annual returns; which included audited accounts?
- c) That “*there shall be an NGO Complaints Board whose members shall comprise NGO representatives, and some people appointed by the Minister, including Permanent Secretary of the Ministry responsible for NGOs, and that the Secretary to the Board would be appointed by the Registrar*”. Why give powers to the Minister to appoint people to sit on the Board? Is this not just a way of ensuring government control and interference? Why should the Board Secretary be appointed by the Registrar?

- d) That the Board would be responsible to administer the Code of Conduct, and “*perform such other functions as the Minister may from time to time prescribe*”. Why the Minister again?
- e) That “*the Minister shall, by statutory instrument and after consultation and on the advice of the Board, make regulations for a Code of Conduct for organizations registered under this Act*. It is the Minister again, why?
- f) That “the Minister may by statutory instrument make rules generally for the better carrying out into effect the provisions of this Act...” Again it is the Minister, why?

According to the ZCSD, the above provisions are an affront to democracy. Given that there is no policy environment conducive for an NGO Code of Conduct, and alive to the fact that government would want to have legal provisions that are inconsistent with a democratic environment, there is more to be done than just come up with an NGO Bill and Code of Conduct, which could firstly to update the current Draft Policy.

### Recommendations on Way Forward

- a) There need for NGOs not to wait for an invitation to participate but to proactively engage government in the current efforts to establish legislative processes for registration and operation of NGOs, and that the time to do this is now, to avoid confronting a law that stifles and restricts the operations of NGOs.
- b) A common front should be established through the formation of a new apex body or through an already existing Technical Committee to represent all NGOs and engage government into dialogue.
- c) Dialogue and discussion on the Governance framework for the NGOs should not be on piecemeal basis such as restricting it to the current NGO Bill which is due to be presented to Parliament this year but should include the policy framework as well as the Code of Conduct.
- d) There is need to raise the profile for this process to enable NGOs participate effectively.

For details Contact: The Executive Secretary, ZCSD, Box 51053, Lusaka. Mailto: [zcsdsecretariat@yahoo.com](mailto:zcsdsecretariat@yahoo.com)

## First Zambia Social Forum: Another Zambia is Possible!

We the participants of the first Zambia Social Forum (ZSF) wish to inform the world that the first Zambia Social Forum took place on Friday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2005 at the UNZA Chapel under the auspices of Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD) sponsored by MS Zambia. The forum will be an annual event. The overall theme for the event is Another Zambia is possible.

The Zambia Social Forum is not an organisation, not a united front platform, but an open meeting place for reflective thinking, democratic debate of ideas, formulation of proposals, free exchange of experiences and inter-linking for effective action, by groups and movements of civil society that are opposed to neo-liberalism and to domination of the world by capital and any form of imperialism, and are committed to building a society centered on the human person. This is in line with the world social forum charter of principals.

Registration records indicate an attendance of about a hundred participants, the event which started at about 10.00hours in the morning and ended at 18.00hours in the evening showcased the Zambian identity with the main language spoken being Chinyanja, a vernacular language. The majority of participants where women and in general participation was drawn from the Zambian grassroots.

Participants broke off into workgroups to reflect on 8 thematic areas, these thematic areas where;

1. Media: the slogan adopted under this area is ‘Free media for Social change!’
2. Poverty: Trade and debt, regional integration the slogan is ‘Poverty must go!’
3. Land: the slogan is ‘Security in Land for women!’
4. Gender and HIV/AIDS: the slogan is ‘Time has come to fight HIV/AIDS!’
5. Youth and labour: slogan is ‘Youth Unity for a better Future!’
6. Privatisation: slogan is ‘Buy Zambian, Eat Zambian!’
7. Nature and the role of African states: slogan is ‘50 + 1 percent!’
8. Way forward of ZSF to Southern Africa Social Forum (SASF): slogan is ‘Time has come to implement our resolution!’

The forum was held in preparation of the Nation for similar events in the future and the coming SASF in Harare, Zimbabwe from 13 to 15 October 2005. Findings of the ZSF workshops were shared at the Southern Africa Social Forum SASF discussions that were formed there at a regional level.

The forum is open to the participation of all Zambians; its success is dependent on this participation. Let us begin to develop a culture of free speech on issues of national importance. In deed only then can another Zambia be possible.

