

Our Voice

July 2019

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ZWB scoops two national business award at ZIBA



ZWB director Dr Ronika Mumbire receiving the awards ZIBA night.

Zimbabwe Women's Bureau (ZWB) won the Organisation of the Year National Award, Special Recognition in Women Empowerment Excellence during Zimbabwe Business Awards (ZIBA) event held on Friday 24 April 2019 at Crown Plaza Hotel in Harare.

The awards were hosted by the Board of the Zimbabwe Business Awards who are publishers of the Zimbabwe Business Magazine and the Zimbabwe Business Directory.

The organization was honored for being a business enabler having entrepreneurship and leadership capacity building skills, innovative spirit and business expertise.

ZWB takes risks and has exceptional drive and commitment and often starts with little more than an idea and grim determination to succeed.

The institution was recognized for its valuable work towards women empowerment at grassroots level through entrepreneurship training, financial linkage and mentorship for the change of societal attitudes towards the female.

The awards are a conviction that all women should have economic independence, because it gives them confidence, a sense of self-worth and also positively impacts attitudes. They have also prompted ZWB to continue lobbying for macro issues challenging women in upcoming socio-economic campaigns.

The women in the rural areas are so ready to be empowered in whatever abilities and are really relying on committed persons to inspire and foster enthusiasm in them like ZWB secretariat.

Ronika Mumbire ZWB director also scooped The "CEO of the Year National Award" for her innovative leadership and contribution to marginalized communities.

She is a staunch advocate for economic justice, financial inclusion for women, women's rights, an icon of inspiration, a mentor to other women.

She expressed her gratitude for the

recognition and urged Zimbabweans to continue support gender parity in all sectors.

She is the current chairperson for the most influential civil society national bodies Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ) and National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (NANGO) and has proven that women can do better in such powerful positions.



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- ◆ **Companies**
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TENDAI MANGO'S SUCCESS STORY



Tendai Mango selling her merchandise at one of her stalls

By Juliet Madhuku

Meet Tendai Mango (47) a ward facilitator in Gweru district ward 8 for the Green EBDP project, she is a cross border trader and does buying and selling.

Tendai Mango started her business in the year 2000 when she was facing financial difficulties. She started by selling women's underwear then she moved on to sell second hand clothes.

In 2005 she applied for a passport and started going to South Africa to sell seat covers, at times she would jump the border because visa application process was cumbersome.

She managed to fend for her family since her husband was unemployed.

He was not supportive of her endeavors due to myths and beliefs that cross border women are of loose morals.

Tendai would sell her merchandises but could only afford to put food on the table and clothing with no or little to spare for investments.

She did not own a house, her husband had purchased a stand but it was not developed because they did not have the money.

In 2015 she participated in a baseline survey for Zimbabwe Women's Bureau and We Effect supported Enterprise Business Development Programme (EBDP) at a later meeting she was chosen to be a ward facilitator.

She started attending ZWB trainings on lead-

ership, ISALS, market research and record-keeping and learnt about the importance of keeping records for her business and how to be financially savvy and budget wisely.

She joined 3 ISAL groups as a way of encouraging others as a Ward facilitator and also because she had realised ISALS were very helpful.

This proved fruitful and then she started developing the stand that her husband had bought build a home for her family and furnished it with new property.

Tendai also managed to invest her money in livestock now she rears cattle and goats at her rural homestead through the Internal Savings and Landing Scheme (ISAL) trainings.

Currently she is a member of three ISAL groups and this has enabled her to purchase her very own car and another stand in one of Gweru low density suburbs that she is about to start developing.

Her business has grown and she now has a flea market stall at Kudzanai Bus terminus as well as 2 grocery vending stalls.

She employed 4 people in her business and bought a car .

Tendai Mango is an inspiration to others, she greatly appreciates Zimbabwe Women's Bureau and We Effect for their efforts to empower marginalized women.



For Economic & Social Development of Women in Zimbabwe

TRAINING CENTRE



Are you planning a workshop, conference, wedding / graduation? ZWB is the perfect venue in Hillside close to Harare CBD and Mukuvisi Woodlands.

SERVICES OFFERED:



Conference Facilities 300 guests hall and 20 guest halls which can be hired for conferences, meetings or workshops.

Overnight Shared Accommodation for 43 people.

Catering Services meals are also provided at reasonable prices using locally grown, organic ingredients from the ZWB garden.

WE ACCEPT: CASH Or SWIPE



Information for Women's Voices Project in full swing



ZWB Director Ronika Mumbire addressing participants at I4WV Training of trainers workshop held in Harare

Zimbabwe Women's Bureau is implementing a project called Information for Women's Voices (I4WV) aimed at closing information and skills gap within the informal cross border trade in six districts Mutare, Manyame, Masvingo, Hatcliffe, Gokwe South and Zhombe.

The main thrust is to build the field by creating a collective voice of the women in informal traders and also develop their skills in policy advocacy.

