

**EDITORIAL**

## ZIMBABWE'S 5TH SOCIAL WORK DAY CELEBRATIONS

Since initiation at Bindura University in 2012, the celebrations to mark International Social Work Day (ISWD) have continued to grow in Zimbabwe. This year the main event on 15 April had two notable speakers, Dr Wairire from University of Nairobi and Dr Chikadzi from Wits University. It was held under the theme Promoting the Worthy and Dignity of Peoples focusing on Refugees and Displaced Persons.

Dr Wairire talked about the refugee crisis and the need to promote the dignity and worth of refugees and displaced persons. His opinion is that social workers must work with other professions to deal with these and other challenges like xenophobia and ethnic clashes.

Dr Chikadzi highlighted the challenges the social work community is facing in Zimbabwe. He proposed intellectual, policy and practice strategies.

In this newsletter you will find the full speech by Dr Wairire as well as another speech delivered by the Minister of Public Service. You will also read about several activities that were carried out as part of ISWD.



The newsletter takes this opportunity to welcome Mr. Muyambo who has joined as co-editor.

Until the next issue,

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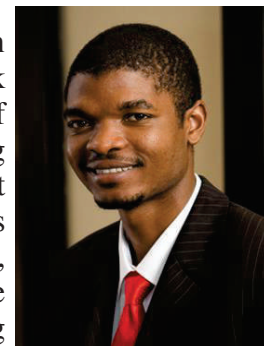
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## WORTH AND DIGNITY OF PEOPLE

DR GIDRAPH WAIRIRE SPEAKS...Full stor on Page 8

### • LET'S RECLAIM SOCIAL WORK, SAYS DR VICTOR CHIKADZI

It would be foolish to believe that in and of itself, the social work profession can prevent or resolve any of the complex challenges facing Africans; yet we must also not understate the important contributions that the social work educators, practitioners and the students make often under extremely challenging conditions.



Dr Chikadzi.

Whereas it is sometimes difficult to separate oneself from the general emotions associated with the feelings of some segments of the society when dealing with refugees and displaced persons, social workers must always strive to uphold their professional calling, commitment to social justice and respect for the worth, dignity and value of such client groups no matter the situation(s) that they may be in.

As such, it would be unprofessional for the social worker to allow himself/herself to be persuaded not to intervene for a refugee or displaced person in a crisis e.g xenophobia, ethnic clashes simply because the social worker's community, ethnic group, tribe, religion or any other identity feel that the refugees are denying them more opportunities to sustain their own livelihoods.

### HOW DO WE RECLAIM OUR PROFESSION - NOTES FROM DR CHIKADZI'S PRESENTATION

We have three arenas in which to perform this reclamation. These are the intellectual, the policy and the practice arena.

#### INTELLECTUAL ARENA

This refers to academics and thinkers who bring new thinking and systems into being. All progress is largely based on these people. When the intellectual project suffers all else suffers. In most progressive and highly developed societies, Universities and think tanks are the engine rooms for new ideas, systems and strategies.

#### POLICY ARENA

Policy making is the most important pillar in social welfare service delivery. Paints a clear picture about What? Why? How? When? Who? Without this we will have a lot of activities but with very little progress.

#### PRACTICE ARENA

The intellectual and policy arena determine what happens at the practice level. If these two are broken there is no way we can have a fully functional and effective practice terrain.

# 5th SOCIAL WORK DAY ACTIVITIES



(c)2016

## International Social Workers Day - April 2016

### Media Briefing:

The National Association of Social Workers in Zimbabwe President Mr Zinyanya addressed 7 journalists from Herald, H-Metro, Newsday, Zimpapers and Kwayedza, at NASW-Z Head offices. The purpose of the media briefing was to notify the media on the planned activities for the International Social Work Day.

