



Report of the 2014 International Human Rights Day Commemorations

Date: 10th December 2014

Venue: Amphitheatre, Bulawayo



A banner highlighting the Occasion and Theme for the 2014 International Human Rights Day Commemorations, (Courtesy; ZHRC Education, Promotion & Research and Public Relations Units)

I. Introduction and background

On the 10th of December 2014, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and its partners joined the Global Community in commemorating the International Human Rights Day. The International Human Rights Day is commemorated globally each year on 10th December. The commemorations were held at the Bulawayo Amphitheatre under the International theme **“Human Rights 365”**. According to the office of United Nations Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (UN-OHCHR), the theme encompasses the idea that every day is Human Rights Day. It celebrates the fundamental proposition in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) that each one of us, everywhere, at all times is entitled to the full range of human rights, that human rights belong equally to each of us and bind us together as a global community with the same ideals and values.

The UN General Assembly proclaimed 10th December as Human Rights Day in 1950 to bring to the attention ‘of the peoples of the world’ the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as the common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. This day marks the first global recognition of rights to which all human beings are inherently entitled as codified in the UDHR of 1948. The UDHR includes 30 Articles whose provisions have been adopted in international treaties, regional human rights treaties and national constitutions including the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

ZHRC, as the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) with the constitutional mandate to promote, protect and enforce fundamental human rights and freedoms (S243 of the Constitution) in Zimbabwe, assumed a leadership role in commemorating the International Human Rights Day. The commemorations were a strategic platform that ZHRC and its partners used to enhance visibility and promote awareness of fundamental human rights and freedoms in the country.

The commemorations of International Human Rights Day brought together various multi-sectoral stakeholders to showcase themselves, their products and services. The event also enabled the ordinary person to access information on fundamental human rights and freedoms from the ZHRC, various Government Ministries, Civil Society, Independent Commissions and other organizations.

The decision to hold the commemorations in Bulawayo was motivated by the need to increase awareness of human rights to other areas of Zimbabwe and in particular, taking into consideration the principle of non-discrimination spelt out in international, regional and national laws including the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

II. Purpose of the Commemorations

As a new National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), ZHRC sought to partner with other Organisations and Government Ministries/Institutions to enhance visibility and educate the public about its work and mandate as well as raise awareness of fundamental human rights and freedoms. This was achieved through various platforms such as the mass media, a march for human rights, exhibitions, drama, poetry, songs and dance, music, solidarity messages, speeches and a keynote address. Further, the ZHRC and partner Government Ministries and Organisations

raised awareness of fundamental human rights and freedoms using Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and other multi-media forms of communication as detailed below. The information was disseminated in three (3) languages, which are English, Shona and Ndebele among many languages recognised by the Constitution.

III. Objectives of the International Human Rights Day Commemorations

1. Raise awareness of the public on the mandate and work of the ZHRC as enshrined in the Declaration of Rights and that of complementing partners.
2. Raise awareness of human rights and fundamental freedoms through information dissemination at.
3. Raise awareness of the International Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) as an International Human Rights Instrument, the Constitution of Zimbabwe and national laws that protect human rights.

IV. Expected Outcomes

1. Increased visibility of the ZHRC as the NHRI mandated for the promotion, protection and enforcement of fundamental human Rights and freedoms.
2. Increased visibility of partners as organisations with complementing roles in the promotion, protection and enforcement of fundamental human rights and freedoms.
3. Increased awareness of fundamental human rights and freedoms through information dissemination.
4. Increased awareness of the UDHR and the Declaration of Rights (Chapter 4) of the Constitution and other national laws that protect human rights.

V. Planning Process

In order to plan for the commemorations, ZHRC convened stakeholder engagement meetings in Harare on the 6th of November and in Bulawayo on the 10th of November 2014, respectively. At the meetings ZHRC sold the idea of partnerships in commemorating the International Human Rights Day. During the meetings, ZHRC presented the concept note, draft programme and draft budget.

