# Zim Forum Speak

Issue 1 Voulme 8



# Different venue, same struggles

THE ZIMBABWE SOCIAL FORUM (ZSF) 2004, whose theme was *A People's Forum Against Poverty, Gender Inequality and Oppression* eventually took place at Sheraton Gardens on 28 to 30 October following protracted negotiations and a struggle with the oppressive police. This lead to the postponement of the event from the original date of 14 to 16 October, which police felt coincided with the treason trial of the main opposition political party leader, Mr Morgan Tsvangirai at Harare Gardens.

The police had decreed that Harare Gardens was not appropriate for the event as it was likely to alarm the public and consequently result in violence, mayhem and destruction of property in the city centre. The police insisted on a remote place such as the Harare Agricultural Society's Show Grounds where they would be able to unleash excessive force on members of the public who may be tempted to take to the streets. However, participant organisations dismissed the Show Grounds as a venue because it was not easily accessible on foot from the city centre.

A compromise was finally reached, and Sheraton Gardens were chosen as the venue. The police delay in granting permission to hold the social gathering according to the Members of the public who ranged from student groups, anti-globalisation activists, social movements, NGOs², community based organisations, faith-based groups to trade unionists turned out in large numbers to express solidarity to activists who chanted that "another Zimbabwe is possible!"

This years' (ZSF) was the second edition of its kind. It is now an annual event, taking its own shape in the spirit of the World Social Forum, which seeks to address the challenges of global development and to oppose the negative effects of globalisation and neo-liberalism. It is a platform for all Zimbabweans to bring for discussion and come up with strategies to cope with the prevailing problems that they encounter on a day-today basis.

# A Steadily Expanding Movement

The Zimbabwe Social Forum (ZSF) movement was born last year at the inaugural ZSF in October 2003. This opening event successfully kick started the shaping of an animate local movement in the spirit of the World Social Forum. Participation in the ZSF is open to all organisations, social movements and individuals that subscribe to the ideals and principles of the ZSF Charter.

# A Momentum of Civic Activity



dictates of POSA<sup>1</sup> induced doubt in participant organisations that the event would be allowed to take place. Despite the last minute granting of permission to hold a social gathering, and the immense presence of armed policemen and women at the venue, the public was not deterred from full participation. The ZSF was able to claim space for deeper solidarity and push the Zimbabwean civic movements towards a more definite struggle against social, economic and political injustice. The active participation by more than a thousand activists visibly enriched the motivation and confidence among those

groups that are committed to change wrong into right and prepared to make a difference. And indeed it was a "People's Forum".

Regis Mtutu, the ZSF Chairperson, in



his opening remarks, encouraged members of the public to take advantage of the rare platform and express their views freely and fairly without fear or favour. The activists delved into the serious and sensitive issues that affected their livelihoods such as politics, democracy, HIV/AIDS, inflation, wages, development, and distributed pamphlets in the presence of police who appeared not to mind. The ZSF provided an appropriate forum for the democratisation of Zimbabwe's development process. It enabled Zimbabweans to have a say on issues that have negatively affected different people with varying magnitudes. The eloquent activists' vehement speeches culminated in loud applauses and ululations from the audience that identified with the issues under discussion.

Members of the public, some of whom had been mobilised by ZIMCODD from all the country's geographic regions, felt a sense of belonging as they realised that their problems were not unique to them, but affected every Zimbabwean in one way or the other. The ZSF attracted and retained public interest as reflected by the all-time high number of the general public throughout the three days. According to Tafadzwa Muropa, one of the organisers of the event based at ZIMCODD, members of the public who attended the event amounted to not less than

Volume 2, Issue 8

# Zimbabweans lash out at own government

UNDER A PACKED AND ANTICIPATORY ATMOSPHERE COMRADES gathered to share their latest thoughts on governance and matters constitutional on this the first day of the Zimbabwe Social Forum. The major question of the day raised was whether the general populace of this country is being governed or being led. It was evident, speakers argued, that neither way is being done in the proper manner. This was a discussion

> held by the Governance and Constitutionalism cluster.

