



AFRODAD is amongst various CSOs, Governments, MPs, international Organizations, Journalists and Academia who will grace this year's 7th Pan African Conference on Illicit Financial Flows and Tax being hosted by Tax Justice Network in Kenya.

HIGHLIGHTS

AFRODAD urges government to prioritize fiscal transparency and accountability during NANGO's panel discussion on public finance management

Zimbabwe's public finance management is plagued with a weak accountability system characterized by widespread corruption within political and bureaucratic systems, a poor debt servicing history, non-enforcement of own Public Finance Mechanism (PFM) laws and constitutional provisions.



During a panel discussion on Public Finance Management hosted by the National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (NANGO) in Harare, Zimbabwe, Mr. Tirivangani Mutazu, AFRODAD's Senior Policy Analyst under Debt Management said Zimbabwe's public finance management has been poor and the evidence is vividly contained in the lives of the ordinary citizens who are finding it hard to access public services due to government's failure to provide.

"As a result of poor public finance management in the country, through evidence documented by the Annual Reports (2018, 2019), published by the Office of the Auditor General, the country has been experiencing: fiscal leakages through corruptions and illicit financial flows (IFFs), wasteful expenditures, a tendering series of undeserving companies, bad cooperate governance practices and wasteful expenditures that has left the country bleeding," he expounded. The country is in debt distress despite abundant valuable minerals resources.

Basic principles of public finance Management enshrined

in Section 298(1) of the constitution must be adhered to in terms of offering guidance on all aspects of public finance management in Zimbabwe, particularly on transparency and accountability.

As a civil society, AFRODAD calls on the government to strengthen Fiscal transparency and accountability in the nation's PFM framework with fiscal soundness, balance between revenue and expenditure, transparency, and management efficiency for financial operations. This will limit fiscal leakages and increase social spending and investment.

AFRODAD calls upon the Government to ensure that there is fiscal transparency in the management of public resources; to guarantee trust between citizens and government through citizens participation in government programme; to regulate PFM in the national and provisional government levels and to ensure that all revenue expenditures, assets and liabilities of national and provisional governments are managed efficiently and effectively.

ZIMCODD official Naomi Chakanya who was one of the panelists said a breaching PFM rules as prescribed in the constitution can hinder Zimbabwe from achieving the sustainable development goals to reduce poverty, support health education and provide clean water and clean energy. She called for a change of culture from within government to shun corruption which she referred to as "a complete detrimental culture that continue to impoverish the ordinary Zimbabwean citizen".

AFRODAD continues to contribute to the fights against Illicit Financial Flows

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The conference which kicks off from the 1st to the 3rd of October 2019 in Nairobi, Kenya, will run under the theme "Taxing Intangibles, Financial Technology (FinTech) and the Digitalized Economy: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities for Domestic Revenue Mobilization in Africa". The conference is a response to the need to provide an interactive forum for stakeholders to engage each other and take stock on Africa specific policy progress, challenges and solution in curbing IFF resulting from an increasingly digitalized global economy.

AFRODAD will be hosting a side event during the conference to discuss recent contributions to the understanding of the digital economy and its consequences on illicit financial flows and domestic resources mobilization. Key issues to be tackled include how digital economies facilitate IFFs at the earning, transfer and usage stages. Furthermore, issues that relate to regularizing the digital economies will be discussed.

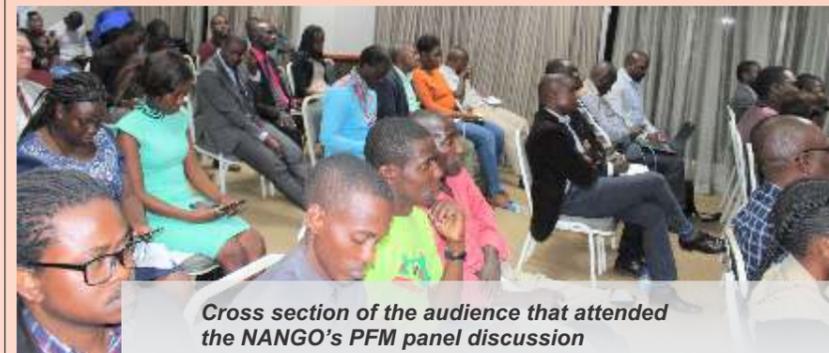
This Conference will provide a forum for policy actors to discuss issues and challenges regarding the preparedness of African countries to cope with the taxation of new business models and evolving technological changes in the financial sector. There is need to develop policy options for Africa as per ongoing international negotiations to reform the outdated international tax system.



Mr Tirivangani Mutazu (AFRODAD) making a presentation during the panel discussion on Public Finance management



Panelists sharing a lighter moment at the end of NANGO's panel discussion on PFM



Cross section of the audience that attended the NANGO's PFM panel discussion

Feedback can be forwarded to: communications@afrodad.co.zw

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