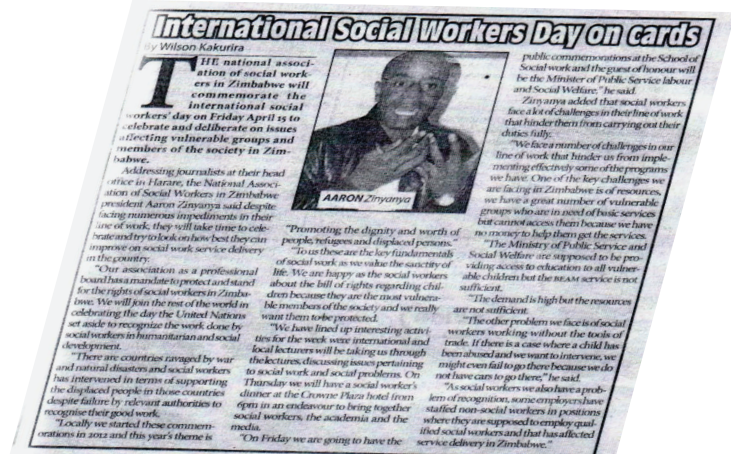
NASW-Z president indicated that despite numerous challenges being faced in the social work profession the Association will take time to look on how best service delivery can be improved in the country.

Mr. Zinyanya indicated that Social Workers had done a lot in terms of raising awareness among the people as social workers, in supporting the vulnerable groups. The president added that there are many social workers working in hospital settings, prisons, private sector and civil society organizations protecting and supporting people in needy of care.

Mr. Zinyanya indicated that World Social Workers Day was set aside by the United Nations 33 years ago. He indicated that the day was celebrated as a realization that social work has a critical role in the promotion of social and economic equalities and striving for a people focused and regulated economy.



President Mr. Zinyanya





## University of Zimbabwe Guest Lecture:

On the 12th of April 2016, Dr. Chikadzi conducted a one hour guest lecture at the University of Zimbabwe, School of Social Work. About 200 participants composed of Social Work Educators and students attended the lecture. Dr. Chikadzi presented on the topic titled “Reclaiming Social Work . The presentation focused on the intellectual, policy and practice arenas.

He indicated that in Zimbabwe there is a critical shortage of think tanks within the Social Work profession. He specified that think tanks are critical as they bring cutting edge ideas to the table and do research that is practically relevant and responsive to challenges facing communities. He further elaborated that there is need for Social Workers to move from giving people fish and teaching people how to fish to the transformation of the fishing industry.



*Guest Lecture: Dr Chikadzi presenting at UZ*

## Women s University in Africa, Guest Lecture:

In the afternoon of the same day, the Guest Speaker and NASW-Z Secretariat travelled to Women’s University where the second guest lecture was conducted. About 150 participants including students and professionals from various disciplines such as social work, sociology and psychology attended the lecture.

Dr. Chikadzi presented on the same topic “Reclaiming Social Work. He emphasized that there is no coherent social welfare policy in Zimbabwe and that there is need for a Coherent National Social Welfare Policy.



*Guest Lecture: Dr Chikadzi presenting at WUA*

## Bindura University of Science Education, Guest Lecture:

The last Guest Lecture was conducted at Bindura University of Science Education on the 13th of April 2016. Dr Chikadzi presented on “Reclaiming Social Work . About 120 people including the University administration staff, Lecturers, students and other professionals from civil society organizations attended the guest lecture.

Dr. Chikadzi stressed on the fact that there is a broken intellectual and policy systems in Zimbabwe that has negatively impacted the practice terrain.



*Guest Lecture: Dr Chikadzi presenting at BUSE*

## International Social Workers Day Dinner:



*“Dr Wairire donates books to Mr Zinyanya (President)”*

The dinner was held on the 14th of April at Crowne Plaza hotel in Harare. There was a huge turnout of 106 delegates from various organisations including World Education International (WEI), Department of Child Welfare and Probation Services, UNICEF, Child Protection Society, Schools of Social Work, Mavambo Orphan Care, Family Support Trust and the Council of Social Workers.

Dr Gumbo, a seasoned Social Worker and a former Lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe - School of Social Work was very glad to officially open the Social Workers' dinner. Dr Gumbo is the Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Women's Affairs Gender and Community Development. She emphasized on the importance of Social workers in community development. Dr V. Chikadzi and Dr G. Wairire were the Guest Speakers who co-presented during the ISWD dinner. Dr Chikadzi stressed on the need to rethink about the social welfare terrain in Zimbabwe. He highlighted that in Zimbabwe there is no legal framework which guides social welfare

provision but rather there are just piece meals of legislation. He pointed out that in South Africa there is the White Paper which is the blue print that governs the operations of both the private and public sector in a well monitored and coordinated manner. Dr Chikadzi enlivened that lack of intellectual capacity in the field of Social Work has crippled the Social policy making which had resulted in poor practice.

