

Zimbabwe's Current Socio-Economic and Political Situation Challenges and Prospects

Compiled by
Nokuthula Mujuru



Organization for
Social Science
Research in
Eastern and
Southern Africa

**National Workshop of OSSREA
Zimbabwe Chapter**

Zimbabwe's Current Socio-Economic and Political Situation: Challenges and Prospects

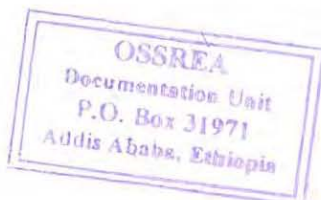
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Report of National Workshop



Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa

Addis Ababa



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1. INTRODUCTION

The Zimbabwe Chapter of the Organization for Social Science Research in Eastern and Southern Africa (OSSREA) held its annual national workshop on 20th September 2002 at the Holiday Inn, in Harare. The theme of the workshop was: *Zimbabwe's Current Socio-economic and Political Situation: Challenges and Prospects*. People from various universities and non-academic institutions convened to deliberate on the theme (see Annex II). Five main papers were presented: three from the University of Zimbabwe, one from Africa University and another from the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe. The papers focused mainly on social, economic, political and cultural aspects, both at national and regional levels. The main issues raised during the workshop include:

- Inequality among social classes and how polarization of these classes contributes to current problems;
- How poverty is critical and how it is being propagated by un-addressed social classes; and
- Sources of Zimbabwean problems, which are both internal and external.

2. OPENING REMARKS

Dr. Donald Chimanikire chaired the first session of the seminar. He welcomed the participants and expressed his appreciation of all members, especially members coming from outside Harare. He then invited Dr. Nyasha Madzingira, the Liaison Officer, to introduce Dr. Pangeti, the President of OSSREA.

After introducing Dr. Pangeti, Dr. Madzingira summarized the day's proceedings as indicated on the programme line-up (Annex II). She went further to elaborate the main activities of OSSREA Zimbabwe Chapter, which are:

- Holding annual seminars;
- Dissemination of information within Zimbabwe;
- Facilitating research grants/ competitions, for example, the Social Science and, Gender Issues Research Grant, competitions;
- Conducting the Graduate Student Competition; and
- Participating in International Book Fair.

She further informed the participants that there were plans to expand the Chapter to provincial level, to make it more national and representative. Plans are underway to set up two provincial Chapters in 2002, in Manicaland and Midland provinces. Three other Chapters would be launched in 2003.

In her conclusion, she encouraged members to pay up their annual membership, which is pegged at US\$10 (equivalent to Z\$550). She raised concern on the poor payment of membership, leading to inconsistent number of members in the organization.

3. ADDRESS BY DR. EVELYN PANGETI, OSSREA'S PRESIDENT

Dr. Pangeti introduced her speech by commending the Zimbabwe Chapter for a noticeable increase in its number of members although the Chapter had started late compared to other member countries. She further informed the members that she has finished her term and that elections for the new president would be held at the triennial Congress in December 2002. She was proud to inform the members that OSSREA is expanding to South Africa, where a new Chapter is going to be launched soon. She further encouraged members to pay up their subscription since numbers were fluctuating annually.

Dr. Pangeti noted that the theme of the workshop was pertinent to Zimbabwe's current turbulent situation. She, however, cautioned the

participants that they should not be emotional and politically charged when debating these issues. She emphasized that the participants should tackle the theme within a broad perspective including both national and international issues. She indicated that there was need for giving the theme a broad historical perspective and also for concentrating on the 1990s. She hoped that by including the international perspective, the question on "Are Zimbabwe's socio-economic and political challenges purely national in nature?" might be answered. She emphasized that participants should deliberate mostly on three issues at the national level:

- The economy, which has historically been determined by the performance of major sectors (agriculture, mining and manufacturing), the performance of international economy and the annual performance of agriculture, which is dependent on climatic conditions;
- The adoption and abandonment of ESAP by the government at a time when the economy was already bad; and
- The current political situation in relation to the international political situation.

At the international level, the issues to be considered include:

- Global major financial crises (Turkey and Argentina in 2001);
- Terrorism and the September 11 attack;
- Issues of globalization;
- New regionalism such as the EU, AU and NEPAD; and
- Promotion of democracy and good governance.

In her conclusion, Dr. Pangeti informed the members that the major challenges facing Zimbabwe are not very different from those facing other poor countries especially in Africa - challenges that could be summarized as "Job creation and poverty reduction".

The chairperson, Dr. Chimanikire, thanked Dr. Pangeti for her remarks. He then requested the participants to introduce themselves.

4. SUMMARY OF PAPERS PRESENTED

4.1 Zimbabwe's Current Socio-economic Situation: Challenges and Prospects in the Era of Globalization

(Prof. Victor Ngonidzashe Muzvidziwa)

Prof Muzvidziwa started his presentation by commenting on Dr. Pangeti's question: "Are Zimbabwe's problems specific for Zimbabwe?" His comment was that the key to the problem was poverty alleviation/reduction. He went on to say that while other countries are developing globally, countries like Zimbabwe are busy trying to solve social (crime, violence, inequality), political and economic problems.

