

ZIMBABWE HEADS OF CHRISTIAN DENOMINATIONS

“I came that they may have life and have it abundantly, (John 10:10)”



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EMPOWERING CHURCHES FOR NATIONAL TRANSFORMATION (LUKE 4:18-19)

“Blessed are the peacemakers for they shall be called Children of God” (Matthew 5 Verse 9)

APPRECIATING OUR RICH POLITICAL DIVERSITIES FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND DEVELOPMENT, PEACE AND STABILITY

Statement by youth leaders from 20 Zimbabwe Political Parties following Youth Political Party Dialogues with the Security Sector and Chapter 12 Commissions convened by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) on 7 June and 28 June 2019 respectively

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We, the youth leaders of the following political parties: #1980 Freedom Movement Zimbabwe; Coalition of Democrats (CODE); Democratic Opposition Part of Zimbabwe (DOP); Divine Alliance for Vitalisation of Inspired Development (DAVID); FreeZim Congress (FreeZim); Good People’s Movement: Zimbabwe People’s Party (GPP:ZPP); Movement for Democratic Change Alliance (MDC-A); Movement for Democratic Change- Tsvangirai (MDC-T); National Action Party (NAP); National Alliance for Good Governance (NAGG); National Constitutional Assembly (NCA); National Patriotic Front (NPF); New Patriotic Front (NPF); Rebuilding Zimbabwe Party (RZP); United African National Council (UANC); United Democracy Movement (UDM); United Democratic Front (UDF); Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU PF); Zimbabwe African People’s Union (ZAPU) and Zimbabwe Partnership for Prosperity (ZPP);

1. **Invited by the Church** under the ZHOCD on 7 and 28 June 2019 at Rockwood Pastoral Centre and Cresta Oasis Hotel respectively to reflect on how youth leaders from different political parties could swallow their political egos and work together as Zimbabweans for a more peaceful, inclusive and prosperous nation;
2. **Reflecting** on what is provided in the Preamble of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) Act 2013 (thereafter referred to as the Constitution) against the realities on the ground and expressed our universal feelings:

2.1. of encouragement to be faithful to God and to be masters of our lives,

- 2.2. of inspiration and empowerment that we can remove the word DARK on Zimbabwe,
- 2.3. of patriotism, unity, love for and protection of our country to honour brave sons and daughters who fought for us in the liberation struggle,
- 2.4. of respecting and tolerating one another as sons and daughters of Zimbabwe and
- 2.5. of independence and sovereign, optimism and hope that we are no longer a colony

But also

- 2.6. in deep pain of experiencing opposite of what the Constitution proclaims: where are we missing it if the Constitution says everything everybody affirms?
- 2.7. feeling cheated that guardians of the constitution often become the first to disobey it,
- 2.8. frustrated, duped, angry and hurt; let down and disappointed that we have everything in our constitution and in our country, but nothing to show in our real lives: where are jobs; where is peace; where is water, food and shelter? Where is unity for the common good?

3. Appreciating:

- 3.1. the role of our Defence Forces (ZDF) as defined in Section 212 of the Constitution and their humility and willingness to engage,
- 3.2. the role of the Chapter 12 Constitutional Commissions as defined in Section 233 of the Constitution; and their humility and willingness to be always available for us and
- 3.3. The Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) for bringing together youths from different political parties under one roof as God's children to accept political diversities and work together towards national unity, national development, peace, stability and the common good.

4. Kindly request:

4.1. *The Defence Forces to*

- 4.1.1. be more involved in protecting Zimbabwe and its people neutrally in accordance with Sections 212 and 48-84 of the Constitution,
- 4.1.2. institute and popularize a Human Rights Safeguarding Chaplaincy,
- 4.1.3. create civilian, facility – with a real time response - for citizens to submit their concerns or complains and
- 4.1.4. carry out national, provincial and district information sharing activities – with the assistance of the ZHOCD - to increase civilians' understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the ZDF.

4.2. ***Chapter 12 Independent Commissions Supporting Democracy to***

- 4.2.1. to be more visible and assertive in their work,
- 4.2.2. to be more effective in fulfilling their constitutional responsibilities in practice and not just in words and
- 4.2.3. to be more helpful and accessible by decentralizing to the rest of the country, especially to the poor and marginalized communities.

4.3. ***The government of Zimbabwe to:***

- 4.3.1. ensure that the Constitution and all the other laws are faithfully observed,
- 4.3.2. recognize and improve the potential and entrepreneurship of the youths in small and medium enterprises, agriculture, mining, business and commerce so that they could produce for export to generate foreign currency – no one will develop this nation except ourselves!
- 4.3.3. take **REAL, CONVINCING AND TANGIBLE ACTION** against corruption especially as reported by the Auditor General - and **RECOVER** all that was “stolen” for the benefit of all Zimbabweans and
- 4.3.4. complete and implement affirmative action to include the youth in policy formulation, monitoring and implementation.

4.4. ***The Business to***

- 4.4.1. support the government in implementing government policy
- 4.4.2. prioritise youth empowerment and resourcing so that they become more useful in promoting national unity, national development, peace, stability and the common good.

4.5. ***Political parties to***

- 4.5.1. humble themselves and put the interest of the country ahead of their political interest and
- 4.5.2. come together to engage and dialogue as Zimbabwe political parties for national unity and development, peace and stability

4.6. ***The ZHOCD, as Church, to***

- 4.6.1. demonstrate good faith in facilitating peace and dialogue among citizens and state institutions such as the ZDF, Traditional Leaders, Constitutional Commissions and duty bearers
- 4.6.2. calm and sober up the nation to prevent volatile conflicts before lives and livelihoods are lost
- 4.6.3. Pray for the nation

We, as representatives of young people of Zimbabwe constituting 60% of the population, say **YES** to peace and **NO** to violence. We believe in working for national **NOT** partisan or

individual interest. We are fully prepared and committed to contribute to the socio-economic and political development of Zimbabwe in any legal and meaningful way.

Facilitated and supported by the ZHOCD comprising Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Union for the Development of African Churches in Zimbabwe and Africa (UDACIZA), Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference (ZCBC) and Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC).