



NPRC WATCH

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STAKEHOLDERS, FRIENDS AND PARTNERS

In this Edition

In the month of October, the call for a national dialogue which is inclusive and breaks political boundaries reach an all-time high. This month saw the church represented by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) making a proposition for the suspension of elections for seven years to pave the way for political and economic reforms under a new structure which will be determined after consultation with the people of Zimbabwe. Despite the different views on the call for the sabbatical, what is clear is the realization that there is a desperate need for inclusive national dialogue in Zimbabwe to ensure sustainable peace. The National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) continues to support the call for national dialogue as a starting point for addressing the problems that plague our nation. In this newsletter, we highlight the recent developments in transitional justice in Zimbabwe to give you a clear picture of the transitional justice landscape in our country. We cover the work done by the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), the NTJWG and its stakeholders. We welcome your feedback.

IN THE NEWS

NPRC ACTIVITIES

Media Release

On the 6th of October 2019, The Standard newspaper published an article titled "Cracks Emerge in the NPRC over Funding." In that article, the newspaper alleged that the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) has been rocked by divisions with some commissioners said to be unhappy over the government's lack of commitment in addressing past human rights abuses and conflicts which was evident from allocation of inadequate funds for to the NPRC for its operations. The NPRC dismissed these claims in a media release on the 7th of October 2019 acknowledging that it is not well resourced but said this has nothing to do with the political will of the government. The NPRC went on to state that Treasury allocated \$2,463million to it in the 2019 budget and this figure was supplemented by the \$4,5million allocated to it in the 2019 supplementary budget. In concluding the media release the NPRC indicated that from the 16th of October 2019, it intended to kick start training of the Provincial Peace Committee members across the country. The NPRC also indicated that it intends to carry out exhumations and burials of

victims of past conflicts through-out the Matabeleland region as the first phase of the healing and reconciliation program. The NTJWG looks forward to the NPRC publicizing more information on these programs to enable citizens to fully participate in the processes.

Scenarios Planning Workshop

On the 29th of October 2019, the NPRC carried out a scenarios planning workshop in Bulawayo as part of its strategic planning workshop as part of its strategic process. The workshop aimed to enable the design of effective approaches for an effective healing and reconciliation program. The initiative was led by the Research and Knowledge Management Thematic Committee which is chaired by Commissioner Choice Ndoro. The outcomes of this workshop are expected to inform recommendations to be made to policy and decision-makers responsible for programs for nation-building.

Introduction of the Committee on Prevention and Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution and Transformation Department (CPMRT)

On the 30th of October 2019, the NPRC introduced its Committee on Prevention and Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution and Transformation Department (CPMRT). This committee's membership is comprised of technocrats, opinion leaders and other key stakeholders. The committee will be mandated to give policy guidance on conflict management, conflict prevention, conflict transformation and guarantee of non-recurrence.

Introduction of the Complaints Handling and Investigations Thematic Department

On the 30th of October 2019, the NPRC introduced the Complaints Handling and Investigations Thematic Department which is one of the five thematic departments of the NPRC. Its responsibilities are to receive, consider complaints from the public, take such actions regarding the complaints and to conduct investigations into any dispute or conflict within the mandate of the NPRC.

The complaints that the NPRC investigates are those human rights violations that result in the perpetuation of conflicts or disputes and conflicts or disputes arising from human rights violations. The Department has two separate components which will be dealt with separately and not jointly. These are the Complaints Handling System and the Investigations System. In the statement released by the NPRC, it undertook to publicize information on the practical steps involved in the Complaints Handling System.

This includes answers to the following question:

- Who is eligible to lodge a complaint?
- How is a complaint lodged?
- When is a complaint lodged?
- To what extent does the law of evidence and procedure apply in complaints handling and investigation, what are the legal implications of that?

The NTJWG encourages the NPRC to disseminate information about this Thematic Department as soon as possible to enable citizens to approach the Commission with



complaints to facilitate investigations and justice.

NTJWG ACTIVITIES

Community Dialogues

Between 24 September and 31 October 2019, the NTJWG convened meetings with victims based in Nyanga North, Tsholostho, Binga, Bikita and Marange bringing together 190 survivors of past atrocities. This shifted the NTJWG'S focus from the traditional survivors whom the Working Group had been working with in the past to engaging communities which have been affected by conflict and are doing TJ work on their own, including but not limited to victims of political violence, forced evictions, resource conflicts, *Gukurahundi* and operation *Murambatsvina*, among others who will be engaged for further initiatives in the future.

Full reports of the Nyanga and Tsholotsho community dialogues are available here: <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/Tsholotsho%20Community%20Dialogue%20on%20the%20Mandate%20of%20the%20NPRC%20Report.pdf> and here: <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/Nyanga%20North%20Community%20Dialogue%20Report.pdf>.