His paper highlighted some of the current social concerns in Zimbabwe, with the main focus being poverty. He highlighted that for most Zimbabweans life has become a struggle. Survival or comfort demands sacrificing the interests of some, and the politics of belonging has become vital in determining whose interests are to be sacrificed first and whose are to be protected, thereby perpetuating poverty. He went on to say that the current chaotic social environment and related problems of governance such as the generalized chaos and violence in many parts of the world are reflective of the contradictory tendencies generalized by globalization forces.

Globalization has managed to quick start issues such as belonging, identity and others. He defined globalization as a complex, multi-faceted, multi-vocal and fluid term. When discussing globalization, emphasis has been on financial and industrial inputs and yet globalization has had far-reaching socio-economic changes. It has resulted in compression of distance and time and in establishment of inter-connections across communities. He also noted that there is a tendency towards informalisation of work without recognizing the

poor unpaid housewife in the home, the cross border traders and migration to greener pastures for source of income.

In his presentation, Prof. Muzvidziwa adopted the livelihood framework as an analytic tool to explain the social problems in Zimbabwe. He defined the livelihood framework as a set of practices by which individuals and groups strive to make a living. He emphasized that livelihood involves the following:

- Capabilities and assets;
- Demand networks and connections;
- Survival strategies and coping strategies;
- Value choices;
- Issues of ownership; and
- Management skills.

Prof. Muzvidziwa went on to discuss main causes of poverty. He blamed the state policies for contributing to poverty in Zimbabwe. He pointed out that the state has no clearly formulated policy on poverty alleviation although there are policies connected to poverty, which have had a bearing on the poor. He emphasized that there is structural continuity of policy adoption since the colonial era, and he gave the following policies as examples:

- The pre-ESAP policies on welfare were biased and were restricted to the disabled, such as the physically handicapped, the blind and the mentally retarded. This was a continuation of the pre-colonial policies that date back to the 1890s. The Mayday theme in the early 1980s, which stated “no work, no eat”, evidenced the continuity of the pre-colonial policies.
- The ESAP-driven policies in Zimbabwe based on financial rationality in economic decisions have contributed to more pronounced forms of poverty in Zimbabwean towns.

- Industrial policy. The minimum wage policy dates as far back as 1953, when the Industrial Conciliatory Act established a minimum wage for artisans. The focus was on the employed and not on poverty alleviation. This Act is similar to the post-colonial Labour Relations Act of 1985, which also focused on protecting those formally employed.
- Taxation policy tended to hit the poor more than others; for example, sales tax is charged equitably among all social classes. Since its introduction in 1974, sales tax has been increasing, thereby affecting the poor more.
- Land distribution. He also wondered how the land distribution will affect the disadvantaged groups.

He also noted that the poor seem to have innovative ways of earning a living compared to the elite who are always complaining of economic hardships despite their having a lion's share of the wealth in Zimbabwe. His suggested solutions to the causes including focusing on individual qualities such as the kind of values people hold on issues such as corruption and the misuse of public funds. He further noted that people in influential positions need to have positive values and thinking.

4.1.1 Discussant's Remarks

Ms. Jirira lauded the paper presented. However, she highlighted issues she thought were pertinent to the paper as follows:

- Which direction is Zimbabwe following in terms of entitlements and what are the issues of different groups such as the war vets, the poor, the rich, etc?
- Who is benefiting from globalization and how is it assisting the individual's livelihood?
- Why is the world not globalizing people and are there no dangers of extinction of individual cultures?

- The framework of livelihood, which Prof. Muzvidziwa used, lacked the political and economic aspects and did not elaborate properly the link to Zimbabwean situation.
- The definition of poverty was too narrow and everyone would be considered poor by the definition. The definition was urban-based, excluding rural poverty and the poor woman.

4.1.2 Discussion

Dr. Pangeti alluded to Prof. Muzvidziwa's point on the policy makers versus the poor. She commented that income differentiation in Zimbabwe is very critical with a large polarization between the poor and the rich. She wondered why this wide gap between the poor and the rich is even growing much wider, with the rich talking more about failure of the economy and yet accumulating more resources. She went further to comment that although Prof. Muzvidziwa has separated rural and urban, these two remain inseparable. In fact, the rural and urban communities compliment each other.

Mr. Zengeni challenged Prof. Muzvidziwa's assumption that there is continuity of policies from the pre-colonial and post-colonial eras. He said comparisons are not possible since challenges in the pre-colonial era are different from the current ones; for example, in the health and education sectors. He also highlighted that there is need for academics to conceptualize Zimbabwean issues in a broader perspective, such as looking at the impact of the apartheid regime on Zimbabwean development and the Matabeleland atrocities. This will assist in critically and objectively tackling the theme in general.

Mr. Masuko noted that Prof. Muzvidziwa did not include the impact of HIV/AIDS on social challenges and also did not give possible suggestions on poverty alleviation policies.

In response, Prof. Muzvidziwa indicated the following:

- There has been no break of definition of poverty datum line since the 1960s to date; and it was not intended to compare political leaders but the policies in place.
- Zimbabweans tend to blame failures on previous events, for example, the Matabeleland atrocities, rather than critically conceptualize the problems.
- There is need for redressing social structural issues when addressing the land redistribution and there is need for global connections for marketing the agricultural products.
- Academic debates need not be politically motivated, but they need to critique the situation objectively to move forward and to prevent worsening of inequalities.

