



INSTITUTE *for*
YOUNG WOMEN'S
DEVELOPMENT

#

VoteRunLeadReloaded

2022

Special Edition

NEWSLETTER

The 18th of March 2022 saw the Institute for Young Women's Development (IYWD) successfully launching the #VoteRunLeadReloaded, a second phase of its flagship programme, #VoteRunLead which supports young women and women to register to vote, stand as political candidates and lead progressively, with integrity.

In her welcome remarks, IYWD Board Member, Blessing Gorejena emphasized that the #VoteRunLeadReloaded programme is in fulfilment of the organisation's goal of strengthening young women and women's representation and political participation.

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aligns well with our focus to increase the number of women in politics and improve the quality of leadership. Of the 40 graduates from our inaugural 2018 cohort, two won seats in Parliament and one won a Local Council seat and are doing well in informing and influencing policy and practice.



The 2022 edition of the #VoteRunLead programme titled #VoteRunLeadReloaded due to the deepened and expanded nature of the programme was launched following a 3 day Transformative Feminist Leadership Training conducted by the Institute for Young Women's Development (IYWD) between the 14th and 16th of March. A total of 55 aspiring young women candidates and mentees and 25 young women and women former and current politicians identified as mentors drawn from seven different political parties and some of them independent politicians took part in the training which covered aspects of feminist power analysis, transformative leadership, foundations and context of political and governmental leadership in Zimbabwe, costs and benefits of public life, navigating politics, how to run successful campaigns, electoral requirements and procedures. Intergenerational panel discussions were also held offering practical lessons and inspirations and how to build resilience in the journey of politics. Facilitators and speakers included IYWD staff and Board comprising of Glanis Changachirere IYWD Team Leader, Sandra Zenda IYWD Programmes Coordinator and Blessing Gorejena IYWD Board Member, mentors from different political parties and, former and current Members of Parliament Honourable Lynnette Karenzi Kore, Margaret Dongo, Honourable Tatenda Mavetera, Honourable Brightness Mangora, a former former Cabinet Minister Dr. Olivia Muchena, Zimbabwe's Ambassador to Sweden Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga, and the Zimbabwe Elections Support Network (ZESN) Ian Goredema, a disability activist Nasper Manyau, an academic Professor Rudo Gaidzanwa and a #VoteRunLead 2018 alumni Tsitsi Patience Mashiri.

Speaking on the side-lines of the launch, Glanis Changachirere, the Team Leader of (IYWD) pledged IYWD's commitment to continue providing Transformative Feminist Leadership under the #VoteRunLeadReloaded programme.



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The 2022 launch marks the beginning of an incredible journey towards the 26 March by-elections and 2023 harmonised elections. The journey is rich because it comprises women from different generations and political persuasions putting their efforts together to strengthen young women and women leadership in Zimbabwe. As represented by the three pillars of vote, run and lead, we will continue to mobilise and convene young women and women from across the political divide, age among other differences to reflect on their participation, rethink, sharpen each other and re-stragise on practical ways to increase female participation and representation in Zimbabwe as provided by the country's constitution.

Sharing her testimonial with the participants, Tsitsi Mashiri, an alumni of the #VoteRunLead 2018 cohort from Chitungwiza gave credit to the programme for empowering her with transformative feminist leadership skills.

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In the 2018 harmonised elections, the leadership skills were crucial in my leadership journey as a parliamentary candidate for St Mary's Constituency. Even though I did not win in 2018, the solidarity I got strengthened my resolve and determination to continue and to this end, I will be contesting again in the future.”

Another #VoteRunLeadReloaded alumni, Hlengiwe Mangena from Guruve District of Mashonaland Central province expressed her readiness to provide transformative leadership for the betterment of her community and the nation at large.

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“Young people are not leaders of tomorrow, they are leaders of today and we are ready to step in and lead”.

Melody Chingarande appreciated the #VoteRunLeadReloaded programme,

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“This programme allowed me to share openly about my positive and negative experiences as a female politician, this is the only way we can learn from each other as women”.

Nasper, a disability activist who contested for the People Living with Disabilities Senatorial Seat held on the 14th of May 2022, explained that the #VoteRunLeadReloaded programme should unite young women and women across the board as women with disabilities face more challenges owing to the violence sometimes experienced in political parties and politics generally.

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“It's good that we are talking about uniting women and may I encourage all women here to support young women and women with disabilities to get seats on the table. If we do this I am sure we will have a brighter future if women work together in politics”.

From the mentees and mentors drawn from different political parties, 10 have since ran for public office. 6 ran for office as councillors, 2 as Members of Parliament in the 26 March by-election, 1 ran as a councillor in the 7th of May 2022 by-election and 1 ran as a Senator representing Persons with Disabilities in the 14th of May by-election. A total of 4 were successfully elected as councillors while 2 won as Members of Parliament, 1 in the National Assembly and another in the Senate. Those who did not make it vowed to get back in the race in the 2023 upcoming elections.

