

# **CHIREDZI RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL**

## **COMMISSIONING OF COUNCIL ROAD EQUIPMENT, AND OTHER PROJECTS**

**THEME: PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS AND THE  
ACCELERATION OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ZIM-  
ASSET**

### **BACKGROUND**

In 2013 Chiredzi Rural District Council (CRDC) crafted a Five-Year Strategic Plan document to guide its development aspirations, up to the year 2018.

In line with that, our vision was rebranded to read:

Excellent and affordable service delivery, and higher standards of living for our people by 2020.

Our Mission Statement now reads: **To build diverse community livelihoods and improved standards of living in a sustainable manner and to foster sense of partnership in all sectors of the district's economy.**

Guided by our vision, Council sought to improve service delivery to its citizenry, and those services were supposed to be high quality and affordable, at the same. Guided by the ZIM-ASSET blue print, we identified that road infrastructure was key to excellent and affordable service delivery.

Council needed to have its own road equipment if it was to realise real value for its local roads revenue, or ZINARA road fund, as it were.

In 2014 Council applied for Borrowing Powers, from the then Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing. The Borrowing Powers were approved at the end of the year 2014. In 2015 Council engaged the Commercial Bank of Zimbabwe for Asset Leasing facility to the tune of US\$500 000. The bank approved the facility in batches of equipment of \$250 000 per batch. By the end of 2015 Council had managed to procure road equipment in the form of a **Dozer, Front-end Loader, and a Tipper Truck**, which constituted the first batch. In 2016 Council went on to purchase **2 Massey-Ferguson tractors, a UD80 lorry, and 3 Pick-up vehicles**, although the vehicles were purchased using our local revenue.

Council has since then, managed to amortize the asset lease account on a monthly basis, without any fail.

Council now boasts of new road equipment in the form of a **dozer, 2 graders, front-end loader, UD80 lorry, 2 tractors, tipper truck and 3 axle dumpers**.

As for the Administration component, Council boasts of fairly new fleet of vehicles, with every department having its own vehicle for use by the HOD and members of the department, and separate pool vehicles.

Towards the end of this year 2016, Council saw it necessary to **procure 32 motor cycles** for use by councillors in their day to day operations. The motor cycles are property of Council and are guided by the Council's Vehicle/Transport Policy.

Council has prioritized Public, Private Partnerships (PPPs) to accelerate the implementation of ZIM-ASSET. Asset leasing facilities are a form of Public Private Partnerships through which Councils can recapitalize.

The equipment can now be used for our roads projects, housing projects (servicing of stands) and refuse removal. Through this way Council is offering affordable services to its residents. For example the Buffalo Range Housing Project is capitalizing on the equipment to service the stands. That is why our stands are the cheapest, at \$4,22/m<sup>2</sup>.

We have also managed to construct a new school **Marambakuzara Primary School**, through the PPP arrangement, with Malilangwe Trust, a Private Conservancy. We have also partnered ZINWA to **provide water at the Chikombedzi Growth Point**.

As Chiredzi RDC we believe PPPs, are a real, reliable vehicle for the acceleration of the implementation of ZIM-ASSET.

## **CHALLENGES**

Amidst the above positive scores, your Council still faces a number of challenges.

### **1. Bridges and Roads**

The current season has brought in a lot of rains, which were good for our cropping, but they have severely damaged our roads and bridges. The worst affected areas are to the south of the District. The bridge across Runde River at Chilonga area is long overdue. The communities in Matibi 2 and Sengwe Communal land have been cut off from the Chiredzi Town, since December, due to the incessant floods. People use dangerous boats to cross the flooded Runde River. Several lives have been lost ever since collapse of the Runde river bridge at Chipinda Pools area in 2000 upto now the bridge is not yet repaired. The roads are mostly gravel, and most have been washed away.

## **2. Financial Challenges**

The fiscal space of your Council is being eroded mainly due to the competition for the same by central government agencies. Unit tax for A1 and A2 farms, CAMPFIRE proceeds being eroded as Parks is taking back places formerly leased to Council, and cattle levies no longer forthcoming. If your Council is well resourced, it has demonstrated that it puts the resources to good use. The Treasury should continue allocating resources to Local Authorities in terms of the constitution.