4.2 Contemporary Challenges and Prospects of the Zimbabwean Economy

(Dr. Livingstone Musoro)

The chairperson, Mr. Mavhunga, introduced Dr. L. Musoro from Africa University in Mutare.

Dr. Musoro's main focus was on factors affecting performance of economy and possible solutions. He emphasized that Zimbabwean problems are mostly internal. He summarized the internal factors affecting performance of the Zimbabwean economy as:

- Decline in national and disposable incomes with real GDP growth rates falling almost continuously from 8.7% in 1996 to -8.6% in 2001;
- Imbalance between savings and investment;
- Heavy supply-side constraints, thin and more concentrated product and service markets have characterized the economy for a long time, with the overall index of manufacturing output as a percentage change worsening continually without recovery from 3.5% in 1996 to -6.3% in 2000. This has partly

- contributed to shortage of basic commodities with a well-grounded underground market in the basic commodities;
- Foreign currency shortage leading to a well-grounded underground parallel market. The shortage of foreign currency has been due to declining net exports as export competitiveness continues to fall whilst the demand for and value of imports continue to rise, causing a drain in gross reserves and a decline in national income;
 - A growing speculative culture within the population - this is almost inevitable considering that the US dollar is currently trading in the underground parallel market at an exchange rate that is around 1100% of the official market rate, and basic commodities in the underground basic commodity market are trading at prices up to 100% more than the gazetted prices. Such a situation removes incentive for normal work effort. Illegal markets transfer a lot of economic transactions into hidden hands;
 - Inflation rate is increasing eroding the purchasing power of money leading to failure to save and to increased interest rates. Currently the inflation is pegged at 135%, with the Zimbabwe dollar price for the US dollar pegged at Z\$55, Zimbabwean exports have become extremely uncompetitive on official exports market within the region.
 - Uncertainty over the direction of core policy adoption. It is not yet clear whether Zimbabwe will adopt more socialist/welfare policies in line with legislated maximum price controls or it will be faithful to market principles considering the 2002 presidential elections are over;
 - Persistence of an election mood within the Zimbabwean society. With the presidential elections just ended, many constituents, politicians and councillors expect council in the next parliamentary elections in 2005. This political scenario

creates a situation where politicians will come up with short-term solutions, which are favourable for winning votes;

- Depressed business and investor confidence. Political polarization makes political parties to sort support of labour and industry with contrasting and often contradicting policies and promises, making it more difficult for industry to continue operating viably in this environment;
- Reluctance of the international donor community to resume donor support. Due to unstable political situation, donors have pulled off. External support such as from IMF and EU was necessary to relieve the economy of the pressure from external obligations; and
- The impact of HIV/AIDS is similar to those of the slave trade and wars, because all these phenomena affect the economically productive groups.

He gave the following as possible solutions to the above problems:

- Devaluation of the currency;
- Change of the policies that have contributed to the current problems;
- Expand and diversify economic production as a long term measure; and
- Build confidence and credibility in the economy.

4.2.1 Discussant's Remarks

Mr. Masuko commended that the presenter alluded well to budget issues and their impact on industry and response

In his critique, Mr. Masuko pointed out the following:

- There is need for moving away from textbook solutions and for coming up with new economic theories that are practical

and realistic. Practical solutions such as the value added tax and capacity to generate tax should be encouraged.

- That the paper talks of selective economic management, but does not state which ones exactly.
- The paper mentions that we should unlock the value, but does not really indicate at what level - production level, agricultural or industrial level, and are we ready to unlock and do we have the resources? There is need for elaborating more on financial sector aspects in the presentation.
- Issues of inequality were not elaborated well. The paper does not explain how prices should be controlled and where we should start controlling them - at producer level or market level?
- The paper emphasizes that relations with the donor community should be restored but it does not mention ways of restoring these relations.
- The paper did not elaborate on issues of inequality and how/when prices should be controlled, and at what level (producer or market level) they should be controlled.
- The paper notes the slowness of the government in exploiting economic opportunities in DRC and Mozambique, but does not analyze why there is a delay in exploiting these issues.
- Africans are oriented towards education for formal employment unlike the white community, which is mainly concerned about individual business rather than formal employment.

4.2.2 Discussion

Mr. Sibanda commented that the losses of personnel and skill to other countries were not adequately deliberated on and that it was going to be interesting to find out their contribution to the economy and to the

lucrative parallel market. However, Mr. Masuko informed the participants that 90% of the foreign currency in the parallel market is from foreign account holders who are not properly monitored and controlled by the Reserve Bank. The 10% is from individuals who are working abroad.

Mr. Zengeni warned the house that they should pursue privatization with caution since the main beneficiaries are western countries. Western countries succeeded because of privatization in developing countries with profits out flowing externally and not revolving within the country. In his response, however, Dr. Musoro disputed Mr. Zengeni's point and explained that privatization with caution does not bring qualitative gains but quantitative gains that benefit the minority.

Ms. Jirira queried how building national confidence could be addressed without addressing class structures. Dr. Musoro responded by indicating that the bottom line classes could be incorporated into one national building agenda. He cited Japan, which changed the Samurai into industrialists, businessmen, and agriculturalists and are now doing very well. Germany also used the social market capitalism and is currently doing well. He went further to explain that the foreign exchange policies are dividing people into different groups as exporters and importers and yet these two groups are one and class differences do not work effectively.