The two stakeholder meetings culminated in the setting up of two Steering Committees for Harare and Bulawayo, which were then tasked with coordinating detailed preparations for the commemorations and report back regularly on progress with preparations to all partners.

The Steering Committees were comprised as follows;

A. Harare;

1. Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) (Chair)
2. Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS)
3. Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC)
4. National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO)
5. Zimbabwe Teachers' Association (ZIMTA)
6. Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ)

7. Ministry of Information and Publicity
8. Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs (Universal periodic Review Steering Committee)

B. Bulawayo;

1. ZHRC - (Chair of the Bulawayo Steering Committee)
2. ZIMRIGHTS
3. Sexual Rights Centre
4. Zimbabwe Christian Alliance
5. Radio Dialogue
6. Ministry of Home Affairs
7. Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment
8. Ministry of Gender, Women and Community Development

The preparations for the event were spearheaded and coordinated by the Education, Promotion and Research (EPR) with the Chief Education Officer for the unit assuming the role of lead organiser. The Public Relations Officer was in charge of publicity and the Finance and Administration department took charge of procurement and logistics once the EPR unit produced the preliminary budget. There was technical support from UNDP throughout the preparations.

VI. Commemorative March

The 2014 International Human Rights Day Commemorations were a huge success. About two thousand three hundred (2,300) people attended the event, starting with the commemorative march/procession. The procession started at Pick and Pay Supermarket (formerly TM Hyper Supermarket) in Fort Street. Before the march, participants were addressed by Commissioner Ndabeni-Ncube who gave a brief outline of the purpose for the gathering prior to the procession and outlined activities for the day. From there, the procession proceeded along Fort Street, turned into Leopold Takawira Street, briefly stopped at the Large City Hall and proceeded to the Bulawayo Amphitheatre (the main venue for the commemorations).

School Drum Majorettes, a Road show and the Salvation Army Band who accompanied the commemorative procession, with the latter leading in the National Anthem at the Amphitheatre prior to the start of the main programme. The Zimbabwe Republic Police provided escort and security throughout the march and during the commemorations.



Members of the public gather outside Pick & Pay Supermarket in Fort Street, moments before the Commemorative March, (Courtesy; ZHRC Education, Promotion & Research and Public Relations Units)



Drum Marjorretes and the Salvation Army Band accompanied the Marchers.

A. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Materials and Information Dissemination

i. Pre-Event Publicity and Community Mobilisation

In order to mobilise public attendance at the commemorations, an informative pre-event publicity poster branded with the logos of ZHRC and funding partners was developed. The pre-event publicity poster highlighting the occasion, this year's theme, date, venue and entertainment activities lined up for the commemorations was widely disseminated by the ZHRC team in Bulawayo through mounting at

various strategic locations around the city a few days prior to the commemorations. The poster contributed immensely to raising public awareness of the commemorations and generated interest by the public to attend the event.

In partnership with ZHRC, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS) and the Bulawayo Progressive Residents' Association (BUPRA), played a major part in mobilising the public to attend the commemorations, reaching out to about two thousand three hundred (2,300) people who participated in both the procession and attended the commemorations at the Amphitheatre. In addition, ZIMRIGHTS enlisted the services of trained marshals who assumed responsibility for crowd control and helped in maintaining order during the march and throughout the main event at the Amphitheatre.

ii. Placards

During the commemorative march/procession, participants held and displayed placards branded with ZHRC and funding partner logos with various simplified messages focused on creating awareness of human in the Declaration of Rights (Chapter 4 of the Constitution), and reflected in Regional and International Treaties, Agreements and Conventions. The simplified messages on placards were conveyed in English, Shona and Ndebele. The placards also highlighted topical human rights issues and concerns that require attention by the state, human rights defenders, civil society organisations, all sectors of society and the general public at large. Individually and collectively, the placards contributed to raising awareness of the mandate and functions of ZHRC.