> > Of major concern to

participants was the issue of continual amendments to the constitution of Zimbabwe. Participants openly expressed the general feeling that they knew, without a doubt that the elements and basic tenets of governance were

lacking in this country.

The Constitution of Zimbabwe has been amended several times to the extent that it has aroused a new form of discourse. There are radicals who believe that there are more patches in the constitution of Zimbabwe than there is the original document. To that extent, the constitution of Zimbabwe has been reduced to a patched elastic tube which can be stretched to accommodate draconian and undemocratic pieces of legislation such as the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA). The danger is imminent. Democracy is therefore amiss in situations where the government unilaterally amends the constitution to suit politics of the day.

Even the citizens of Zimbabwe have proved to be elastic enough to bend to the government's ridiculous demands. Participants agreed that the people were too docile to participate in a democratic space, yet the need for civic participation on issues of governance was necessary. Democracy cannot prevail unless the power to decide and act rests with the people.

The selective application of law to suit the whims of government was cited as another pointer to lack of democracy and rule of law in the country. The participants cited the suppression of basic rights, the banning of demonstrations as well as the refusal by the police to allow the Zimbabwe Social Forum to take place at a venue of choice and concluded that people cannot be said to be living in a democratic country. It was forecasted that the 2005 elections could not be democratic under the current legal framework.

Participants also explored why Zimbabwe's current system is so violently opposed to advice from other nations. Participants were particularly puzzleu by the unnecessary recent

the constitution of Zimbabwe expulsion of the COSATU delegation as well as the incessant diatribe against the has been reduced to a parched elastic tube which can be stretched British. It was generally felt that our to accommodate draconian and relations with an increasing number undemocratic pieces of legislation of countries was poor, leading to sour relations with the local citizenry too and internal tensions in the country. Mapping the way forward, participants agreed that a new constitution was long overdue. The Zimbabweans

also encouraged one another to be proactive and take a leading role in determining their own destiny. They castigated submissiveness which has



Part of delegates that attended the Zimbabwe Social Forum

not helped solve the current crisis. Participants also felt that perhaps it was time Zimbabweans repudiated governance by repressive pieces of legislation. They also felt that there was need for Zimbabweans to come up with parameters for 2005 elections.

# Land reform strategies and requirements



GERTRUDE HAMBIRA FROM GAPWUZ chaired the discussions. In her opening remarks, Hambira gave a clear insight of the current situation of farm workers in Zimbabwe. She said the poverty situation affecting the vast majority of farm workers in Zimbabwe was as a result of poor remuneration, which she said is currently pegged at only \$130 000 per month. She also cited the HIV/AIDS situation in the farming sector. Due to poverty and lack of adequate knowledge on the pandemic, the HIV/AIDS situation has increased significantly. Child labour in the agricultural sector is on the increase due to poverty, orphanage due to HIV/AIDS and the quest for cheap labour largely by the new black commercial farmers.

Hambira also expressed dissatisfaction on the low level of farm workers' inclusion in the agrarian reform in the country. She was touched by the fact that farm workers, who have the farming expertise are generally sidelined from the process as they are said to be allies with the white commercial farmers who in turn are said to be bent on derailing the government's Land Reform Programme.

### Farm worker testimonies

Hambira's speech was consolidated by various testimonies from farm workers who were drawn largely from Harare and Rusape. These included various men, women and the working children in the agricultural sector. These farm workers gave the following as the problems they encounter in their day-to-day activities;

- •Late payment of terminal benefits in the event that a farm has been acquired for resettlement;
- Bribing and extortion from government-sponsored splinter unions;
- •Evictions if they refuse to work for the incoming new farmers;
- Children surviving on illegal activities such as gold panning,

selling cigarettes, cross border trade, theft and prostitution;

- They are denied their traditional farm cemeteries for the burial of their relatives;
- They are denied access to clean water;
- Others are forced to work longer hours than those stipulated in the agricultural statutory instruments, usually for lower wages or risk eviction;
- Increase in child labour to cushion family incomes;
- Closure of farm schools and clinics and;
- They are benefiting less from the NSSA and AIDS levies, as they do not have identity documents.