Details Contact the Executive Secretary Zambia Council for Social Development, Box 51053, Lusaka. Zambia. Tel +26 01 212948 or +26 097-765172. E-mail: [zcsdsecretariat@yahoo.com](mailto:zcsdsecretariat@yahoo.com).  
*Issued on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2005*

## Households Surviving on One Meal a Day - Report

About 22.6 percent of the households in Kalomo District are surviving on one meal per day, the first monitoring report of the Kalomo pilot social cash transfer scheme has revealed.

A baseline survey conducted by the Germany Technical Cooperation {GTZ} in September and December in 2004 in Kalomo District has revealed that the quantity of food eaten was the crucial negative factor in the baseline since more than half of the household were still hungry after a meal, an indication of insufficient food.

The most available food was maize consumed by 94 percent of households in the previous seven days with an average number of 5.5 times in the same period.

### NUTRITION STATUS

According to the baseline survey results, the under-five children nutrition status using the weight for age index, revealed that 41 percent of the children were under weight, compared to 28 percent on national level.

The survey further revealed that the households were involved in various activities such as begging, doing piecework, gifts from the church or relatives and sale of crops to source cash for their income. The average amount per month earned by each household was K9, 850, compared to an average income of K47, 400 for the lowest quintile in rural Southern province.

In the same realm of the non cash income, the survey revealed begging was the major activity at 57 percent and relief food accounted for 27 percent. The majority of the households had no person fit for work and only 12 percent had a dependency ratio {DR} which was above 300.

### EDUCATION

On education, the report indicates that the enrolment rate of children aged 7 to 18 yeas has not changed over the monitoring rounds compared to the baseline study. The report shows that school attendance is higher among female showing a percentage of 85 than among males with 80 percent. The monitoring survey shows a reduction of level of absenteeism.

During the baseline survey, 40 percent of the children had missed school in the last three months preceding the survey. During the subsequent monitoring surveys, the average number of pupils that had absconded from school was reduced to 24 percent.

### HEALTH

And on health, the report revealed that while it has been verified that the transfer have resulted in improved access to food and health services provided by the rural health centers and hospitals, data on the actual impact on health of the beneficiary households are not yet sufficient.

According to the results from baseline survey, 29 percent of male and 42 percent of female declared that they fell sick the month preceding the survey. The baseline also revealed that 4.9 percent of the households experienced the death of a household member during the last three months.

The percentage went down over the three monitoring rounds to 0 percent in June, averaging at 2 percent for all monitoring surveys.

### ABOUT THE SCHEME

The Kalomo pilot social cash transfer scheme of the Ministry of Community Development and Social Services assisted by the Germany Technical Cooperation {GTZ} supports AIDS affected and other destitute households in Kalomo through regular monitoring social assistance in form of cash with a small amount of K30,000 to households who have been identified through a community based targeting process carried out by the grass root structures of the Public Welfare Assistance Scheme {PWAS}.

The scheme was launched on 4<sup>th</sup> May 2004 by then Minister of Community Development and Social Services, Mrs. Marina Nsingo. Funds and technical assistance are provided by GTZ whereas management of the scheme are carried out by the PWAS structures at district level.

### SCHEME OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Kalomo pilot social cash transfer scheme and its public welfare assistance scheme are:

- Reduce extreme poverty, hunger and starvation in the 10 percent most destitute and incapacitated {non-viable} households in the pilot region {approximately 1000 households}
- Focus mainly-but not exclusively on households that are headed by elderly and caring for OVC because the bread winners have died due to HIV/AIDS or due to other reasons.
- Generate information on the feasibility costs, benefits, positive and negative impact of a Social cash transfer scheme as a component of a social protection strategy for Zambia.

## WWF - Conserving the Environment for Poverty Reduction

*A silhouette of mad-thatched house against a sunny dawn sky greets every soul that lays eyes on the environs that form dwelling to thousands of people living in the Bangweulu basin.*

*Living amidst unemployment and scrapping a living from charcoal burning, subsistence farming and fishing, these people lives is underscored in abject poverty.*

Africa, a continent blessed with vast natural and human resources as well as great cultural, ecological and economic diversity, remains underdeveloped. According to the World Bank, the number of people living in abject poverty in Africa has doubled from one hundred and fifty to three hundred million people.

