



"Building Solidarity for Women's Empowerment"

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BUUNGANO

Newsletter

Jan - June 2019

Non-governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council

"...YOU ARE DOING A GOOD JOB" PRESIDENT LUNGU COMMENDS NGOCC



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ABOUT NGOCC

The Non-governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC) is an umbrella organisation with a total of 98 Non Governmental 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 the 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 human rights and ensure their empowerment.

Buongano News is a publication of the Non-governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC)

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Vision:

“A society where women are empowered and fully participate in social, cultural, economic and political development.”

Mission:

“To promote women's empowerment for gender equity and equality through coordinated advocacy, capacity development of member organisations and linkages with government, local and international partners.”

FROM THE DIRECTORS PEN



Once again we are pleased to present to you the first half of 2019 Edition of our Buungano Newsletter. As per tradition the Newsletter provides some highlights of the projects and activities that have been undertaken over the last few months, specifically during the period, January to June 2019. In line with our strategic intent as outlined in the NGOCC Strategic Plan 2018 – 2022, our focus remains the attainment of Gender Equality.

We continue on the trajectory to advocate for women's empowerment. We firmly believe that sustainable development will remain unattainable not only for Zambia, but the world at large as long as inequalities exist. The reasons for the continued gender inequalities are varied but mostly are a result of the entrenched patriarchy and the lopsided, and gender blind policy and legal regime. In the last few months, as documented in this particular edition of the Newsletter, NGOCC has undertaken a number of activities and programs to contribute to narrowing the gender gaps. It is a truism that women and girls remain marginalized from both benefiting and participating in the development processes of our country.

One of the major highlights in this edition was NGOCC's participation in the National Dialogue Forum (NDF). It will be recalled that Government through the Ministry of Justice promulgated the NDF Act to among others review the Republican Constitution, the Electoral Process law and the Public Order Act. As a women's movement, we took a strategic decision in line with our mandate to participate in the NDF despite the misgivings of various stakeholders about the process and composition of the Forum. The motivation to participate in any advocacy, especially legal and policy reform is to ensure that there is a just and equitable society where all participate. The Constitution, as the grand norm of our country is the foremost document that can bring about our much desired equality! We therefore went into

the NDF fully conscious that over the years we have been bemoaning the low number of women in decision making positions. And that this was an opportunity to bring about legal reforms that would promote the 50/50 participation of both women and men in the governance of our country.

Gender equality cannot be attained without the necessary legal and policy regime. While we are not fully satisfied with the outcome of the NDF, we believe we sufficiently raised and tabled some of our demands as a women's movement. NGOCC will continue to advocate for a truly people's Constitution, a constitution that embodies the aspirations of the Zambian people, especially the most vulnerable women and children. It is in the same vein that we continue to advocate for the holding of the National Referendum – that will facilitate for the inclusion of the expanded Bill of Rights in the Constitution. The expanded Bill of Rights remain critical for women and children!

In this edition we also highlight some of the achievements of our member organisations; The Association of Zambian Women in Mining (AZWIM) seeking potential partnerships in the United Kingdom, Empowerment of Prisoners' Wives and their Children (EPWC) calling on government to support prisoner's wives and children, and how the Civil Society Governance Charter will strengthen CSO coordination in holding Government accountable, among others.

We also highlight other activities and programs that we have implemented as a network; our efforts towards ending child marriages and teen pregnancies. Some of the efforts to increase the participation of women in decision making positions and indeed what NGOCC is doing to support the empowerment of women.

We therefore hope, like always, you will find this particular edition interesting.

Engwase B. Mwale
Executive Editor

“...you are doing a good job”

President Lungu Commends NGOCC

By Fridah Nkonde-Mubanga



President Edgar Lungu at the NGOCC stand during the Commemoration of the International Women's Day at the Show Grounds in Lusaka

PRESIDENT Edgar Lungu has commended the Non-governmental Gender Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) for the good work the organisations was doing in the empowerment of women.

Speaking when he visited the NGOCC stand at the showgrounds on March 8th 2019 during the International Women's Day commemoration, President Lungu said the organisation was doing a good job and that the government was happy with what NGOCC was doing in the country.

"I am aware of what NGOCC is doing and all I can say is that you are doing a very good job. We will also see to it that some of the challenges that you are facing are addressed," President Lungu said.

And NGOCC vice chairperson, Leatitia Pupe Mtonga explained to the President Lungu that the organisation was focused on women's empowerment and championing women's rights.

The International Women's Day (IWD) is commemorated on 8th March annually to celebrate and honour the invaluable contributions women make economically, socially, politically and culturally across the breadth and width of society, globally.

For, NGOCC IWD presents an opportunity to showcase its work on the empowerment of women in line with the organization's mandate.

On March 8th 2019, NGOCC participated in the International Women's Day (national event) commemoration which was organised by the Ministry of Gender at the Show Grounds main arena in Lusaka. This national event under the theme "Think

Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change," was graced by the Republican President Edgar Lungu.

Meanwhile in his speech, the Head of State said government had provided an enabling environment for quickening progress towards achieving gender equality and women's empowerment.

He said government was likely to set up a Gender Equity and Equality Commission that would address the many challenges facing women which are perpetrating gender inequalities.

"This we are doing through the following: (a) Ratification of the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). This is an instrument put in place by the United Nations to promote women's rights, (b) adopting the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the guiding framework for managing development, as we seek to achieve the vision 2030, where Zambia seeks to be free from gender inequality in all spheres of development, (c) adopting equality and non-discrimination among its national principles and values through the Constitution of Zambia (amendment) Act No. 2 of 2016. It is expected that all citizens shall live by these principles and values," President Lungu said.

"(d) Enacting the Gender Equity and Equality Act No. 22 of 2015 in order to deal with the root causes discrimination. This law prohibits all forms of discrimination especially Gender-Based Discrimination, (e) enacting the Anti-Gender Based Violence Act No. 1 of 2011 to protect the survivors of Gender-Based Violence. Its enactment was a welcome initiative to respond to the vice of GBV in Zambia and (f) adopting the National Gender Policy of 2014 and the 7th National Development Plan which seek to reduce developmental inequalities."