Radio Programs

On the 17th of October 2019, the NTJWG hosted a radio program in Bulawayo on Skyz-Metro Fm. It was themed **"Promoting a victim-centred approach in transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe"**. On the panel were Wellington Nkai, Shari Eppel from Ukuthula Trust and the NPRC Commissioner Netty Masanhu. The program was aimed at sensitizing the public on transitional justice processes by sparking conversation on victim-centeredness, what it looks like in practice and the role it plays in catalysing peace and reconciliation. To listen to the program you can visit <https://soundcloud.com/ntjwgzimbabwe/promoting-a-victim-centred-approach-in-tj-processes-in-zimbabwe>



On the 24th of October 2019, the NTJWG hosted another radio program in Masvingo on Hevoi-Fm. It was themed **"Establishing structures for non-recurrence of gross human rights violations in Masvingo"**. This program provided a platform for the Masvingo community to engage in transitional justice issues particular to that region. The programme also sought to clarify the mandate and strategy of the NPRC to ensure non-recurrence of gross human rights violations. On the panel were Wellington Nkai, Golden Maunganidze from Tell-Zim and NPRC Commissioner Patience Chiradza. This program can be accessed on <https://soundcloud.com/ntjwgzimbabwe/establishing-structures-for-non-recurrence-of-gross-human-rights-violations-in-masvingo>

Regional Process Monitoring Meetings

In the past month, the NTJWG carried-out regional process monitoring meetings in Harare and Bulawayo and on the 1st and 17th of October 2019, respectively. These meetings aimed to carry out a stakeholder mapping exercise to see who is doing what and where and give stakeholders a platform to discuss their operating context. During both meetings, participants expressed concern over the rapidly shrinking civil space in Zimbabwe and the apparent fear in communities that is sparked by talk of past violations. They, however, pointed out that there seems to be scope for working with the NPRC whenever its programs are in line with their programming. They commented that this could only be possible if the NPRC was willing to share its work plan to enable proper planning.

To know more about the Harare meeting, you can read the full report on <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/NTJWG%20Harare%20SemiAnnual%20Regional%20Process%20Monitoring%20Meeting%20Report.pdf>.

NPRC Briefing

On the 17th of October 2019, the NTJWG Chairperson Mr. Muchadehama met the NPRC Chairperson and Commissioners to present the NPRC Briefing. The Briefing addressed the NPRC's outstanding report and inclusion of survivors in the Provincial Peace Committees among other pertinent issues. This briefing can be accessed by visiting <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/NPRC%20Briefing%20October%202019.pdf>

Archival Reference Group

On the 28th of October, the Archival Reference Group met. The meeting aimed to elect the group leader and to give members of the group an update on the state of the archive. Farisai Chaniwa from Media Monitors was chosen to be the Archival Reference Group leader. To read more about this meeting you can visit <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/ARCHIVAL%20REFERENCE%20GROUP%20MEETING%20Activity%20Report.pdf>

Thematic Committee Meetings

Following the recommendations of stakeholders during the Annual Stakeholders Conference to set up and operationalize the thematic committee the NTJWG convened thematic committee meetings in October. The Knowledge Management whose mandate is to build knowledge on transitional justice in Zimbabwe met on the 29th of October 2019 and the full report of the meeting can be accessed on: <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/KNOWLEDGE%20MANAGEMENT%20COMMITTEE%20MEETING%20Activity%20Report.pdf>.

The Gender Committee which is mandated to give transitional justice in Zimbabwe a gender lens convened a meeting on the 30th of October 2019 and Abigail Matsvayi of Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA) was elected as the thematic leader. To know more about that meeting you can visit: <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/GENDER%20COMMITTEE%20MEETING%20ACTIVITY%20REPORT.pdf>.

NTJWG Quarterly Meeting

On the 31st of October 2019, the NTJWG met for the third time this year to evaluate its work done in the second quarter so that it is informed on how it should proceed into the final quarter. During the meeting, the new NTJWG members were introduced to the rest of the NTJWG members and they presented the reports of the thematic committees they lead. The new members of the NTJWG are:

- Dr.Frances Lovemore as the Thematic Leader on Reparations and Rehabilitation;
- Abigail Matsvayi as the Thematic Leader on Gender;
- Wellington Nkai as the Thematic Leader of the Survivors' Group and
- Otto Saki, although not a new member has a new portfolio, as the chairperson of the International Advisory Board.

The NTJWG also managed to evaluate activities done in the 3rd quarter of 2019. The meeting was attended by eight NTJWG members and four members of the Forum Secretariat. The full report for this meeting is available on <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/October%20NTJWG%20Quarterly%20Meeting%20Report.pdf>.

FEEDBACK AND THIS NEWSLETTER

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