THE ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL
COMMISSION LATEST VOTER'S ROLL
SHOWS THAT WOMEN CONSTITUTE

54%

OF THE VOTING POPULATION YET
THEY REMAIN UNDERREPRESENTED
IN POSITIONS OF LEADERSHIP.

A representative from the Hivos Regional Office for Southern Africa, Tambudzai Madzimure encouraged those that lost in the 2018 harmonised elections to draw lessons from their losses and carry these lessons into 2023 and beyond. The Zimbabwe Gender Commission, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community and Small and Medium Enterprises Development, the African Women Leaders Network Zimbabwe Chapter and the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe expressed their support of the initiative by sharing different messages of encouragement and their various efforts to advance young women and women's participation.

Globally, 27 years post the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action in 1995, women, especially young women, remain underrepresented in political and other decision making spaces. According to the UN Women 2021 Working Paper on Women's Representation in Local Government for 133 countries, an average of 36% of representatives in local government are women and 25% of those in parliaments are women. Although the Zimbabwean population is predominantly female 53% according to the 2012 Census Report, leadership structures remain muscular and patriarchal in nature. An election observation report by IYWD of the 2018 harmonised elections titled **"Free for All but not free for 52%"** revealed that at local council and parliamentary levels women only constitute 13.3% and 31.5% respectively. Our baseline study of Young Women's Participation in Public Office (2019) revealed the same stark gender disparities. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission latest voter's roll shows that women constitute 54% of the voting population yet they remain underrepresented in positions of leadership.

The IYWD is implementing interventions to upscale young women and women's participation, representation, and uptake of leadership positions in civic and political spaces through targeting elective and appointed positions from community to national levels. The interventions also seek to influence the policy and the political environment by advocating political parties and the government to uphold gender equality principles in line with Zimbabwe's constitution. The IYWD is building up on existing tools and advocacy campaigns that include the Gender Audit of Political Parties conducted by the Zimbabwe Gender Commission (ZGC) and the Model Gender Equality Bill, whose development it facilitated.



A group photograph of the #VoteRunLeadReloaded Mentors and Mentees taken after completion of the Transformative Feminist Leadership Training.



Sekesayi Sande (middle), an aspiring Councillor from Mashonaland Central, receives her certificate upon completion of the Transformative Leadership Training. On the left and right are the IYWD Board Member Blessing Gorejena and the Chief Director Gender, Policy Planning and Programme Management in the Ministry of Women's Affairs Ms Lillian Matsika.

In Her Own Words (iHOW):

by Elected Member of Parliament

Honourable Susan Matsunga.

On the 6th of January 2022, through Statutory Instrument (SI) 2 of 2022, President Emmerson Mnangagwa proclaimed the 26th of March 2022 as the date for the conduct of by-elections. The proclamation followed the death of some of the office holders, failure to resign from appointed public offices by those who were elected as councillors in terms of Section 129(1)(h) of the country's constitution and on condition of some office holders having been recalled by political parties.

Susan Matsunga, a female politician and Alumni of the #VoteRunLeadReloaded programme is one of those who were affected through a recall in 2020 after serving for 2 years, following her election as a Member of Parliament for Mufakose constituency in the 2018 harmonised elections. She stood for the same position in the 26th March by-elections and was successfully re-elected into office, defeating her 2 male contestants by a huge margin.

The IYWD's (KMDA) team paid a virtual courtesy sisterly visit to Hon. Susan Matsunga (SM) in a bid to understand her political experience as a woman, in the male dominated political landscape and below are excerpts in Her Own Words during a conversation conversation;





KMDA: *May you kindly introduce yourself and share your political herstory*

SM: *My name is Susan Matsunga. I was born on the 28th of August 1979 and I am the 5th born in a family of 7. I joined politics in 1999. By that time, being from the opposition side it was not easy to run around especially us as female politicians but I continued going ahead with politics. I was then elected to be the Secretary General for youth at a District level. I continued my career in politics from there despite being brutalised and the numerous arrests I faced. At a provincial congress, I was then elected to be the Secretary for Gender in the Youth Assembly at a Provincial level. I held that position for 4 years. I continued with politics since it was my passion and I had to empower other women in politics. After 4 years, another congress was convened and I was elected as Secretary for Gender in the Youth Assembly, this time, at a National level. In that same journey of politics I rose to become the Secretary for Defence and Security in the Women's Assembly. I was the only young woman in the Women's Assembly and I served for two terms.*

I managed to empower other women in politics and that is how I became popular to an extent that I was appointed to be on the Proportional Representation seat for Harare Metropolitan Province. I served for two years, 2017 and 2018 and for those two years I was empowered to an extent that I decided to contest for a constituency-based seat in Mufakose. Having won the internal party primary level elections, I represented the party in Mufakose in the 2018 harmonised elections. However, the journey was not easy, I faced so many challenges both internal and external to the party. For instance, the issue of bullying especially against women was rife. I am proud of myself that I did not get discouraged, I managed to campaign and won the seat. I just served for two years and I was then recalled in 2020 but I continued working with the constituency outside the official parliamentary processes.