The placards, branded with logos of the Commission and the Development / Funding Partners facilitated increased visibility of ZHRC as the lead Institution in the protection, promotion and enforcement of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Zimbabwe. Partners playing a complementary role to that of ZHRC in the protection and promotion of human rights also had their visibility amplified through their participation and some of them had their own placards. The net result was an increase in awareness of fundamental human rights and freedoms in their broadest sense as well as public understanding of UDHR, human rights guaranteed in the Constitution and national laws that have a bearing on the protection, promotion and enforcement of human rights in Zimbabwe.



Part of the crowd who participated in the commemorative march hold placards with messages on human rights protection and promotion, (Courtesy; ZHRC Education, Promotion & Research and Public Relations Units)

iii. T/Shirts

Throughout the march and during the commemorations at the main venue, awareness of the mandate and work of ZHRC and that of partners was enhanced by ZHRC staff and representatives of partner organisations and ZHRC Commissioners wearing t/shirts branded with the ZHRC and corporate logos of donors who supported the commemorations. The t/shirts highlighted ZHRC's mandate and functions to **“protect, promote and enforce human rights”** as well as the theme for this year's commemorations **“Human Rights 365”**.

Messages printed on the t/shirts contributed to raising public awareness of the functions and constitutional mandate of the ZHRC as well as amplifying the theme for this year's commemorations, emphasising the need for everyone's human rights to be **protected, promoted and enforced** at all levels of society every day of the year. For enhanced visibility and to assist the crowd, ZHRC staff wore identification tags labelled **“staff”** and ZIMRIGHTS deployed Ushers who were similarly identifiable in their ushering bibs.

These staff identification arrangements assisted the crowd in identifying ZHRC and partner staff and contributed immensely to maintaining an orderly commemorative event.

iv. Banners

Eight (8) banners were produced and displayed during the commemorative march. Each banner carried a message focused on a specific Thematic Working Group (TWG). The thematic banners carried messages emphasising on human rights issues that need attention and action by the state, key stakeholders and the public at large in protecting, promoting and enforcing human rights in Zimbabwe.

Two other banners were produced specifically for the leading and following pack of participants leading and anchoring the rear of the procession, respectively. In addition, a giant banner capturing the theme for the commemorations was displayed on stage within the venue for the commemorative event. In addition, participating organisations had their own banners.

The banners had a huge impact on raising awareness of fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in Chapter 4 of the Constitution, the Universal Declaration of Rights (UDHR) and other Regional and International Treaties and Conventions.



Some of the participants taking part in the International Human Rights Day Commemorative March, (Courtesy; ZHRC Education, Promotion & Research and Public Relations Units)

v. Brochures/Pamphlets

At the main venue for the commemorations, ZHRC staff distributed over 800 copies of pamphlets/brochures outlining the mandate and functions of ZHRC and illustrating the Commission's complaints handling and investigations procedures, respectively. The pamphlets helped disseminate information and messages publicizing the constitutional role and mandate of the ZHRC, its functions, powers, nature and types of complaints the Commission can handle, procedures for lodging/submitting human rights complaints, circumstances under which ZHRC may or may not institute investigations of alleged human rights violations and procedures for intake, assessment and redress of human rights complaints. The pamphlets highlighted

processes for determining ZHRC's constitutional and legal jurisdiction, and alternative redress mechanisms available to the Zimbabwean public. Further, the brochures and pamphlets distributed contributed to increased visibility of ZHRC, raising awareness of human rights, the UDHR and national laws that protect and promote human rights.