It also seeks to engage various stakeholders in order to build the information and lobby base for the informal traders, build and strengthen relationships between the traders and officials, making information on local bylaws and regional trade policies accessible, strengthen the complaint mechanism and the referral systems for informal cross boarder traders enhancing access to justice to women traders who become victims of rights violations.

ZWB is engaging a number of stakeholders such as ZIMRA, Immigrations authorities, ZRP and the City Council to raise awareness on the laws, taxes, designated market places and registration processes expected from them by these authorities.

It is important to work with these stakeholders on issues of collection of taxes to avoid corruption and also highlight on the mandate of Border Control which has been terrorizing cross border traders.

"We are finding it difficult to conduct our business freely and at the border posts we are being over charged by the border control, ZIMRA and the ZRP. Passports are our biggest challenge as we are failing to access this important document which is part of our cross border activities. We applied for passports last year but had not accessed them until we engaged some legal officers whom we paid to assist us," said Miriam Tendai Mangena, a cross border trader from Masvingo.

The project participants who attended I4WV Training of Trainers workshop also expressed their dissatisfaction over the service they are receiving from passport offices and delays in the issuing of their travelling documents which is disrupting their source of livelihoods.

The informal cross border traders need information on what is expected of them by duty bearers as far as registration, import duties and trading regulations is con-

cerned for their businesses to grow and avoid corruption," explained Mumbire.



UPCOMING EVENTS:

**AGM: 25 OCTOBER
2019**

Do Not Miss!!!

Leadership review meeting



Grace Kuvengurwa project manager highlighting the outcomes of the project

The Review Meeting was attended by Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau staff, JPV and SHDF members of the consortium on 24 July 2019. Virginia Muwanigwa our consultant facilitated the workshop and Grace Kuvengurwa gave an overview and the main objective of Strengthen Women’s Capacity to Demand their Constitutional Rights project since its inception and the results. The project was a success on the meeting the team reflected on the lessons drawn from the implementation process, successes, challenges, recommendations and progress plan of the project. The ward facilitators articulated on the outstanding achievements of the project. Water crisis challenge was partly addressed in Gweru. The Advocacy team approached councillors in their respective wards to discuss about this issue. After the meetings Gweru City Council made efforts to provide water more frequently though it is still rationed. Moreso, the council have gone an extra mile to supply water bowsers to

bereaved families at funeral gatherings. Rape case was reported when girl in Mtapa was allegedly sexually abused and her family was not interested in getting her justice, ZWB took the mandate to call Childline and justice prevailed. Through the lessons learnt from Ward and District workshops Gweru women are now confident and interested in leadership positions at community level, church and associations. Planning forward at the review meeting as a consortium we agreed on advocating for equal representation of women 50/50 in the business sector at all levels. That will be the campaign message going forward in our lobbying and advocacy. Work. The ward facilitators and Gweru women who attended the National Convention in March recommended that the project expand its reach and continue with mentorship classes for potential leaders.

ZWB empowers women in male dominated field

By Memory Mutsauri
In July 2019 Duduzile Trust in partner-

ship with The Oasis and Bulawayo Ro-tact conducted Provisional Licence Tutorials from the 1st to the 5th of July. The participants then went to VID for their exam on the 6th of July. These tutorials were conducted at The Oasis, 19 Falcon Street, Belmont.

The cost for the 5 day lessons was \$30RTGS. These tutorials were targeted at the women and youth, but men were welcome to attend lessons.

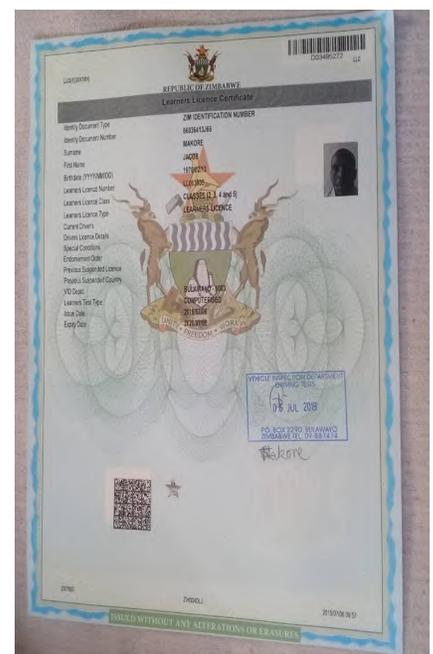
As Zimbabwe Women’s Bureau Bulawayo we took advantage of this opportunity and encouraged our members to go for this training.

The members who attended tutorials also went for the exam on the 6th and 60% passed with excellent marks that allowed them to get a class 4 or 2 licence.

A 50 year old member passed, despite the fact that she was not computer literate and had never attempted to get a drivers’ licence, she decided to take this opportunity and passed her provisional licence examination at first attempt.

Moreover she took the new computerised exam and passed resoundingly at the first goal, whilst many are failing at it.

This determination has taught us that it’s never too late to realise your dream, when you get an opportunity grab it whilst the sun shines!!!!



Learner’s divers licence