



Zimbabwe Council of Churches

Voices of Hope



Newsletter

Aug-Sept 2024 Issue



Follow us on :<https://zccinzim.org/about-us/>



A Symphony of Peace: Nurturing Unity and Hope in Our Community



Peace! Peace! Peace!
 Don't be told that there's Peace
 But feel it as it fills you.
 Tutu cried it Begins with You!!
 Leave not Peace but live It.
 Are you at peace with yourself
 Before you cry for Peace.
 Is the church a haven of solace
 Before it champions it in the pulpit.
 Before it is involved in Peace accords

Is there Peace in a poor family
 With an empty table and a deserted barn.
 Children send home for tuitions
 On bare feet and torn satchels
 Is there any Peace if the prophet says my brother bewitched me.
 My mother's spirit is causing economic abortion.
 Yet my membership is maintained not by faith but offetory.
 Brothers and sisters no longer see each other.
 There is:
 War in the kitchen
 War in the bedroom
 War in jail
 and war in church.
 Greedy and selfish leaders
 Never considers Peace for the vassals
 Ceasefire with garrisons ready to attack.

“No Peace if my lithium is siphoned against my will
 No Peace if Africa is still a testing ground for pharmaceuticals
 No Peace if modernity is the standard.
 No Peace if I'm ruled by a ruler of deceit
 No Peace if drugs are brought in by these in power.
 And the Ghetto use is dubbed Drug and Substance Abuse
 Why Peace if they ululate for rice.
 Why Peace if taxation is pinching the economic nose.
 Corruption singing lullaby to the judge
 Still forced to be friends of Moscow, Hezbollah, Hamas, and
 Bakongo.
 No Peace at all

Peace in spirituality and theology
 Peace on the economy
 Peace in the society
 Peace in parliament
 Peace of the mind

Peace Peace Peace
 I cry for you
 As elusive as a butterfly
 My cry for Peace
 To:
 Everything
 Everywhere
 You and me
 Until the shackles of mental slavery break lose

written by Rev
 Tangisai
 Surupu ZCC-
 LEF
*Villagepoet@Athlonic@gmail.
 com2024.*



ZCC Hosts Day of Prayer for Peace in Mutare



ZCC General Secretary W.Dimingu with other LEF leaders during the peace prayer

On 21 September 2024, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) Mutare Local Ecumenical Fellowship (LEF) held a Day of Prayer for Peace at Sakubva Beithall in Mutare, marking the International Day of Peace. The event drew church leaders, congregants, and community members together in a powerful expression of unity and faith, as Zimbabwe continues to navigate its complex socio-political landscape.

The highlight of the event was a keynote address delivered by ZCC General Secretary, Rev. Wilfred Dimingu, who spoke passionately about the critical role of the Church in promoting peace, justice, and inclusivity in Zimbabwe. He urged the gathered faithful to reflect on the current state of the nation and the responsibility each person holds in contributing to peacebuilding efforts.

Rev. Dimingu’s speech resonated with the central theme of the day, which was to inspire collective action and encourage dialogue on how Zimbabwe can build a future rooted in peace and reconciliation. The gathering underscored the Church’s role as a beacon of hope, using the platform to demonstrate the unifying power of prayer and shared values in overcoming the challenges facing the country.

The Day of Prayer for Peace was not just a symbolic gesture but a call to action, urging the nation to seek peaceful resolutions to conflicts and to work together in creating an environment where justice and unity can flourish.



Participants following the proceedings during the peace prayer day in Mutare





Buhera Communities Express Frustration Over Chinese Lithium Mining



Sabi Star Mine billboard in Buhera, Manicaland province Zimbabwe

Local communities in Buhera District are growing increasingly frustrated with the operations of Sabi Star Mining, a Chinese company owned by Max Mind Investment.

The lithium mining project has ignited concerns over environmental damage, human rights violations, and unfulfilled promises affecting the communities where the mining is taking place.

During a recent community dialogue organised by the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) and the Center for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG), villagers voiced their discontent with the mining company's practices.

Residents expressed deep concern about the treatment of mine workers, including allegations of rights violations and arbitrary dismissals.

“Vashandi vanobatwa senhapwa kuMine uko apa mari yavanotambira haienderane nebasa ravanoita. Vana vashungurudzwa” (Mine workers are treated like slaves at the mine and the wages they get does not translate to the work they do)

Environmental concerns also dominated the discussion, with dust pollution emerging as a significant health hazard, particularly for children and the elderly. The community highlighted the severe impact of dust on their well-being and the need for more effective measures to mitigate its effects.

“Tanzwa neguruva mazuva ose, hapana zororo. Matrucks anotakura lithium haamiri kufamba apo havadi kugadzira mugwagwa. Dai vaisa havo tara kuti tisakwara neguruva” We are suffering daily due to dust from the roads caused by the ever-present trucks transporting lithium from the mine. Why can't they put tarmac surfaces to reduce the dust).