4.3 Zimbabwe's Political Situation: Challenges and Prospects

(Mrs. C. Ndoro)

In her presentation, Mrs. Ndoro pointed out that the current political challenges facing Zimbabwe were due to two main factors, namely:

- Inherited and unresolved issues at independence; and
- Lack of political will to implement important national policies.

Inherited and unresolved issues at Independence

The inherited and unresolved issues at independence include land question, the Lancaster House Constitution, rights of women, political intolerance and a culture of fear.

A. Land question

This dates back to as far as during the Lobengula era, where the whites, headed by the Rudd concession, unlawfully and forcefully grabbed land until recently when the government has started acquiring land. Africans were removed from productive land and were turned into cheap labour on farms. Since the 1930s, several land apportionment acts have been set aside, including the Land Apportionment Act, which set aside 51% of fertile arable land for the white community; while the barren, rocky and unproductive land was reserved for the 4.5 million natives. In 1951, there were the Land Husbandry Act of 1951 and the Land Tenure Act that strengthened the ownership by the whites. During the post-independence era, the land question continued. In the 1980s, there was the willing-buyer willing-seller arrangement as per the stipulation of the constitution. In the 1990s, the constitution was amended to enable the compulsory acquisition of land with adequate compensation, which was supposed to be partly by the British government and partly by the government. During this period, Britain made available funds for compensation, which the government did not utilize.

The presenter indicated that given this background, it showed that all parties - the British government, the government of Zimbabwe and the people of Zimbabwe - were interested in resolving the land question. She then wondered on what had gone wrong. She emphasized that the problem was with the government of Zimbabwe, which did not use the funds from Britain and had no political will to distribute the land.

She suggested the following as the way forward to the land question:

- Proper settlement criteria;

- Bridge the gap between the policy intentions and what is actually taking place;
- A quota system for women since they constitute 52% of the total population and a huge percentage of farmers;
- Holistic approach to cater for the minority group such as women, the disabled, the young, etc.;
- A database to eliminate those with more than the recommended piece of land (this is important since the black elite will acquire more land at the expense of the poor); and
- Include all interested stake holders such as church organizations in the redistribution of land.

B. The Lancaster House Constitution

The constitution had remnants of oppression, which were not dismantled at independence. Other pieces of legislation added in the constitution appear to be equally oppressive. The presenter pointed out that elections have always been held under very intense political environments:

- The 1979 Zimbabwe-Rhodesia elections, which were boycotted by the major black political parties, ZANU and ZAPU, were held amid a climate of alleged intimidation and deaths threats.
- At independence, intimidation deepened and was coupled with electoral irregularities, disorganization of the voter's roll and violence.
- Recently several amendments have been made to the electoral act, which made voting tedious and uncomfortable. Amendments were made to empower the ESC with the sole mandate to provide voter education. The postal ballot system was modified restricting people from abroad and those with dual citizenship from voting. The end result was the

controversial 2002 presidential elections² where some members accepted the results while others rejected them.

Mrs Ndoro suggested the following as possible solutions:

- Collaboration among different political parties should be encouraged.
- Non-violence among supporters should be encouraged
- All political parties should be given the chance to sell their policies and programmes to the electorate
- An electoral legal framework should be put in place and all political parties should agree on it.

C. Political intolerance and a culture of fear

Zimbabwe inherited a country that was characterized by political abuse. In the pre-colonial era, the Smith regime battered and killed Africans in the name of national peace and stability; and any descending voice was quashed and terrorism became synonymous with blacks. In the 1980s, people were threatened and some of them were killed for being against the ruling party: for example, the Matabeleland atrocities. The 2000 parliamentary elections were characterized by violence; displacement, torture, abuse and sometimes even murder. The situation was even worse during the 2002 presidential elections. These political conflicts cause instability, destruction of infrastructure, declining economic development; 90% of these costs are borne by the common person in the form of starvation, diseases, refugees, trauma and dislocation.

Mrs. Ndoro then suggested that:

- Zimbabwe must learn to tolerate opposing views;
- Multi-sector and multi-religion must not be submerged under the same power;

- Divergent views must be accepted because they bring in different perspectives that are constructive; and
- Zimbabweans should learn from history that suppression of views bring only hostility.

D. Rights of women

Since the pre-colonial era, women have been recognized only as the housewives; and yet they constitute 52% of the total population and they also till the land. The post-independence period saw the unhampered continuation of a strong patriarchal elitism in the society. Currently, women are still marginalized and discriminated against in marriage, divorce, inheritance, adoption, decision-making positions and ownership of property.

The presenter pointed out that there is need for policy and decision makers to consider the issue of discrimination against women seriously. Clauses that permit discrimination should be removed and gender mainstreaming should be adopted to allow women participation in economic, political and social structures.

Inadequate Political Will

The presenter pointed out that there has been inadequate political will to prioritize important issues in this country compared to other countries. In Zimbabwe, 2,500 people are dying daily from AIDS related diseases and yet nothing substantial has been done to address this emergency situation. Other countries such as South Africa, Uganda and Cote d'Ivoire have placed the AIDS problem at the institutional level, and head of states are personally responsible for programmes and projects that help reduce the pandemic. Life-saving drugs such as nevirapine for pregnant women are still not widely available to the ordinary people. In addition, there have been inadequate contingency measures to deal with the drought problem. The country's degree of preparedness to disasters is appalling and there is need for disaster preparedness.

