



01 December 2016//

For immediate release:

Press Statement by Mutare Civil Society on pending forced evictions by ZCDC in Chiadzwa

We the undersigned note with concern the following:

- That industrial diamond mining in Chiadzwa has led to the displacement of people in Marange since 2009, (Hansard report, October 2016)
- Evictees to date are over 1300 families (7000 people are affected),
- Between 2014 and 2015, there was acknowledgement of fiscal leakages, illicit financial flows, massive corruption, lack of fiscal transparency resulting in the establishment of the Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Company (ZCDC) in 2016,
- That previous evictions and relocation of villagers have been accompanied by opaque compensation arrangements, and serious disruptions of affected villagers' livelihoods and way of life,
- That since ZCDC effectively commenced mining operations in March 2016, the company has reneged on its obligations and liabilities e.g:
 - Compensation for workers, compensation for displaced and relocated persons as well as lack of an Environmental Impact Assessment document detailing how ZCDC will comply with standing environmental regulations
- That ZCDC continues to expand operations into Chiadzwa's Tinoengana village, without consulting villagers or engaging them in any way
- That the District Administrator, together with Chief Marange, accompanied by heavily armed police officers convened a meeting with the communities on 30th of November 2016 announcing an impending forced and arbitrary eviction by the 3rd of December 2016,

We take lessons from previous evictions of Chiadzwa communities to Arda Transau, in which the villagers were duped to accepting relocation with a nominal \$1000 disturbance allowances, inadequate food handouts, small relocation sites (reduced land sizes), inadequate grazing and agricultural land, destruction of livelihoods, inadequate housing, inadequate health facilities, schools and clean, safe and portable water. While the previous arrangement was conducted in cahoots with foreign owned companies, the current evictions are being driven by the Government of Zimbabwe in violation of the Constitution.

We demand the following:

1. Immediate cessation of forced evictions of the identified 26 families (about 130 people) and others yet to be identified until the process is agreed in consultation with the communities
2. Immediate cessation of threats and intimidation of villagers by the District Administrator and state security operatives, themselves meant to coerce villagers in Tinoengana to agree to forced relocations
3. Immediate cessation of mining operations in Tinoengana and surrounding village by ZCDC, pending the following:
 - a. Conducting of an EIA by ZCDC in consultation with the communities
 - b. Independent and transparent evaluation of properties and assets of communities, should relocation be one of the agreed options
 - c. Should relocation be agreed, independent assessment of destination amenities, consistent with livelihood and welfare upliftment for the displaced
4. We demand due diligence, due process, transparency and accountability in the Marange diamond fields, in compliance with the Zimbabwean Constitution founding values of transparency, justice, accountability and responsiveness.

Organizations:

Marange Development Trust (MDT)
Platform for Youth Development (PYD)
Centre for Research & Development (CRD)
Natural Resource Dialogue of Zimbabwe (NAREDZ)
Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR)
Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS)
Transparency International-Zimbabwe (TIZ)
Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA)