

BUUNGANO

Newsletter



NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS' COORDINATING COUNCIL

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**NGOCC probes
low women participation
in politics**

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ABOUT NGOCC

The Non Governmental Organisation's Coordinating Council (NGOCC) is an umbrella organisation for a total of 104 organisations, Faith Based Organisations and Community Based Organisations working to uplift the standards of women and children in Zambia.

Established in 1985, NGOCC has been active in addressing gender and development for empowerment of women. Amid the various challenges for a more focused approach towards equality NGOCC does recognise the importance of women's role in social, cultural, political and economic development of the nation and is determined to uphold the women's rights and ensure their empowerment.

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ZAMBIANS, AND NOT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT SHOULD DRIVE THE CONSTITUTION MAKING PROCESS

ON Wednesday, November 9th 2016, Mwanabombwe Member of Parliament (MP) Rodgers Mwewa, moved a motion in Parliament urging the Government to amend the Republican Constitution "so that it could be fine-tuned to remove existing lacunas."

What was a "private member's motion was as expected adopted as it was supported by all MPs from the ruling party. The private members motion comes barely a few months after President Edgar Lungu directed his MPs to ensure that they remove "inconsistencies" from the amended constitution.

As an organization that has been involved in the constitution making process, we are following the developments with keen interest. Some of the key provisions they want amended or removed is article 47 (1) that provides for a majoritarian system for election of the President, which requires that a winning candidate obtains more than 50 per cent plus one of the valid votes cast in an election.

The PF also want MPs to be reintegrated in the district councils as Councilors. According to Article 153 (2) of the Constitution MPs are not part of the composition of Councils.

But why are the PF trying to be

against the will of the Zambian people? What has changed over the last few months since the constitution was enacted?

Listening to the debates in Parliament on Wednesday, 9th November, especially by opposition MP, it is clear that the Government is up to no good. The provisions that they want to remove from the Constitution were proposed for inclusion by the Zambian people through the various processes in the constitution making process.

Zambians are the owners of this Constitution and therefore, it is strange that today a "few" people can sit and decide what should be in the constitution and what shouldn't be. While acknowledging that there maybe some inconsistencies in the constitution, largely attributable to the insistence of the government, the process to amend this very important document, can never be left to the executive.

As stated, Zambians own the Constitution, it is their document and, therefore, the Government should allow the Zambians themselves to drive the review or amendment process. The Government should only play a facilitative role in this process and not lead the process.

NGOCC will mobilize citizens to



Madube Pasi Siyauya

defend their Constitution. The Republican Constitutions belongs to Zambians and therefore – Zambians should drive any process to review or amend the constitution, which is the supreme law of the land.

NGOCC HOLDS POST ELECTION MEETINGS

...probe the reasons for low women participation in politics

By Inonge Mutukwa

IN 2015, NGOCC conceptualised and began to implement the Women in Politics Project aimed at increasing the number of women vying and elected in into political decision making positions.

The project was necessitated by the fact, that for many years, women have continued to be marginalised, with very few of them occupying positions of decision making especially in politics.

Although women have always constituted the majority of Zambia's total population, they have always been the minority in elected political offices such as Members of Parliament and Local Councillors.

The Election Day, August 11, 2016 may now be past us – producing a new Government led by President Edgar Chagwa Lungu. While everyone seems to have moved on and forgotten about this election, for NGOCC work has in fact just began.

The NGOCC Women In Politics Project team has been conducting Reflection Meetings on the Participation of Women Candidates in the August 11, 2016 General Elections in the five Provinces namely; Copperbelt, Northern, Eastern, Central and Southern Provinces where the project is being implemented.

The objectives of the meetings being conducted since October last Months, is to identify and



analyse the reasons for the low adoptions, nominations and election of female candidates by various political parties.

Further, the review meetings are also being utilized to share experiences and lessons learnt by the winning and losing candidates, candidates that were not adopted by their political parties and those that are still aspiring.

NGOCC Executive Director Ms. Engwase Mwale says these reflection meetings are meant to provide a platform for women in politics and those aspiring to share experiences and strategies to bolster women participation in future elections.

"It is anticipated that these reflection networking opportunities will work to encourage women in general to learn from each other and remain committed to the cause. It is also anticipated that through the

sharing women will strategise better towards 2021.

So far the reflections meetings have been held on the Copperbelt, Eastern and Northern provinces. Two more reflection meetings are planned for in Southern and Central provinces.