President Lungu said the country had significantly increased women's participation in decision-making at strategic levels including in politics.

He said there were more women's economic empowerment programmes and that women's access to health had improved.

President Lungu said more women were accessing social protection services, and that government was creating more gender-friendly infrastructure.

"However, there is still more to be done. Women are still overburdened by poverty. They continue to face challenges in accessing justice, social and economic opportunities. The challenges that women face are even more in accessing infrastructure, especially for persons with disabilities. The gender inequalities and discrimination continue to be worsened by deep-rooted cultural and traditional practices which promote male dominance and the subordination of women and girls," President Lungu said.

"It is clear that though we are progressing well in the implementation of gender equality and empowerment programmes in our country, we need to enhance these efforts, if we are to realise the targets as set out in the Sustainable Development Goals and Planet 50:50 by 2030. The global gender gap report for 2018 has noted a likely emergence of new gender gaps in the area of advanced technologies, such as in artificial intelligence-related skills. The report further acknowledges that artificial intelligence is an area where human skills are becoming increasingly important in complementing

innovation and technology."

And NGOCC chairperson Mary Silavwe Mulenga said the 2019 International Women's Day theme, "Think Equal, Build Smart, Innovate for Change," brings to light the world's focus on finding innovative ways in which to advance gender equality and the empowerment of women.

Ms Mulenga said gender equity and equality is a serious development imperative, adding that the country can no longer proceed with 'business as usual' attitude.

"We live with another sad reality where women have continued to die while giving life right within our health facilities. Access to quality sexual reproductive health services and rights remains a huge challenge for most women especially in rural area," Ms. Mulenga said.

"While we have elaborate policies and legal frameworks to narrow the gender gaps such as the National Gender Policy, the Gender Equity and Equality Act (GEEA), the Anti Gender-Based Violence Act and the Seventh National Development Plan. There is serious need to actualise and implement the proposed measures in these documents."

Ms. Mulenga said the women's movement in Zambia desire a transformative leadership at all levels.

Meanwhile, during the same event President Lungu acknowledged and saluted Ms Edith Nawakwi, Ms Sara Longwe and Ms Lucy Sichone (May her soul rest in peace) for helping move the Zambian gender agenda forward.

MILLENNIUM CHALLENGE ACCOUNT-ZAMBIA DONATES TO NGOCC

By Staff Writer

Non-governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC) Executive Director, Engwase Mwale says various office equipment received from Millennium Challenge Account-Zambia will go a long way in enhancing the organisations' operations and furthering the gender agenda in the country.

In her acknowledgment of the donation, Ms Mwale said NGOCC was going to put the donated office equipment to good use.

"Early this year, 2019 the Millennium Challenge Account-Zambia donated various office equipment to the Non-governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC). Network, board, management and staff

of NGOCC would therefore like to thank MCA-Zambia for this very generous donation. It is evident that the donated items will help sustain our organisation's projects and programs," Ms Mwale said.

"We truly appreciate MCA-Zambia's thoughtful donation and we are happy to say that the donation will help us run our organisation smoothly."



ZAMBIAN WOMEN IN MINING MAKE A GIANT LEAP INTO THE EUROPEAN MARKET

By Fridah Nkonde-Mubanga



AZWIM exhibiting Zambian minerals at the Brighton Gem 'n' Bead show at Brighton Racecourse, UK – PICTURE COURTESY, Lusaka Times

THE Association of Zambian Women in Mining (AZWIM) has intensified its drive towards women's empowerment in the mining industry by exploring other potential markets for their finished products in the European market.

And AZWIM President, Mary Lubemba says women in the mining industry can effectively contribute to the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) if well resourced.

Ms Lubemba says it was exciting for the Association to explore the European market in March this year for precious/semi-precious stones during an exhibition.

"It feels good to be in this industry and contribute to the socio-economic growth of the country. We were in London for one whole month and it was busy because we wanted to achieve something and we did. We came back home very tired but it was worth it. 17 of our women will be going to China for six months this year for another programme," Ms Lubemba said.

Zambia's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, His Excellency Mr Muyeba Chikonde and United Kingdom Department for International Trade (DIT) held a meeting to introduce the Association of Zambian Women in Mining (AZWIM) and explored opportunities for Zambia-UK mining ventures in March this year.

The meeting was facilitated by the Zambian High Commission in London and the UK Department for International Trade (DIT).

During the meeting High Commissioner Chikonde, reiterated President Edgar Lungu's commitment to Government's desire to support small scale miners, especially women.

Mr. Chikonde said Government was keen on ensuring that small scale miners were facilitated with equipment to mechanize their operations in order to increase their contribution to the socio-economic growth of the country.

High Commissioner Chikonde said, "As a Mission, we are here to translate the President's call into action by facilitating meetings that will promote trade and investment for Zambia and explore potential partners for Women in Mining so that they can increase their production capacity as well as build technical capacity of their organisation to generate value addition of their products."

He said artisanal small scale mining is essential for the country's development especially in the eradication of poverty, as it has the capacity to create employment for the many women and youths and contribute to the country's economic growth.

The UK Department for International Trade was able to facilitate access to its data base of companies who are involved in precious/semi-precious stones to help AZWIM access a wider value chain.

Ms Lund who introduced AZWIM to the International Women in Mining, urged AZWIM to connect with other mining associations around the world so as to learn some best practices that can improve their production.

AZWIM has since thanked the Zambian High Commission in London for organising the networking and marketing meeting.

AZWIM has over 300 members across the country, whose majority are facing challenges such as, lack of access to affordable capital, equipment and lack of necessary skills in the extractive industry.

There is a huge international demand for Zambian precious/semi-precious stones such as Emerald and Amethyst.

"But women in the mining sector are not able to meet the demand because of lack of equipment to scale up production beyond a shovel and a pike. We need to increase production and enhance value addition," said Ms Lubemba.

AZWIM also met Dr. Dan Hart of Tracks of Peace, a UK registered charity who is eager to work and partner with the women in mining. He is willing to facilitate AZWIM open an office in London that will service Europe. NGOCC provided finances for the purchase of machines used for the polishing of precious / semi precious stones



AZWIM with their partner Dr Hart in London – PICTURE COURTESY – AZWIM

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LUWEWA TO USE SOLAR TECHNOLOGIES IN VALUE ADDITION PROJECT

By Fridah Nkonde-Mubanga



THE Lusaka West Women Association (LUWEWA) has embarked on a value chain addition project for the preservation of fruits and vegetables using solar technologies in an effort to empower women in their community.