KMDA: *Why did you choose to stand for political office?*

SM: I chose to stand for political office because that was my passion to be in politics especially given that women are very few in politics. I want to represent my fellow women given that we are the majority population-wise and the largest voting population as well.

KMDA: *How was the experience from the day you decided to stand for political office until victory?*

S.M: My experiences were not easy at all, I faced so many challenges. I was cyberbullied by male politicians and some women. However, I just told myself not to quit politics because of people and since then, I pushed harder till the day of victory. I vividly told myself that I am not going to quit politics until I reach my destiny, which is when the victory comes for me and for women on equal representation.

KMDA: *Did you experience any violence largely because of you being a woman candidate?*

S.M: Yes I did. I faced so many brutalities and arbitrary arrests. It started in 2002 when we were not allowed to wear any regalia of my party. I continued facing arrests because that time politics was not easy to an extent that I was hospitalized and it continued like that because the violations were very extreme. In 2007 on the 11th of March, I was brutally beaten by the police and I succumbed to so many injuries. I faced direct threats from anonymous people until I then ran away from the hospital I was admitted. I flew out of the country as I also needed medication because one of my leg and hand were broken and my head had sustained severe injuries.

KMDA: *How was the level of acceptance of you being a politician within your family, friends and political party?*

SM: I was generally accepted by all. For my families it was easy because I was recruited by my parents. My friends and the community understood me because I grew up with them in that same community and they knew my leadership capabilities.

KMDA: *Any comment on the low levels of participation by women in political processes?*

SM: The issue is that most young women and women do not have resources to fund themselves to contest for political positions. Additionally, some of the women are being given constituencies which are hard to win, for instance, they are being given rural constituencies which demand a lot of resources yet do not have cars and accessories to use. Political parties are not taking seriously the issue of Gender Equality (50/50) hence it is not being implemented and recognized.

KMDA: *How did the support by organisations such as IYWD help you to achieve your goal?*

SM: The Transformative Feminist Leadership training by IYWD capacitated me with additional skills and knowledge needed to manoeuvre the political landscape, offering feminist solidarity and building a movement of women who support each other. After the training in March, I was more encouraged to contest in the 26th of March 2022 by-elections and I won against male candidates. I would like to thank the organisation for connecting me with other like-minded women across political parties. We were motivated because we knew we were not alone and we were doing this for other women. I am happy that I won the election. For those who did not manage to win, my hope is that they will manage to improve and win in the 2023 harmonised elections and beyond.

KMDA: *Any other information that you would like to share?*

SM: I would like to implore the IYWD to continue organising and conducting more Transformative Leadership Trainings with young women and women from different political parties and in these trainings, also include aspects of business ventures and management which women can use to finance their campaigns.



Transformative Feminist Leadership a

Game Changer in Ensuring that No

Woman is Left Behind.

On the 1st of April 2022, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) published an election notice scheduling the by-election for the female Senator representing Persons with Disabilities on the 14th of May 2022, at Rainbow Towers in Harare. The by-election was necessitated by the death of Rejoice Timire who held the aforementioned public office from 2018 until August 2021.

Nasper Manyau, an Alumni of the Institute for Young Women's Development (IYWD) #VoteRunLeadReloaded flagship programme, which encourages young women and women to register to vote, run for public office and lead with integrity, went on to stand for election.

Following her successful nomination on the 14th of May 2022, Nasper delivered a powerful campaign speech, inviting the electorate to vote for her, articulating her Feministo, composed of advocacy issues she has been outspoken on as a disability activist.





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I have three things on my agenda, I will lobby the Minister of Transport to consider the purchase of accessible transport infrastructure for PWDs, and lobby the Minister of Finance to increase the funding for Assisted Medical Treatment Orders (AMTOs) so that they will cover for all medical bills for it does not make sense to be asked to buy all prescribed medicals. I will also seek the audience of the President so that the Presidential scholarships may be extended to PWDs. Above all, we will work together, we will walk together as PWDs for the betterment of our cluster, I bring diversity and empowerment, leaving no one behind, that's my mantra.

Announcing the results, the Presiding Officer of the Electoral College, a representative from the ZEC said,

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Being the Presiding Officer of the Electoral College which sat to elect a female Senator representing Persons with Disabilities, I do hereby declare Manyau Nasper, duly elected female Senator representing Persons with Disabilities.