ZHRC IEC materials (brochures, pamphlets and copies of the Constitution of Zimbabwe on display for access by the public during the 2014 International Human Rights Day Commemorations, (Courtesy; ZHRC Education, Promotion & Research and Public Relations Units)

vi. Constitution of Zimbabwe

More than five hundred (500) copies of the Constitution of Zimbabwe were also distributed by ZHRC staff manning the ZHRC stand at the entrance to the Amphitheatre and within the main arena. Distribution of the Constitution contributed to raising public awareness of the mandate and functions of ZHRC as well as the human rights and fundamental freedoms enshrined in Chapter 4 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

vii. Exhibitions

In addition, about ten (10) partner organisations exhibited their IEC materials such as banners, pamphlets/brochures, leaflets and various booklets showcasing their work in protecting and promoting human rights in Zimbabwe. Partner organisations that exhibited their IEC materials include Musasa Project, Christian Legal Society, Childline, ZIMRIGHTS, Legal Resources Foundation and Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, among others. The exhibitions enabled ZHRC and partner organisations to show case their work, raise awareness of topical and current human

rights issues through information dissemination, awareness raising of the UDHR, the Constitution of Zimbabwe and various national laws and legal frameworks that guide the protection, promotion and enforcement of human rights in Zimbabwe.



ZHRC Chairperson, Commissioner E.H. Mugwadi accompanies dignitaries on a tour of exhibitions outside the Bulawayo Amphitheatre

B. Media and Publicity Activities

Ahead of the commemorations and during the event, the Commission embarked on a media and publicity initiative to publicise the commemorations, communicated to the public about the constitutional mandate and functions of ZHRC, popularised the theme for this year and generated public interest across the country on the importance of commemorating the International Human Rights Day. Media and publicity activities before and during the event contributed immensely to popularising the theme for the event and further enhanced visibility of ZHRC as the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI) mandated for the protection, promotion and enforcement of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Zimbabwe. The media and publicity activities undertaken were as follows;

a) Newspaper Supplement

A newspaper supplement was published on the 10th of December in five newspapers namely The Herald, The Chronicle, Daily News, NewsDay and Southern Eye. The aim of publishing the supplement was to inform and educate the public on the importance and significance of International Human Rights Day and to highlight the theme **“Human Rights 365”**.

b) Radio advertisements

Radio advertisements were flighted on four radio stations namely; Star FM, Zi FM, Radio Zimbabwe and National FM from the 1st of December, 2014. The advertisements were flighted three times a day for ten days to inform the public about the commemoration of International Human Rights Day and to inform the public about the theme for 2014.

c) Television advertisement

The same advertisement was also flighted on television for seven days, from the 3rd of December, 2014 to the 9th of December, 2014.

d) "Good Morning Zimbabwe"

The Chairperson participated on a television programme, '**Good Morning Zimbabwe**' to publicise International Human Rights Day and to unpack the theme for 2014, "**Human Rights 365**".

e) Radio Programmes

The ZHRC Chairperson and the Harare Chairperson of the International Human Rights Day Steering Committee publicised the event on three radio programmes facilitated by Star FM. The first programme was aired on Wednesday, 3 December, 2014; followed by the second programme on Monday, 8 December, 2014. A third programme was aired on the 10th of December to coincide with the International Human Rights Day for 2014.

f) Website

Statements, speeches and pictures were uploaded on the ZHRC website to further publicise the commemorative event.

g) Video recording

A video depicting all proceedings on the day of the commemorations was recorded.

h) Media Coverage on the day of the commemorations

A total of 20 Journalists representing different media houses attended the event to provide media coverage for the commemorations. Nine media houses which included Southern Eye, Chronicle, Sunday News, Zimbabwe Mail, Zi FM, Daily News, Financial Gazette, B-Metro and Ministry of Information, Media and Broadcasting Services were represented.

C. Speeches and solidarity messages

The ZHRC Deputy Executive Secretary (Programmes) led introductions of the Guest of Honour, invited Guests, Commissioners and ZHRC Staff. Thereafter, the ZHRC Executive Secretary delivered welcoming remarks. In her speech, she commended partners and key stakeholders for collaborating with ZHRC in commemorating the International Human Rights Day.