LUWEWA, Executive Secretary Kufekisa Laugery says there are a lot of vegetables and fruits that were currently going to waste across the country that can be preserved and packaged.

“We are set to embark on the fruit and vegetable drying project this year using solar dryers. Unfortunately it has taken a bit long for us to start this project.

“This project is something that we have been looking forward to because there is a lot of wastage of fruits and vegetables in our communities. If there is an organisation that has dryers, people will be able to sale their produce... even if it is 10 kilograms...it is okay as long as something is done to the fruits and vegetable instead of them going to waste,” she said.

She said members of the Association are very excited about the new project. She said more women were now contemplating to start vegetable and fruit growing because of the novel project.

“They want to take advantage of this project because they are certain that their produce will be sold and will not have a shelf life,” Ms Laugery said.

She said the new project would complement the current egg production activity the Association was implementing.

“The main thing we have done over the past year is egg layer project. That has been a big achievement for us and it has been a great experience for our organisation. We have learnt how to take very good care of layers, how to keep records and banking.

“This project has been fantastic and it has taught us a lot. Our association with Lusaka Sekelala Community School has continued. This association is something that we are happy with. We have been donating food stuffs to the school. We have also been giving them eggs to help in their feeding programme and we have helped the teachers with school materials,” Ms Laugery said.

“When the association has no money, we still deep into our pockets to help the school in any way. We also sit down with the learners and teachers and talk about teenage pregnancies and early marriages. We have been pleasantly surprised by how sharp these children are about such matters.

They seem to know quite a lot about these matters and one wonders why we have so many young people getting married when they know the consequences. We get together and talk about all our programmes. We are about 60 in total though some members are not that active.”

Ms Laugery said women should not just sit at home and do nothing.

“On your own, you cannot achieve anything. There is a tendency to compete with one another...instead of competing, it is better to work together to achieve something big. If you work as a team, you are likely to get somewhere,” said Ms Laugery.

CSOs RAISE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES WITH GOVT



A consortium of Civil Society Organisations have petitioned Government through the Ministry of Justice to address governance issues which have the potential to compromise the country Governance and human rights record.

Speaking when the organisations presented the Zambia Governance Charter to Minister of Justice Given Lubinda, NGOCC Vice Chairperson Letitia Pupe said CSOs have been concerned with some recent development that point to challenges with the application of the rule of law.

“Some of the signs included among others, the arrest of some civil society activists from the Zambia Council for Social Development (ZCSD), Alliance for Community Action (ACA) and other activists for protesting against the Government’s imprudent expenditure on fire tenders.

“In the recent past we have witnessed the deportation of the Kenyan Professor who was not allowed entry because of the purported presentation he was to make during a graduation ceremony. In Ndola some pastors and civil society leaders were arrested for merely assembling to discuss the National Budget. Further, citizens have witnessed increased muzzling of the press effectively curtailing freedom of expression as espoused in the Constitution,” said Ms Pupe.

She said critical media institutions like The Post, had been closed, while Prime Television had been suspended by the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA).

“Recently, we have also witnessed attempts to regulate the cyber space through legislation. This situation entails the need for a strong civil society that will defend citizen’s rights and uphold the rule of law,” she said.

She said therefore, civil society, with support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) had resolved to strengthen their watchdog role of monitoring the governance situation in the country.

“This Charter therefore seeks to strengthen the civil society movement and human rights defenders. We are therefore meeting with you Hon. Minister to present the draft CSOs Charter which we as CSOs will use to monitor Government in relation to the Rule of Law, Constitutionalism and Governance in general. We are aware that the Ministry of Justice anchors the governance department which somewhat also reports on these matters to different bodies. As stated it is our hope that through this project we can assist government to be more accountable and transparent,” she said.

Ms Pupe said the women’s movement have been desirous to ensure the inclusion of the expanded Bill of Rights in the Constitution. Ms. Pupe was flanked by Action Aid Zambia Country Director, Nalucha Ziba, Alliance for Community Action (ACA) Director, Laura Miti, Operation Young Vote (OYV) Executive Director, Guess Nyirenda.

Receiving the Charter, Mr Lubinda thanked NGOCC for engaging him on issues of governance and promised that his Ministry was going to analyse the Charter and revert.

NGOCC with support from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) has been implementing a project on promoting good governance and the rule of law. The project seeks to deepen Zambia’s democracy and the rule of law by advocating for the upholding of constitutionalism.

The overall objectives of this project is to strengthen the capacities of Member Organisations (MOs) to lobby and advocate for the upholding of the Constitution and the rule of law, to foster public awareness on the need for the expanded Bill of Rights and its inclusion in the Amended Constitution of 2016 through a National Referendum, and to facilitate for the creation of an advocacy and legal defence fund.

As an initial outcome, the project has since seen the development of a Civil Society Charter aimed at galvanizing civil society collaboration in monitoring the governance situation and how the government is upholding the rule of law. The Charter among other aims at strengthening CSO coordination in holding government accountable on issues of Constitutionalism, the rule of law and general governance.

WOMAN NARRATES HOW VILLAGE BANKING HAS CHANGED HER LIFE

By Staff Reporter



I can now take charge of my own life and I look at life differently now, says Josphine Banda, 33, of Lusaka West.

In an interview recently, Ms. Banda said joining the women's Village Banking Group has changed her life.

"I am happy to say that despite my ugly past, I can now take charge of my own life and I look at life differently. I was born in 1986 in Lusaka West and by the age of 26 in 2012 I was a divorcee with three children. I got married at the age of 18, and it wasn't long before I regretted it. In my marriage, I used to struggle as if I wasn't married. My husband did not provide for the family. As if that was not enough, I also suffered verbal and physical abuse. After eight years of marriage, I went back to my mother, with all the children," Ms Banda said.