This saw Nasper officially emerging as the winner with 58 votes with former and inaugural Senator representing Persons with Disabilities following the enactment of the country's current constitution in 2013, Anna Shiri claiming the second highest votes at 57.

Scores of people from different walks of life stood in solidarity and congratulated Nasper on her election. In one of the #VoteRunLeadReloaded Alumni WhatsApp group, fellow sisters from different political persuasions wished Nasper well and believed that she deserved to win the election. A young woman who was at the venue and participating in the election as a voter constantly gave updates. A citizen journalist for the day, she broke the news of Nasper's official election, full of joy, hope and energy, bringing young women and women comprised of Members of Parliament, War Veterans, Prospective candidates for the 2023 elections and councillors into a celebration mode as they utilised WhatsApp audio, text and emoji features to congratulate, ululate, sing and dance.

“

Biggest Congratulations Nasper, your determination has yielded. You believed in your power within, and the power of the collective. And for that may all the sisters here who encouraged you, and those who did not sleep last night walking with you rejoice in the power of true sisterhood. To womanpower!!!”

posted Glanis Changachirere, the Team Leader of the Institute for Young Women's Development.

In her acceptance speech, she thanked the electorate and committed to work together with everyone in advancing the rights of PWDs.



I appreciate the feminist solidarity from my fellow sisters from the #VoteRunLeadReloaded programme and the IYWD who cheered me all the way and those who coached me ahead of the elections.

Hon. L Karenji and Councillor Martha Paul, who both contributed in coaching Nasper expressed their happiness. Hon. L. Karenji implored Nasper to represent well,



Congratulations my dear. Go and shine.



Congratulations Nasper, I really wish you well and most importantly do not forget what you promised, really go out there and be the voice of the voiceless, work hard, be a game changer for Persons with Disabilities. As women, we rally behind you! Congrats Senator,

~ said Councillor Martha.



Congratulations, God has answered your prayer, supported you with all the ammunition you needed for the fight. Now the challenge is left to you to fulfill your promises.

echoed war veteran and former Member of Parliament, Margaret Dongo.



Now you have made it to that space to influence policy and laws. Use this opportunity wisely and live a legacy,

added Linda Masarira, President of the Labour, Economists and African Democrats (LEAD) political party.

Nyasha Nhau, the African Union Disability Council Ambassador for Disability and Head of Disability at Zimbabwe Young Ambassadors shared that the election was free, fair and credible and added his voice in congratulating Nasper.



She has been assisting different people with disabilities regardless of their political affiliations, it is on record, and she is a hard worker. She needs our support, we do not have to leave the load to her alone for it is our duty to support her in our individual and organizational capacities.



Writing on IYWDs Twitter handle, Farai Mukuta, a disability rights advocate and supporter pledged to support Nasper, encouraged her to exercise inclusive leadership by representing the plight of all PWDs and continuously seeking counsel.



“Congratulations on landing this responsible position. It is not yours. Neither is it for women alone. Be the torchbearer for the advancement of the rights of all Persons with Disabilities. There is no monopoly of wisdom. Seek advice, we will help you.”

Nasper is an outspoken disability activist who is passionate about championing the rights of Persons with Disabilities (PWDs).



I became an activist after seeing the unfairness which classifies and treats Persons with Disabilities as second class citizens in Zimbabwe. As such, I made a conscious decision to speak, for if not us, who will speak for us? Persons with disabilities face a lot of challenges in Zimbabwe, for instance, the introduced Zimbabwe United Passengers Company (ZUPCO) buses which are inaccessible to PWDs.

Since the introduction of the disability proportional representation provision in 2013, Nasper becomes the 3rd female Senator representing Persons with Disabilities (PWDs). Post the election, the Chief Elections Officer at the ZEC communicates the results and name to the President of the Senate who shall cause the name to be published in the government’s gazette, in line with the Electoral Act, Chapter 2:13, after which Nasper will, on her maiden appearance in the Senate, shall be made to take the Oath of a Member of Parliament before the Clerk of Parliament as set out in Section 128 (2) of the country’s constitution, as read with the 3rd Schedule.

In line with Zimbabwe’s constitution, Section 120 (1) (d) which provides for the Electoral Law to prescribe a procedure for the election of 2 Persons with Disabilities to serve in the Senate, the Electoral Act, Chapter 2:13, Part XI as read with the Seventh Schedule enshrines the process of electing the 2 Persons with Disabilities. Worthy to note is that the aforementioned Seventh Schedule under 2(b) provides for gender equality (50/50) by requiring that half of the delegates on the Electoral College for Persons with a Disability be women and that of the 2 persons 2 be elected, 1 be female, in line with the country’s supreme law, in particular S17, 56 and 80 which provides for gender balance, equality and non-discrimination and rendering void any customs or practices which violate women’s rights.