The reflection meetings bring together women from various political parties including the Patriotic Front (PF), United Party for National Development, Forum for Democracy and Development (FDD), United National Independence Party (UNIP), National Restoration party (NAREP) and the Rainbow Party among others.

One of the common causes of women's low participation identified is the systematic marginalization of women during the adoption process by political parties.

MIND THE GAP! 'Gender Equity and Equality Act to narrow gender GAPS'

By Maureen Zulu



establishment of the Gender Equity and Equality Commission (GEEC) which will ensure the introduction of progressive measures to promote gender equity and equality.

The Commission will help to safeguard and monitor the implementation of the Act and will handle complaints as well as initiate legal prosecution of cases of discrimination or non-compliance.

According to NGOCC, this is a good move and appeals to the government to ensure that measures are put in place in the 2017 National Budget to establish and operationalise the GEEC. NGOCC is of the view that it is only through the establishment and operationalisation of an autonomous GEEC that the law on gender equity and equality will be able to address the gender imbalances currently prevailing in the country.

"We therefore commend the government, through the Ministry of Gender for ensuring that the Act provides for the establishment of this very important Commission,

"In conclusion, NGOCC contends that the fight for gender equality requires concerted effort and urges all stakeholders, especially Members of Parliament, to fully support the speedy implementation of the law in order to uplift the situation of women in Zambia," says NGOCC Chairperson, Sara Longwe.

THE recently enacted Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015 has the potential to narrow the long standing gender gaps if well implemented, observes the Non Governmental Organizations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC).

The Act attempts to domesticate some of the provisions in progressive international protocols such as the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the Protocol of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.

For NGOCC, CEDAW is like the International Bill of Rights for women and thus, implementing the Convention to the latter would be synonymous with the full empowerment of women in the political, social, economic and cultural fields.

To this effect the women's movement welcomes the enactment of the Act.

"If well implemented, the Act will without doubt go a long way in bridging the prevailing gender gaps in the country," reads a recent position paper by NGOCC.

"For a long time, gender equity and equality have remained a challenge in Zambia; as women have largely been excluded from participating in a number of social, economic, cultural and political activities. Women have for a long time remained marginalized and many times excluded from the national development processes of the country. With some of the progressive provisions provided for in the Act, NGOCC is hopeful that once the law is implemented, the situation of women is likely to improve."

The Act provides for the

ENGWASE MOTIVATES YOUNG ZIM WOMEN

...embrace principles of hard work & focus

ROLE modeling remains a critical ingredient in the empowerment of young women across the globe. It remains critical that young women should have role models they can look up to and emulate if they are to work towards getting empowered.

It is to this effect that Zimbabwe's young women under the banner of Elegant Grind met on the 24th September, 2016 for their very first time annual conference to explore avenues how they could get empowered.

The forum brought together Corporate, bureaucrats, civil society organizations leaders to explore ways of how to accelerate the pace of the economic empowerment of

young women in the Southern African Country.

Over 100 young women delegates attended the conference from various sectors of Zimbabwe's economy. The conference was graced by various speakers from Zambia, South Africa and Zimbambwe. The main objective of the meeting was to facilitate mentorship, peer learning and start intelligent conversations among participants on how to promote entrepreneurship for young women.

NGOCC Executive Director Ms. Engwase Mwale in her presentation dubbed "Leading one's Life to Lead Others, urged the young women to embrace the culture of hard work.



NGOCC Executive Director, Ms Engwase Mwale

speakers shared on shifting mindsets of young women through intelligent conversations, appreciating the value of collaboration and the need to stick to one's value system...

She implored the participants to adopt compelling visions and embrace principles of commitment, focused attention and collaborative approaches in their leadership journey in order to achieve success in their business pursuits.

She further encouraged the forum delegates to continuously work on building relationships and invest in their teams for further influence.

Ms. Mwale also drew the attention of the participating delegates to the need to nurture their natural tendencies and gifts in order to develop and empower others to become leaders in their own right.

At the same event other speakers shared on shifting mindsets of young women through intelligent conversations, appreciating the value of collaboration and the need to stick to one's value system for transformational leadership.

ZAMBIA SHOULD ACHIEVE SDG 3 TO ENHANCE UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH

By Inonge Mutukwa

THERE is a greater need for Zambia to move towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGS), especially goal No. 3 aimed at improving the health of women and girls; reduction in the global maternal mortality ratio to less than 70 deaths per 100,000 live births and ensuring universal access of women to sexual and reproductive health-service by 2030, says Patricia Mubanga.