Several bookmakers argue that the continent maybe doomed to perpetual poverty and economic slavery if Africa does not take responsibility to improve and boost her economy.

Nigerian president Olusegun Obasanjo said that Africa should take a leading role in sorting out its problems at a recent UN convention in New York.

Mr. Obasanjo has been instrumental in forming the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) which seeks to utilise local resources to develop the continent

In a quest to find a lasting solution, World Wide Fund for Nature under the Miombo Ecoregion Conservation Programme (MECP) is striving to come up with a lasting solution to combat poverty among many other things.

The vision of the MECP is that in the next 50 years, the people of the region would like to have a biologically diverse and ecologically functional Miombo Ecoregion that meets and sustains human needs and developments through the sustainable use of natural resources, landscapes, species and environmental processes, thereby providing both the incentives for conserving biodiversity.

The Miombo Ecoregion is covered by woodlands and associated wetlands popularly known as Miombo and is about 3.6 million square kilometers and covers ten countries of eastern and southern Africa.

This is a vast tropical woodland and is about the same size as Europe and ranges across parts of; Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"The two macro unit projects in Zambia covering Copperbelt and Bangweulu Basin in Luapula Province kick started implementation work in October, 2004, and aims at protecting species and habitats on the brink of extinction and improving rural livelihoods as well," said Newton Moyo WWF-Miombo Project Officer

This beautiful wilderness is home to sixty five million people as well as a variety of endemic plant and animal species.

The region supports large species of mammalian herbivores such as elephant, white and black rhino, giraffe, Zebra, buffalo and numerous antelopes. Predators such as Lion, cheetah, leopard, hyena and wild dogs are also found. The region is also a centre of diversity for underground trees and of the 98 species known from Africa 86 are confined to this area.

The Miombo Ecoregion is a system that is driven by soil fungi, termites, mega-herbivores and fire.

Fungi are vital to the function and maintenance of Miombo where soils are nutrient poor and rainfall erratic. Termites consume vast quantities of leaf litter, dung and woody litter and help to recycle nutrients and also reduce the severity of fires in the dry season. Also many animals from ants to man eat termites. Fire has influenced the vegetation of the ecoregion by promoting a unique form of life that is fire tolerant.

"This is an area where humans have co-evolved with wildlife for millions of years," said Newton Moyo, "but it has a high rate of rural poverty as agriculture on the nutrient-deficient Miombo soils is unproductive and this has led to depletion of animals and trees cut down for mostly charcoal in a quest for people to supplement their diet"

In Zambia ten areas were delineated as areas of biological significance that need to be conserved for the benefit of people and the future generation as well as maintain the habitat for nature.

However, work is currently on the Copperbelt and Bangweulu areas of biological significance. This is because of the unique vegetation that grows on the mineral toxic soils on copper outcrops on the Copperbelt and also because of the endemic black Lechwe, undescribed tsessebe species and the Shoebill stork that are known only from the Bangweulu.

Within the Copperbelt and Bangweulu ABS, there are selected areas or critical sites that have been chosen as working sites.

"In Zambia as MECP we are trying to promote the use of natural resources in a more sustainable way such as conservation agriculture, sustainable charcoal production, reduction of water pollution from mines and industries and even stream bank

cultivators,” said Mr. Moyo “also alternative livelihoods such as bee keeping, fish breeding and game ranching are promoted. “This is all aimed at maintaining the biological diversity of the ecoregion”.

But all is not smooth running as the Project support Officer for Bangweulu Richard Kalyata found out. He said some of the challenges they face with the people is that they have high expectations from the project as they expect to be given sitting allowances.

“People have a wrong notion of wanting money just to be part of the project initiative forgetting that they are the beneficiaries of these same projects” said Mr. Kalyata

He however pointed out that with time people are beginning to accept and appreciate the importance of the conserving the environment.

The Miombo Ecoregion is a unique system with a number of defining characteristics.

Firstly, the system grows on ancient rock formations that have been geologically stable for hundreds of millions of years.

Secondly, there is a long dry season over the cooler part of the year, lasting up to nine months in some areas.

Thirdly, erosion over millions of years has resulted in a flat topography where the drainage is generally sluggish.

Fourthly, the soils are also ancient, developed over millions of years from the nutrient poor rocks and hence are themselves nutrient poor.

