



STATE OF LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT [LED] OF ZIMBABWE

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This publication presents the state of art of Local Economic Development programs and projects it's a national report on current Local Economic Development legislation and practices.

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List Of Acronyms

COZ	Current Constitution of Zimbabwe
CS	Civil Society
CSOS/T	Community Share Ownership Schemes or Trusts
EG	Economic Governance
ESAP	Economic Structural Adjustment Programme
ICT	Information Communication Technology
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
LA	Local Authorities
LED	Local Economic Development
LEDNA	Local Economic Development Network of Africa
MSMEs	Micro Small Medium Enterprises
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PPPs	Public Private Partnerships
RDCs	Rural District Councils
SEDCO	Small Enterprises Development Corporation
STERP	Short Term Economic Recovery Programme
UCLGA	United Cities and Local Government Africa
ZIMPREST	Zimbabwe Programme for Economic and Social Transformation
ZIMASSET	Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation

1. Introduction

Institute Research Triangle, “the Local Economic Development Network of Africa (LEDNA) stocktake task is intended to support the United Cities and Local Governments Africa (UCLG-A) in its goal of strengthening local economies by building local economic development (LED) capacity and knowledge hub throughout Africa.”¹ This report has been prepared as part of the process to profile local economic development (LED) initiatives in Zimbabwe, and is based on the terms of reference that requires the preparation of a SWOT on LED activities, major players involved, main types of LED programmes or projects, and the main donors involved in LED. The background of this report discusses the information concerning the transformation agenda in Zimbabwe. LED is an example of national development policy targeted at empowering marginalized communities. Various cases within the national LED framework are presented. The report analyses the dynamics of local government and project level realities that enable or hinder the realization of LED. It is an interdisciplinary attempt to analyze the role of LED in the transformation process in Zimbabwe.

Background

This report presents the interdisciplinary framework adopted by the GoZ and the interrelationship of LED for poverty reduction. It highlights how the attainment of LED includes issues about poverty and its alleviation. This makes it formidable because it touches on the intricacies of poverty of Zimbabwe – a contentious debate without a doubt. The adoption of a historical perspective is intended to provide an understanding of how former structures still influence LED goals. The government’s commitment to ‘developmental local government’ through LED is particularly relevant for understanding the current LED-poverty nexus in Zimbabwe. While various definitions of Local Economic Development exist for the purposes of this report, we will define LED as a territorial concept and approach, which is based on the principles of synergy and partnership between local stakeholders, operating within localities. Department of Provincial and Local Government South Africa argues for LED claiming that, “through LED local people, work together with the support and facilitation of the local state and other external stakeholders to achieve sustainable economic growth and development that brings an improved quality of life for all.”² This definition shares with other definitions key concepts of LED which are a defined spatial area, concept of collaboration among local stakeholders for promotion of economic growth and development towards the end of achieving improved quality life for all.

Stakeholders in LED include the State actors, Private Business Sector and the Civic Society. The state creates an enabling environment that removes unnecessary transaction costs, bureaucratic barriers and promoting knowledge asymmetries. The Private Sector brings in capital and expertise creating employment opportunities. Civic society is responsible for the checks and balances that ensure the improvement of the quality of life for the local communities- for participation and involvement which enhances partnerships of the LED trajectory acceptance. It is in this perspective that the report contextualises the LED situation in Zimbabwe. LED is a well appreciated concept in Zimbabwe at the central level of government. At the Local Government level LED is now being slowly appreciated. The GoZ has also made significant efforts to redress structurally embedded causes of poverty and marginalisation of the population at large. Owing to institutional frameworks set up by the colonial state, ownership of national resources and means of production was owned by a minority of the population. This called for the Government to come up with various legislation and policies to address these imbalances. Such policies are detailed in Table 1 below.

1 Institute Research Triangle. (2009). *Local Economic Development Network for Africa (LEDNA) Stocktake Final Report*. Washington DC: U.S Agency for International Development.