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The ZHRC Chairperson then delivered his speech. The speech underlined the commitments and contributions Zimbabwe has made to date as a member of the United Nations (UN) through membership of the UN General Assembly, promoting fundamental human rights and freedoms through ratifying and domesticating charter based and treaty based international treaties and conventions, advancing world peace initiatives and participating in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) mechanisms and processes. Echoing UN Secretary General (Mr. Ban Ki Moon)'s appeal to the Global community on the occasion of this year's International Human Rights Day Commemorations, the ZHRC Chairperson emphasised the need for every person to play their part in ***“the struggle against injustice, intolerance and extremism”***.



Part of the crowd that attended the commemorations follow proceedings in the Amphitheatre, (Courtesy; ZHRC Education, Promotion & Research and Public Relations Units)

The Chairperson reminded the gathering that society had the collective responsibility to promote awareness of fundamental human rights and freedoms at the level of the family; advancing gender equality at all levels and shunning negative cultural practices that fuel gender inequality and neglect children's best interests. The Chairperson reiterated that the Commission is alive to the endemic culture of corruption and malpractices in public institutions and agencies negatively impacting on service delivery by public institutions and agencies. He concluded his speech by congratulating the people of Zimbabwe for commemorating the event and thanked all stakeholders who had made the commemorations possible.

Representatives of Cluster Organisations delivered messages of solidarity on behalf of Women's Rights Organisations, Faith Based Organisations, Human Rights Civil Society Organisations, Persons Living with Disabilities, Labour, Government, Youth,

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the European Union, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Steering Committee, respectively. Solidarity messages highlighted the importance of the theme for the commemorations, and expressed support for the work of the Commission in discharging its mandate of protecting, promoting and enforcing fundamental human rights and freedoms in Zimbabwe. Other issues highlighted in solidarity messages included the need to protect rights of women and girls and promote gender equality, advance the rights of workers to fair labour practices, promote equal opportunities for people living with disabilities and enhance employment opportunities for young people, among others.



The EU Head of Delegation for Zimbabwe, Mr. Philippe Van Damme, delivers his Message of Solidarity during the 2014 International Human Rights Day Commemorations, 10 Dec 2014



Mrs Verity Nyagah, UNDP Country Director *delivers a Message of Solidarity on behalf of the Zimbabwe United Nations Country Team (UNCT), during the International Human Rights Day Commemorations, 10 Dec 2014*

The Deputy Chief Justice, who was the Guest of Honour delivered his keynote address, which emphasised the need for every person to protect the rights of marginalised people and ensure that perpetrators of human rights violations were dealt with in terms of the law. His speech also reiterated that full protection and promotion of human rights was required of people in positions of authority and power to uphold every person's fundamental human rights and freedoms at every level of society. The Deputy Chief Justice also called on society to protect human rights defenders when doing their work. Noting that Zimbabwe was commemorating the International Human Rights Day less than two years since adoption of a new Constitution with a broadened Declaration of Human Rights in Chapter 4, the Deputy Chief Justice remarked that for this reason, the commemorations were an opportunity for everyone to take stock and reflect on the measures Zimbabwe had taken as a country in protecting and promoting fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Constitution.

In concluding his key note address, the Deputy Chief Justice called upon ZHRC and stakeholders to ensure that commemorations for 2015 are decentralised to remote and underserved areas to promote awareness of fundamental human rights and freedoms in all parts of the country, particularly among marginalised social groups such as women, children, the elderly, persons living with disabilities and other special interest groups.

Solidarity messages from partners and the Guest of Honour's Key Note Address collectively expressed support for the constitutional obligation of ZHRC to protect,

promote and enforce human rights every day as articulated in the theme for the commemorations.



Deputy Chief Justice, Honourable Justice Luke Malaba delivers his Keynote Address to the gathering during the International Human Rights Day Commemorations, 10 December 2014

D. Entertainment/Performing Artists

A number of Performing Artists hired by the Commission performed at the commemorations. These included Traditional Poet and Musician Albert Nyathi, Kaisa Theatre Group, Umkhathi Theatre Group, Victory Siyanqoba, The Cool Crooners and Thandanani Women's Ensemble. The Performing Artists were instrumental in conveying key messages anchored around raising awareness on the theme for the commemorations "**Human Rights 365,**" raising awareness on the constitutional mandate and functions of ZHRC in protecting, promoting and enforcing human rights, disseminating information on various rights enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe, increasing and promoting visibility of ZHRC's work, and enhancing visibility of partner organisations in fulfilling the work of the Commission.