He challenged the Heads of Schools of Social Work who were present to start Masters Programmes which will promote specialisations in the Field of Social Work. Dr G. Wairire applauded the synergy which exists between NASW-Z and Council of Social Workers which he said is the good recipe for Social Work growth in Zimbabwe. He further gave the examples of Social Work interventions in the Eastern parts of Africa which is propelling developmental growth in societies. He then centred his presentation on the International Social Workers' Day commemorations theme: **Promoting the Worthy and Dignity of Peoples; Refugees and Displaced Persons.**



## COMMEMORATIONS:

The 5th edition of International Social Workers' Day commemorations in Zimbabwe was held at the University Of Zimbabwe - School Of Social Work on the 15th of April. The international event was well attended by delegates from Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare, Council of Social Workers, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, University of Zimbabwe School of Social Work, Women's University in Africa, Bindura University of Science Education, Mavambo Orphan Care and Family Support Trust. Hon Minister of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare, P. Mupfumira graced the commemorations. Dr Gidraph G. Wairire (Department of Sociology and Social Work University of Nairobi, Kenya and President Association of Schools of Social Work in Africa) was the Guest Speaker.



*"Guests with Hon. Minister P. Mupfumira"*



*"Delegates marching to the ISWD Venue"*

## MARCH ON THE STREETS:



Marchers teamed up to over 100 delegates, including social work educators, practitioners and students, as well as representatives from the Ministry of Public Service Labour and Social Welfare, in order to celebrate "World Social Work Day 2016". The marchers were showing their banner written "Promoting the Worthy and Dignity of Peoples: Refugees and Displaced Persons".

They commenced their lively march at Town House and marched along Jason Moyo Street and turned into Chinhoyi Street until they reach University of Zimbabwe - School of Social Work as a

part of non-violent social action. The marchers were escorted by seven police officers from Zimbabwe Republic Police. Among the marchers were distinguished and seasoned social workers. Identified were Mrs Ngani (Harare Province Social Services Officer at the front leading the marchers, Mr Dziro (Social work Councilor for Harare Province), Mr Chikoko (Lecturer at Wome's University in Africa) and Mr Muchinako (University of Zimbabwe Lecturer).

**SPEECH BY : MINISTER OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE  
HON. P. MUPFUMIRA (M.P.) OFFICIALLY OPENING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY  
OF THE SOCIAL WORKERS COMMEMORATIONS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF  
ZIMBABWE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK, HARARE: 15<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2016**



I am humbled to be part of the global commemoration by Social Workers, the Annual Commemorations for the International Day of the Social Workers, under the theme “Promoting the Dignity and Worth of People focusing on Refugees and Displaced Persons . The Government of Zimbabwe as the largest

employer of Social Workers, acknowledges the immense contribution by Social Workers in Government, the Private Sector and Civil Society towards provision of Social Services to the vulnerable in our society. Zimbabwe, like other countries globally, has not escaped the scourge of the 21st Century, which has been characterized by global economic recession and extreme climate change inter alia.

These have triggered a host of social ills that include worsening poverty, unemployment, human trafficking, violence especially against women and children, child abuse, abduction, refugee crisis, displacement, chronic droughts to mention but just a few. It is Government’s prime responsibility to care and support its vulnerability to care and support its vulnerable citizens, through Social Service provision. However, the complimentary services from other stakeholders, where Social Workers are engaged, Government alone would not be able to fully meet the needs of the vulnerable groups. Thus, Social Work intervention is vital.

It is from this view point that the Social Work profession is associated with serving society, through working with individuals, families and other groups or communities. Society therefore expects the Social Worker to be a catalyst, to bring about the desired positive change.