### Resolutions

There are a number of resolutions that were made during the discussion which include:

- •That stakeholders at the 2004 Social Forum push the govern ment to reintroduce free primary education to curb the increase in child labour;
- That every participant present should encourage others to fight against all forms of oppression in the country;
- That there must be stringent measures to ensure transparency and accountability in the distribution of antiretroviral drugs and Aids levies in the country;
- That the land reform exercise in Zimbabwe should not be over until every Zimbabwean has benefited from it and until all corruption is rooted out.
- That such social forums should be organized at various dis tricts, provinces and should target different groups of people in society.
- $1. \ \ General \ Agriculture \ and \ Plantation \ Workers \ Union \ of \ Zimba \\ bwe.$

# Public Meeting report: 28 October 2004



### **Presenters**

Cde M.Gwisai ISO
Dr L.Madhuku NCA
Mr B.Kagoro Crisis
Coalition
Ms R. Nyamupinga ZCTU
Mr R.Mtutu ZSF
Chair-

### **Perspectives**

The presenters were agreed on the need to take socio-economic issues as central to the struggle in Zimbabwe. Dr Madhuku argued that the NCA strongly believed in the inclusion of second generation (socio-economic) rights in the constitution so that they cease to be subject to contestation but given. Madhuku said he would persuade "the poverty movement" to rally behind the NCA in demanding space to make a new constitution.

Kagoro agreed with Madhuku on the need to include socio-economic rights in the constitution. Fundamentally, people must celebrate and consolidate gained spaces like the social forum, especially on the background of POSA, AIPPA etc. Issues of peasantry engagement and workers rights must become the main focus on the Zimbabwean struggle.

Gwisai celebrated the social forum and spoke to the necessities of the people in demand their rights. Particularly at this time when people talk of a regime change, the regime must not be a blood sucking capitalist entity, but one whose agenda is driven by the masses - the poor. He urged participants to plan a more massive 2005 forum and to participate in the Africa Social Forum in Zambia.

Rita Nyampinga (ZCTU) framed her presentation in the gender dimension where she narrated the roles of women in the communal farming areas-child rearing, water hewing and cooks etc. In the urban context, she spoke to the question of improved conditions for women- arguing that women suffer the double tragedy of being oppressed by capitalists and by men. Thus, women's oppression had to be an

agenda at the social forum.

The Chairperson of the meeting, had explained and provided the history of the social forum.

People gave solidarity speeches celebrating the hosting of the event and encouraging comrades to hold a more powerful 2005 event.

# Highlights

- Land to the poor not politicians
- •Free health to the people
- Open the airwaves
- Cancel debt
- Free Education
- Reduce Income tax
- Dismantle patriarchy
- Free and fair electionsRepeal unjust laws
- Restore the demands of the
- liberation struggle

# People's struggles against debt

Cross-border traders opened the Debt, Trade and Financial Inflows Cluster with a plea for civil society to rally behind them in seeking and achieving economic independence. They were reeling under the burden of being taken for granted by a number of entities including countries through which they traded, and in the process strengthened.

Mr Tawanda, the Chairman of the Zimbabwe Cross-Border traders Association expressed grave concern that traders were recipients of a raw deal whichever way they looked as the countries whose economies they boosted through their activities did not appreciate and accommodate them, choosing instead to scorn and regale them, while their own governments had not put in place policies that could either encourage or strengthen them.

Mr Tawanda asked participants to join in their campaign to get fair treatment from government and to force government to abandon the import of cheap products from China as this was killing the trade for cross-border traders.