"Three years later, I decided to remarry and moved from Kasupe to Mungwi Road, Lusaka West. The second marriage turned out to be no better than the first. Verbal and physical abuse once again resumed in my life. While I was expecting my second child, my husband left home without a word. It was at this time in 2017, that my landlady, a member of the Lusaka West Women's Association (LUWEWA), advised me to join the women's Village Banking Group called Seka, to which some LUWEWA members also belonged."

Ms. Banda said when she decided to join LUWEWA, things began to change in her life.

She said in 2018, LUWEWA received a European Union-funded grant through the NGOCC to keep egg layers and that Ms. Banda got the job to look after the chickens.

"For the first time I did not have to worry about looking after my family, especially the first three children who were already attending school. From Seka, I obtained a loan to keep some broilers and was able to pay it back. My husband re-appeared after the birth of our second child. Although the marriage is still not a happy one, I don't get bothered that much because I don't have to depend on my husband entirely," Ms. Banda said.

"I pay rent and somehow still manage to take care of my five children because I do not receive any child support from my first husband. I am unable to save as much as I would like to with the village banking group because of my many responsibilities, but I am not discouraged. As long as I am able to earn something, anything can happen. Thanks to LUWEWA, I look at life differently now. I have learnt to take charge of my own life."

'THE TALE OF A CHILD MARRIAGE SURVIVOR'

By Staff Reporter

Fauzia Hakapobo (not real name) says she feels blessed to be in school when most of her friends are being married off at an early age.

Hakapobo, 13, in an interview said girls should be encouraged to be in school.

"I want to be a Police Officer once I finish my school and contribute to the development of my country especially where management of sexual abuse cases are concerned. A lot of my friends are married off when they are supposed to be in school. I am one among the lucky ones and I want to thank NGOCC through the Law Development Association (LADA) for saving me. I would also like to save other girls like me so that they can finish school" said Hakapobo a grade 7 pupil at Simukale Primary School in Chief Monze's Chiefdom in Monze district.

Hakapobo was retrieved from a child marriage after the school Head Teacher reported the matter to LADA who later engaged the Zambia Police Victim Support Unit (VSU).

LADA received a written request from Simukale Primary School Head Teacher informing the organisation of a Grade 7 pupil who was eloped and forced into child marriage and defilement thereof.

The Head Teacher (Mr. Halukobo) informed LADA that

Hakapobo was eloped on 19th August 2018 by a 28-years old man of Namuseba area of Monze District.

With the help from Zambia Police Victim Support Unit (ZPVSU), the girl was retrieved from the marriage on 24th August 2018 after an alert from a concerned community member and the perpetrator is on the run.

With the financial support from NGOCC, LADA was implementing a project on influencing policy implementation focusing on contribution towards ending child marriages in Monze District.

In 2017, LADA conducted a series of school based anti-child marriage campaigns and Simukale area was one of the targeted communities.



ESTABLISHMENT OF SHELTERS AND A GBV FUND WILL ASSIST VICTIMS OF GBV-WLSA

By Staff Reporter



Women and Law in Southern Africa Project Manager Besa Mwansa Sahlem says the establishment of shelters and a Gender - Based Violence (GBV) fund will assist victims and survivors of the vice.

In an interview, Ms. Sahlem said there was need for fast track court to be rolled out country wide so that victims of Gender- Based Violence (GBV) do not lose trust in the Zambian justice system.

"Women and Law in Southern Africa, Zambia (WLSA) continues to advocate for the establishment of shelters and a Gender- Based Violence fund. This will greatly assist victims of GBV who are economically challenged hence withdrawal or failure to report cases of gender- based violence. Similarly, WLSA continues to advocate for the establishment of the Gender Equity and Equality Commission. This Commission will see to it that gender equity and equality is attained in all spheres of life and that women are not discriminated against at all levels," Ms Sahlem said.

"Gender-Based Violence is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies. According to the Anti Gender-Based Violence Act, gender -based violence is defined as any physical, mental, social or economic violence directed against a person because of their gender. It must be noted that both men and women experience gender- based violence but the majority of victims are women and girls. Sadly, the fight against Gender -Based violence is still ongoing as the prevalence of Gender -Based Violence in Zambia is extremely high."

Ms. Sahlem said in comparison to previous years, there has been an increase in reported cases.

She said according to the Zambia Police report, in 2018 a total of 22,073 cases were reported countrywide in comparison to 2017 where the Zambia Police recorded a total of 21,504 cases.

"However, the challenge has been in the prosecution of Gender -Based Violence cases. In 2017, only 348 perpetrators were convicted and only 45 were acquitted. Similarly, the conviction rates were very low in 2018 where only 1,097 out of 22,073 perpetrators were convicted

and 79 were acquitted. Another challenge has been the withdrawal of cases. In 2017, it was recorded that a total of 8,243 cases were withdrawn whereas in 2018, it was recorded that 10,811 cases were withdrawn. This entails that very few cases reach the courts of law. The withdrawal of cases can be attributed to various factors which include; stereotypes in Gender- Based Violence which place a blame on the women hence making them feel that it was their fault that they were beaten or abused," Ms. Sahlem.

"Another contributing factor to the withdrawal of cases is that women are too forgiving which becomes a weakness in that even after reporting the case, once a man apologizes the woman feels inclined to give the man a second chance. This trend continues and the woman is left hopeless because she feels too ashamed to face law enforcement officers for assistance after withdrawing her case several times. Some cases of Gender -Based Violence are withdrawn at courts because the men threaten the women. Some men will even threaten the woman with death and harm on the children, this causes the woman to withdraw the case due to fear but the man still goes ahead and carries out the threat anyway. Another factor is that women are not economically empowered and the prospect of the husband going to prison means starvation for the whole family, no fees for the children and no rent. The family would rather survive with abuse than die without the abuser. These and many more factors can be attributed to the withdrawal of cases or women not reporting cases at all."