The ordinary person in the street will always expect that some good will come out of every contact with a Social Worker. It is therefore imperative that the Social Work profession be dynamic to keep pace with the changes in society. Since the enactment of the Social Workers Act, Chapter 27:21 of 2001, there have been exciting developments within the Social Work fraternity in Zimbabwe. There is currently improved registration and supervision of activities of Social Workers through:

- The Social Workers (Registration) by laws 2005, dealing with the registration of Social Workers.
- The Social Workers (Code of Ethics) by laws 2012, putting in place a binding code of ethics that distinguishes Social Work as one of the very few professions with a legally binding, publicly published code of ethics in Zimbabwe.
- The growth of the profession reached a climax with the birth of the Council of Social Workers in 2006.

We also celebrate the broadened base of Social Work Education. Until recently, the University of Zimbabwe was the only local institution offering Social Work training. However, today Zimbabwe boasts of two other institutions of higher learning, namely the Bindura University of Science Education, which offers a Bachelor’s Degree in Social Work and the Women’s University in Africa offering a Certificate and a Diploma in Social Work. There is a greater visibility of Social Work as a profession but what remains is the creation of a platform, to constantly engage stakeholder participation to promote continued growth of the profession in Zimbabwe.

With reference to the theme of the commemorations “Promoting the Dignity and Worth of Peoples focusing on Refugees and Displaced Persons , Zimbabwe is a signatory to the 1951 United Nations Convention and its 1967 Protocols on the Protection of Refugees and Asylum Seekers. The state is also a signatory to the 1969 Organization of African Union Convention specific aspects of refugee problems in Africa.

These pieces of legislation were domesticated into the Zimbabwe Refugees Act (Chapter 4:03) of 1983. Through the provisions of the Act, the Office of the Commissioner for Refugees located in my Ministry ensures that refugees have access to Social Protection Services that include:

- Provision of shelter in Tongogara Refugee Camp, Chipinge.
- Provision of education from primary, secondary up to tertiary education.
- Access to health services.
- Registration of all refugees and asylum seekers.
- Refugee Status determination Interviews through the Zimbabwe Refugee Committee (ZRC).
- Issuance of vital documents which include Temporary Permits, Refugee Identity Documents and Refugee Status (through the Department of Immigration and the Registrar General’s Office).



- Facilitating the issuance of Refugee Travel Documents through United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees offices (UNHCR) and the Registrar General's Office.
- Provision of Counselling, Child Protection, Community Development and Family Linking Services.

Zimbabwe is committed to the fundamental principle of international cooperation to share more equitably, responsibilities for refugees and to explore pathways for the admission of refugees that include among others, resettlement, facilitation of travel documents for refugees, provision of academic scholarships and apprenticeship programmes among others.

Allow me to bring to your attention the historical fact that Zimbabweans passed through the same unbearable refugee experiences during the period of the Second Chimurenga, when we were fighting for our liberation from colonial rule. Some of our people took refuge in friendly neighbouring countries. When the country finally attained its independence in 1980, it was our turn to offer refuge to our neighbours the Mozambicans, fleeing a civil war situation in their country. During that period, five (5) refugee camps were opened in the country to cater for over 200, 000 refugees, with Tongogara Camp in Chipinge, holding the highest number of 50, 000 refugees. It is worth mentioning that following the cessation of hostilities, the world witnessed one of the most successful returns of refugees, as the people of Mozambique returned to their homeland.

Currently, Zimbabwe is hosting a total of 10,823 refugees and asylum seekers. Of these, 9,314 refugees reside in Tongogara Refugee Camp while the others reside in urban areas, notably Harare and Bulawayo. The current refugee and asylum seeker population is disaggregated into 80% from the Democratic Republic of Congo, 8% Burundians and the 4% Eritreans, Ethiopians, Malians, Ugandans and Somalians. Zimbabwe recognizes the strength resilience of all those displaced by war, persecution and human rights abuses, in pursuit of peace, safety and stability.

Although uprooted from their normal environments, refugees at Tongogara have demonstrated incredible capacity and capability to overcome enormous hurdles to rebuild their lives here in Zimbabwe. Most of the refugees have engaged in small to medium enterprises in sync with ZIMASSET.