Mr Tinashe Gumbo from the Zimbabwe Council of Churches impassioned participants to give the church its rightful space next to civil society to both debate and complain about issues pertaining to the economies of the world. His message was that the church was an equal among all stakeholders that sought to change the world economic order as it, the church has another persona, that of the businessman, the

landowner and the citizen. It was only fair, therefore, that it should also be allowed to join forces with civil society in creating a new world order.

Mr Gumbo evoked several scriptures that clearly described God's wished with regards to debt and its cancellation. He said there was overwhelming evidence and motivation to have all the unjust debts of the world cancelled, and said the church would stand by any

movements and any calls for the cancellation of unpayable debts and support for social and economic justice.

Tirivangani Matazu from AFRODAD1 made a presentation on the establishment of a Fair and Transparent Arbitration (FTA) Court as a solution to Africa's debt crisis which has impacted negatively on the continent's development process.

The rationale for the establishment of an Arbitration court was cited as follows:

The existence of divergent views which are not reconcilable:

There are divergent or opposite views between the Debtors and the Creditors that should be subjected to Arbitration. These include:

i). The absolute need for cancellation of official bilateral and multilateral debts:

While the debtors have made undisputed and legitimate claims and demands for debt cancellation, the creditors on the other hand claim that debt cancellation is not the action needed to resolve the problem. So the question of whether or not there should be debt cancellation presents itself as a clear subject of arbitration. The Calls for debt cancellation have been made in the following contexts (to name a few):

Jubilee 2000 movement, which collected millions of signatures from all over the world calling for total debt cancellation. The Call was ignored by the Creditor governments and international Financial

Institutions.

The Secretary General's Report of December 2000 to the Financing for Development Preparatory Committee Meetings noted the difficult situation of debt confronting severely indebted low-income countries; no matter how skilled their economic management is. The Report noted that there are cases where debt cancellation could be called for.

ii). Reassigning the responsibility for the Debt crisis and burden partitioning where that might be necessary.

Currently, the assumption of the current Debt relief Initiatives is that the Debtor countries are solely responsible for the crisis. While accepting part of the responsibility, due to lack of proper debt management, corruption and other shortcomings, the Debtors point to the large impact of the external factors that have been identified to have contributed to the Debt crisis including the existence of a global trade regime in which the Debtor countries continue to suffer declines in terms of trade and ongoing lack of global market access; natural disasters and factors introduced by inappropriate policy advice by IMF and the World Bank as well as the push factors in lending, to mention a few. Creditors never seen to be part of the problem, which they obviously are.

 $1\ A frican\ Forum\ and\ Network\ on\ Debt$  and Development.



# Reflections from the Youth Camp

When it happened minds came together. Struggles converged like many rivulets forming a powerful river. Floating hopes joined to become an unstoppable Hope. It all flowed towards the future.

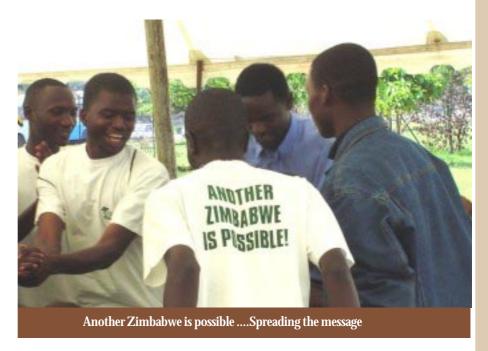
This was the force of the just-ended Zimbabwe Social Forum as thousands of radical spirits came together in central Harare. Problems were attacked, common struggles found. Visions of The Society We Want abounded, strategies were laid out. The future was on the horizon, it felt.