Fifthly, the low nutrient status of the soils is reflected in the vegetation that means that specialist herbivorous species are few and are replaced by bulk vegetation feeders such as elephants.

Finally the system is subjected to frequent fires during the dry season, and these fires have become more frequent over the past thousands of years because human set them to assist hunting and farming.

Therefore concerted efforts are needed from all stakeholders to make Miombo a better place to live in and also to conserve the diversity of plant and animal species for the betterment of our future generation and nature.

In doing this you will be helping save a lot of lives and helping in realizing the project’s goal of having a poverty free Africa.

**For more information contact:** [chokela.phiri@wwfzam.org.zm](mailto:chokela.phiri@wwfzam.org.zm)

## CSPR Events to look out for in 2006

Launch of Simplified and Translated National Development Plan Documents – *2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter*

Civil Society Day: *Friday, 29<sup>th</sup> September, 2005*

Various Pro Poor Research and Policy Analysis Reports

## Welcome to the Network!!!

CSPR continues to grow, with more members applying to be part of the Network. The next issue will carry names of organisations whose applications will be approved by the Network Board of Directors.

### *Categories of Membership*

#### **Honorary Members:**

*Individuals who are neither full nor associate members, but who are considered by CSPR to bring additional value and credibility to the Network.*

#### **Full Members**

*Zambian civil society organisations registered under the Laws of Zambia who apply for membership and pay the relevant fees.*

#### **Associate Members:**

*Individuals, regional and international civil society organisations and cooperating partners working in Zambia who apply for membership and pay the relevant fees.*

### *Procedure for Application*

- a) All CSO, individuals, international NGOs and cooperating partners intending to join the Network shall be required to apply through Secretariat.
- b) All members who shall sign the MoU will be referred to as Signatory Members (SMs)

### *Membership Fees*

International organisations- K500,000  
Non-Governmental Organisation(national)- K100,000  
Community Based Organisations- K30,000  
Faith Based Organisations- K50,000  
Trade Unions-K100,000  
Associate members-K60,000

- *The fees will be paid to Secretariat.*
- *The fees are annual contributions with effect from 2006.*

## ABOUT CSPR

### *What is CSPR?*

Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) is a civil society network that came together in October 2000 with the main objective of ensuring that civil society from different backgrounds and in diverse locations effectively participated in the formulation of Zambia's Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP). The PRSP was launched in July 2002 and reflects a fairly large amount of civil society's concerns.

CSPR members felt that the depth of unity shown by civil society during the PRSP formulation should be extended to monitoring the PRSP and other policies programmes and activities aimed at poverty eradication. The diverse membership of CSPR has continued to grow into a strong civil society poverty network, with teams in different parts of the country.

The main thrust of our activities is now advocacy around poverty reduction and pro-poor development issues. The advocacy is supported by Research and Policy Analysis, Information Management and Networking and Civic Engagement with a major focus around the 5th National Development Plan (NDP) All these activities are aimed at strengthening civil society's voice in poverty eradication.

### *Who belongs to CSPR?*

Many Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) are part of the network. They include groups with interest in governance, democracy, human rights, education, gender, youth concerns, health & HIV/AIDS, agriculture, land, economic issues, press freedom, trade unions and environment.

### *Our Mission*

“To actively and effectively contribute to poverty eradication and pro-poor development in Zambia through advocacy for responsive policy formulation and implementation, promotion of civic engagement in development processes, production of poverty related evidence and data; and provision of a platform for information and knowledge sharing at local, district, national and international levels.”

## Our Vision

“A leading civil society network contributing to pro-poor development at all levels in Zambia”

## Our Vision for Zambia

“A Zambia in which all Zambians enjoy all basic needs”

The **PEN** is published bi-annually, in order to provide information of activities of the Network and its member organisations. We are open to suggestions on how to improve future publications. Contributions and other correspondence in regard to the Newsletter should be addressed to: **The Information and Networking Programme Officer**, Post Net Number 302, Private Bag E891, Lusaka. Phone: (01)290154, Fax: (01) 293489, E-mail: [cspr@zamnet.zm](mailto:cspr@zamnet.zm) . **Editor/layout:** Ivy Mutwale. Visit our Website: [www.cspr.org.zm](http://www.cspr.org.zm)