

## **REALIGNING INPUT MARKETS TO FARMER NEEDS AS A STRATEGY ON NATIONAL HEALING RECONCILIATION AND INTEGRATION AT GRASSROOTS BASED COMMUNITIES IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION IN ZIMBABWE**

The Government of Mozambique  
Secretary General of COMESA and Chairman of FANRPAN:  
Honorable Sindiso Ngwenya  
University of Eduardo Mondlane represented by Professor Mucavele  
The Chief Executive Officer of FANRPAN: Dr Lindiwe Majele Sibanda  
Former Prime Minister of Swaziland Hon Obert Dlamini  
Technical and Funding Partners  
Farmers, Researchers, Private Sector and the media  
Distinguished Guests

Thank you very much for inviting the Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration (Zimbabwe) to participate in this important dialogue in Maputo Mozambique this week in our program to inform our region SADC of progress in our work within the GPA Article 7.1.c that a mechanism be established to consider issues of National Healing in Zimbabwe. At this dialogue we bring one of the linkage programs of grassroots based farmers and Healing.

May I begin by stating that with the ongoing National Healing process in Zimbabwe, realigning input markets to farmers' needs is critical for the majority of Zimbabwe's population, 90% who farm for a living. The political parties to the Global Political Agreement (GPA) are prioritizing the farming requirements of these grassroots based communities to ensure that these communities at risk can reorganize themselves to return to their old agricultural production routines this season. Strategies to address these agricultural needs must be supported by organizations such as Fanrpan to speed the National Healing in this particular section of our society.

Zimbabweans have produced their own food for generations and fed themselves as well. They now face hunger. National Healing with the Organ and by the Organ will be difficult to accomplish when the population is pre occupied with these basic necessities.

### **Introduction**

In 1980, Zimbabwe achieved two important results as a consequence of the successful liberation struggle:

1. The then Prime Minister Robert Mugabe announced the statement of Reconciliation and appealed to Zimbabweans, black and white, to turn their swords into plowshares. He was praised by the whole world for that move. At that time the donor community, civil society including churches and others did not develop Nation Building programmes based on that statement. Instead we all moved on as if all was well. As we all now know, things did not work as the Liberation Agenda had advocated during the armed struggle against settler colonialism.

As we go into National Healing today, we Zimbabweans reflect together on why that statement of intent by the then Prime Minister did not work to ensure we do our things with a no return to violence syndrome context and result.

2. The government of the day in 1980 created a holistic policy and built programmes, with legal frameworks based on well articulated priorities. The battle cry in development in all

programmes was; 'Kugutsa Ruzhinji' (Shona) 'Ukuthi uZulu asuthe' (Ndebele), 'To Meet Everybody's Needs.' (English) The impact of these research based policies of the 1980s bore fruits in abundance in all areas. A few examples are indicated below:

- a) Zimbabwe created the best and exemplary Primary Health Care (PHC) program which was admired and copied by many in the region and internationally.
- b) Education became the tool which produced in this country among some of the highest literacy rates in the world, technocrats who now hold decision making posts not just in the region but around the world.
- c) Post 1980, small farmers in the communal areas produced 87% of food consumed locally. Commercial farms largely produced cash crops for export.

With these few examples above, the Organ on National Healing Reconciliation and Integration calls on all fellow Zimbabweans at home and abroad, our neighbours in the region and internationally to understand the National Healing Process in Zimbabwe. For this to succeed every Zimbabwean at home and abroad who wishes to do so, can participate.

May I thank SADC, the AU, and the UN for the successful outcome through the prolonged negotiated Global Political Agreement (GPA). While we all agree that the GPA is a weak document and is flawed we have managed to get ourselves together as Zimbabweans at last working as one people at the political level after nearly 10 years of conflict. Progress is slow, residual elements still try to stop our way forward. The GPA as we speak is what has brought me to this conference to present what we are doing now.

Please permit me to update the conference on what the Organ has achieved since its inception and state its plans for the next 100 days.

The key Result area for the Organ on National Healing Reconciliation and Integration was the launching of and facilitating the establishment of the machinery for national healing, reconciliation and integration. Under this Key Result Area there were three specific targets that the Organ had to meet:

- Launch the Organ for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration and establish a secretariat.
- Hold pre-conference workshops for local and international experts.
- Establish machinery and processes for national healing, reconciliation and integration.

At the commencement of the inclusive government in February 2009, the Organ existed in name only. Apart from the three Principals: Minister John Nkomo, Minister Gibson Sibanda and I, there were no offices, no staff, no equipment and no funds. Over the past six months, the Principals of the Organ have worked to secure offices at Club Chambers in the Central Business District, recruited a skeletal staff that has achieved and acquired some office equipment to allow the Organ to be functional. Initially a detailed work plan was drawn up which included organizing a launch of the Organ in April, an experts workshop followed by an All Stakeholders Conference in June, with the establishment of the machinery in July. However, these plans stalled for three reasons:

1. The three principals of the Organ, coming from different political and personal experiences, had to consider firstly who we are, what we reflect and, therefore, how we can build the necessary bridge to the New Zimbabwe.

2. We had to establish the intentions of our political Principals, their expectations and their desires for the Organ. In our deliberations with the three Principals at all times they have been very focused and helpful to us in the Organ throughout the stages of the Organ.
3. Lastly, we had to think through how we can articulate justice, equality, tolerance, inclusiveness, and other important principles relevant to the National Healing Process so that all the people could take advantage of the forum that we were giving Zimbabwe through the Organ to talk and discuss freely the issues on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration.

