



# NPRC WATCH

ANALYSIS | PROFILES | NEWS | RECOMMENDATIONS | PARTICIPATION

## Stakeholders, Friends, and Partners

### In this Edition

As the year 2019 draws to an end and the focus shifts to the festivities and the merry making of the Christmas season, it is important to keep abreast with the developments in the transitional justice sphere in the country as transitional justice affects our day to day lives. In this newsletter, we package these developments for you, so that you get the full picture of the transitional justice landscape in the country. We cover the activities of the NPRC and also share some of our activities. We welcome your feedback



### NPRC Activities

#### Consensus Building/Capacity Enhancement Workshop

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, the NPRC carried out a Consensus Building/Capacity Enhancement Workshop for the Zimbabwe Republic Police. The NPRC explained its mandate which is enshrined in section 252 of the constitution. The NPRC also explained to the police that its mandate encompasses the NPRC has power to investigate and conduct research. The essence of the engagement was to identify areas where the two constitutional bodies share synergies and how they can maximize the synergies in executing their respective mandates of promoting peace, law and order, conflict prevention and resolution.

#### Chiefs and Churches Summit

On the 19<sup>th</sup> November 2019, the NPRC hosted a Chiefs and Churches Summit in Midlands at the Village Lodge. The purpose of the Summit is for the Chiefs and Churches to dialogue and set the agenda for peace in Midlands Province.

### Conflict Early Warning and Early Response Training

On the 12<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, the NPRC initiated the process of capacitating its Commissioners and staff on Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (CEWER) in preparation for the setting up of a national CEWER system to detect conflicts before they escalate into violence. One of the facilitators at the training was Dr Prisca Kamungi from the Kenya National Committee on Peace building and Conflict Management. The major recommendation for the NPRC that she suggested was that there is a need to manage expectations by:

- Establishing the kind of CEWER mechanism that is to be set up;
- Establishing the legal framework to set up an early warning system;
- Defining the terms of reference of the CEWER structure
- Defining institutional arrangements beyond NPRC's mandate including buy in and linkages with the response organs and political establishment
- Deal with contentious issues so that no further conflicts are created

### Capacity-Building

On the 11<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, NPRC members of staff participated in a capacity building program, 'Reflecting on peace practice'. The program aimed to support the secretariat to understand conflict sensitivity and peace building, conflict analysis tools and an introduction to systems mapping.

### Lodging Complaints

On the 6<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, the NPRC put out a press release outlining the procedure of making a complaint to the NPRC. The press release outlined the manner of lodging complaints, where complaints can be lodged and how they can be made. The NTJWG looks forward to the operationalization of the NPRC's Complaints Handling and Investigations Thematic Department so that victims may start approaching the NPRC with their complaints regarding past violations to start the process of truth seeking regarding those violations as the first step to realising justice and healing. This press release may be accessed by visiting [www.nprc.org.zw](http://www.nprc.org.zw) and accessing the NPRC's Twitter handle.

### Meeting Communities

On the 5<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, Commissioner Chiradza and General Managers Mrs Mawema and Mr Mashingaidze met with community-based organizations and their members in Mukwada Village. NPRC urged the community to explore collaborative rather than combative engagement and to work towards transforming relationships with government and the mining companies in line with the theme of the commemorations.

### The Research and Knowledge Management Thematic Department

On the 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, the NPRC introduced



Research and Knowledge Management (RKM) Thematic Department. The overall objective of this department is advising the NPRC in the generation of knowledge through evidence based research, documentation and archiving, dissemination and learning in partnership through collaboration with experts and academic community. The goal of this department is to produce evidence based research for informed policy and decision making and the desired outcome of the thematic department's work is policy recommendations. The strategic deliverables for this department are as follows:

- Conflict mapping field which will encompass a desk review and baseline field survey, field baseline survey on conflict themes, sexual crimes and traditional methods for conflict resolution;
- Developing a shared social cohesion and reconciliation index for Zimbabwe
- Developing NPRC Knowledge Management systems;
- Scenarios mapping for Zimbabwe;
- Reframing of historical narratives;
- Academic round tables and knowledge sharing platforms;

