

OPC Mankalab  
01.12.16

Mutare Rural District Council  
P.O. BOX 604, MUTARE  
02 DEC 2016  
TEL: 020- 61587/61783/64737  
FAX 020- 68261  
TEL: 020- 67491 (Workshop)



Centre for  
Research &  
development



02 DEC 2016

Handwritten signature: M. SET WITUNGWA

**Natural Resource Dialogue of Zimbabwe (NAREDZ)**  
**Arda Transau Relocation Development Trust (ATRDT)**

**Attention: Mr Seenza**  
The District Administrator  
Mutare Rural District Complex  
Mutare

01 December 2016

**RE: Arbitrary eviction of Chiadzwa villagers, Tinoengana community**

The above subject matter refers.

We have learnt with great dismay that your office and the Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (Private) Limited are arbitrarily evicting 26 households in Tinoengana Village in Chiadzwa to pave way for diamond mining. Section 74 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe protects citizens against arbitrary evictions. The Section states that, 'no person may be

after considering all relevant circumstances'. It is our firm belief that the government through its ministries, including the parent ministry which your office falls under the Ministry of Rural Development, Promotion and Preservation of National Culture and Heritage, upholds the Constitutional values and the spirit of Constitutional founding values of transparency, justice, accountability and responsiveness.

It has come to our attention that your office conducted a meeting with villagers in Tinoengana on the 30<sup>th</sup> of November 2016 whereby your office informed the villagers in no uncertain terms that contrary to the above provisions of the Constitution, these villagers will be forcibly and arbitrarily evicted and relocated to an unknown destination on Saturday the 3<sup>rd</sup> of December 2016 without a court order considering their circumstances (compensation) and without a written formal communication from your office.

It is our firm belief that the Ministry of Rural Development, Promotion and Preservation of National Culture and Heritage which is the custodian of communities could not have sanctioned arbitrary and forceful evictions of Chiadzwa villagers. As civil society organisations, we are therefore appalled by the un-Constitutional actions and direct contraventions of the supreme law of the land. We are hereby writing to your office to warn you to stop these illegal, unlawful and un-procedural evictions failing which will result in us pursuing direct legal action against you in your personal capacity.

Yours Sincerely

Marange Development Trust (MDT) .....

Platform for Youth Development (PYD).....

Arda Transau Relocation Development Trust (ATRDT).....

Centre for Research & Development (CRD).....

Natural Resource Dialogue of Zimbabwe (NAREDZ).....

Zimbabwe Lawyers For Human Rights (ZLHR).....

A collection of handwritten signatures in blue ink, written over the list of organizations. The signatures are overlapping and appear to be from various individuals associated with the listed groups.

Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS).....

Transparency International-Zimbabwe (TIZ).....

Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA).....

Cc: Provincial Administrator, Mr Mbetsa, Mutare

Cc: Provincial Affairs Minister, Cde Mandy Chimene, Mutare

Cc: Officer Commanding Mutare District

Cc: CEO Mutare Rural District Council, Mr Chinaka, Mutare

Cc: Minister of Rural Development, Promotion and Preservation of National Culture and Heritage

Cc: Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, Complaints Handling Unit