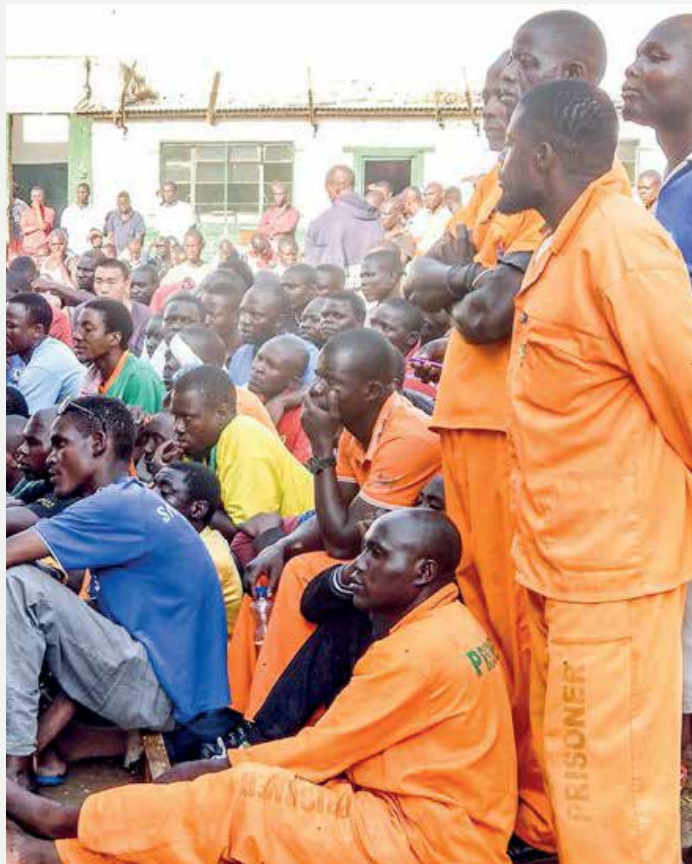
Ms Sahlem said Zambia had progressive laws such as the Anti Gender-Based Violence Act No 11 of 2011 and the Gender Equity and Equality Act. No 22 of 2015

She however said, there were still some gaps in implementation which had been attributed to the increase of Gender -Based Violence cases.



GOVERNMENT SHOULD SUPPORT PRISONERS' FAMILIES - EPWC

By Staff Reporter



THE imprisonment of a breadwinner can sometimes spell doom on a family, especially for the children and dependents.

Studies have shown that the incarceration of a breadwinner would lead to children dropping out of the education system and engage in delinquent activities hence perpetrating poverty.

Other negative consequences also include poor academic performance, aggression, depression and substance abuse. The need therefore for support to families and children of people in prison cannot be overemphasised.

Incarcerated fathers are unable to work on parenting skills that may be necessary for reunification, and separation interferes with the ability of parent and child to form or maintain a strong attachment.

Empowerment of Prisoners' Wives and their Children (EPWC) is an organisation working to ensure the mitigation of poverty amongst prisoner's wives and children through resource mobilization and entrepreneurship.

EPWC Executive Director, Faustine Mwale has called upon government to support prisoner's wives and children.

"As an organisation, we are not doing well because of the challenges we are facing. Most of the people we were working with are no longer committed because the organisation has no money to run all the programmes effectively. As you know, these women at Chimbokaila

Prisons, when we recruit them, the next thing they want is for us to give them something...money and other basic needs but we don't have resources.

"Most of the programmes have been suspended because we do not have money as an organisation. But again, we cannot just sit down and watch prisoner's wives and children suffer. These women and children are vulnerable and need support from all of us. Before we started this organisation, we used to cook food and share with some of them, but cooked food is not enough. What these wives and children are going through is heart-breaking," Ms Mwale said.

"When you visit some of these families, you hear stories like; my daughter has gone to sale charcoal, the other one has gone to Soweto Market to do some piece work so that we can put food on the table...they will tell you how they go to bed on empty stomachs. I don't know how the government can come in and help these women because our friends in the developed world are helping such people. In Zambia today, we all know that the people going to prisons are the poor because they cannot afford a Lawyer. The same poor people going to prison are the breadwinners of their families. They try by all means to put food on the table and take their children to school. We have a very big problem. Some years back, we used to address the prisoners...we would sit down with them. You will hear stories like, 'my children have stopped going to school...'"

Ms Mwale appealed to the Government to help families of families whose parents are in prison.

Government, according to Ms Mwale should come in and look at this problem because whether we like it or not, this problem is also contributing to teenage pregnancies, HIV and AIDS and drug abuse.

"Prisoners' wives and children need to be empowered... they should have some sort of a business to sustain their families" said Ms Mwale.



BBC MEDIA ACTION PARTNERS WITH NGOCC TO TRAIN MEDIA ON SGBV

By Staff Reporter



PERPETRATORS of Sexual Gender Based Violence (SGBV) are violating people's human rights, especially girls' and women's rights, says NGOCC Programs Manager, Chilufya Siwale.

And the BBC Media Action, an International Charity, says media has an important role to play in the fight against Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) as they are critical in agenda setting and influencing policy change.

Making a presentation on Human rights and SGBV, Ms. Siwale says there was a direct connection between human rights and Sexual Gender Based Violence.

She says girls and women's rights were being violated by perpetrators of SGBV.

"Just like any other human being women also have rights. SGBV is a violation of women and girls' human rights," she said.



And speaking at Alitasha Lodge in Kasama during the official opening of a two weeks training program for community radio stations drawn from Northern and Luapula provinces, BBC Media project Manager for the Natwampane Project Emmanuel Chama Mulenga said SGBV had become a big challenge in the province.

"We are now beginning to implement a four (4) years program on SGBV where we are going to work with the local media. We are hoping on producing 392 weekly magazine shows to discuss issues on SGBV," he said.

The training brought together 30 Journalists from thirteen radio stations. Among the stations include Radio Mano, Luswepo, Lutanda, Kasama Radio, Walamo radio, Lubuto Radio, Liberty Radio, Lwansase Radio, Yangeni, KFM-Mansa, Tuta Radio, Luapula Radio, and Bangweulu.

The European Union supported project is being implemented by Lifeline Child Line Zambia, Norwegian Church Aid, World Vision Zambia, and BBC media Action.

The Non-governmental Gender Organisations Coordinating Council (NGOCC) was contracted by BBC Media Action to conduct the SGBV Training.