2 Department of Provincial and Local Government South Africa. (2008, March). *Policy Guidelines for implementing LED*. Retrieved February 2, 2016, from www.dplf.gov.za: http://www.dplg.gov.za/documents/generaldocument/LED_Guidelines_March_2005.pdf

Table 1: Policies to promote LED in Zimbabwe

Policy	Year
The Land Resettlement Scheme	1990 - 1993
Economic Structural Adjustment Programme (ESAP)	1996
Zimbabwe Programme for Economic and Social Transformation (ZIMPREST)	1998 - 2000
Land Reform Programme	2000 - 2008
Vision 20/20	2009
Short Term Economic Recovery Programme (STERP)	2009 – 2013
Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZIMAS-SET)	2013 - 2018

Admittedly, the dynamics of a complex history continue to impede the effective planning and implementation of LED programmes and initiatives. Zimbabwe's state of LED significantly depleted between the years 1998 and 2008 during the economic meltdown. This resulted in most enterprises closing down due to viability issues as a result of the hyperinflation that hit the 7 billion mark. The stated economic meltdown was the aftermath of Land Invasions of white owned Commercial Farms which significantly depleted the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). Zimbabwe was an agrarian based economy therefore disturbances in the agricultural sector had a direct impact on the performance of the national economy and food security. Not surprisingly the same invasions affected other productive areas of the economy such as foreign owned mines and manufacturing companies. The turbulence led to other Multi-National Companies pulling out of the country causing further loss to GDP and means of formal employment. When these companies left the GoZ lost significant revenue and the delayed action on the invasions resulted in the western world imposing economic sanctions citing violation of human rights as basis. Other challenges included shortage of raw materials, low level of investment, inadequate delivery of public infrastructure and basic social services, and a decrease in formal sector employment (Research Continental-Fonkom (RCF) and FinMark Trust (FMT), 2012).³ Further, the political violence that engulfed the harmonised elections of 2008 further exacerbated the economic predicament with many companies shutting down shying away from the instability. The adoption of a multicurrency system (especially US\$) marked a significant shift in Zimbabwe's economy that was touted to improve the performance of the economy.⁴ Notably the economy showed some signs of stabilisation under this system under the Global Political Agreement, which ushered in the Government of National Unity. Zimbabwe recorded some economic growth ever since. While significant improvements in the political and economic environment have been recorded, a lot still needs to be done to revitalise the industries and economic sectors that were affected in the hyperinflationary period if any local economic development is to be realised.

2. National Enabling Perspective

Zimbabwe today is characterised by a diminishing sophisticated formal sector of numerous globally competitive multinational companies, and an exponential growth of the informal sector. Paralleled to a population where estimates are as high as 90% for the unemployed who are dependant on the informal sector to survive, as there are no welfare grants. A significant number of the rural population survives on donor humanitarian aid. Against this background the GoZ has an increased burden to promote LED as a sustainable development pathway to attain poverty reduction and drive wealth creation.

3 Research Continental-Fonkom (RCF) and FinMark Trust (FMT). (2012). *FinScope MSME Survey*. Harare: FinMark Trust (FMT).

4 Research Continental-Fonkom (RCF) and FinMark Trust (FMT). (2012). *FinScope MSME Survey*. Harare: FinMark Trust (FMT).

National Government Perspective on Decentralisation.

1. The Current Constitution of Zimbabwe (COZ) in its preamble gives the national economic vision for a Zimbabwe defined by the following terms “a united just prosperous nation, founded on values of transparency equality freedom, fairness, honesty and dignity of hard work.”⁵ The Constitution establishes in Chapter 1, Section 5 - a three tier government, that is, Central Government, Provincial and Metropolitan Councils and LA for Urban and Rural communities.
2. Further, the Constitution has as an entire chapter focused on Local Government – Chapter 14 titled Provincial and Local Government. This chapter, in its preamble, states the objectives of devolution as to ensure:
 - a. The preservation of national unity in Zimbabwe and the prevention of all forms of disunity and secessionism,
 - b. The democratic participation in government by all citizens and communities of Zimbabwe and
 - c. The equitable allocation of national resources and the participation of local communities in the determination of development priorities within their areas.
 - d. There must be devolution of power and responsibilities to lower tiers of government in Zimbabwe. The Constitution therefore creates a framework for free interaction of local governance stakeholders in planning processes and execution of policies for LED.
3. The role of Local Government is clear in the National Constitution. However, the Government is still seized with a responsibility of realigning four hundred statutes to the National Constitution.⁶ Upon completion, the process will lead to the operationalization of some of the pertinent sections contained within this section. Notwithstanding, before the Constitution in 1996 the Government of Zimbabwe through a Cabinet Policy reflected their position under thirteen principles of decentralization. Under this policy, local governments--particularly RDCs--are to gradually receive significant additional infrastructure and service delivery responsibilities, as well as additional financing responsibilities. Although the Government’s policy statement represented consensus across all ministries on decentralization policy objectives and principles, implementation modalities were not properly worked out.

