

ACCOUNTABILITY & SELF REGULATION IN ZIMBABWE

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Philippines

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- We have more than 3000 NGOs Registered in Zimbabwe
- There are three methods of registering NGOs in the country
- The PVO Act, Trust of Deeds and Common Law Universitas
- We have one umbrella of NGOs and have more than 10 specialist umbrellas in Zimbabwe
- The relationship between NGOs & NANGO is voluntary, therefore no law that binds us with members
- We get 99% of our funding from outside of Zimbabwe & 1% from subscriptions
- Our members are divided into 10 sectors, health, human rights; humanitarian, children; youth, women; disability; health, HIV & AIDs; economic and the culture sector.

INTRODUCTION



- The relationship that NGOs have with the government is adversarial in nature.
- NGOs are blamed for regime change agendas and for the formation of opposition parties in the country;
- The funds we get from Britain, USA and the EU is a cause of concern by our government, but in 2008 we contributed a third of the GDP of the country.
- Most of the human rights organizations are registered under the Trust Deeds, they do not declare their audits or source of funding to anyone.
- These organizations participate in human rights, governance, corruption, media etc & are considered enemies of the state

ACCOUNTABILITY OF NGOS IN ZIMBABWE



- The claim from our members is that their commitment, values and good intentions is sufficient basis for accountability to the state & other stakeholders.
- The tremendous growth of NGOs; large amounts of funding from enemy states; embeddedness with opposition parties, internal governance challenges and participation of NGOs in sensitive areas forced the government to introduce centralized regulatory rules
- In 2004 the government introduced the NGO Bill fortunately it was not signed into law by the President because of its stringent regulations & the threat for serious demonstrations by the Churches who came out to support NGOs

ACCOUNTABILITY.....



- Accountability is being compromised and credibility of NGOs is compromised due to the difficult political environment they work in.
- Cut throat internal competition for space, funding & ideas is forcing NGOs to internally regulate
- Ethnicity, political embeddedness, partisanship and differences in values are impeding the progress towards self regulation

ACCOUNTABILITY.....



- No Regulation----Self Regulation-----Co-regulation----Statutory Regulation
- Many NGOs would like to work in an environment where they are not regulated by the government but by themselves because they strongly believe that they are accountable, mature enough & responsible, BUT IS THAT THE CASE????

**MOVING TOWARDS CONSENSUS
& WORKING TOGETHER**



- I know you are aware of various types of self regulation mechanisms, national guilds, NGO-led clubs & voluntary codes
- In Zim we are gradually adopting the NGO codes after having studied the Philippines & Uganda systems
- NANGO produced an NGO Corporate Governance Manual, with codes of behaviour for NGOs

**MOVING TOWARDS CONSENSUS
& WORKING TOGETHER**



- Appointment of credible auditors & boards of directors
- Submission of annual audits and annual reports to NANGO
- Encouragement to adopt to national statutory requirements
- Internal mechanisms of control: As for the NGOs operating under the humanitarian use the SPHERE
- Its not easy to enforce codes or standards even though they are agreed upon, when members are not belonging to one membership organization or were umbrella does not have teeth

Moving towards consensus and working together



- The NGOs have to yet agreed on a mechanism to follow.
- Big brother mentality
- The government has a strong preference on government regulation
- Some NGOs/Civil Society formed and are strongly related to opposition political parties
- Failures to declare source of funding & how funds are used
- Relationships between NGOs & the communities they present-no evidence
- Collaboration of the church & Civil Society---CCSF

Challenges of Implementing Self Regulation



- The struggles within NANGO & NGOs on who should be the Self Regulation regulator. Should it be a branch or division of NANGO? What sort of individuals should be in the Board or secretariat of the regulator...lawyers?
- Abductions, imprisonment of human rights defenders, beatings of demonstrators etc
- Government regulations, POSA, AIPPA, Media Laws,
- The environment for self regulation is not ripe enough where the government will never allow freedom of association, freedom to respond to abuses and freedom to do!!!!!!

Challenges!!!!!!



- Political stability & respect for human rights in the country
- Good relationships between the government & the NGOs
- Division of labour & responsibility between the apex NGO and regulator
- Credibility of the regulator & good operational relationship between the regulator & apex body
- Source of funding for the regulator

THANK YOU. SALAMAT PO
CONDITIONS FOR SUCCESSFUL
IMPLEMENTATION OF SELF
REGULATION

