



WOZA MOYA

WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE ARISE (WOZA) February 2014

WOZA means 'Come forward'.
By women for women and with women, across race, colour, creed, class or political persuasion.
Empowering women to be courageous, caring, committed and in communication with their communities.



Zimbabwe joins citizens of the world in commemorating Valentine's Day, a day to give each other a red rose that represents LOVE.

WOZA members are marching to remind Zimbabweans of the important cultural belief in ubuntu/unhu. The saying is also important -

- Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu – Munhu, munhu nevanhu - a person is not an island!

This Valentine's Day comes at a time when there is widespread looting of our country's resources and corruption in the public sector. Despite these high salaries and lavish lifestyles of our public servants, the promised free primary education remains a dream and school levies have sky rocketed. This year more children are being chased from schools for non payment of fees and the Basic Education Assistant Module (BEAM) is said to be bankrupt.

In March 2013 we voted for a Constitution expecting that by now it would already be activated and fully implemented and new laws would be helping us to enjoy the fruits. This constitution is our nations harvest, we planted the seeds, cultivated it with our views – why can't our parliament and senate activate it so we can enjoy it together.

Zimbabweans, you now have this new Constitution – a special rose – you need to nurture it with love for your country and care so that it grows. It represents your dignity as a citizen – it represents your ubuntu – your precious unhu. Let the spirit of ubuntu/unhu bloom through our constitution.

Police must now leave behind the name 'Police Force' and become a police service – they must be civil rights heroes and score zero abuses by respecting the constitution. Don't let them trample on our rose.

The looting has reached embarrassing trends

- School uniforms can now only be sold by retailers approved by school heads, who get a cut out of the sale. This is cutting out the woman who has been sewing uniforms and feeding her children from the proceeds. There was no consultation on the elected school development associations.
- City council leave the sewerage to ferment and spill over around our houses and our roads are impassable but top chefs, executives, earn obscene salaries.
- These same council executive, enjoy a lavish lifestyle whilst council staff go hungry in their homes and often do not see a salary at month end. Meanwhile residents' bills are constantly increased beyond their ability to pay and have their water cut off in violation of the right to water so clearly written in the constitution.
- Police road blocks have become far too many and the source of great corruption and suffering for commuters.
- Children and the elderly are so neglected by a nation that is supposed to practice ubuntu/unhu. The education and health delivery systems are sorely neglected and drugs are a scarce commodity. Free maternity care is also an unfulfilled promise – hospitals cannot even provide expectant mothers with water to wash themselves.

We quote from the book of Isaiah, chapter 1. 21 See how the faithful city has become a prostitute! She once was full of justice; righteousness used to dwell in her— but now murderers! 22 Your silver has become dross, your choice wine is diluted with water. 23 Your rulers are rebels, partners with thieves; they all love bribes and chase after gifts. They do not defend the cause of the fatherless; the widow's case does not come before them.

Zimbabwean please let us practice ubuntu/unhu and remind our leaders that
- Umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu – Munhu, munhu nevanhu - a person is not an island!

CIVIL SOCIETY JOINT STATEMENT ON CORRUPTION, OBSENE SALARIES AND OTHER UNDERHAND DEALINGS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC SECTOR

WOZA join and fully support the joint statement by members of civil society representing various sectors of Zimbabweans society are alarmed and concerned by the reckless behaviour, uncaring attitude, corruption and bad Governance that is being exhibited and taking place in our local government, parastatals and quasi Government bodies. We deplore such levels of corruption, which are a manifestation of lack of corporate governance and a disservice to the public. We would like to register our sternest disapproval of the breakdown of public accountability, widespread corruption in public institutions and death of conscience in public officials who have become shockingly parasitic on the State by siphoning large millions of public funds through obscene salaries, and shadowy transactions.

We therefore demand that the Government of Zimbabwe take corrective measures to bring sanity and sobriety to our nation by:

a) Providing moral leadership and good corporate Governance in its day-to-day activities. It should respect the rules of the country and live within its means. The recent approval of a budget overrun of \$400 million on the 2013 budget sets a very bad precedent and displays a disturbing unrestrained spend thrift attitude which has unfortunately been taken as a blue print and has also taken root in our local authorities and quasi Government bodies.

b) Urgently instituting a commission of enquiry tasked with further investigating the obscene salary saga, tenderpreneurship and any other underhand dealings taking place in the public sector. This should also include where necessary carrying out forensic audits in suspected sectors so as to glob-ally expose the extent of this problem.

c) Immediately dismissing all those found to be on the wrong side of the law and corporate governance and instruct the Commissioner general of police to investigate

d) Dismissing all board members implicated or otherwise and constitute new boards with resumes that reflect good corporate governance, professionalism and integrity.

e) By allowing the anti-corruption commission and other institutions such as the parliament of Zimbabwe and local authorities to perform their oversight role without hindrance from the executive.

f) Turning words into action especially on matters to do with graft. The president must be seen to be dealing with ministers and any other government officials who have been fingered in corrupt activities and cause heads to roll within the executive arm of the state.

g) Naming and shaming all those found guilty as a means in curbing graft and other vices

Zimbabweans please get a copy of the new constitution. Read the chapters that cover use of public finance. Participate in approving the budgets and in determining how your taxes should be spent. Do not let chefs continue to loot whilst you suffer in poverty.