The presenter indicated that the gap between the rich and the poor and among races is widening broadly with the middle class disappearing. Polarization and inequality are known to cause hostility among people, which may lead to riots, demonstrations and political unrest.

She pointed out that there is need to address the issue of lack of political will by:

- Resolving problems inherited and adopted at independence;
- A new constitution that is drafted by Zimbabweans, addresses the fundamental rights of the people, and resolves the land issue;
- Discarding the culture of fear and political intolerance; and
- Replacing non-performing politicians by those who are performing ones and responding to the wishes of the people to eradicate poverty, inequality, unemployment and general underdevelopment.

4.3.1 *Discussant's Remarks*

Mr. Zengeni commended the presenter for a detailed presentation, which touched basically on two issues: unresolved previous political issues and lack of political will. He also acknowledged that the rights of women and those of the coloured community have not been adequately addressed in Zimbabwe.

- However, he strongly refuted the following the statement made by Mrs. Ngoro: "It should be noted that all stakeholders appear to support land reform - the British government, the government of Zimbabwe and the people of Zimbabwe. So what went wrong?" The discussant elaborated that the government of Zimbabwe only took action after the Lancaster House talks of the new Labour government in Britain; before that, its hands were tied. He went on to say academics tend to forget challenges the government faced during the apartheid

regime, Matebeleland atrocities and their impact on the government.

- Furthermore, he reminded the presenter and the participants that there is need for noting that Zimbabwe has the longest democratic history in Africa despite all the political challenges, and that problems occurring during the election period are not unique but are similar to other countries during election times and he gave Britain as an example. During election period, emotions and tensions run high but people should calm down in due course. He further reminded the participants that they should not forget that international monitors are biased because they have to look after their own interests.
- On the issue of inadequate political will, Mr. Zengeni, reminded the presenter that political problems in Zimbabwe are not internal, but are western driven, with the west safe guarding their interests. He commented that the presenter has a western driven school of thought, which sings of no rule of law, corruption and violation of the rights of women in Zimbabwe. Yet, Zimbabwean problems are externally driven rather than internally driven by institutions such as the IMF, which violate countries' sovereignty under the guise of globalization. Furthermore, the western media are depicting a wrong picture of Zimbabwe. The discussant felt that the presenter should have touched on the challenges faced by globalization, rule of law, sovereignty, since the western media are depicting a wrong and false picture of these issues.
- He went on to say that it was important for people to note the possible danger of the interference by the super powers into developing countries' internal policies. This was indicated during the World Food Summit where African delegates agreed with the Zimbabwean president.

4.3.2 Discussion

The chairperson reinforced Dr. Pangeti's remarks that participants should not become emotionally charged and should remain calm.

Mr. Masuko also challenged the presenter by noting that Zimbabwe had the political will to implement the land reform and he gave an example of the enactment of the land acquisition act in the 1990s, which was received with resistance by the white farmers. He added that they need to note the importance of regional policy when addressing the land issue; Zimbabwe could not do anything during the Apartheid regime since it was going to affect the land redistribution negatively.

Ms. Jirira raised concern on the issue of citizenship and on the dangers of excluding the minority such as farm labourers in the land issue. She indicated that there is need for redressing the issues of inequality among social classes.

Prof. Raftopolous informed the researchers that there is need for looking at what changes (internal processes, trends emerging politically) have taken place because of the land redistribution.

In her response, Mrs. Ndoro insisted that Zimbabwe remains a one-party state with violence and threats despite Mr. Zengeni's justification of democracy. Mrs. Ndoro highlighted that we should not use elections only as a measure of democracy; but broadly we should also look at other issues such as the freedom of association. She also emphasized that we cannot let violence continue in Zimbabwe simply because it is happening in other countries. In other words, we should not justify wrong doings in Zimbabwe because they are happening elsewhere.

4.4 Zimbabwe's Cultural Situation: Challenges and Prospects

(*Mr. Titus Chipangura*)

Mrs. L. Kanyowa from the School of Social Work chaired the afternoon session. She welcomed the participants from lunch and invited Mr. Chipangura to present his paper.

In his presentation, Mr. Chipangura stated that the situation of culture in Zimbabwe has been affected by colonialism, the liberation struggle, independence and the general socio-economic and political situation. During the colonial era, cultural expressions by Africans were viewed with suspicion by the colonial administration and culture groups that emerged in the urban townships were not encouraged and were perceived as conduits for nationalism. This retarded the quantity and quality of culture growth. The National Arts Foundation, which was established in 1971, was aimed at promoting the white community's arts and culture. However, the Africans then were expressing their culture through music, dance, poetry and drama in the liberation struggle. For example, "*pungwes*" were used as an educational forum for political issues.

When Zimbabwe attained her independence, both the donor community and the government were very supportive and grants were provided for cultural activities. The attainment of independence saw the government introducing a ministry responsible for culture, and the National Arts Foundation was replaced by the National Arts Council of Zimbabwe. However, when the government adopted ESAP, it cut its financial support to cultural parastatals and they began to depend on donors only.

The presenter pointed out that current cultural situation has been affected and constrained by globalization, and the political, legal and economic environment.