### Victim Support, Gender and Diversity (VSGD) Thematic Department

On the 2<sup>nd</sup> of November the NPRC the NPRC published a press release introducing the Victim Support, Gender and Diversity (VSGD) Thematic Department as one of the NPRC's external thematic departments. The mandate of this department is laid out in terms of section 9 of the NPRC Act. The NPRC in its press release introducing the VSGD Thematic Department said that the department has a particular mandate to assist all victims of diverse groups, traditions, cultures and languages with an emphasis to target all vulnerable victims of conflict especially women, young girls and persons with disabilities. The VSGD was also said to be mandated to ensure that victims are handled in a proper manner as prescribed under section 10 of the NPRC Regulations.

### NTJWG Activities Community Dialogues

Between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November 2019, the NTJWG convened meetings with victims based in Zvishavane, Marange, Gwanda, Bikita and Nyanga bringing together 250 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 transitional justice 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.

### Regional Process Monitoring Meetings

In the past month, the NTJWG carried-out regional process monitoring meetings in Mutare and Gweru on the 5<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> and of November 2019, respectively. The key outcomes of these meetings are that:

- There was a revival of the relationship between the NTJWG and its stakeholders and the latter's activation. For years, this interaction was lacking. This also informed stakeholders of what the NTJWG intends to do and how it can be done by also involving them.
- These meetings carried-out preliminary stakeholder mapping exercises to see who is doing what and where and give stakeholders a platform to discuss their operating environment/context. We now an understanding how many NTJWG stakeholders are present and active in these regions.
- During both meetings, participants expressed concern over the rapidly shrinking civic space for the civil society 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.
- Stakeholders requested commented that the NPRC shares its work plan to enable proper planning and involvement in the Commission's work.
- Stakeholders also called for their capacitation so that they also start merging their programming with transitional justice issues. There was visible interest in the work the transitional justice is doing and some have invited the NTJWG to support them in engaging their constituency and raise awareness around transitional justice issues.

### Radio Programs

The NTJWG hosted a radio program on Diaomond-Fm in Mutare on 1 November 2019 under the theme '**Sustainable Natural Resources Governance and Building Partnerships for Development.**' This radio program provided a platform for the Marange community and Manicaland region to critically engage in natural resources management as a T.J issue. This was done by unpacking the work of the NTJWG, discuss issues related to TJ within the Marange context and clarify the mandate of the NPRC to ensure non-recurrence of gross human rights violations in Marange in relation to memorialization, reparations and the need for government to convey benefits out of diamond exploitation in Marange. Dr. S. Mungure (Africa University), Commissioner Chiradza (NPRC) and Sekai Gombe (NTJWG) were the panellists.



On 13 November 2019, the NTJWG represented by Ms. Sindiso Nxumalo implemented a radio programme under the theme '**Affirmative Action against Organised Violence in the Midlands Province**' This radio programme was intended to provide a platform for interface between transitional justice stakeholders and the official transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe to unpack the causes, opportunities and challenges in relation to organised violence in the Midlands Province, in particular the 'machete wars.'

### NTJWG Publications NPRC Briefing

On the 17<sup>th</sup> of October 2019, the NTJWG Chairperson Mr. Muchadehama met the NPRC Chairperson and Commissioners to present the NPRC Briefing. The briefing covered the following issues:

- Outstanding reports
- NPRC's interventions in support of survivors and victims
- The NPRC's role in the National Dialogue
- Liaison with stakeholders
- Inclusion of Survivors in Provincial Peace Committees

This briefing was then published on the 10<sup>th</sup> of November in the **Standard Newspaper**. The briefing can be accessed on <http://www.ntjwg.org.zw/downloads/NPRC%20Briefing%20October%202019.pdf>

## FEEDBACK AND THIS NEWSLETTER

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