Through song, poetry, dance, drama, humour and popular theatre, the Artists attracted public attention to specific human rights enshrined in the Constitution and highlighted key human rights issues and challenges with specific human rights violations which needed to be addressed by every person in order to ensure that all human rights are **protected, promoted and enforced** at all levels of society. Specific human rights themes and issues highlighted by the Performing Artists included children's rights; gender equality and women's rights; labour rights; civil, political and cultural rights; rights of special interest groups (including people living with disabilities); environmental rights; rights to food; right to potable water; right to education; right to health care and right to a clean environment, among several other

human rights as enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe, National Laws and as reflected in Regional and International Treaties and Agreements including the UDHR.

Performances by the Artists further facilitated distribution of IEC materials (ZHRC information pamphlets/brochures) and created an alternative platform for further engaging in interactive discussions with members of the public on topical human rights themes as more people thronged the ZHRC exhibition stand to acquire IEC materials to learn more about the mandate and functions of ZHRC. Men, women, children of all ages, young people, elderly persons and representatives of Government Departments, Corporate Organizations and representatives of Civic Society Organizations and Development Partners who attended the event were positively impacted by the performances of the Artists, judging by the feedback obtained on their impressions of the messages from the Artists.

Overall, the performances by the Artists amplified the constitutional mandate and role of ZHRC as the national Human Rights Institution (NHRI) mandated for the protection, promotion and enforcement of human rights and freedoms in addition to raising awareness of the need to protect and promote human rights **each day of the year** as enjoined by this year's theme for the commemorations



Performing Artists (Umkhathi Theatre Group) staging an educational human rights awareness-raising performance on stage during the 2014 International Human Rights Day Commemorations, (Courtesy; ZHRC Education, Promotion & Research and Public Relations Units)

E. Closing Ceremony

At the end of the Commemorations, the ZHRC Deputy Chairperson, Dr. Ellen Sitholee delivered the vote of thanks. In her speech, the Deputy Chairperson acknowledged the technical and financial support availed to the Commission by development partners such as UNDP, EU, and DIHR. She also expressed appreciation to other development partners who contributed in different ways such as the Royal Norwegian Embassy, the Royal Danish Embassy and the Royal Netherlands Embassy.

Special mention also went to NANGO and ZIMRIGHTS who contributed with food and mobilising the public to attend the commemorations, as well as Ingwe Studios (Radio Dialogue) who assisted ZHRC with electronic equipment for the commemorative march at lower rates than those prevailing on the market. She concluded her speech by acknowledging various partners in Government and Civil Society for partnering with ZHRC in planning and preparing for the event by attending preparatory Steering Committee meetings ahead of the event.

His Worship, the Mayor of Bulawayo, then delivered the closing remarks. He thanked ZHRC for holding the commemorations in Bulawayo, noting that this had enhanced raising awareness of human rights in other parts of the country, brought together partners in various sectors and promoted the visibility of the work and mandate of ZHRC and its partners in the protection and promotion of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Zimbabwe.

F. Challenges and Constraints

Although the commemorations were a huge success, the following were some of the challenges and constraints encountered;