Allow me in this regard, to acknowledge the tremendous work of our partners in our shared responsibility of working with refugees. Government appreciates the financial and material assistance from Government's main partner in the Refugee Programme, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), other stakeholders that include the World Food Programme (WFP), Christian Care, The Jesuit Refugee Services (JRS) and last but not least the Registrar General's Office. Your support has enabled Zimbabwe to be a home away from home for our refugees. Ladies and Gentlemen, it is now therefore my pleasure to declare the International Day of the Social Workers Commemorations in Zimbabwe officially open.

**I Thank You.**



*“Delegates at the ISWD Commemorations.*

## PROMOTING THE WORTH AND DIGNITY OF PEOPLE: REFUGEES AND DISPLACED PERSONS:



*Dr. Gidraph G. Wairire, Department of Sociology and Social Work University of Nairobi Kenya, Association of School of Social Work in Africa. A speech presented to the delegates during the Social Work Day commemorations held on the 15<sup>th</sup> April 2016 at the School of Social Work, Harare-Zimbabwe.*

### Introduction

**T**he guest of honour, fellow social workers, social work trainers and students, all protocols observed! It is with great pleasure that I greet you all as we commemorate the 2016 World Social Work Day. Whereas the World Social Work Day is commemorated on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March every year, your resolve to mark the day exactly a month after is a true reflection of your resilience, focus and hope to play your part enhancing the course for social work in solidarity with the global fraternity of social work academics, practitioners and students. Thank you so very much for the energy and time so well utilized in marching along the streets of this great city, Harare to voice our concern for the focus of great ideals that our noble profession stands for in solidarity with the global social work fraternity. By so doing you have also reiterated that social work has an indelible role in making the society a better place to live.

### Worth and Dignity of all People

However, we cannot underestimate the challenges that social workers and our profession go through as we strive to make the world a better place. The world is still struggling to reconcile with the fact that all people have unlimited worth and dignity that cannot be quantified in any way whatsoever regardless of their social, economic, race or regional status. This includes refugees and other displaced persons in our context and beyond. Their worth and dignity is a basic entitlement that must be safeguarded and enhanced at all times. In fact, it must not be seen as an entitlement to be provided when one is affected in one way or the other but as an entitlement to be prioritized and cherished in all spheres of an individual's life situation all the time.

### Refugee situation

While much international attention is paid to the great tragedies unfolding in North Africa, the Middle East, and the migration of millions of refugees to Europe, we continue to face our own considerable challenges. To name but a few, there are continuing political, violent conflicts in South Sudan, Somalia, Nigeria, the Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi. As always, large scale displacements accompany all these conflicts. In Burundi, the political uncertainty witnessed recently resulted to displacements of many people fearing for their lives. This led to disruption of different aspects of people's livelihoods and even temporary closure of academic institutions therein.

In Uganda, the recent polls have led to further curtailments of human rights and political freedom. Some sections of Southern Africa are gripped by a devastating drought. Kenya continues to deal with the threat of Alshabaab terror group that has not only maimed and caused untold suffering to the citizens but has killed many civilians and Kenya military personnel as well. Many have been displaced as they flee and leave their land, their work stations or even abandon different communities but also students pursuing university education at university level.

The Garissa University College attack in Kenya in which over 170 students were killed and several others injured is a clear indicator to this. I had a chat yesterday evening at our commemoration dinner with the UNHCR representative in Harare who informed me that in Zimbabwe alone, we have more than 10,000 refugees from different parts of Africa struggling to make their living a reality amidst the harsh social psychological and economic challenges that confront them. Completing this list would be a daunting task indeed, as all these cries chip away at the cultural, social, political, and economic fibre of our societies.

**Continue >>**



Displacement therefore, should not just be seen as a vice that affects people in a well defined geographical area but also one that disrupts, with heavy psychological suffering the daily engagements chosen by different population groups to make their lives meaningful. Note the cases of IDPs in Kenya resulting from the 2007/8 political skirmishes that followed the 2007 general elections in the country. Displacement affects people in diverse ways and gives them a new status or tag such as refugees, internally displaced persons among others. Coping with such status amidst the deeply felt reminder that their current situation is not necessarily their own doing can be terribly devastating hence the need for social work intervention.