EXHIBITION OF THE FIRST FEMALE VICE-PRESIDENT AND THE ROLE OF THE OFFICE

By Fridah Nkonde-Mubanga

Vice-President Inonge Wina in June 2019 launched the gallery exhibition of the Office of the Vice-President at National Archives of Zambia.

The objective of the gallery exhibition is to highlight the work of the Office of the Vice-President and its contribution towards the nation's development agenda.

The exhibition is also meant to show the role of the office as a coordinating ministerial cluster aimed at improving the planning of national development.

The National Archives of Zambia has presented Vice-President Inonge Wina's personal, education, community, and political life.



I AM HOPEFUL OF A BRIGHTER FUTURE, SAYS KANYAMBIRI

***1, 237 women in NGOCC operational areas accessed land and were given permits**

***6 local authorities and 9 traditional leaders' engaged on women's land ownership**

***Information is POWER, I am hopeful of a brighter future – Mporokoso Widow**

Grace Kanyambili, a 47 years old widow of Mporokoso says she has renewed hope that she will be able to take care of her family because of the information she know has around land ownership and use.

Ms. Kanyambili, who lost her husband seven years ago says through the awareness raising and sensitisation meetings that she has been attending organised by Mporokoso Bwafwano Women's Group, she is now empowered with the right empowerment information about land ownership.

"After the trainings I realised that if I have my own land, it would be easier for me to support my children and take them to school. I realised that owning a field would enable me to provide for the household nutritional needs.

"With my own field, I can sell part of the harvest to buy school requirements and pay school fees. The training was good as it opened my mind to be self-reliant. I cannot be infringed upon if I have worked for myself. I have seen the importance of having my own field and I am now encouraging other women to do the same," Ms Kanyambili said

She says having lost her husband, she had lost hope on how she could bring up her children as a single parent. She said she was dependant on the husband for almost all the family needs. However, now with the learning she has obtained from Mporokoso Bwafwano she is confident that she would use her land more productively. Mporokoso Bwafwano women's group is among the 47 Member Organisations that benefited from the Basket fund to undertake sensitisation on women's access and ownership to land in NGOCC operational ares.

NGOCC COUNSELS WOMEN AGAINST ENGAGING IN CRIME

The Non-governmental Gender Organisation's Coordinating Council (NGOCC) condemns in the strongest terms the recent frauds involving female bankers, saying "crime is a crime regardless of who is involved".

NGOCC Executive Director, Engwase Mwale in reaction to the recent frauds involving some women, calls upon the investigative agencies to bring out all those involved in the crimes.

"Theft in any form cannot be condoned and all involved whether woman or man should be prosecuted and punished accordingly. NGOCC however appeals to the investigative wings to thoroughly investigate the recent crimes so that all those involved are brought to book.

"Clearly, the two cases in Lusaka and Southern Province, point to the fact that the two female bankers were not acting alone. It is important for the investigative agencies and the media in particular to give a full picture of all those involved in these crimes to avoid the ingrained negative gender stereotype, especially against women,]" she said.

Ms. Mwale has since urged women to desist from engaging in criminal activities. Recently two female bankers have reportedly been involved in fraud cases.



MEET THE NGOCC BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2018 - 2020



MS MARY SILAVWE MULENGA
BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Mary has an MSc. in Agricultural Economics from the University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK (1988) and a BA in Development Studies from the University of Zambia (1985). Mary is a strong advocate for women's rights issues and worked as Executive Director for Zambia Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA) for three and a half years from 2001 to 2004. This provided the entry point for her activism and advocacy work in the women's movement in Zambia. Mary has actively been part of the women's

movement for the last 18 years and was the Vice Chairperson of the Non-governmental Organization Coordinating Council (NGOCC), an umbrella body for organizations that directly or indirectly work with women's issues from 2011-2014. Mary also worked as Policy Advisor for Ipas, an international NGO focusing on Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights particularly maternal health. Mary has strong lobbying and advocacy skills with a wide range of connections in both the NGO world and government institutions.



MS LEATITIA MTONGA PUPE
VICE CHAIRPERSON

Leatitia holds a Bachelor's Degree in Development Studies obtained from the University of Zambia in 2006. She later obtained certification in Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation at UNZA in 2009. Leatitia also studied Entrepreneurship and Business Management at TEVETA in 2013. She has strong research skills spanning from over 10 years of experience which she has applied in various governmental and non-governmental organisations. She is co-author to a 2016 Publication: Establishing Priorities for Export-

Oriented Sanitary and Phytosanitary Capacity Building in Zambia. Leatitia would like to see disadvantaged populations such as women and children be uplifted and empowered through the use of innovative and contemporary methods to identify and implement sustainable change interventions.



MS STELLA G M ZIMBA:
BOARD SECRETARY

Stella has twenty-nine (29) years of teaching and twenty-three (23) years of Management and Leadership. Experienced in aspects of teaching at both Primary and Secondary School level, Education Leadership and Management, Human Resource Management, Communication skills, Project Management, Finance Management, Organising and Facilitating Professional Development Workshops, Budgeting and Reviewing Curricular.

Stella has Diploma in Education Management and Leadership from Chalimbana University (2010 – 2012), a

Bachelor of Arts in Public Administration from the University of Zambia (Zambia Institute of Special Education) 2000-2006) and Secondary Teacher's Diploma from the University of Zambia (1980 – 1984). She has served as Board Chairperson for the Reformed Church in Zambia – Northmead

Congregation School Board from 2002 to 2006. She also served as Vice Secretary for Rhodes Park School's Parent-Teacher Association and currently serving as Vice Chairperson of the Girl Guides Association of Zambia.

MEET THE NGOCC BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2018 - 2020 *Continued*



MS RACHAEL M ZEKKO
BOARD TREASURER

Rachael Zekko is Finance Manager and Board Secretary of the Mulungushi Village Complex Limited. Rachael has over 23 years' experience in the finance industry having worked in commercial, housing, hospitality, water utilities, banking and non-profit sectors. She is a focused financial leader with expert proficiency in financial reporting, cash management, strategic financial planning and analysis, financial modelling, cost management controls, forecasting, budgeting, financial analysis of loan and lease applications. Rachael

is also a highly efficient and proficient Board Secretary who facilitates effective functioning of the Board, its Sub-Committees and the Annual General Meeting. She served on the NGOCC Grant Management Committee as a Financial Management Specialist. She has a Masters degree in Business Administration from the Management College of Southern Africa, a Fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants (FCCA) and the Zambia Institute of Certified Accountants (FZICA) as well as Member of the Association of Accounting Technicians (MAAT).