Ms. Mubanga, the NGOCC Board Secretary speaking in Chibombo during the handover of the Malambanyama Rural Health Centre Mothers Shelter recently said "to achieve SDG 3, Government should ensure that the health sector is adequately resourced."

Ms. Mubanga further urged the Government to accelerate the construction of the 650 health centres across the country.

"NGOCC would like to urge the government to acceralate the construction of the 650 health centres, and ensure there are provisions for maternal health. It is important that these health centres are adequately furnished and provided with skilled human resource," she said.

NGOCC, with support from the Royal Norwegian Embassy supported its member organisation in Chibombo district, MKAMBECO, to construct the mothers' shelter at Malambanyama Rural Health Centre in Chibombo District.

On 11th October, 2016, NGOCC officially handed over the mothers' shelter to Malambanyama Rural Health Centre and the community at large. The people of Malambanyama who will be serviced by the the facility expressed happiness with the handover of the shelter.

The construction of the mother's shelter in one of the ways NGOCC was complimenting Government work in addressing the high incidences of maternal mortality.

For over the years women in Malambanyama and



Prevention of child mortality rate is key

the surrounding areas, in Chibombo District lacked a mother's shelter to assist them at the critical moment when giving life.

Women had to walk and cover long distances to seek medical attention at Malambanyama Rural Health Centre. In the process, many of them would not make it and would end up delivering on the way, posing high risk for both the mother and the baby.

Established in 1985, NGOCC has been active in addressing gender and development for the empowerment of women.

As a focal point of the women's movement NGOCC believes that increasing the percentage of births delivered in health facilities is an important factor in reducing deaths arising from complications of pregnancy.

The expectation is that if complications arise during delivery in a health facility, a skilled attendant can manage them or refer the mother to the next level of care. The lack of or poor access to health facilities by women is without doubt one of the causes for the high maternal mortality in Zambia.

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Ms. Lesa Kasoma Nyirenda with NGOCC Chairperson at the Magistrate Court

PHOTO FOCUS



NGOCC Executive Director with the Girl Guides Peer Educators at Feni



Monitoring visit of the guest house project implemented by Chama Development Women Association



Pre-elections Press Conference on 10th August at Pamodzi Hotel



NGOCC Grants Manager inspects the Lusitu Girls dormitory



various messages against gender based violence



NGOCC staff member at the close of planning in Siavonga.



Monitoring of the end early marriages project at Kalwelwe Resettlement in Chisamba - MEC

According to statistics, 398 deaths per 100, 000 live births are recorded as a result of maternal mortality (ZDHS 2013/2014).

Chibombo District Commissioner Mr. Barnabas Musopelo, who was the guest of honour said that the government appreciates the support that stakeholders like NGOCC and MKAMBECO are providing to ensure communities receive health care at all levels.

“The mothers’shelter will go a long way in ensuring that the community receives timely interventions as a result of this shelter. As you know a delivery by a skilled attendant at birth is the most effective intervention. The mother’s shelter will also provide a safe and clean environment for our mothers to deliver, ultimately contributing to the reduction of maternal and child mortality rate in the District,” he said.

He said one of the main reasons for the high maternal and child mortality rate in the district is delayed access to early saving interventions due to long distances.

“More than 80% of deaths of children below the age of 5 years are as a result of respiratory infections, diarrhoea, malaria and complications during and post –delivery. These deaths can be avoided if households were 5 kilometres as near as possible to the health facilities. The vision for the government is to ensure equity to access to cost effective, quality health services as close to the family as possible’.

And MKAMBECO Executive Coordinator Ms. Ireen Musopelo said her organisation supported by NGOCC, was prompted to build the mother’s shelter because in the past pregnant women in the area sought shelter in the market place but with the handover of the mother’s shelter women will deliver their babies at the health centre.

The mother’s shelter was constructed by MKAMBECO and funded by NGOCC through the Royal Norwegian Embassy at a cost of about K154,000.

The shelter has a capacity to accommodate up to 30 expectant mothers and 15 people who accompany the pregnant women, also has a store room, kitchen and an office for the organisation.

Complimenting Healthcare Provision

THE CASE OF WARUDO

By Salome Sikananu

THE provision of high quality and affordable healthcare is a serious challenge for people living in rural areas.

Accessing healthcare services may be challenging in remote areas because people have to travel long distances just to see a physician for routine check-ups or screening.