- a. Some partner organisations who had pledged to support the Commission for the commemorations were unable to do so and others delayed in availing their contributions. This affected timely finalisation of the preparations.
- b. There were initial differences around branding and messaging for the commemorations. This was however resolved amicably prior to the commemorations. The International Human Rights theme came out late and this delayed printing of T/shirts.
- c. IEC materials used for the commemorations were mainly in Shona, English and Ndebele. Because of time constraints the materials could not be translated to other languages. This may have limited the Commission's ability to reach out to other minority groups whose indigenous languages are recognised by the Constitution.
- d. Some people (especially from remote rural areas) complained that they had difficulties communicating with some of the ZHRC staff manning the exhibition stand as they could not speak their specific indigenous languages. This could have limited the extent of information dissemination or awareness raising as anticipated as there were language barriers.
- e. UNDP payment procedures posed challenges since some suppliers insisted on either cash payment upfront or at least fifty percent cash deposit. As a

result, production of IEC materials initially scheduled to be done in Bulawayo had to be shifted to Harare at the last minute and this affected early delivery of materials. On the other hand, some Bulawayo stakeholders felt their region had been economically disadvantaged by the decision.

- f. Balancing the conflicting interests of various stakeholders and development/funding partners proved a major challenge for the Commission. While the partnership approach contributed immensely to the overall success of the commemorations, it proved extremely challenging to satisfy the expectations of all stakeholders involved.

G. Lessons Learnt and Recommendations

To enhance improved coordination in future commemorative events;

- a. ZHRC and partners will need to initiate preparations much earlier to ensure that all the resources required for commemorations are in place prior to the event.
- b. Issues to do with branding and messaging ought to be agreed and finalised in good time, taking into account the needs and concerns of different stakeholders involved.
- c. In future commemorative and awareness raising events, efforts should be made to ensure that IEC materials (banners, placards, t/shirts, brochures/pamphlets and pre-event publicity posters) are printed in other indigenous languages recognised by the Constitution of Zimbabwe to embrace inclusiveness and promote Zimbabwe's rich cultural diversity.
- d. In future commemorative events, it is necessary for the ZHRC to ensure that staff who are familiar with most local indigenous languages spoken in the region of the commemorative event are deployed at the exhibition desk to ensure effective interaction with communities.
- e. In future, ZHRC needs to fully appreciate the challenges involved in meeting UNDP payment requirements and procedures by instituting procurement processes much earlier, including ways to mitigate the challenges.
- f. The partnership approach in planning commemorations is key to success. ZHRC should continue with this approach in future commemorative events to strengthen its relationship and collaboration with partners in various sectors.
- g. In future, there is need to plan and initiate activities much earlier in order to avoid unforeseen bottlenecks and enhance the success of similar events.
- h. IEC materials for the International Human Rights Day and other Commemorations should be further improved and developed further. This entails development of more brochures and pamphlets on the functions and activities of all Units of the Programmes Department, as well as the functions of Thematic Working Groups and on human rights in general. The already existing nucleus of IEC materials can be used as a basis for expanding the quality and content of IEC ZHRC promotional materials that will further enhance visibility of the Commission.

H. Concluding Remarks

The 2014 International Human Rights Day Commemorations were a resounding success. Through the commemorations, ZHRC achieved the objectives of raising public awareness on the importance and significance of the International Human Rights Day and in particular, the relevance of the theme **“Human Rights 365”**.

Visibility of the Commission as the lead Institution mandated for the protection, promotion and enforcement of fundamental human rights and freedoms in Zimbabwe was also increased by the Commission assuming the leadership role and the various promotional activities carried out as part of the commemorations. The commemorations were an effective platform for raising awareness of fundamental human rights and freedoms enshrined in the Declaration of Rights (**Chapter 4 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe**), mandate and functions of ZHRC, (**Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Act (Chapter 10:30)**), the **Universal Declaration of Rights (UDHR)**, and mechanisms available to the public to redress violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms guaranteed in national laws, regional and international treaties and conventions.

Visibility of various key partners and stakeholders engaged in the protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Zimbabwe was actively amplified through the partnership and collaborative approach adopted in commemorating the 2014 International Human Rights Day.

The Commission looks forward to strengthening the existing partnerships with key stakeholders in Government, Civil Society, other Commissions and other relevant organisations in effectively discharging its mandate of protecting, promoting and enforcing fundamental human rights and freedoms in future commemorative events.