Multi-party, Intergenerational and

Peer-to-Peer Feminist Support and Solidarity

a Requisite for Gender Equality.

Out of a total of 55 aspiring young women and women political candidates and mentees and 25 young women and women former and current politicians identified as mentors drawn from seven different political parties and some of them independent politicians who are Alumni of the IYWD's flagship programme, #VoteRunLeadReloaded which supports young women and women to register to vote, stand as political candidates and lead progressively, with integrity, six (6) contested in the local authorities by-elections held on the 26th of March 2022 and those held on the 7th of May 2022.

The by-elections saw four (4) of them being elected into office and only 2 did not manage to make it through. The 2 who did not make it and those who are still to contest, vowed to contest in the 2023 upcoming harmonised elections.

Melody Chingarande, who is on record as the shortest female serving Deputy Mayor in the history of Zimbabwe, following her election as Deputy Mayor of Kwekwe on the 30th of July 2021 and the subsequent recall from office just after three (3) days, contested in the by-elections and is now the duly elected councillor for Ward 5, Mbizo constituency.

Contacted for a comment on her re-election, Melody expressed gratitude to the peer to peer mentorship and solidarity from fellow women.



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I am glad to be back again and my appreciation goes to fellow sisters for the sisterly solidarity and mentorship without which the journey would have been unbearable. I got much exposure through interaction, knowing each other and challenges that other young women faced and how they overcame them. IYWD has taught me to challenge patriarchy and be a strong feminist who believes in women's capability. My task now is to lead and positively transform my ward, constituency and the city.

Sekai Cathrine Mukonza who was the only female candidate in the 8 local authorities by-elections conducted on the 7th of May 2022 was duly elected Councillor for Ward 16 in Mutare, statistically representing 12.5% of women who stood and were elected on this day, a situation she attributed to violence, bullying and society's views on women.

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Women usually do not want to participate in these elections because of the way they are treated, men bulldoze themselves into being leaders. Many at times, women are labelled as prostitutes and women are seen as weak people, given the patriarchal nature of our society,

~ said Sekai.

The desire to see her community developing by providing responsive leadership saw Sekai standing as a candidate.

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I chose to stand as a councillor in my ward because I had seen that for our community to develop, it needs a sober mind to lead. People in our community need a person who listens to people's opinions, ideas and even criticism. I find myself as the person among others. The passion to see my community developing also pushed me.

Even though she experienced a lot of challenges from the day she chose to stand for political office including but not limited to fellow women being manipulated by patriarchy to support only male candidates, family and friends fearing for her life, especially as an opposition activist and name calling, limited resources were her biggest challenge despite that she was working. Appreciating the role of leadership development, she said,

“

Many thanks to IYWD, their training helped me to have confidence in front of any audience. Now I'm bold enough to say what's in my mind and to call a spade a spade. I also know my rights and I learnt to appreciate another sister.

Monica Mukwadi and Sophie Gwasira who ran in Ward 13 and 8 respectively, in Mutare also managed to sail through. Speaking after her re-election, Councillor Sophie expressed gratitude to the electorate for believing in her and reiterated her commitment to improve social services delivery.

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I was humbled when people showed me that they still believe in me to represent them in council. It is an opportunity to continue being a loyal servant of the people. Since we are less than 12 months to a general election it is hard to plan big. However, I will ensure that roads in my ward are accessible, that tower lights which are not working are brought to functionality and improve on refuse collection. I will also ensure that residents, especially the vulnerable will participate in all developmental processes such as budget consultation meetings”.

She further encouraged young women and women to occupy the space by taking leadership positions.

The IYWD, through the #VoteRunLeadReloaded programme is amplifying its advocacy work focused on positively influencing the formulation and alignment of laws to the country's constitution for competitive and robust frameworks to enhance women's participation and representation.

Call for Implementation of Policies to

Protect Women from Sexual Harassment,

Abuse and Exploitation.

Sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation is one of the obstacles which discourage young women and women from participating in the male dominated political arena and contributes to the widening gender inequality which if not addressed, hinders achieving the Global Agenda, in particular Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) number 5 on achieving gender equality and all the other 16 goals given how they are interconnected and interdependent on each other.

Speaking during an Intergenerational Discussion titled, “Navigating Politics”, conducted by the Institute for Young Women’s Development (IYWD) in Harare on the 15th of March 2022, women from different political parties bemoaned the high prevalence of sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation within political parties, encouraged each to not to give in to sexual demands and called for the implementation of policies that protect young women and women.

Honourable Lynnette Karenzi from the Citizens Coalition for Change lamented the environment in Zimbabwe’s parliament which remains conducive for sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation.