In Chongwe District, a rural community called Waterfalls had a challenge of not having a clinic until support was provided in 2000.

Waterfalls Rural Women’s Development (WARUDO) was formed in 1994 and is located in the rural district of Chongwe at Waterfalls community about 45 kms from Lusaka District.

The organisation has a membership of 60 elderly women and the main objective of the organisation is to eradicate poverty among women and men by carrying out different projects in order for the community to have better living standards.

The organisation was

supported by NGOCC and received funding from Irish Aid and World Bank in 2000 to construct a clinic and installation of a bore hole.

The need of constructing a clinic arose from the fact that the area had no clinic and the nearest clinic was 16 kms from Chelstone in Lusaka.

With the support from NGOCC, the organisation bought a five acre plot in Chongwe and constructed a clinic which is complete, operational and catering for about 20,000 people.

The clinic called Waterfalls Clinic also has a maternity wing and about ten to twenty babies are delivered per month. The organisation also installed a bore hole and is providing clean water to the community members.

Achievements

- People in the community especially the women and children have access to the clinic and are benefiting from the services being offered;

- Pregnant women are accessing other services such as Antenatal, Anti-Retro viral (ARVs) therapy on time due to the broadened health services;

- Under-five children’s clinic is being done in a conducive and safe environment;

- The visibility of the organisation has been enhanced;

- Formation of four Zone Committees providing awareness raising on the importance of mothers taking their children to the under-

With the support from NGOCC, the organisation bought a five acre plot in Chongwe and constructed a clinic which is complete, operational and catering for about 20,000 people in the community.

five clinics and pregnant women accessing the clinic for antennal;

- The community members have access to clean water.

Involvement of all stakeholders such as community members, Village Headwomen and men, the Rural Health Center staff and the Ministry of Health at every stage of the project such as design, planning and

construction ensured a sense of ownership of the project. The project has enabled pregnant women to seek health services earlier before the Expected Date of Delivery (EDD) and others are referred to Levy Mwanawasa General Hospital.

The presence of the clinic has eliminated distance barriers and delivering health care services to the members of the Waterfalls community and nearby communities.



Warudo clinic

NGOCC toasts International Day of the Rural Women

By Samuel Mwanakatwe

As part of the commemoration to mark the International Day for Rural Women (IDRW), which falls on October 15 annually, NGOCC and its members this year held the commemoration in Mumbwa's Nangoma area as a way to celebrate the contribution of rural women to national development.

This day sets out to appreciate rural women's contribution in augmenting agricultural and rural development, worldwide.

First officially celebrated on 15th October 1998, IDRW presents an opportunity to reflect on what rural women have put in, to improve food security and eradicating rural poverty.



further called for equal access to land for women by noting that “if rural women had equal access to productive resources, agriculture yield could reduce the number of chronically hungry people by between 100 and 150 million.”

Away from the formalities, were a horde of creative activities that saw the local women display their wide array of agricultural products straight from harvest, much to the excitement of the guests who took turns in buying the fresh produce.

Nicely laid out in creative stands, the women and men of Nangoma exhibited and sold their produce as the ecstatic audience was kept alive by an interchange of exciting entertainment from a local drama group, singing group as well as cultural dancers.

Of special note was a role play that brought to the fore the rigors of child marriage and the re-entry policy in a bid to sensitize the locals about the ills of child marriages. In a similar fashion, the audience was enlightened on the re-entry policy, as an alive and active policy encouraging women, especially young ones to go back to school and complete their education.

To cap the event, awards were given to deserving women for their different invaluable roles to the cause of women in the crusade for gender equity and equality.

EU, NGOCC SIGN EURO 1 MILLION GRANT AGREEMENT

By Inonge Mutukwa

THE European Union and the Non Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) have signed a Euro 1 million grant to sub grant to its members in a quest to empower women. Therefore the Grant Management Programme (GMP), embarked on a programme to brief member organizations about what this EU funding entails.

The purpose of these briefing meetings were to enable member organizations fully understand the EU grant guidelines for the purposes of project proposal writing. The idea was to ensure that member organizations write and submit good and viable proposals.

The EU financial support to NGOCC's activities falls under the Basket Fund.

EU has provided funds that NGOCC who will, in turn, sub-grant to its members focusing on three areas of intervention. These three are:

1. The Legal framework comprising areas around the amended Zambian Republican Constitution, Gender Equity and the Equality Act 22 of 2015, Land Act and Policy and Anti-Gender Based Violence Act 1 of 2011.