## Social work with refugees and displaced persons

Against such a backdrop, how can social work educators, practitioners and students in Africa make positive difference in the lives of refugees, displaced people and in communities at large? The past few years have seen some hope inspiring initiatives towards human rights, social justice, and the development and well-being of Africa's diverse communities. Some countries have gone ahead to enact laws and adopt national constitutions that clearly accommodate the ideals and philosophy of the worth and dignity of people. Social workers must therefore take a lead role in networking with relevant stakeholders in respective countries including governments to ensure that the gains derived there from safeguarded, respected and sustained.

In the world of academia, we have had several conferences in Africa e.g The PROSOWO in Uganda (2014). ASSWA/ASSWASEI Conference in South Africa, The IFSW conference in South Africa (2014) Bunjumbura Conference (2015) where high quality research papers were presented and stimulating ideas and creative approaches geared towards the respect of the worth and dignity of people. Several books, publications and special journal editions have emanated from the ranks and file of social work academics and even practitioners that bear witness to the willingness of African Social Work educators, practitioners and students to make politically relevant contributors to global social work discourse relating to the worth and dignity of people and the societies in which they live.

These initiatives also demonstrate that in Africa, social work educators, practitioners, and students can draw on powerful philosophical ideas, traditions and knowledge systems, and that they are working hard to develop these resources onto practical, teachable approaches with a potential to boost the capacities of social workers dealing with refugees and displaced people.



*"BUSE Students at Tongogara Refugee Camp with Mr Zengeya*

## Conclusion

Refugees and displaced persons are people like any other only that they thrive in extremely difficult circumstances as a result of the experiences that forces them into such situations. Social work has an inseparable role in not only enabling them to deal with their situation(s) but also in addressing the root causes responsible for displacement of people in our respective societies. While we therefore celebrate our profession through this day for the great strides it has achieved in different areas, may we intensify our engagements and interventions to make the world a better place by ensuring that the worth and dignity of people is duly respected and enhanced.

**Thank you.**

### **Mavambo exhibits during Social Work Day.**

Mavambo Orphan Care and Family Support Trust managed to establish their exhibition tables during International Social Workers' Day commemorations. They displayed the Information Education and Communication materials and play toys. The officers who were manning the exhibition tables were educating delegates on the great work Social Workers are doing at their organizations in promoting the welfare of vulnerable groups.



*Mavambo Opharn Care Exhibiting at ISWD*

### **Graduation of Social workers and student social workers in Basic Sign Language Training.**

The Minister, Deaf Zimbabwe Trust Director and NASWZ president handed over the certificates to Social Work students and Social workers who had undergone an intensive 35 hours training in Basic Sign Language Training.



*Students Graduating in Basic Sign Language for Social Workers*

### **Conferences and call for papers.**

- The World Social Work and Social Development Conference, 2016, Seoul, Korea. Learn more about the biggest social work conference at <http://www.swsd2016.org>.
- The African Journal of Social Work has an open call for papers. Please submit your papers to [editor@ida.co.zw](mailto:editor@ida.co.zw).
- CSW is calling for papers for the 2016 Social Workers Conference and Summer School.

### **Opportunities.**

Scholarships: MA in Advanced Development in Social Work, Erasmus Mundus, <http://socialworkadvances.org/Scholarships>: PhD Social Work or Social Science <https://education.gov.au/australian-postgraduate-awards>  
If you are aware of any opportunities, please share with others on this platform.

Send an email to: [admin@naswzim.org](mailto:admin@naswzim.org), [programmes@naswzim.org](mailto:programmes@naswzim.org)





*The NASW-Z NEC and Secretariat Staff*

## NEWS FROM THE OFFICE:

**T**he National office welcomes, you to its first quarter newsletter 2016. It has been a while now that the office has been failing to publish its monthly newsletters due to lack of finances. However we are grateful of the support we are getting from USAID through Mavambo Orphan Care and WEI that is keeping us afloat and reaching to you once again. Every year the NASW-Z publishes a newsletter in each quarter in order to keep members and stakeholders posted on the professional developments. The newsletter will be posted on all forums, the Association's website, e-mail list, Facebook page, Twitter. The National Office wishes to inform its valued members that the organisation has undergone a strategic review process in

and is currently implementing the new strategic plan (2016-2020) under the vision a motivated Social Worker for Empowering Communities. We hope to find out from social workers if this initial newsletter is going to be useful to the social workers before we publish the next newsletter.