Furthermore, unfulfilled promises made by the mining company have deepened the sense of disillusionment among residents. Relocated villagers have faced reduced living standards, with residential stands shrinking from 450 to 350 square meters and many houses remaining incomplete.

“The mining company lied to us, the residential stands they promised us as relocation packages are not what is on the ground. People are given small pieces of land and cannot do anything in those tiny spaces. Livelihood activities have been affected,” said one villager.

The dialogue also revealed that political tensions have complicated efforts to address the community's genuine concerns. Employment opportunities at the mine are often influenced by political affiliations rather than merit, exacerbating social divisions.



Cont'

Beyond the tangible issues, the dialogue highlighted the unresolved psychosocial wounds inflicted on the community. Many residents have had to endure the reburial of loved ones due to mining operations, leaving lasting emotional scars.

As the situation in Buhera continues to unfold, it is evident that the lithium mining project has had a profound impact on the local community. The dialogue serves as a platform for villagers to voice their concerns and demand accountability from the mining company and government authorities.

SADC People's Summit Calls for Regional Transformation



Panelists including SAPSN Director J.Zhou , ZCC Bishop Khanye reading the Communique during the press conference

The Southern African People's Solidarity Network (SAPSIN) hosted its annual People's Summit in Harare from August 15-16, 2024, bringing together over 500 delegates from various sectors across Southern Africa.

The summit, themed 'Reclaiming SADC for Peoples Development,' focused on building people power, voice, and agency towards democracy and inclusion.

Inspired by the scripture, Isaiah 1:17, participants discussed pressing issues such as tax-induced inequalities, climate change, democracy, and human rights. The Zimbabwe Council of Churches, through its Church, Peace, and Just Societies department, joined other civil society organisations in conducting side sessions on these topics.

A key outcome of the summit was a communique highlighting the need for a just and equitable global tax architecture that benefits the SADC region.

Participants emphasized the importance of sustainable exploitation of mineral resources and the need to address the negative impacts of tax-induced inequalities.

Democracy and human rights were also central themes. Participants called on SADC Heads of State and Government to preserve open and constitutional democracies and ensure the establishment of sustainable living conditions for all.

They emphasized the importance of political stability for economic prosperity and called for the respect of civic space in member states. The summit also addressed economic justice issues, recognizing the barriers to economic growth, justice, and regional development posed by increased inequalities and poverty.

Participants urged SADC leaders to prioritise social services, address illicit financial flows, and promote regional integration through the free movement of goods and people.

The future of young people in the SADC region was another key focus. Participants called for investment in youth empowerment, including job creation, entrepreneurship opportunities, and access to capital and markets. They also emphasised the need for an accessible and decolonised education system and the importance of including young people in decision-making processes.

The SADC People's Summit provided a platform for civil society organizations and individuals to raise their voices and advocate for a more just, equitable, and inclusive Southern Africa.

The communique developed by SAPSN offers valuable recommendations for SADC leaders to consider as they work towards a more prosperous and sustainable region.

Church urged to take a lead in addressing issues affecting the country

The Church was urged to take a leading role in addressing a myriad of issues bedeviling the country amid potential political tension that might arise due to the clarion call from some sections in the ruling party calling for the extension of the President E.D Mngagwa term of office beyond 2028.

The calls were made during the recently held Partners' Conference at the Kentucky Hotel in Harare, where the ZCC was reviewing its Accelerating National Dialogue to Reinforce Opportunities for Inclusive Development (ANDROID) 2 strategy.

Discussions on the importance of unity in a politically charged environment topped the agenda with concerns over the possible annihilation of the constitution to pave the way for President E.D. Mngagwa to extend his term of office beyond 2028.

The Church was urged to lead the discussions of making sure that the people's constitution is respected and there is a smooth transition of power within the political space.

Additionally, the Church was urged to facilitate dialogue on historical grievances, particularly the Gukurahundi atrocities. Attendees stressed the need to nationalize this issue to ensure healing for victims across affected provinces.

"Gukurahundi is not a Matabeleland issue but a national issue. Many people were equally affected by Gukurahundi in Mashwest–Hurungwe and Midlands provinces," said Prof Sifiso Mpfu.

The partners also called upon the Church to lead discussions to eliminate the politicization of food aid as more than 6 million people in the country have been affected by the El-Nino induced drought and require food.



Partners and ZCC secretariat during the 2024 partners conference

The partners further emphasised the need for the Church to reshape the negative narrative hindering humanitarian funding.

ZCC's advocacy efforts, including engagement with the government and participation in national processes like the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's mid-term review, were recognised as vital steps toward a hopeful future. Despite facing resistance, the Church's commitment to dialogue remains steadfast.

As a moral authority in Zimbabwe, ZCC must take the lead in addressing these pressing concerns. The conference served as a platform for fostering unity and exploring solutions to the nation's challenges.



ZCC Applauds Government’s Move to Scrap VAT on meat products



File picture of Meat products scraped on VAT

The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) commended the government for scraping Value Added Tax (VAT) on meat products, calling it a ‘positive step for the nation.’