The Powers-That-Shouldn't-Be had tried to stop the event. The police denied us 'permission' to host the forum. But the future does not ask for permission. Ourstory does not seek clearance. The fattened spider sat in the centre of its' web of power always fears the hordes of other spiders ready to sew new, diverse power webs. But the webs were already knitted. Months of meetings, endless hours of planning, ever-expanding networks. The webs were already knitted. Believing in the importance more of the process than the event our months of meetings were open, transparent and directly democratic. Those of us creating the Freedom Youth Camp to be held at the ZSF believed the tools we use must build the house we want. So FYC meetings were held with the fighting words of horizontality and participation. We sewed new webs of power, webs that empower.

The three day event was an eruption of diversity. The Freedom Youth Camp was a space where hundreds of young radicals had fiery discussions on sexism, grassroots democracy, non-violent direct action, alternative youth culture and a web of other subversive realities. In the camp the Students' Solidarity Trust hosted a heated discussion on 'Student Vicimisation' which saw youths erupting into

toyi toyi war dances before sitting down, sweaty, and looking at the history of Zim university students in struggles against Rhodesian colonialism followed by IMF-imposed structural adjustment programmes and now a brutal bourgeois black regime. New forms of organisation were the key words as students at the discussion talked of the need to organise grassroots, out-

charge of everything from their water to their schools. The 2001 Argentinian social rebellion came to people's minds as Argentinians rose up against the IMF and a corrupt government and began to run their communties and factories. Youths at the discussion then broke into deliciously democratic groups and came up with strategies for building democracy from the



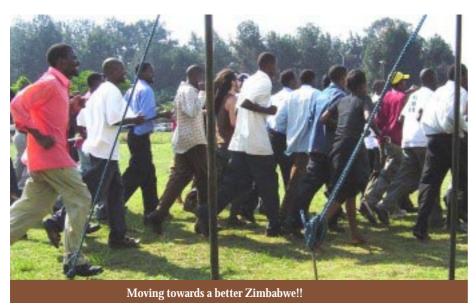
side of the traditional hierarchies.

The debate on 'Grassroots Democracy' facilitated by ZIYSAP saw youth giving birth to visions of community democracy where communities control the decisions that affect them and the resources around them. This is democracy that doesn't rely on distant 'leaders' but empowers communities to run their own lives with community assemblies and committees in

grassroots. Ideas blossomed. Community discussion groups, economic co-operatives, radical drama groups.. 'Alternative Youth Culture' was another inspired event at the camp where young rebel artists held a mock talk-show talking about corporate exploitation of artists and Zanu PF politicians' use of musicians for their power-hungry dreams. The hip hop groups gathered on stage rapped about the need for young artists to counter this through Do-It-Yourself style recording and promotion while keeping the message socially conscious and anti-commercial.

At the same time other tents saw young workers gathering to fight for a living wage, economic justice activists attacking debt and capitalist trade, HIV/AIDS activists shouting about their need for free anti-retroviral drugs, constitutional militants strategising on how to win a new people-centred constitution... The future was being born.

The Forum culminated in feelings of hope. Webs were woven uniting the oppressed as many struggles became one. Capitalism, patriarchy and centralised power were surrounded by these webs. Social justice and economic justice became fighting words linking one soul to another. A grassroots movement was born. The fattened spider should be wriggling in fear.



Volume 2, Issue 8

7

# The state of local government

### **Proceedings**

The Zimbabwe United Residents Association (ZURA), the umbrella body of all residents associations in Zimbabwe convened a meeting which drew residents from Harare, Chitungwiza, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland East.

## **Background**

Mr Masimba Ruzvidzo facilitated the discussions. He began by introducing the ZURA to the participants and highlighted the main reasons behind the formation of the organisation. He noted that all the people in this country are residents and therefore are affected in one way or the other by the laws governing the local authorities. The fact that local leaders and Members of Parliament are voted into office by the residents indicates the vital role residents play in influencing the direction of their country. He said ZURA had noted a number of anomalies that needed the serious attention of residents and these were:

- (a) The Urban Councils Act
- (b)Health Delivery systems
- (c) Budget Formulations
- (d)Gender mainstreaming.