### **Inside 2015-2016:**

#### **Organisational Capacity Assessment (OCA)**

This exercise was done at our request and agreement with WEI as part of the capacity building exercise of the Association. The Capacity Assessment was done on the 28th of October 2015 through support from WEI. It was done using an interactive tool that measures the overall capacity of an organization. The Assessment was done to assess six (6) key domains which are key to any organisation and was adapted to suit our context. The six domains were: Governance, Financial Management, Administration, Human Resources, Organizational Management and Program Management.

#### **Strategic Plan Review (2016 – 2020)**

It was through the financial support from World Education Inc (WEI) that we engaged a Consultant to review our 5 Year Strategic Plan (2012-17).

#### **Our new Vision:**

A motivated social worker for empowering communities.

#### **Mission:**

To advance the interest of social workers to better serve communities.

#### **Resource Mobilisation:**

NASW-Z is currently implementing its resource mobilisation plan.

#### **Social Workers Act Bill Amendment:**

Through consultation from the social workers we have consolidated the contributions from our members and submitted to the CSW to be included in the Act. The Bill has been submitted to the Ministry already.

#### **Sign Language Training for Social Workers:**

NASW-Z in partnership with Deaf Zimbabwe Trust has started training basic sign language for social workers.

#### **Hosting 2020 Social Work International Conference:**

Zimbabwe missed an opportunity to host this Conference way back and there is a chance to bid for 2020. Our recent capacity to successfully organise the Commemorations is an acid test of our ability to host this event which will be hosted by South Korea in June 2016. We can and I know we have the capacity. NASW-Z will discuss and partner with the Ministry of Tourism after they successfully hosted the UNWTO Annual Summit in Victoria Falls.

## Social work day messages:

### **NASW-Z President's remarks**

Mr. Zinyanya expressed his sincere gratitude to USAID for the financial support they provided to the Association through Mavambo Orphan Care towards the International Social Workers Day celebrations. He then applauded Honorable Minister Mupfumira for the work she is doing in promoting the welfare of vulnerable groups. Among these were the great work done in amending the Labour Bill which abolished employers from dismissing their employees on short notice, intervention into the corrupt acts by National Social Security Authority bosses which had devastating effects to the pensioners and her response to the effects of climate change which had ripple effects in many parts of Zimbabwe.

The Association President highlighted the challenges being faced by social workers which are; Serious Shortage of Social Workers in the Public Sector with a ratio of (1:49 000), resource Constraints, lack of Recognition, employment of non-Social Workers in Social Work Position, dealing with persons with hearing impairment, non-compliance of registration by Social Workers according to the Social Workers Act 27:21 and no consultation of Social Workers in developing policies. Mr. Zinyanya proposed the following as a way of mitigating these mentioned problems; Graduate Intern Program, Volunteer Program, Student Internship, Implementation of Statutory Instrument for Non Public Service Social Workers and National Service Program for Social Workers.

### **Council of Social Workers Chairperson's message**

Mr Dziro, Social Work Councilor for Harare Province gave the solidarity message for the Council of Social Workers on behalf of Mrs Kasipo, the current Chairperson of the Council of Social Workers. Mr Dziro applauded the collaborations between Council of Social Workers and the Association as it is important for professional growth.

The Councilor called in for better conducive work environment for social workers, the need to be recognized, the need to be given resources and the need to be included in national policy making. He condemned the employment of non-Social Workers in positions of Social workers as it is affecting service delivery within private and public sectors. He further explained that lack of recognition is leading to massive exodus of Social workers to countries where they are appreciated.

He indicated the great work Council is doing in amending the Social Workers' Act, auditing Social Work curriculum, inspecting Schools of Social Work. He appreciated the Speech made by Dr Chikadzi during lecture series in which he pointed out that there is need to attend to intellectual, policy and practice arenas of Social work in Zimbabwe. He expressed the Council's commitment to work with all relevant stakeholders in rectifying this challenge.

#### **Our Partners**



<http://www.naswzim.org/>