Legislation

Section 274 Subsection (1) of the National Constitution provides for the establishment of Urban LA to represent and manage the affairs of people in urban areas throughout Zimbabwe. Whereas, Section 275 Subsection (1) provides for the establishment of Rural Local Authorities (LA) to manage and represent the affairs of people in rural areas. The Urban and Rural LA operate under the auspices of the Urban Councils Act [Chapter 29:15] and the Rural District Councils Act [Chapter 29:13]. The two pieces of legislation form the basis of self-governance in the country and stipulate the functions, responsibilities and autonomy that is currently enjoyed by the Local Governments in Zimbabwe. Given the ushering in of the Constitution a need to review the current local government legislature arose. To this end the Ministry of Local Government are currently seized with a mandate to realign and harmonise to Acts governing LA to the Constitution.

5 Preamble Zimbabwe’s Constitution of 2013 https://www.constituteproject.org/constitution/Zimbabwe_2013.pdf

6 United Nations Country Team. (2014). *Zimbabwe Country Analysis Working Document Final Draft*. Harare: UN.

Departmental Responsibilities

This section will outline the various responsibilities for achieving LED within the Local Government spheres. The set institutional frameworks to support its operationalization are also presented and the challenges are highlighted.

Ministries Responsible for Local Government

Coordination of Local Government was previously under the mandate of one Ministry that is, The Ministry of Local Government Public Works and National Housing. It has now changed to the Ministry of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development. However, late in 2015, the the Ministry was divided into two resulting in the Rural LA and Traditional Leadership component residing in a new Ministry titled Ministry of Rural Development and Preservation of Culture and Heritage. The roles of the two ministries are outlined in Table 2 below.

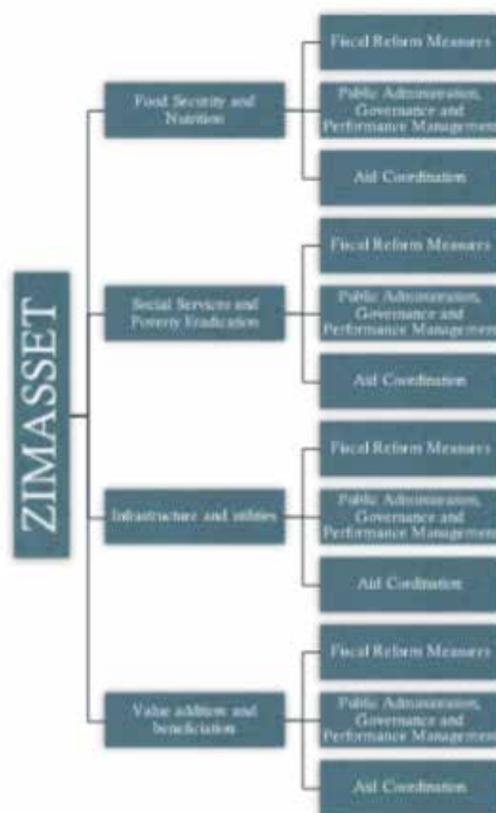
Table 2: Ministries and Their Roles in Promoting LED in Zimbabwe