He said the core business of ZURA is to unite all Residents' Associations and city fathers towards a dialogue and train them on choosing their councilors, how to understand the operations of the Local Authorities and how to fully participate in the production of budgets.

### Issues of concern

During the discussions the following emerged as issues of concern:

- [1] Non collection of refuse by the Council
- [2] Critical shortages of water
- [3] Poor drainage systems
- [4] Poor health delivery services
- [5] The continued interference of the Minister in local governance issues
- [6] Lack of knowledge on the Urban Councils' Act
- [7] Lack of operational budgets
- [8] Lack of consultation
- [9] No access to information
- [10] Council views residents



associations as a threat

[11] Political interference.

It was also noted that there is polarisation of civic affairs in local government and that residents lacked knowledge of their rights and roles.

Since the inception of ZURA in 1999, the organisation has managed to hold workshops countrywide on the Audit of the Urban Councils Act (Chapter 29:15) and other related legislation.

### Recommendations

- Residents associations should meet the Council regularly.
- •Residents should be accorded the power of recall as enshrined in the Ur ban Councils' Act.
- •Residents should demand to be con sulted in policy formulations.
- •Councilors should have a clear under standing of the residents issues.
- •When councilors are elected into of fice they should do away with party politics.
- •ZURA must carry out civic education workshops involving civic leaders and the residents and local authorities.
- •Encourage residents to effectively par ticipate in the formulation of the Coun cil budgets and other issues in the local authorities.
- •Encourage politicians to separate civic politics with party politics.
- Hold some awareness campaigns on

citizenship rights.

- Creation of platforms on smart part nerships on Local Governance between Residents Associations and Local Au thorities.
- Formation of Residents Associations in centers that do not have Residents Associations.
- ●That every Zimbabwean regardless of which organisation they come from still remains a resident and therefore should come together with others to fight against oppressive laws that are en shrined in the Urban Councils' Act.

# Men use culture to evade Home Based Care

As the HIV/AIDS scourge continues to claim lives uncontrollably, Zimbabweans have had no choice but to seek coping mechanisms. One of the HIV/AIDS coping mechanisms is Home Based Care. Home Based Care is all about nurturing and caring for the HIV/AIDS infected in a home environment. It involves bathing them, giving them some medication, food, clothing, loving them, giving them hope and making them feel very much appreciated even in their circumstances.

Culturally, caring for the sick has long been held as women's business. The Home Based Care discussion at the Zimbabwe Social Forum saw male participants expressing concern that it was difficult for them to be involved in home based care issues as the whole process was voluntary, there were no monetary benefits and participation would challenge or compromise their macho status.

The participants noted that most Home Based Care givers tend to be single women. They argued that these volunteers be given salaries as they risked infection through interacting with HIV/AIDS patients. The National Aids Council was urged to re-examine its practice of allocating funds to District Aids Councils because the money was not reaching the intended beneficiaries. The general feeling among participants was that the money should go directly to the concerned workers and not organisations that deal with such cases. It was agreed that the Home Based Care givers be paid \$1.5 million per month as a minimum salary.

There was, however a danger in both husband and wife being volunteer care givers as this would ultimately endanger and even destroy the traditional family circle where the husband is supposed to be the head of the family. Female participants argued that nobody should get compensated as they have been doing the job for years voluntarily. And men reiterated that Home Based Care was a female domain.

# Access to HIV/AIDS/Global Fund

THE MAIN TOPICS FORDISCUSSION WERE:

- (i) Opportunistic Infections
- (ii) Access to treatment
- (iii) Coping mechanisms

The participants were divided into groups for the purposes of discussing pertinent issues with regards to their livelihoods as people affected by and infected with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA). The following questions guided the group discussions:

- •How are opportunistic infections being managed?
- •Was there access to the Anti-retroviral or other essential drugs?
- What are the coping mechanisms being employed?