MS DAISY NKHATA NG'AMBI
LEGAL ADVISOR

Daisy is a Lawyer by profession and has vast years of experience. Ms. Ng'ambi has a Master of Laws from the University of London – United Kingdom, and a Bachelor of Law from the University of Zambia. Daisy has worked and has had Presidential appointments as Secretary to the Judicial Complaints Authority (2009 – 2012), Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Lands and Environment (2012 – 2013) and Permanent Secretary – Ministry of Gender (2014). Prior to the Presidential appointments, Daisy participated in the review and

development of the Legislation and Regulations in the Energy Sector and development of the Grid Code and also participated in the preparing of the draft Constitution under the Mungomba Constitution Review Commission – 2005 and the Mwanakatwe Constitution Review Commission – 1996. She also previously served on the NGOCC Board of Governors as Legal Advisor from 2006 - 2008. She was also Legal Advisor of the Council of Catholic Women.



MS ANNIE J SAMPA:
PUBLICITY SECRETARY

Annie has over 25 years of progressive experience in planning, management, monitoring and evaluation of Child's Protection, Gender and human rights programs at national level in Zambia. She holds a Master of Science degree in Psychology from the Kharkov State University in the Ukraine, and Post Graduate Diploma in Child Psychology from the same university. She also went to Cambridge where was awarded with the M Litt in Sociology. Annie is currently a PhD student at the Lusaka Open University. Annie has also a certificate in Diplomacy from the Zambia Institute

of Diplomatic Studies in Lusaka. Annie served on the Child Protection Officer position for 14 years at UNICEF Zambia providing leadership and direction for UNICEF's quality child protection, adolescents and women support to the government ranging from child protection, modelling, establishment of one stop centres for GBV/VAC survivors, assessment, development and implementation of the referral system GBV/VAC survivors.

MEET THE NGOCC BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2018 - 2020 *Continued*



MS CHRISTABEL CHIKWIKWI

Christabel is a 20 year old student pursuing a Diploma Programme in Journalism with the University of Zambia – School of Education under Eastern Province Centre. After completing secondary school education i.e. 2014 – 2016 at Raphael Kombe Girls Secondary School, Christabel worked as a Journalist/Reporter from June to September 2018 at Times of Zambia in Eastern Province. She also worked as Guest Service Agent at Magies Cultural Village in Mambwe from October 2017

to May 2018. Christabel also worked as a Sales Representative at ZAMTEL in Chipata, Eastern Province from January to September 2017. In July 2015, Christabel received a certificate for the excellent pupil of Raphael Kombe Girls Secondary School.



MS SHEILA MBILISHI
BOARD MEMBER

Sheila Catherine Mbilishi (Nee Kanjimana) is a Zambian born On 13th October, 1949 at Chitokoloki, in Zambezi district. Sheila did her Primary School at Chitokoloki and her Secondary School at Chipembi Girls Secondary School from form I to form III. Sheilla is a retired civil servant who worked for 24 years with the Office of the President (Special Division) from 1968-2001. She Joined

as Junior Clerical Officer and rose to the rank of Senior Intelligence Officer. Sheila is the current Chairperson for Mapesho Women's Club - a member organisation of the Non-Governmental Gender Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC) based in Solwezi – North-Western province.



MS CHARITY M MAWANGA
BOARD MEMBER

Charity is a businesswoman dealing in various business ventures. Shedid her primary level education at Kamwala Primary School in Lusaka. She also has various certificates in Child Health, Solid Waste Management, Business Planning, HIV/AIDS, Agriculture and Family matters. Charity worked for Care International under SIDA funded project for sanitation to keep Chaisa Green and Clean from 1995 – 1997.

From 1010 – 2014. Charity worked for Lusaka Sustainable Energy Project to prevent Global warming.

Charity has also served as a Board Member of the Non-governmental Organisations' Coordinating Council (NGOCC) under the Community Based Category from November 2016 to November 2018. She is currently serving her second tenure of office under the NGOCC Board of Governors.

She later worked as a cleaner for Care International Zambia from 1996 - 1997.



MS JUDITH MWANZA
BOARD MEMBER

Judith M. Mwanza is a Finance Officer who has worked with Kuba Lusa CBO for 10 years and she is experienced in handling finances such as record keeping, payments and cash book management. Under this experience she did a short course with African Correspondence College in matters of accounts. She is also a psychosocial counsellor who has worked with Young

Women Christian Association for 1 year 6 months. She has worked also with MAPP (Mukinge Aids Prevention Programme) for 12 years as a volunteer in care and support. In general; Judith M. Mwanza has many certification for recognition of work and from various workshops attended to contribute and work effectively with community based programmes.

NGOCC CALLS FOR CONSENSUS BUILDING IN THE CONSTITUTION MAKING PROCESS

... withdraw retrogressive NDF Clauses



Flashback: The Women's movement pose for a picture with President Eggar Lungu after engaging on various issues including the constitution making process

1.0 INTRODUCTION

Towards the end of April and part of May 2019, Zambia saw yet another attempt by the Government, through the National Dialogue Forum (NDF) Act, to amend the Constitution based on submissions from some stakeholders as well as to reform the law on electoral process, Public Order Act and regulation of political parties. The Political Parties Bill was however withdrawn.

The women's movement would therefore like to state the following on the National Dialogue Forum (NDF) and our resolutions on the same, particularly the proposed Mixed Member Electoral System as well as re-echo our position on the Gender Equity and Equality Commission.

2.0 NATIONAL DIALOGUE FORUM

NGOCC wishes to reiterate the fact that the NDF was anchored on the Siavonga Resolutions which was largely a political process. It was clear that the NDF Act was lacking in terms of furthering ordinary citizen's right to participate and influence both process and outcome due to the already embedded majority of politicians participating in the NDF.