This announcement follows numerous calls to the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to reconsider the 2024 budget, which heavily relies on taxes and is seen as detrimental to the poor.

ZCC has been actively conducting the Zacchaeus tax campaign for the past quarter, aligning with its broader efforts to raise awareness about the country's monetary policies.

Speaking at the Fiscal Insights Forum in Harare recently, organized by the Southern Africa Parliamentary Support Trust (SAPST) in collaboration with ZCC and the University of Zimbabwe, ZCC President Bishop Ignatius Makumbe highlighted that the government’s response demonstrates the church’s deep concern for the nation and its commitment to offering constructive advice.

“We are pleased that the government is heeding some of our recommendations positively. The recent removal of VAT on meat products is a commendable step by the government. As the Church, we will continue to advise the government,” Bishop Makumbe said.

The removal of VAT is expected to reduce retail prices, making these essential food items more accessible, particularly for low-income families.

This initiative also addresses the pressing issues of malnutrition and food insecurity, providing vital resources to those most vulnerable.

The move will alleviate the burden on low-income families currently struggling to make ends meet due to the effects of the El Niño-induced drought.



ZCC Calls for Improved Transparency and Accountability in Zimbabwe



ZCC Bishops and other stakeholders at the Fiscal Insights Forum

The Zimbabwe Council of Churches delegation, led by President Bishop Ignatius Makumbe advocated for increased transparency and accountability within the country to cultivate trust among both local and international communities.

The delegation was part of the participants that attended the inaugural Fiscal Insights Forum, which was hosted by the Southern Africa Parliamentary Support Trust (SAPST) in collaboration with the University of Zimbabwe, aimed at promoting meaningful dialogue on public finance management (PFM) issues among key stakeholders.

The meeting was graced by key stakeholders which included the Ministry of Finance, Economic Development and Investment (MoFED&IP); the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ), Parliament, Academia, Research Institutions, Business Community, Industry, and Civil Society.

Speaking at the same event, SAPST Director Israel Chilimanzi emphasized that good governance, inclusive budgeting, fiscal discipline, transparency, and accountability are essential for fostering fiscal growth and development. He highlighted the importance of the effective and efficient use of public resources as a critical factors in achieving these goals.

“Good governance, participatory budgeting, fiscal responsibility, transparency, and accountability are vital for driving fiscal growth and development. Utilizing public resources effectively and efficiently is key to reaching these objectives.”

The Church continued to issue out its voice, especially to issues, and policies that that have an impact on the Citizens.

“Our aim is to pursue dialogue towards addressing the systemic inequalities and financial injustices plaguing Zimbabwe drawing inspiration from biblical texts such as the Zacchaeus Story who went under profound transformation after recognizing the consequences of his exploitative practices,” said Bishop Makumbe.



KENTUCKY HOTEL
EST. 1963

About Us:
Kentucky hotel facility gives a modern and elegant touch that in can compete comfortably with other hotel and conferencing facilities in and around Harare. Kentucky Hotel provide a conducive spot for our customers to take a break from their various busy schedules to a place where they can find comfort and luxury.

Facilities

- Conference rooms
- Guest rooms
- Catering
- Venues

ACCOMODATION	CONFERENCING & CATERING	BREAKFAST, LUNCH & DINNER
Bed & breakfast (Singles) - \$85	Conference package - \$25 per head	Standard breakfast - \$10
Bed & breakfast (Double) - \$100	Venue Hire (50 guest) - \$100	Standard lunch - \$12
Bed only (Single) - \$55	Venue Hire (100 guest) - \$250	Standard dinner - \$12
Bed only (Double) - \$85	Venue Hire (200 guest) - \$350	
Apartment hire - \$35	Venue Hire (300 guest) - \$500	

CONTACT US:
www.kentuckycentre.com | +263 77 858 7231 | 27 St Patricks Rd, Hatfield, Harare | bookings@kentuckycentre.com
 @kentuckycentre | kentuckyhotel

Snippets/The Corner



“ We must prioritize localization, decolonize our strategies, and foster new forms of partnerships that empower our communities. ”

Grace Mugebe- Christian Aid Zimbabwe - Programmes Manager

“ We cannot sit back; the Church must lead in addressing issues of national concern—be they political, social, or economic. ”

Rev. W. Dimingu, ZCC General Secretary



“ The Church needs to lead in reshaping the negative narrative surrounding the politicization of food and how it impacts funding ”

Johann Singer - Bread of the World



A flyer showcasing the Work ZCC is doing in various communities across Zimbabwe



“ We need increased citizen activism and participation in civic engagement to safeguard our democratic principles, ”

Mrs Daphine Mudarikwa- ZCC Board Treasurer

For just and Peaceful Societies

Compiled and designed by :Yeukai Kaponda , ZCC -CPJS Communications

Edited by :Davison Marenga ,ZCC MEAL



Zimbabwe Council of Churches