This is the feedback from group rapporteurs:

### **Group One**

The group rapporteur cited corruption at the National AIDS Council which was said to have had a cascading effect down to the health workers at the community clinics. Corruption was cited as the reason behind the acute shortage of drugs, the consequent prohibitive overpricing and the emergence of the black market. The presenter argued that due to poverty, sufferers opted for the cheaper, no-known-origin drugs at the informal market. Concern was also raised on the lack of support from various Non Governmental Organisations (NGOs) involved in HIV/AIDS issues. Despite efforts initiated to contact some of these NGOs, there was no positive response. On the 3 by 5 approach which was set up by the World Health Organisation, the presenter noted that already statistics showed that less than 5000 people are currently on ARV treatment, against a target of 3 million, and this was attributed to corruption within the leadership of the mother body. A proposal to monitor community health workers who are causing untold suffering or even death to patients was reiterated.

As a way forward, it was suggested that it would be prudent for those living with HIV/AIDS to protest to the government for HIV/AIDS information rights, food, access to free drugs and contingency money in order to set up

herbal gardens. It was also agreed that it was important to access freely, X-Rays for opportunistic infections like TB.



### **Group Two**

The presenter outlined the need to lobby government to provide free drugs for both opportunistic infections and ARVs. Also, the need to use media to propagate critical information on HIV/AIDS was raised, accompanied by the call for the establishment of more testing centers. The group stressed the importance of presenting a position paper to the government so that it looks into pertinent issues concerning the welfare of the infected. An example of accommodation was given where people were evicted every other month by their landlords on suspicion or confirmation of health status. The destination of the AIDS levy was seen as having been compromised, thus allowing resources to be diverted to fund sports programmes or ending up in the rich men's pockets, vindicating their earlier call to the authorities to ensure that office bearers of specific-sector departments like the National AIDS Council should always be drawn from the PLWHA1 themselves, since they are the ones who have a personal touch with their fellows.

Participants also expressed concern with NGOs that invited only the leadership from

other sister NGOs to discuss issues of HIV/AIDS, neglecting the PLWHA to offer living testimony of what their expectations are. The speaker concluded by saying that it had taken too long for the government to act on what it had labeled a National Disaster.

# **Group three**

The presenter concurred with the previous ones on the issue of their right to free drugs and noted that it was sad to note that community health workers found patients nauseating (kusema), resulting in more deaths as a result of being turned away or improperly diagnosed or treated. On how they are coping, the presenter said that the food they were getting did not correspond to their particular requirements, and suspected that what was meant for them was being looted by corrupt and undeserving people. The presenter then suggested the establishment of a body corporate immediately to administer the essential drugs and food. It was stressed to review the National HIV/AIDS Policy to meet current challenges, such as decentralization of testing centers because most rural regions have nothing of the sort. The presenter questioned why the government had done very little to assist the infected, yet HIV/AIDS had been declared a National disaster.

A representative of the National Railways of Zimbabwe employees in the Bulawayo Region said that it was the right of citizens, especially the PLWHA to regularly monitor how the AIDS Levy was being used, while saying that authorities were supposed to implement preventive measures to those who are HIV negative, since they constitute the majority of the population (approximately 70%). He also suggested that the government should leave the administration of the AIDS Levy to either employers or the respective workers unions, since they are the ones who are immediate to concerns of employees or fellow workers. What was baffling, he noted, was that not more than 10 companies were providing ARV drugs at clinics at workplaces. As a way forward, he advised the PLWHA to lobby for the establishment of such clinics in return for workers' solidarity with their employers' struggle for tax reductions by the government.

The facilitator, in closing, gave the participants a task to work on the modalities they would employ to air out their concerns to policy-makers and or relevant authorities.

1 People Living With HIV/AIDS.



# nother Zimbabwe is Possible!

Volume 2, Issue 8