Ministry	Role
Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing	<p>The Ministry provides the policy framework and operational environment the Urban Councils operate in. In Zimbabwe, the Urban Councils Act vests powers with the Minister to give directions on matters of policy and to reverse, suspend or rescind resolutions of council in terms of section 303 and section 314 respectively.</p> <p>The Ministry is tasked with the responsibility of coordinating all the Urban Councils in Zimbabwe as its core function. Followed by the facilitation and provision of adequate housing for the country.</p>
Ministry of Rural Development and Preservation of Culture and Heritage	<p>The Ministry's mandate therefore is to coordinate all Rural District Councils, Traditional Leadership Structures, promote and preserve cultural heritage.</p>

Government Engagement in Local Economic Development

The Government of Zimbabwe is currently operating under the auspices of the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio- Economic Transformation (ZIMASSET) the document is the nation's Economic Development Blueprint upon which all Government policies - projects and programmes are formulated. The blueprint has four main clusters and their sub clusters as presented in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Clusters and Sub clusters of the ZIMASSET Development Framework



The Vision of the ZIMASSET is “Towards an empowered society and a growing economy”, and the Mission is “to provide an enabling environment for sustainable economic development and social transformation to the people of Zimbabwe”. The scope of the blueprint focuses on indigenization, empowerment and employment creation anchored by the judicious exploitation of the Country’s abundant natural and human resources.

Further, the government of Zimbabwe is extensively involved in LED through various line Ministries that have been created with a mandate to coordinate and economic development and create multi sectoral linkages. Firstly, there is the Ministry of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development which is mandated to stimulate economic growth, create wealth and employment opportunities and promote sustainable environmental conservation practices among MSMEs to reduce poverty. Research findings revealed that most MSMEs in Zimbabwe are disadvantaged in accessing financing from the banking sector the Ministry created a Micro Enterprise Development which Fund which is a revolving fund. It was set up to benefit innovative enterprising individuals in the Areas of Tafara and Mabvuku (High density locations in Harare). Further, the Ministry provides numerous training services and financial assistance through the Small Enterprises Development Corporation (SEDCO). SEDCO is a development finance institution for the promotion and development of micro, small and medium enterprises in the country.

Community Share Ownership Scheme

The government’s involvement in promoting LED initiatives is also apparent through the Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment. The Ministry administers and operates under the the Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Act [Chapter 14:33]. Community Share Ownership Schemes or Trusts (CSOS/T) are a vehicle for participation in shareholding in various businesses by local communities. The proceeds from such participation must be properly accounted for and used in projects which benefit the local communities as outlined in Text Box 1 below.

Text Box 1: The Community Share Ownership Scheme/Trust

Community Share Ownership Schemes or Trusts shall be established by businesses involved in the commercial exploitation of natural resources, including minerals since the relevant communities have the natural right to benefit from their God-given resources.¹

CSOS/T would be taken into account when assessing the extent to which a business has achieved the minimum indigenisation and empowerment quota of 51%. 10% shareholding in qualifying businesses shall be reserved for the Community Share Ownership Schemes or Trusts. The CSOS/T shall have a Deed of Trust registered with the Deeds Office.

There shall be between 5 to 11 members of the Community Share Ownership Scheme/Trust depending on the size of the defined community in relation to the business concerned. The Chief shall be the chairperson of the Community Share Ownership Scheme/Trust. The Chairperson of the Rural District Council shall be a trustee. The Chief Executive Officer of Rural District Council shall be the Secretary of the Community Share Ownership Scheme/Trust. Money accruing to the Trust from such shareholding in a business shall be used for the provision of social and economic infrastructure in line with the priorities of the communities concerned. The accounts of the Trust shall be audited on an annual basis.

3. Local Enabling Perspective

Zimbabwe has adopted a local enabling perspective to attaining LED. The enabling perspective LED approach stresses the need to sustainably capacitate local stakeholders to explore and pursue long-term economic opportunities beyond the specific task at hand.

Powers of Urban Councils

The legislation governing the operations of Urban Councils confers on them a wide range of powers, that constitute service delivery for the urban populace these are noted in Text Box 4 Below.