A. Globalization

- Globalization has brought with it challenges to the art and cultural community. It has also led to competition from the global cultural community, but it has also brought with it opportunities of marketing Zimbabwean art and culture through the mass media and Internet to a wider community.
- Tourism has opened new customers and patronage for the visual arts in Zimbabwe.
- Sculptors have become some of the richest artists in Zimbabwe.
- The status of the art industry has grown in stature and is no longer an industry of last resort, patronized by informal traders, school leavers and “*marombes*”.

However, he also noted that globalization has its own challenges, which include competition for domestic and international market, quality production and marketing skills, professionalism and strategic networks.

B. The political and legal environment

- The Broadcasting Services Act, which require 75% of local content has benefited the local artists and has encouraged them to be creative. However the major challenge is the need for more funding to support artists meets the legal broadcasting requirements.
- The unstable political environment has discouraged external tourists visiting and also due to donor fatigue, the arts council is now under funded. This has led to popular festivals being postponed and closure of main Film houses.

C. The economic environment

Due to deteriorating economic situation, people can no longer afford to attend a cultural gala, film show, festival or drama. This has led to

other film houses closing, such as the Theatre in the Park. This scenario has been compounded by donors withdrawing their funding and by reduction of government funding as part of its cost-cutting measures.

4.4.1 *Discussant's Remarks*

From the title of the paper, the discussant felt that one would expect more than what the author put across. She felt the title needed a much broader perspective since the definition of culture is very broad and includes issues of identity, religion, norms and values.

Accordingly, culture is given as a sum total of a way of life encompassing material implements and possession, intellectual and educational standards of living, in terms of values and value system, social relations, arts and crafts and religion. The discussant commented that the paper focuses on arts and crafts, thus the current cultural situation focuses on arts "music, theatre, dance, literature and visual arts". In this context, the presenter traces how the cultural expression was viewed in the colonial era and at independence. During the pre-independence era, cultural expression was viewed as a form of resistance and means of mobilization of African political cadres.

She noted positive effects on the issue of globalization, which has created channels for arts to make money. Internal globalization has narrowed the individual space. Culture has managed to penetrate in the international market and these include Dominic Benhura, Nicholas Mukomberanwa, Tapfuma Gutsa, Chiko Chazunguza to mention only a few. However, the presenter noted that globalization has also introduced competition and created individualism instead of a sense of community and the discussant wanted to know the role of the cultural sector in addressing this issue.

She indicated that the presenter did not mention how the legal framework could be used to enable respective individuals to benefit.

She supported the presenter on issues of globalization and political will. She indicated that the 75% local content indicated the political will but that there is need for financial support. She also indicated that the presenter should have outlined not only on job creation and promotion of local talent, but also on what impact the 75% has on the social fabric. The discussant further elaborated that the political environment has polarized artists according to political inclinations; artists in this case are viewed as avenues for political mileage. The negative publicity countries have been going through has affected the arts and crafts industry indirectly. Tourism and donor community as the major sources of funds for this sector have also been affected negatively.

The economic environment has adversely affected the cultural industry in terms of profits and revenues. Also, there has been a slump in the audience leading to low profit.

In her conclusion, the discussant pointed out that the presenter was supposed to outline what needs to be done to revive the cultural sector and what role the cultural sector is going to take.

4.4.2 Discussion

During floor discussion, Dr. Chimanikire wondered if the local musicians are benefiting from the 75% publicity, given the fact that there is over exposure and people may end up not buying their music. Mr. Mavhunga also raised concern that the 75% seems to be more of foreign music and wondered how the local musicians are benefiting. Mr. Chipangura replied that over exposure is a marketing technique and people buy what they hear and know, like the music played in the electronic media. He informed the participants that ZBC pays for all the songs played and currently it owes the artists over Z\$30 million. Even South Africa owes Zimbabwean artists more than a million US dollars.

Ms. Jirira highlighted that culture is used subjectively in the context of socio-economic and political situation and globalization. If one

becomes controversial in a society, how will he be viewed and will he not be labelled a deviant? She also wondered if one could have leeway in the current government if he/she became a deviant in an artistic way. Mr. Zengeni responded by defining culture as being dynamic, what the society generally agrees on in terms of norms and values at that particular time. He went further to say accepted culture also depends on subgroups, for example, the young have their own way of viewing situations; for example, the current “*salala*” music is very relevant to them but maybe not be so to older people. Mr. Chipangura also responded by informing the participants that deviant culture is actually addressed in Zimbabwe. For example, in stone sculpture, issues such as homosexuality and HIV are addressed. The problem was that very few people visit these places where such issues are discussed.

4.5 Implications of the International and Regional Socio-economic and Political Scene on the Zimbabwe Development Prospects in the New Millennium

(Dr. G. Chikowore)

Dr. Chikowore highlighted that challenges facing the development of Zimbabwe are equally conceived as those that characterize development problems in Africa and the rest of developing world. He went on to say that the development prospects of Zimbabwe largely depend on:

- Developments taking place at regional and international level in the socio-economic and political circles;
- The nature of the prevailing atmosphere between the international and regional scene in socio-economic and political terms in the new millennium; and
- How the concerned parties conceive or address the historical imbalances generated by slavery, colonialism, neo-colonialism, and apartheid and now globalization. It is also important to note how the World Bank, EU, COMESA and

others address economic imbalances at the international level. One can safely comment that neo-colonialism is coming back again in the form of globalization.