A major challenge that the Organ did not plan for at the time of setting its target was that of stakeholder confidence in the process of National Healing for Zimbabwe. The international community has questioned whether a credible national healing process can take place in Zimbabwe without a comprehensive plan for eradicating the culture of impunity prevalent in today's Zimbabwe; other plans for media, security sector and institutional reform. The same sentiments have also been strongly expressed on the domestic front by grassroots urban and rural communities based on evolving scenarios becoming common on the ground around the country.

The Organ, therefore, had to adopt a two pronged approach. Stage One, we call 'Kutonhodza Nyika Kutonhodza Pfungwa' (Shona) 'Ukuthoba uMhlaba, Sithobizinhliziyu zikaZulu' (SiNdebele) 'To cool The Land, To cool Minds' (English) The minds and hearts to be cooled down and massaged are of all linked to our country; Zimbabweans at home and abroad with huge expectations, those of the international community who have their own expectations of the process and friends of Zimbabwe who have perennial concerns about the country.

The first stage is signified by the National Dedication Ceremony in July, now combined with the launch of the Organ at which the message of justice, tolerance, peace, truth and non-violence were emphasized. The message of the co-Ministers remains that the Organ in all its work is not prescriptive, rather it is to coordinate, while paving the way for a just and equitable process of National Healing, guide, monitor and evaluate the field.

The second stage will be decided together when heads are cool after the first stage. The Organ through this National Healing process hopes to achieve two clear objectives:

1. To create a just, tolerant, peaceful, safe, secure, stable and prosperous society where individuals are free to live normal productive lives without fear of violence, intimidation, kidnappings and disappearances, unjustified arrests and discrimination and in which fundamental human rights of all are fully respected.
2. To establish a culture of zero tolerance for political violence, all forms of abuse both physical and mental, impunity, intolerance and discrimination and to ensure that the survivors are protected against further victimization and retribution, that perpetrators are dealt with fairly under the law and that the law enforcement agencies fulfill their obligation to protect all Zimbabweans against political violence and all forms of violence in the future.

The Organ cannot do this work alone. It must work together with Security Sector and the Media Ministries for the creation of enabling environment for issues of national healing to be freely and publicly discussed and for appropriate messages to be reinforced in the media. There has to be freedom of expression and speech before, during and after people speak out. There must be freedom of movement and association during travel and gatherings and afterwards. These are some of the many new expressions about 'Freedoms' among the grassroots communities around

Zimbabwe as some come forward to advise the Organ on the Healing process. This is a very wide mandate involving the freedom to speak freely, freedom of movement and freedom of association, as well as full protection before, during and after the exercise of one's rights.

Part two has a two pronged thrust:

Continued process to strengthen engagement with the donor community at home and abroad for better understanding, development by all players of finding new equitable ways of engagement and to increase investment into the process;

Building partnerships between and among local, regional and international institutions of learning and grassroots based NGOs to incorporate best practices for ourselves on National Healing processes in the region around us, within Africa and beyond the continent.

For this strategy the Principals of the Organ identified Midlands State University (MSU) in Gweru as the Host institution to coordinate local, regional and international experts who will help to identify best practices and support the Organ in the framework for policy formulation, their suggestions on the Road Map, mechanisms and processes of National Healing that are Zimbabwe specific. MSU was discovered to be the ideal Host institution because of its three sided mandate which is to Teach, Engage with community and Research.

In line with that, MSU is located in Senga, a High Density Area and therefore community centered; it is a public institution involved in a high density area teaching academically qualified but disadvantaged students who would otherwise never have had the opportunity to learn and excel in skills and academic work. MSU has a strong research focus.

Armed with this support and these tools over the next two months, the Organ will be engaged in formulating a National Healing, reconciliation and Integration framework leading to the Healing Road Map. Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC) and the Prime Minister's at all times provide invaluable support. Civil Society has been forth coming in advising the Organ on their thoughts about the process, so have churches, Traditional Leaders and Healers, and many others.

Funding being administered through the UNDP (which through its Resident leader Dr Augustino Zacarias and his staff have been excellent in providing support around several fronts) has been made available to the Organ for the present programmes achieved as well as for the planned Strategic Planning Workshop to establish the foundations of the framework and Road Map.

The Organ will consult widely in coming up with the process to be developed with the full involvement of all. The process is grassroots based and all inclusive. The mechanism required to bring peace to Zimbabwe will come from Zimbabweans working and interacting together whatever their background, be they from Church, Civil Society and Traditional Leaders and Healers, women, youth and all other categories. No Zimbabwean will be left behind.

Next One Hundred Day Plan – Nyanga Ministerial Retreat (21-23 August 2009)

- i. Visits to Zimbabwe's 10 provinces by the three co-ministers in preparation of the All Stakeholders Conference.
- ii. Return visits by the co ministers to the 10 provinces after the Constitution Making outreach visits end on November 19, 2009.
- iii. Strategic Planning Workshop with the UNDP support to establish foundations of National Healing framework, policy and Road Map.

- iv. Enabling Act of Parliament to establish legal status of the Organ.
- v. Midlands State University (MSU) identified by the Organ to coordinate technical contributions of local, regional and international Experts and NGOs to the National Healing process.

I thank you.

Sekai M. Holland

Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office

Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration

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