NGOCC as a membership organisation held several consultative meetings to decide as to whether we should participate or stay away from the NDF process. After wide consultations and a vote by the membership, a decision was made that NGOCC should participate in the NDF. Accordingly a representative of the Board and a member of the secretariat represented NGOCC during the NDF. It is also worth mentioning that individual members of the network such as the Young Women's Christian Association (YWCA), Zambia National Women's Lobby (ZNWL), Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) and Women for Change also participated in the Forum in their own right.

The decision to participate was purely informed by the NGOCC mandate as espoused in both the organisational Mission and Vision Statements. For the avoidance of doubt; the NGOCC Vision is "A society where women are empowered and fully participate in social, cultural, economic and political development" Our

Mission being, "To promote women's empowerment for gender equity and equality through coordinated advocacy, capacity development of member organisations and linkages with government, local and international partners". The NDF was therefore viewed as a window where NGOCC could assert its voice in championing the women's rights agenda.

3.0 NGOCC POSITION ON THE NDF RESOLUTIONS

As the women's movement we can state that the NDF produced both progressive and retrogressive provisions. For NGOCC, it has always been our outcry that the playing field especially in politics has never been levelled, hence, the very low numbers of women in political positions as can be seen in the current statistics. We also note that the numbers in the recent past have further declined. The picture in non-political decision making positions is not very different either.

Therefore the adoption of the Mixed Member Electoral System, as one of the progressive provision, gave us hope that this would enhance the participation of women, youth

and people with disabilities in Parliament and local Councils. The Mwanakatwe Constitution Review Commission (1993-1994), the Electoral Reform Technical Committee (2003) and the Mung'omba Constitution Review Commission (2003-2005) all recommended the adoption of the Mixed Member Electoral System, which combined First-Past-The-Post and Proportional Representation. The only variations were on the numbers of elective seats and how to allocate the proportional representation seats. We are alert to the fact that clearly outlining how this system will work is a must and as the women's movement we have already reflected on this process and have come up with proposals on how this should be structured.

NGOCC however had misgivings on the following retrogressive provisions, among others:

1. The removal of the Gender Equity and Equality Commission from the 2019 proposed Constitution Bill No. 10, (with the assertion that this is already catered for in subsidiary legislation) came as a big disappointment to the women's movement. We still argue that having the Gender Equity and Equality Commission provided for in the Supreme Law of the land will guarantee its autonomy and protection as a development imperative. Further, country-wide submissions from citizens according to the Mung'omba Constitution Review Commission (CRC) (2003-2005), recommended that *"... the Constitution should establish a Commission for Gender Equality, whose objectives would be the protection, development and attainment of gender equality, and that the powers, functions and*

composition of the said Commission should be defined in an appropriate legislation" (Report of the Constitution Review Commission, 29 December 2005, p. 228). As an autonomous entity, the Commission would certainly provide oversight role, implementation and monitoring of key gender instruments.

2. The blanket reintroduction of Deputy Ministers is clearly a departure from people's aspirations for efficiency and effectiveness in accountable public service through a lean governance structure. This is a further contradiction of Government's public pronouncement on austerity measures.
3. The creation of more Provinces by the President may entail spreading resources thinly by way of setting up structures and systems and hence weakening social service delivery for the benefit of majority citizens.
4. Reduction of the campaign period from three months to 60 days does not in any way cure the worrying aspects of political and electoral violence. NGOCC remains desirous to publicly interact with the outcome document of the Commission that had been put in place to receive country-wide submissions from citizens on how to address the "Violence and Voting Patterns in the last General Elections". To date there has been no direction issued on the way forward with this issue.
5. The election of Mayors/Council Chairpersons from among elected Councillors which, in our view, defeats people's aspirations to raise accountability of City and District local government figureheads to citizens, away from towing

political party lines. This was also premised on the desire by citizens to remove political inclinations in local government system by placing people at the centre of influencing both the leadership and the development agenda at local levels. This would also work to encourage full participation by citizens especially that of women who mostly are left behind in most development processes.

4.0 WAY FORWARD

4.1 National Referendum

As NGOCC we firmly believe that the Republican Constitution remains the bedrock of any meaningful and sustainable national development. Over the years, NGOCC has bemoaned the non-adoption of an expanded Bill of Rights that would guarantee the protection of women's rights as well as economic, cultural and social rights. We therefore take this opportunity to urge Government to clearly outline a roadmap for holding of the National Referendum for the adoption of the expanded Bill of Rights in the National Constitution.

4.2 Consensus Building

As a way forward, NGOCC urges the Republican President to consider building consensus on this constitution making process, by listening to the people's voices and withdraw the retrogressive provisions in the Constitutional Bill No.10. The constitution derives from the people, and the people should have the final say as to what will be contained in their document. A process that is not inclusive is bound to fail. We are therefore happy to note the recent statement by President Edgar Chagwa Lungu that he is ready to meet the main opposition leader. Kenya did it, we can also do it! We also appeal to opposition political party leaders to exercise tolerance in both behaviour and speech. The Executive should also reach out to all stakeholders including the civil society, other opposition political parties and the church.

THIS IS SUCH AN IMPORTANT

PROCESS THAT SHOULD UNITE ALL ZAMBIANS REGARDLESS OF POLITICAL AFFILIATION. AT THE END OF THE DAY ZAMBIA MUST WIN FROM THIS PROCESS AND NOT INDIVIDUALS.



ORGANISATIONS THAT OFFER HELP TO VICTIMS OF GBV

SECURITY/SAFETY	MEDICAL
<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Police Victim Support Unit (VSU)- Ministry of Community Development, Mother and Child Health (Social Welfare Department)- Church	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Health Centers and Hospitals, e.g. UTH Child Support Centre
LEGAL/JUSTICE	PSYCHO-SOCIAL COUNSELLING
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Court• Police• Young Women Christian Association (YWCA)• Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA)• Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF)• National Legal Aid Clinic for Women	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Police VSU- YWCA- The Church- Community Based Organisations (CBOs) that offer counseling services- Ministry of Community Development, and Social Services (Social Welfare Department)

For information about Gender Based Violence (GBV)
Call Toll Free Line: 990

**Support and redress for victims of GBV is a process.
If the victim/survivor does not report the incident,
adequate support cannot be provided.**

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