2. Funding can also be applied for under the Social and Economic Empowerment category. This has to do with the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP), sustainable livelihoods through skills training and Income Generating Activities, Value Chain, Life and technical skills training and participation in the PDCCs and DDCCs.

The third category is about Access to Sexual Reproductive Health Services – Sexual Reproductive Health Services for women and youth (antennal, under-five, PMTCT, VCT)

In Zambia, Women for Change a member organization for Non Governmental Organizations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC) has not relented in observing this very important day.

Mumbwa District was host to the 2016 IDRW which was celebrated on 21st October, in Nangoma area's Shinteulu village of Chief Shakumbila.

Under the theme: “Ensuring food security, fighting poverty by empowering rural women”, the event which was hosted by Women for Change was graced by the area District Commissioner, WfC and NGOCC Chairpersons as well as representatives from the area chief, his Royal Highness Chief Shakumbila.

In her speech the Women for Change Chairperson Dr. Margaret Maimbolwa emphasized the need for improving nutrition in the country.

The event lived to its expectation as scores of rural women and men, girls and boys thronged the venue.

NGOCC as an advocacy organization equally used the event to bring to light the challenges faced by rural women as was echoed by the NGOCC Chairperson Ms. Sara Longwe.

In her speech, she stressed that “agriculture provides a livelihood for 86% of rural women and men and employment for 1.3 billion smallholder farmers and landless workers (43% are women). Yet, the women's contributions have been largely over looked.” She

THE YOUNG WOMEN CHRISTIAN ASSOCIATION (YWCA)

‘Empowering Young Female Slum Dwellers’



YWCA Chairperson Ms. Focile Sichinga during the launch of the project

The Young Women Christian Association (YWCA) in partnership with Women in Law Southern Africa (WISA) are implementing a program “empowering young female slum dwellers to tackle Gender Based Violence in George and Linda Compound.

The programme has empowered 196 young women in George and Linda compound by setting up various kinds of businesses after successfully undertaking programmes to uplift their standard of living.

The activity which took place at George Primary School was characterised by drama by the YWCA group and dances to educate young women on how they can be empowered minus being abused by older men.

Out of the 196 trainees some received freezite making machines, sausage making

Mrs Patiricia Ndhlovu pledged to continue supporting the young women in the country to reduce gender based violence through empowerment.

machines, bales of second hand clothes as well as full saloon equipment.

Gracing the occasion was YWCA Lusaka Branch president Mrs Phosile Sichinga, YWCA Executive Director Mrs Patiricia Ndhlovu, Councilor of George compound Mr Francis Bwalya.

Mrs Patiricia Ndhlovu pledged to continue supporting the young women in the country to reduce gender based violence through empowerment.

Mrs Ndhlovu said women when empowered can change the

living standard in the country as they are mothers and custodians of their children.