He pointed out that the key terms embedded in the discussion question are:

- Implications of the global socio-economic and political scene, defined as the nature of influence;
- International socio-economic and political scene, perceived in terms of the favourability or non-favourability of the globally prevailing situations;
- Socio-economic and political scene, meaning the prevailing educational, health, welfare, employment and material wealth creation process; and
- Zimbabwe's development prospects, that is, the existing opportunities for progressive changes in the livelihood, life styles and welfare of the people.

He pointed out that to properly understand the national, regional and international state, there is need for exploring the changing historical circumstances, societal value systems, efforts to restore identity, consistent attempts to consolidate conflicting dispensations generated by expansionist instincts, etc. He went on to cite Walter Rodney who indicated that for people to understand the development that took place between Africa and Europe, there was need for following four parameters:

- Reconstruction of the nature of development in Africa before the coming of the Europeans;
- Reconstruction of the nature of development which took place in Europe before expansion abroad;
- Analysis of Africa's contribution to Europe's present "developed" state; and

- Analysis of Europe's contribution to Africa's present "undeveloped" state.

According to Dr. Chikowore, each of the above defined parameters in Rodney's classic work represents a culture with specific spiritual and material values attached to it, and forming the basis of the identity of the people whose life was interfered with on one hand and on the other hand, that of the people who interfered with that of others due to some technological advantages they had over the former. He divided historical circumstances into the slave trade epoch, the colonial epoch and the post-colonial independence epoch. For each of these phases, there would be a dominating class in the economic, social, political, cultural and technological terms and making frantic efforts to consolidate a dispensation and its commensurate system of values and interests over the relatively weaker societies. On the other hand, for each of these phases, there would be a subordinated oppressed class mostly the indigenous people whose economic, social, political, cultural and technological institutions would equally be in danger of being stunted and of being driven into extinction under the weight of the economic, social, political, cultural and technological values and interests of the invading foreigners.

On the dilemma of the changing paradigms in the new millennium, he went on to say that it can be generated by the fact that:

- Zimbabwe, Africa and the developing countries have not made much efforts to revert back to pre-colonial African state and the institutions that guaranteed its existence;
- Very marginal efforts have been made to change the colonial institutions and this has resulted in futile attempts to address the question of development in Africa because more often than not African problems are articulated within the framework of the former colonial institutions that are far from consistent, with the priorities and values of the origins of the African society; and

- The tradition and probably indefinite nature of the African state whereby it neither does not fully belong or subscribe to the colonial institution nor has it managed to consolidate a new post independence African state constitutes one of the fundamental contradictions between the developing countries to date.

Under the interface of the international scene and the developments in the region and Zimbabwe, the presenter mentioned the following aspects:

- Character of the international social situation and the impact on the development processes on the regional and international scenes;
- Character of the international economic situation and impact on the regional and national development processes;
- Character of the international political situation and its impact on the regional and national development processes; and
- Opportunities and threats to the socio-economic and political development processes on regional and national scales.

Under the opportunities, threats to the socio-economic and political development processes, he focused on the following aspects (positive and negative):

- Eradicating poverty for the over 610 million people living in dire poverty in the least developed countries;
- Comprehensively addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic;
- A humanitarian crisis due to poverty compounded by the scourge of HIV/AIDS; and
- Devastating tribal and regional wars.

Under the interface of the regional scene with the national, he focused on:

- Nature of the Zimbabwe's Political situation: Challenges and prospects regional social scenario and its influence on the national development process;
- Nature of the regional economic scenario and its impact on the Zimbabwe's contemporary socio-economic and political development processes;
- Nature of the regional political scenario and its impact on the Zimbabwe's socio-economic and political processes; and
- Opportunities and threats to the socio-economic and political development processes on a national level.

He defined the regional social scenario within the framework of the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) Treaty adopted in 1980, which states its objectives as:

1. The achievement of development and economic growth, alleviation of poverty, enhancement of the standard and quality of life of the peoples of Southern Africa and support of the socially disadvantaged through regional integration;
2. Evolvement of common political values, systems and institutions;
3. Promotion and defence of peace and security in the region;
4. Promotion of self-sustaining development on the basis of collective self-reliance and the interdependence of Member States;
5. Achievement of complementariness between national and regional strategies and programmes;
6. Promotion and maximization of productive employment and utilization of resources of the region;

7. Achievement of sustainable utilization of natural resources and the protection of the environment; and
8. Strengthening and consolidating the long standing historical, social and cultural affinities and links among the peoples of the region.

Dr. Chikowore noted that poverty in the region is exacerbated by the HIV/AIDS pandemic, which has already killed more than 4 million people and has created more than 3 million orphans, with more than 5% of them living with HIV. The AIDS pandemic has reversed the major socio-economic gains of the past two decades in the areas of health, education and agriculture. Health care services are overburdened, with high bed occupancy of HIV patients, health workers are over worked and health costs have overwhelmed the health system, which already has scarce resource. There has been re-emergence of HIV related conditions such as Tuberculosis, and life expectancy has fallen drastically. He highlighted that without the HIV pandemic, the regional population would have continued to grow at about 2.6% annually.

In conclusion, he pointed out that it is crucial for SADC and its member states to uphold the principle of solidarity as they consolidate their sovereignties, choice and equality with other developed and developing nations in the new millennium; otherwise, they will perpetually be subordinated by neo-colonial forces.