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There is also sexual harassment in parliament so if the parliament can even protect men who abuse women, what about those who are not in parliament? It is a clear sign that the law of this country is not good for the women. The constitution is not being respected, the perpetrators are not being punished for their deeds.

She called for strengthened collaborations between and among civil society organisations working on ensuring that the rights of young women and women participating in politics are upheld ahead of the forthcoming 2023 harmonised elections.

She further encouraged young women and women to avoid being used as mere sex objects in politics.

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Do not be used as a sex object for you to be a Councillor, they can use you today then you win but it will not last. However if they know that you are a no go area but still stand for election and win against male counterparts, then you will sustainably rise in leadership. For example, in the case of Hon. Judith Tobaiwa, at a time when we were pushing for reserved seats and there were challenges, she went on to stand for a primary election against 5 male counterparts as a young woman and resoundingly won.

Honourable Brightness Mangora from the MDC Alliance echoed the same sentiments.



“

The experiences we face are similar. While sex decisions are personal, sex must not be used as a tool to progress within political ranks.

Adding her voice, Honourable Tatenda Mavetera from Zanu Pf said,

“

In my political party the constitution provides for procedures to deal with sexual harassment issues. A lot of things are in black and white but when it comes to implementation, it is very limited. We need to get sexual harassment, abuse and exploitation policies being implemented to protect women in politics.

“

Many times you are approached but we should avoid being used by men as sexual objects for mobilisation to include sharing information with them for their selfish gains.

She encouraged young women and women to be involved in capacity development programmes such as the Feminist Transformative Leadership by the IYWD which enhances knowledge and exposes them enough to know that they do not need to render sexual favours in order to be elected into a leadership position.

Joining the meeting virtually from her residence in Sweden, Her Excellency Ambassador Priscilla Misihairambwi Mushonga implored young women and women to clearly understand the nature of relationships and handle them properly.

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Men are functional beings, they deal with people and persons at any given time, depending on what their interests are. So if you mistake a strategic alliance for an emotional process, you will be very hurt. It is important to create a support system of females around you and these must not necessarily be in politics.

The IYWD is implementing interventions aimed at ensuring that relevant community and policy actors fully implement the constitution to protect young women and women in politics and ensure gender equality ahead of the 2023 harmonised elections and beyond.

Preventing Violence Against Women in

Politics (VAWiP) by Equipping Individuals and

Institutions with Relevant Tools.

Violence Against Women in Politics compromises political and electoral processes and institutions' credibility and legitimacy. The experience, threat, or fear of VAWiP dissuades women from pursuing or continuing political careers, electoral campaigns, and related activities, as well as other forms of public activism. It violates women's human rights and political rights.

In Zimbabwe, women voters and candidates experience devastating sexual extortion, physical violence, harassment and intimidation from their male opponents and contenders in political parties. The Zimbabwean political landscape has been, since independence, violent in nature. The violent nature of Zimbabwean politics is such that politics is the preserve of those that can perpetrate violence better, making politics an unsafe venture for women.

For young women, political violence is multi-layered, with women in rural areas who are in opposition politics experiencing the thickest of the layers. Firstly, the violence targets them as women in general. Secondly, it disproportionately affects them as young women. Thirdly, it affects them as young women who are in opposition politics. Fourthly, it affects them as young women in rural areas where avenues for redress of survivors of violence are almost non-existent.

There is evidence of the pervasive nature of VAWiP in its various forms (VAWiP online, VAWiP offline, direct and structural VAWiP, economic violence, psychological violence) in Zimbabwe. The magnitude of VAWiP online and in Zimbabwe is shocking. 60% of violent discourse and related content in the political space was directed at women for the period from January 2013 to April 2018. Women were the object of nearly three times the amount of physical violence-related online sentiment than men.

In Zimbabwe, there is evidence of forced concubinage as a means of punishing women or their spouses for participating in politics. There are also numerous cases of rape, gang rape, torture, intentional transmission of HIV, and sexual slavery by perpetrators against women in politics.

In responding to the aforementioned realities facing women on a daily basis, the IYWD has developed a framework for preventing Violence against Women in Politics (VAWiP) which acts as a practical guide for combatting VAWiP, both online and offline by interested individuals and institutions involved in the political processes. In order to access and utilise the tool, use the following

link;



60%

OF VIOLENT DISCOURSE
AND RELATED CONTENT IN
THE POLITICAL SPACE WAS
DIRECTED AT WOMEN FOR
THE PERIOD FROM JANUARY
2013 TO APRIL 2018.

Model Gender Equality

Bill, a Legal Framework for Ensuring

Gender Equality.



Parliamentarians and female politicians continue to endorse the Model Gender Equality Bill (MGEb) together with its attendant Memorandum of Principles, whose development was facilitated by the IYWD in collaboration with other institutions. The model bill seeks to contribute towards ensuring the implementation of sections 20, 56 and 80 of the country's constitution which speaks to gender equality and non-discrimination.

