

CHIREDZI RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

COMMISSIONING OF ROAD EQUIPMENT AND OTHER PROJECTS

20 APRIL 2017

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

ISSUES/MATTERS FOR BRIEFING OF MINISTER

Chiredzi RDC is one of the 7 Administrative Districts in Masvingo Province. It is arguably the largest district in the country.

POPULATION AND GEOGRAPHY

The RDC area's population as at 2012 stood at 275 759, making it one of the most populous districts in the country.

The total area of the district stands at around 1,7 million Hactares. The district is home to the Gonarezhou National Park, covering some 500 000 Ha (5053 km²), Save Valley Conservancies and Malilangwe Trust Conservancy, covering some (130 000 Ha), the Sugar Estates of Tongaat Hullets Zimbabwe (59 000 Ha), and other land under A2 farmers. This leaves, very view land where we have the 3 communal lands of Sangwe (North East), Matibi II, (South), and Sengwe further south. There are 2 urban areas in the district, that Chiredzi Town area, Triangle. Altogether, there are 32 wards for the RDC, and 8 urban wards for Town Council.

SERVICE DELIVERY ISSUES

a) Corporate Governance

The Council has since Dolarisation (2009) managed to observe the 30:70 threshold as dictacted by Central Government. The Annual Budget has ranged between \$3 million - \$4 million over the years.

Council has never failed to pay its employees ever since, not even a single month. Council has managed over the years to pay all its statutory obligations without fail.

There might have been some delays in some months but, the obligations were met within the same month.

Council has had its Books of Accounts audited well within statutory requirements periods since 2009, a feat many Public enterprises are struggling to achieve: 2016 Books of Accounts are ready for auditing this month.

Council has won some accolades in this regard, notably in payment of pension obligations where it is always in top ten in the country.

Council has also managed to maintain its roads in good shape, and it has been recognized by the Ministry in this regard, as it is among the top 3 Council to achieve this.

In Education Council have over 130 schools in the district, both primary and secondary, either fully established or as satellite. Council is working towards registration of all its schools.

Under Health, Council has 12 clinics in the district, and has 4 new ones under construction.

In all its dealings with stakeholders and its clientele Council values participatory approaches. All its projects have community identification and participation.

b) Government Programmes

Chiredzi RDC supports and appreciates government programmes and projects.

a) DROUGHT RELIEF

The Council would like to thank the government for feeding the citizenry, during the El nino induced drought. No-one died in the district due to hunger. In the same vein we appreciate the efforts of non-state actors in this regard.

b) COMMAND AGRICULTURE

The Council appreciates highly the roll out of the Command Agriculture by Government. Our communities were supported by inputs. As a result we are going to experience a bumper harvest as a district. Council was very supportive to

the programme by according transportation for the inputs, and also for supervision of the programme. We were real partners in this regard.

CHALLENGES

a) **Dwindling revenue resources** for Council, due to Central Government competition for some sources e.g. unit tax, vehicle licensing etc.

b) **Demise of CAMPFIRE Programme**

Of late Parks and Wildlife Management Authority have shifted goal posts in terms of the programme. Areas previously given to communities for hunting purposes have been taken away by Parks without any warning or consultation e.g. Malipati Safari Area. This has negatively affected the community benefits, and tourism in general.

c) **Human Wildlife Conflict** in new resettlement areas. Parks is failing to handle the issue on time. Crops and sometimes lives lost due to the conflicts.

d) **Poor roads and bridges**

Most of the roads in the district are gravel, and so are easily washed away. The Chilonga bridge has been on the drawing board for long, and is negatively affecting uptake of government projects, and investment in the southern part of the district.