Text Box 2: Authority of the Urban Councils

- Water for domestic, commercial or industrial areas
- Hospitals, clinics, ambulances, maternity and child welfare
- Schools, libraries, theatres and musical and scientific institutions
- Provision of housing and transport facilities
- Construction and maintenance of drains, sewers, bridges, parking
- Cleansing and refuse removal disposal
- Prevention of air, land and water pollution
- Operation of fire brigades and municipal police
- Street lighting
- Public places
- Provision of parks
- Recreation grounds and open spaces

Financing of Urban Councils

The current main sources of revenue of Urban Councils in Zimbabwe are outlined in Text Box 3 below.

Text Box 3: Revenue Sources of Urban Councils in Zimbabwe

- The levying of assessment rates on property
- Receipts from 'trading' accounts (e.g. sale of water)
- Tariffs or fees for services rendered
- Registration and licensing of motor vehicles
- Education and health grants as well as road grants for roads in their areas.
- Loans for capital works from central government through the National Housing
- Fund in respect of housing, General Loan Fund in respect of other infrastructure like water and sewerage reticulation, roads and storm water drainage.
- Loans from the open market after obtaining necessary Borrowing Powers from the Minister.

Powers of Rural District Councils

The delegated powers and responsibilities to Rural District Councils through the first schedule of the Rural District Councils Act include a wide range of functions. These range from the provision of social services such as health and education, to the construction and maintenance of various infrastructure such as sewage works, roads and dams. Though they are the key players in the provision of these, central government is bound by national policy to provide resources through the national fiscus, to ensure that the LAs perform their responsibilities as provided for in the Act. In addition to the powers bestowed upon them, Rural District Councils are the Development and Planning authorities within their respective areas of jurisdiction. In this regard, the Act empowers them to plan for the overall development of the Districts. As such, they have periodic plans, The plans serve as a basis of annual budgets. As development and planning authorities, they are also expected to be aware and guide all developmental activities carried out by government, non-governmental organisations and the private sector within their areas of jurisdiction. Any development that takes place within the Rural District Council area of jurisdiction should be carried out within the provisions of the council's priorities and approved development plans in order to allow for a co-ordinated and collective approach to development.

Rural District Councils are also the land allocating authorities. In terms of the Communal Land Act, Rural District Councils are the land authorities and are therefore responsible for the allocation of land within their areas of responsibility. However, this allocation is carried out within the confines or provisions of traditions and customs of which it is commonly accepted that the traditional leadership are the custodians. This in essence means that whilst the local authority is the land authority, land allocation is carried out hand in hand with the traditional leadership whose role is acknowledged and appreciated.

Text Box 4: Financing of Rural District Councils

- Central government grants which include a per capita grant from the ministry of education, an expenditure grant from the ministry of health and a small administration grant from Ministry of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development. RDCs also receive small grants from the Natural Resources Board for activities related to land conservation.
- A range of local revenue sources including development levies, unit taxes, license fees, service charges, beer levies, royalties and revenue from income generating projects.
- Various public sector programs channel capital investment funds to RDC areas through sector ministries.
- Funds from the Zimbabwe National Road Administration (ZINARA) disbursed in terms of the Roads Act for the maintenance of the Road Network

Stakeholder involvement in LED

The most noteworthy partner engagement is through civil society. Civil society (CS) is by and large donor supported and in less cases it is subsidized by the government and by the association or groupings themselves. CS draws its mandate, as a general rule, from the National Government needs and work to compliment government's national development endeavors. Historically, the relationship between Local governments and partners was essentially taxation. Be that as it may, with the global drive of extending majority rule values inside the territories, the Councils have needed to receive a more participatory methodology where all partners (civil society, the business community and the Traditional leadership institution) are all involved in the planning process.

4. LED in practice

LED can lead to economic solutions that ‘fit’ the local areas – that is, that build on local assets and strengths, involve local people and build capacity, and have greater buy in from the community (a key component of sustainability). LED is building momentum in Zimbabwe as local areas look to drive their own economic development, and find solutions that make sense where they live. Below Table 3 shows some operational projects in the country.