Speaking at a Women's Political Parties Convergence workshop in partnership with Women in Law Southern Africa and Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCOZ) in Kadoma, the IYWD's Team Leader Glanis Changachirere said the model is a template which has not been passed into law but the government can use it as a new gender law.



“

The template provides a framework in terms of the mechanism that the government needs to put in place. It is a law itself but only that we do not have powers to make laws. It is a model that policy makers can actually look at, and then come up with a Bill,”

~ Glanis said.

In her solidarity remarks, Fungai Chiwere who is Director for Legal Services for the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development said National Gender Machineries are a strongest mechanism for a coordinated approach to advancing gender equality.

“

A National Gender Policy is in place to provide for; the allocation of resources and the requisite support for the implementation of policies, programmes and projects that create equality and equity between women and men,

she added.

In an interview, Zanu PF legislator Honourable Tatenda Mavetera said electoral reforms should be aligned with gender models which is one of the key factors that need to be considered in the model bill.

“

Elections are very pertinent, if you look at women electing certain people into power it means decisions will be skewed towards. The first issue that should be at the top of the draft model is the 50-50 representation especially in parliament where decisions are made,

~ Mavetera said.

Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), Honourable Lynette Karenji-Kore emphasised that women in politics have the responsibility to educate other women on the context of the model bill.

“

All women must be educated about this new model even though the parliament has not passed it as a new law but in the event that it becomes a new gender law, all women should have grasped the concept,

~ she added.

Some of the #VoteRunLeadReloaded Mentees 2022

| Mentees | Mentees |
|--|---|
| <p>Abigal Chimbaru CCC Councillor Ward 3, Bulawayo East</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Women's Economic Empowerment → Accountability → Transparency #WomenCanDoIt | <p>Mirriam Chenjerai ZANUPF Councillor ward 6 Shamva North</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Trusted Leadership → Efficient Service Delivery → Women's Political Empowerment #NewVisionNewFuture |
| <p>Agreement Moyo CCC Councillor Ward 23, Gwanda</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Women's Political Representation and Participation Women's → Economic Empowerment #AsSheRiseWeAllRise | <p>Monica Mukwada CCC MP ward 13 Chikanga/Dangamvura Mutare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Trustworthy Leadership → Infrastructure Development → Women Economic Empowerment #ReadyToServe |
| <p>Beauty Rangwani ZANUPF Councillor Ward 4, Hwedza</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Women's Political Empowerment → Efficient Social Service Delivery → Exceptional Leadership #Voice4TheVoiceless | <p>Nasper Manyau Independent Senator for persons with Disability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Recognition of talent and skill of persons with Disability → Accessibility, Inclusivity and Diversity #DisabilityIsNotInability |
| <p>Norleen Huta Coalition of Democrats MP Glenview South, Harare</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Women's Access to Higher Political Leadership Spacest #ForwardEverBackwardsNever | <p>Rhoda Makonola Ideas Party of Democracy MP Domboshava</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> → Women Economic Empowerment → Efficient Service Delivery → Trustworthy Leadership #LeavingNooneBehind |

Mentees

Ropafadzo Denhere

Divine Alliance for vitalisation of inspired Development



MP Gweru Urban

- Quality Education
- Efficient Service Delivery
- Trustworthy Leadership
- #WomenCanDoit

Mentees

Tredah Zembe

NCA



Councillor ward 17 Chikanga / Mutare

- Infrastructure Development
- Quality Education
- Accountability
- #FemaleEmpowerment

Sharon Matode

Senator ward 28 Glen Norah, Harare



- Efficient Social Service Delivery
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- End Drug Abuse Among Youths
- #UnityIsPower

Vimbayi Jena

ZANU PF



Councillor ward 9 Hwedza

- Infrastructure Development
- Transparency
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- #LeavingNoWomanBehind

Shillah Chipamuriwo

ZANUPF



Councillor ward 8 Shamva North

- Efficient Social Service Delivery
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- Accountability
- #ReadyToServe

Carina Zindoga

Independent



Councillor Ward 4 Bindura Rural

- Improved Social Service Delivery
- Infrastructure Development
- Women's Empowerment
- #ReadyToServe

Sinikiwe Nkomo

ZANUPF



Councillor ward 11 Hwange West

- Infrastructure Development
- Efficient Social Service Delivery
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- #WomenEmpoweringWomen

Elizabeth Chitombe

Independent



Councillor Ward 23 Waterfalls, Harare

- Eradication of Gender-based
- Violence Women Empowerment
- #Voice4TheVoiceless

Mentees

Rennet Mberikwazvo

CCC



Councillor ward 17 Gokwe

- Efficient Service Delivery
- Active Political Participation
- #DisabilityIsNotInability