4.5.1 *Discussant's Remarks*

Mr. Musekiwa commended the presentation made by Mr. Chikowore and highlighted that it was thought provoking, because the presenter started with conceptual issues, identifying Zimbabwe with other countries. He further said that since Zimbabwean problems are similar to other countries', same solutions that other countries used should also be implemented for Zimbabwean problems.

The discussant agreed with the presenter that development and challenges of developing countries and current issues emanate from

history; for example, slave trade, colonization, etc. Countries from the North developed at the expense of developing countries.

He also wondered what hope of good faith can one have from the IMF, UN and World Bank when their main agenda is to boast the economy of their member countries at the expense of developing countries. He wondered that in the 1990s, when we adopted ESAP, whether we were under more pressure from developed countries than now. He also wondered why it was adopted though its effects were well known from the experience of other countries.

The discussant also emphasized that it was important to note the influence of local leaders in propagating peace. He gave an example of Savimbi's death, which brought peace, and Kabila's, which influenced positive change in DRC.

In his conclusion, the discussant noted that the presenter did not address the issues of OAU, AU and NEPAD. He also wondered if we are seeing the same problems as Africans or other Africans view these organizations in a different perspective.

4.5.2 Discussion

Mr. Sibanda pointed out that Dr. Chikowore's presentation on African history began when external factors penetrated, which are not true. For example, the slave trade was initially internal; our own labour act internally reduced a worker to a mere "slave." He emphasized that there was need for assessing a combination of factors from external sources as well as internal sources. Regarding the example of ESAP, the presenter had highlighted that it was from external influence, but Mr. Sibanda felt that it was home grown. He indicated that although it was initiated externally, there was an internal influence suppressing civil society. Mr. Musekiwa objected and pointed out that there was pressure from external sources on Zimbabwe to adopt ESAP; for example, flow of funds to the South had decreased from 5% to 3% and then they imposed ESAP. However, on the issue of slavery, some

of the members still felt that slavery had an external influence and globalization in Africa started with slave trade.

Mr. Zengeni pointed out that it was not justified to compare Zimbabwe/Mozambique situation with that of DRC/Rwanda/Uganda. Zimbabwe intervened in Mozambique, because it wanted to protect their interest, the Beira Corridor; and yet the latter was an expansion into DRC not to safe guard their economic interest but to occupy DRC land.

5. CLOSING REMARKS

Mr. Kujinga, OSSREA Zimbabwe Committee member, on behalf of the organizing committee, thanked participants for attending the workshop and he informed them that he would email all the presented papers to participants, since photocopying was expensive.

He went on to thank all the presenters for informative papers and hoped that policy makers will make use of the information presented. He informed the members that there is an intention to publish all presented papers as workshop proceedings - hence the need for presenters to finalize their papers.

Appreciation was also extended to the discussants for reading the papers and commenting on them meaningfully. Mr. Kujinga went on to thank OSSREA's President Dr. Pangeti for attending the workshop. He urged all OSSREA members to apply for OSSREA research grants and research methodology training workshop, held annually in Addis Ababa. He also informed members that they should submit their articles for publication to OSSREA and more information about OSSREA can be obtained from the Zimbabwe Chapter office and from the OSSREA website.

Finally, Mr Kujinga urged members coming from outside Harare to prepare for the launch of Chapters in their areas.

The workshop ended at 1700 hours and was followed by a cocktail.

ANNEX I: WORKSHOP PROGRAMME

Chairperson: Dr. D. P. Chimanikire, OSSREA
Zimbabwe Committee Member

08.30 - 09.00

Registration

09.00 - 09.15

Welcome Address: Dr. N. Madzingira, Liaison Officer
of OSSREA Zimbabwe Chapter

09.15 - 09.30

Official Opening: Dr. E. Pangeti, OSSREA's President

09.30 - 09.50

Zimbabwe's Current Socio-economic Situation:
Challenges and Prospects in the Era of Globalisation
Prof. V. N. Muzvidziwa

09.50 - 10.00

Discussant: Ms. K. O. Jirira

10.00 - 10.30

Discussion**10.30 - 11.00****Tea Break****Chairperson:** Mr. P.J. Mavhunga, Masvingo University
College

11.00-11.20

Contemporary Challenges and Prospects of the
Zimbabwean Economy*Dr. L. Musoro*

11.20 - 11.30

Discussant: Mr. L. Masuko

11.30 - 12.00

Discussion

12.00 - 12.20

Zimbabwe's Political Situation: Challenges and Prospects
Ms. C. Ndoro

12.20 - 12.30

Discussant: Mr. K. Zengeni

12.30 - 13.00

Discussion**13.00 - 14.00****LUNCH BREAK****Chairperson:** Mrs. L. Kanyowa, School of Social Work

14.00 - 14.20

Zimbabwe's Cultural Situation: Challenges and Prospects

Mr. T. Chipangura

14.20 - 14.30 **Discussant:** Ms. N. Matinhure

14.30 - 15.00 **Discussion**

15.00 - 15.30 TEA BREAK

15.30 - 15.50 Implications of the International and Regional Socio-economic and Political Scene on Zimbabwe's Development Prospects in the New Millennium

Dr. G. Chikowore

15.50 - 16.00 **Discussant:** Mr. Musekiwa

16.30 - 16.45 **Closing Remarks:** Mr. Kujinga

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