Table 3: Distribution of Projects

Organisation	Number of Projects
Central Government	1
DANIDA- Danish Embassy and DFID	1
DFID	2
European Union	4
Private – ZIMPLATS	1
Renewed Hope Charitable Foundation	1
SIDA, EU, SWISS, DFID	1
SIDA, USAID, DFID	1
SIDA	6
Swiss Agency for Development	1
UNDP, SAFIRE, PLAN, GEF	1
UNCHR	1
UNICEF	2
USAID	2
ZINARA	2

From the presentation in Table 3 above it is evident that LED projects are still limited. Most initiatives are humanitarian aid that responds to droughts and other national disasters. The major funders is that they are mainly funding Human Rights, Democracy and Human Rights Initiatives. These projects are mostly focused on constitution, policy advocacy, good corporate governance and good local governance spheres. It has also be noted that the major donors are strongly synergizing and co-funding initiatives. The GoZ is financially constrained and therefore the only financial assistance it has proffered has been in form of equipment for the agricultural sector from bilateral agreements with Countries like Brazil. LA are the least active actor in the funding of LED Initiatives.

Stakeholder Involvement

There is wide stakeholder involvement and interest in LED in the country. This can be alluded to the lack of economic opportunities in the country the public, private and civic society are keen to cooperate with each other for development. The donor community extensively engages with the Associations representing the mentioned groups and utilise these to inform sector interventions.

Rural/ Urban Bias

There are concented efforts to promote LED in rural areas to raise the capacities of rural communities to reduce the impetus to move to irban areas in search of livelihoods options. The root challenge of rural communities in Zimbabwe is the shaping of new strategies responsive to the enduring realities of rural economies and cultural life - high unemployment; persistent poverty; deteriorated social well-being; lower earnings; and diminished health care - as well as changing national circumstances. Promoting “rural” LED in Zimbabwe includes the participation of small communities in search of positive change, whereby local people are encouraged to think more about their futures and to put into practice their ideas for securing those futures.

Capacity building, therefore, deals mostly with the ability of local people to solve their problems. These process dimension programs seek to bring about change by forging new skills within rural communities related to leadership, mediation and conflict resolution, group processes, understanding the business of government, MSME development and the articulation of a shared vision to curb urban migration.

5. LED Practitioners and Competency Centres

Currently in Zimbabwe there are no official competency centres to promote LED and this is linked to the lack of a national Sustainable Development Secretariat to coordinate the agenda. This coordination is important as it will serve as the focal point for all the Ministries and stakeholders that are LED actors. Linked to the secretariat there is need form partnerships with academia and indepenndent think tank. Notwithstanding, there are LED experts working at various levels in different institutions in the country – skills set are spread in all areas covering practitioner, policy makers and academia.

6. Ideas for LED Thematic Studies

Economic Governance

Currently the GoZ is not funding its policies therefore they remain policy ideals that are not appreciated or implemented at the Provincial and Local levels. Furthermore, there is policy inconsistency where government does not adopt a holistic approach to policy execution. An example in this regard is the Indigenization and Economic Empowerment Act, it is not clear whether government is committed to implementing this 51/49 private ownership and that deters investors. The LA are marred with unfunded mandates, which results in a limited scope of work to the provision of social services and less on economic growth through MSME creation and employment creation. There are also overlaps and duplication of tasks where line Ministries that are decentralized to District level are competing for resources with LA.

Enterprise Development

The government has proven that it has no capacity to run enterprises and this has been seen to be true in other countries. This is seen in the state enterprises that have been mismanaged and rundown such that they can't even privatise them. As such LA only provide the operating spaces for Enterprises, however, they do not offer any form of support or incentives for entrepreneurship development. In fact, LAs have been cited as a bottleneck in starting small business.⁷ The process of starting a business is very costly due to prohibitive registrations costs levied by both Central and Local Government. In the first instance, the registration processes, as provided for in the legislative framework, are not flexible with very limited use of Information Communication Technology (ICT).⁸ All relevant registration requirements are attended to in the two registration offices located in Harare and Bulawayo, thereby compelling physical movement of persons to the two offices.⁹ This has resulted in the unprecedented growth of the informal sector, which as of 2012 was estimated at 7 Billion United States dollars according to the Finscope MSME Survey.

