

Public Goods, Service Delivery and Citizen Welfare

Presented
by GRRAT: C Selipiwe

Zimbabwe APRM Popular Sensitization Project (ZAPS)
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Overview

- The Second Republic seems to have undertaken a few piecemeal reforms in several areas, but progress tends to lag in others.
- The fundamentals of the economy remain poor and the results of these patchwork reforms have not been promising thus far.
- Privatization, political manipulation and distortion of the economy continue, and this contributes to the ongoing difficulties people have in affording basic necessities and services.
- The under-performance of the Zimbabwean economy coupled with rising unemployment, liquidity crisis, corona virus and diminishing spending on both the government and citizens has curtailed services delivery.
- Towns for instance Gweru are characteristic to bad road networks, uncollected garbage, sewerage and water pipe bursts, poor sanitation and erratic electricity supply.
- The economic crisis seems to be major hindrance for central government and citizens to afford public goods and realise sound service provision.

Critical Issues

- Diminishing spending public goods by both the government and citizens
- Liquidity crisis
- Corruption and mismanagement of resources by politicians, senior government and local government officials
- COVID-19 disruptions on both formal and informal economic players
- Poverty and unemployment

Recommendations

- Zimbabwe has tremendous potential, with rich natural resources and one of the most educated populations in Africa. To help the country recover from decades of mismanagement, corruption, and state violence the following need to be implemented:
- The government need to strictly enforce its transparency and accountability frameworks to reduce the leakages of resources meant for development at both national and local level.
- The government should also revamp and adequately resource the social welfare programmes to reduce vulnerability between and among citizens

Recommendations (cont...)

- The government need also to depoliticise development through promoting active citizen participation through devolution as outlined in the National development strategy 1. GRRAT should lobby for inclusive processes through engaging political players in the government to have honest discussions on the importance of prioritising public goods and service delivery in National Development.
- Local authorities need not to rely on their traditional revenue sources for instances rates but need now venture in business ventures such as farming since they already have farms and also resuscitates their business units such as GO-Beer to reduce the burden on residents in funding service delivery and public goods
- The government need to have a culture that promote policy consistency for better planning for both government departs and citizens in the provision of public goods and service delivery.