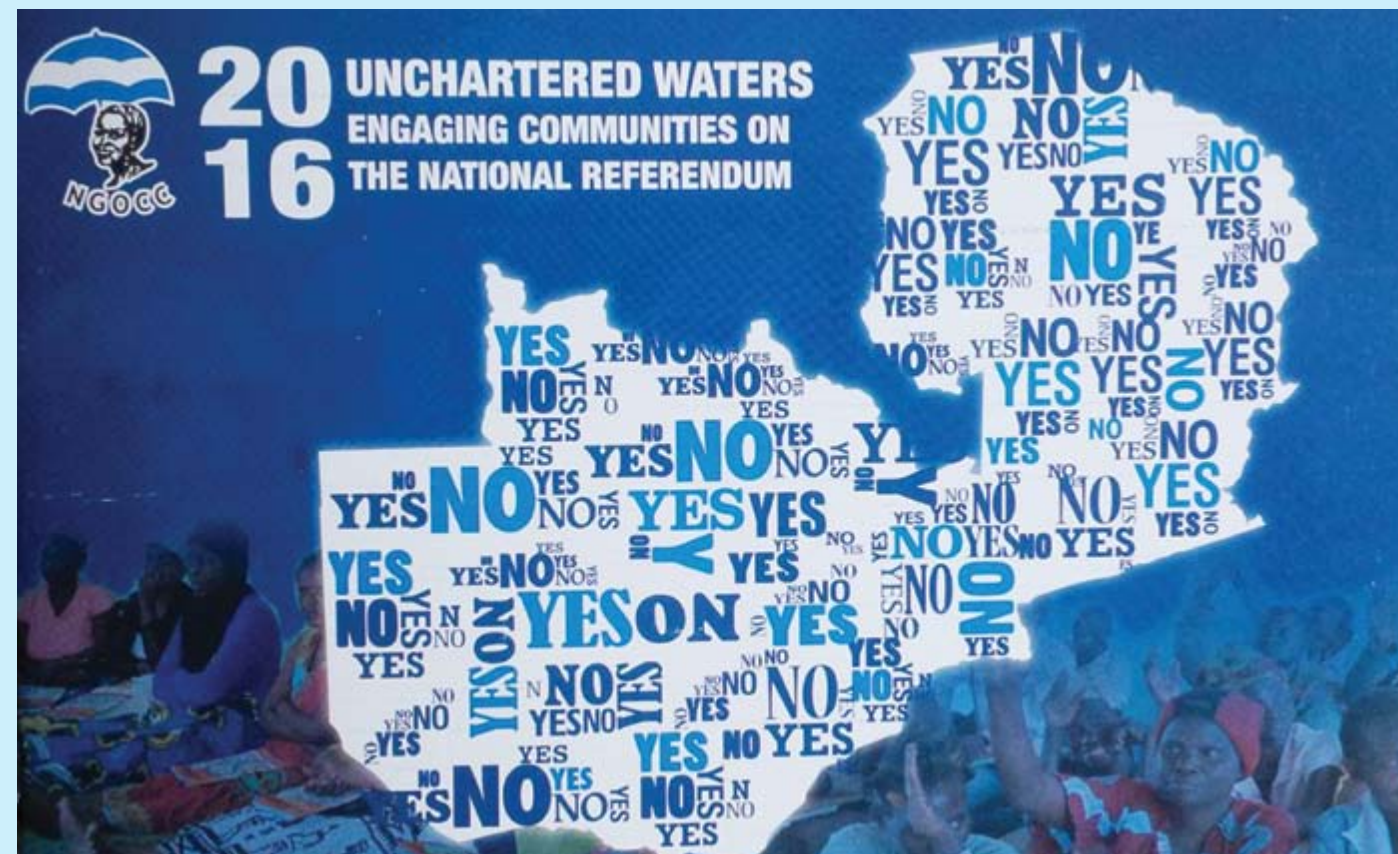
She said that some parents like hiding whenever their daughters are abused due to poverty, a problem she said was high in George compound.

She explained that gender based violence affects a person's current stature and their future status.

Meanwhile Lusaka Branch President Mrs Phosile Sichinga who was speaking at the same event said the implementation of the program began in 2015 and will be in the community to see change in women.

She urged the enterprisers to take the equipment they have received seriously as well as making use of the skills acquired during the training for the betterment of their well being and the community at large.

NGOCC NODS PLANS FOR ANOTHER REFERENDUM



THE Non Governmental Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) has welcomed the announcement by the Minister of Justice Given Lubinda in parliament that another National Referendum was being planned.

NGOCC executive director Engwase Mwale said the plan to hold another referendum was welcome.

She however said as a matter of urgency government should constitute an expert team to relook at some provisions in the Bill of Rights especially those that affect women.

“NGOCC demands that the government should soon constitute a small expert team to address some of the unclear

provisions in the Bill of Rights, especially those negatively affecting women and children such as Articles 24, 26, 29, 31, 35 and 45, among others,” she said.

Ms. Mwale said there is also need for the Government to provide a clear road map for the holding of an all inclusive National Referendum which will not be politicized, coupled with a legal framework to protect the content of the referendum documents.

“It is incumbent of the government and the civil society to begin to conscientise members of the public on the provisions of a Referendum Act, and the Bill of Rights.

Further, Government should ensure that the Bill of Rights is

translated into all the seven local languages, including Braille copies to cater for the differently abled persons and these should be distributed to all the ten provinces of Zambia,” she said.

Recently Minister of Justice Given Lubinda announced that Government was considering holding another Referendum following the failed Referendum held on August 11 alongside the general elections.

Meet the deserving women awarded for their different invaluable roles to the cause of women in the crusade for gender EQUITY AND EQUALITY.



NON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANISATIONS' COORDINATING COUNCIL



19th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

DATE: 17 - 18 NOVEMBER, 2016

VENUE: MIKA CONVENTION CENTRE

THEME:

**'TOWARDS 2030: FORGING AHEAD WITH WOMEN'S
EMPOWERMENT, GENDER EQUITY AND EQUALITY'**