Mentees

Tracy Tiki

ZANUPF



Councillor ward 4 Rushinga

- Efficient Social Service Delivery
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- Women's Political Empowerment
- #WomenCanDoIt

Moudy Gwenzi

ZANUPF



Councillor Ward 28 Muzarabani

- Inclusive Education
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- #Women&GirlsMatter

Elphin Ncube

CCC



Councillor ward 17 Gokwe South

- Trustworthy Leadership
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- Women's Political Empowerment
- #ReadyToServe

Caroline Gandidze

ZANUPF



Councillor Ward 3 Hwedza

- New Vision
- New Plan
- New Direction
- #Voice4Women

Memory Makasi

CCC



MP Nketa-Mganwini

- Transparency
- Accountability
- Inclusivity
- #PromisesKeptPromisesMade

Ellen Maburutse

ZANUPF



Councillor ward 18 Mazoe

- Accountability
- Infrastructure Development
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- #NothingForUsWithoutUs

Tafadzwa Gwatidzo

Independent



Councillor Ward 5, Wedza North

- Women's Political and Economic Empowerment
- #Voice4TheVoiceless

Mentees

Chipo Bessam

CCC



Councillor, Bindura North

- Women Political Empowerment
- Efficient Social Service Delivery
- #BreakingTheBias

Farisai Moyo

CCC



Councillor, Bindura South

- Women Political Empowerment
- Trustworthy Leadership
- #Women'sRightsAreMyHeartbeat

Ropafadzo Mafuba

Independent

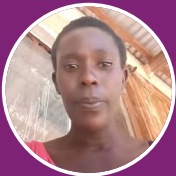


Councillor Ward 4, Masvingo Province

- Women's Political Empowerment
- Women's Economic Empowerment
- #ReadyToServe

Lizzy Tafi

ZANU PF



Councillor Ward 9, Wedza South

- Accountability
- Transparency
- Infrastructure development
- #Voice4TheVoiceless

Mentees

Melody Chingarande

CCC



Member of Parliament, Kwekwe in Midlands Province

- Gender-Based Violence Champion
- Women's Political Empowerment
- #ForwardEver

Spiwe Gowere

Independent



Councillor Ward 15 of Goromonzi North

- Efficient Social Service Delivery
- Infrastructure Development
- #GirlPower

Desdemona Munengwa

CCC



Member of Parliament Chipinge Central

- Young women and women's political Empowerment
- Infrastructure Development
- #NoSubstitute4Equality

Lezina Mohamed

CCC



Councillor Ward 8 Makokoba

- Women Political Empowerment
- Transparency
- Reliable
- #Women'sVoice

Mentees



Senzeni Maphosa

CCC

Councillor Ward 22 Gwanda Central

- Women's Political Empowerment
- #WomenCanDoIt

Mentees



Malaika

ZANU-PF

Councillor Ward 1 Harare South

- Women Economic Empowerment
- Efficient Social Service Delivery
- Infrastructure Development
- #GirlPower



Sekesayi Sande

CCC

Councillor Bindura North

- Women's Political Empowerment
- #ReadyToServe



Ratidzai Vambe

ZANU-PF

Copted Member Ward 23 Mazoe

- Women Political Empowerment
- Transparency
- Accountability
- #Women'sRightsDefender



Everjoy Chidindi

LEAD

Councillor Masvingo

- Efficient Social Service Delivery
- Infrastructure Development
- Trustworthy Leadership
- #ChangeIsInTheVoiceOfWomen



Samukeliso Maseko

CCC

Councillor Ward 13 Mpopoma

- Women Political Empowerment
- #LeadershipYouCanTrust



Berth Tom

Independent

Councillor Ward 17 Mazowe South

- Accountability
- Efficient Social Service Delivery
- Gender based violence champion
- #Women'sRightsDefender



Lucia Kasiwa

ZANU-PF

Councillor Ward 13 Shamva

- Efficient Social Service Delivery
- Women Political Empowerment
- Exceptional Leadership
- #Women'sLiberator

Some of the #VoteRunLeadReloaded Mentors 2022



*Alderman Resta
Dzvinyangoma*



*Cecillia
Chimbiri*



*Councilor
Martha Paul*



*Councilor Mary
Pangiti*



*Honourable
Brightness Mangora*



*Honourable
Catherine Mahachi*



*Honourable Joana
Mamombe*



*Honourable Lynnet
Karenzi Kore*



*Honourable Monica
Mukwada*



*Honourable
Muchirairwa Mugidho*



*Honourable Susan
Matsunga*



*Honourable Tatenda
Mavetera*



*Linda Tsungirirayi
Masarira*



*Lucia
Matibenga*



*Margaret
Dongo*



*Senator
Mashonanyika*



*Tsitsi Patience
Mashiri*



*Vongai Esther
Zimudzi*



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