7 Research Continental-Fonkom (RCF) and FinMark Trust (FMT). (2012). *FinScope MSME Survey*. Harare: FinMark Trust (FMT).

8 Law Development Commission, Law Society of Zimbabwe, Public Accountnancy and Auditors Board of Zimbabwe. (n.d.). *Companies Act Review*. Retrieved February 2, 2016, from MInistry of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov.zw/index.php/downloads?download=5:company-act-review>

9 Law Development Commission, Law Society of Zimbabwe, Public Accountnancy and Auditors Board of Zimbabwe. (n.d.). *Companies Act Review*. Retrieved February 2, 2016, from MInistry of Justice: <http://www.justice.gov.zw/index.php/downloads?download=5:company-act-review>

Livelihoods Development

The Land Reform Programme has not benefitted all the marginalised. Most members of the community are not leaseholders and are often dislocated by powerful politicians. Further, the farmers do not have inputs to carry out production. Owing to the prevailing economic situation in the country, people are operating in survival mode. This has seen nationwide resistance to prohibitive legislation at Local Authority level. There is a high level of taking matters into own hands as evidence through the self-allocation of commercial operations space close to markets. This has created a continuous loggerheads situation with LA. Notably, Local Authority management is not proactive but reactive to developments. The challenge it appears is sustainable development has not been deliberately set up within formal institutional frameworks rather there are just loose Associations where information is hardly shared. Non-Governmental Organisations regularly implement livelihoods development programmes. However, these programmes are in the main for humanitarian assistance and not for sustainable development – this creates a dependency syndrome on donor aid within the local communities.

Locality Development

Rural LAs are set up with growth points established as the engine to drive economic growth in a locality. These growth points usually create peri-urban settlements some growth points over time transition into small towns. Locality development initiatives so far have been operationalized through the Community Share Ownership Trusts Schemes. These schemes are meant to be plough back mechanisms instructing private foreign owned firms to release funds to the trusts for local community development. However, in areas where no natural resources exist locality development is non-existent, this illuminates that this approach is not holistic and the benefits realised are haphazard as there is no determined roadmap.

Workforce Development

In Zimbabwe, there are forty two vocational training centres, 15 agricultural colleges, and some NGOs where they train communal and small scale farmers. Seed companies like Seedco, Panaar and Pionner have research field where they collaborate with research institutions to give practical research skills to students undertaking various agricultural related courses. In addition there are Technical Colleges and Universities that offer training in various disciplines required to promote LED.

7. Conclusion

From the projects collected and analysed, it appears that most projects are reactive and are only initiated to deal with a crisis hence these cannot be termed LED as per definition. Further, LA do not have the capacity to initiate coordinated LED initiatives for their localities. There is need to unpack the notion of capacity as it is not a simplistic economic issue it includes lack of knowledge management systems that can enhance knowledge asymmetry to create deliberate sustainable development pathways to promote LED. There is need for relationship building among all stakeholders currently relations are characterised by mistrust and avoidance. There is no engagement on broader economic development issues which lead to improved sustainable development. While the policy framework exists there are no operationalisation mechanisms to support the implementation of the same policies at the local level. The LA operate passively and the business communities view them as impediments and the taxation system is viewed by most as punitive which provide breeding ground for unethical business practices such as corruption. e advantage

Recommendations

1. Development of a LED framework that guides interaction of stakeholders in a way that promotes sustainable economic growth.
2. Review of outdated legislation at National and Local Authority levels impeding MSME development.
3. Donors need to transition from the humanitarian aid to development assistance that contributes to LED .
4. LED must be locally owned therefore government donors and NGOs must be facilitators for resilience building for local communities and for this to happen there must be collaboration and knowledge asymmetry.
5. LA need to transition from being social service agents and be more entrepreneurially focused participating actively in the creation and moderation of value chains.
6. Adoption of the value chain approach introduces the necessity in LED to look beyond the economic and political boundaries of a given locality.

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