



AFRODEBT

QUARTELY NEWSLETTER



INFLUENCING POLICY

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY PLATFORM

CONTRIBUTION TO KNOWLEDGE





CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION

INFLUENCING POLICY ON DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION, DEBT MANAGEMENT AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC FINANCE :

- AFRODAD continues to tackle Africa's looming debt crisis and illicit financial flows from the continent
- Engagement with Ugandan Members of Parliament and launching the African Borrowing Charter
- The Southern African Development Community

CONTRIBUTION TO EXISTING KNOWLEDGE ON DEBT MANAGEMENT, DOMESTIC RESOURCE MOBILIZATION AND INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC FINANCE:

- AFRODAD and OXFAM Partnered to Strengthen Malawian Journalists on Setting the Agenda for Public Debt Management

STRENGTHENING CIVIL SOCIETY VOICES AND PLATFORM AROUND DEBT, DRM AND IPF

- *AFRODAD attended the New Development Bank 4th annual meeting and contributed to the process of establishing successful partnerships for sustainable development*
- AFRODAD IS INVOLVED IN TACKLING THE NEXT WAVE OF SOVEREIGN DEBT CRISES: **Spring Meetings 2019, Washington DC**
- AFRODAD has made commendable progress in promoting Domestic Resources Mobilisation in Africa [Diakonia](#), *one of the organizational main donors concurs.*
- There must be Fiscal transparency for Africa to make a positive step towards sustainable development!
- AFRODAD Contributed to Southern Africa Political Economy Series of meetings on the Political Economy of Resource Looting in Southern Africa
- AFRODAD allies with the East African Community in promoting trade and investment for sustainable development in Africa.
- AFRODAD remains steadfast in contributing to stronger extractive industries revenue management in Africa
- AFRODAD attended validation workshop on baseline Study for Promoting Domestic Resource Mobilisation in Sub-Saharan Africa
- AFRODAD at the African Development Bank's annual meetings in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea Republic
- AFRODAD urged Civil Society Organisations in Malawi to advocate for the effective regulation of privatized services to protect citizens' rights.

OPINION

- Is this what adding salt to injury means?

INTRODUCTION

Receive greetings from AFRODAD Secretariat!

The second quarter is done and dusted!

We continue focusing on our mandate to influence African governments towards establishing and executing policies and practices that would foster sustainable development thus eradicating poverty in the process. What have we done to influence policy, contribute knowledge or strengthen the CSOs platform? Find out within this newsletter.

This is the 6th Volume of the AFRODEBT, available on our website and in print. To subscribe click here and to receive a hard copy write to us at communications@afrodad.co.zw detailing your mailing contacts.

We appreciate your feedback through the email provided above.

Thank you!

CONTACT US:

31 ARKINSON DRIVE, HILLSIDE, HARARE ZIMBABWE

Email: afrodad@afrodad.co.zw

Website: www.afrodad.org

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AFRODAD>

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AFRODAD continues to tackle Africa's looming debt crisis and illicit financial flows from the continent



Session during the 5th East African Legislative Assembly meeting in Arusha, Tanzania

As one of the outcomes of the AFRODAD's regional dialogue that was held in Botswana in March 2019, the East African Legislative Assembly (EALA) in attendance, requested to work closely with AFRODAD. Soon after, AFRODAD was invited to hold a session on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs) and the Sovereign debt crisis in the context of Africa in general zeroing on East Africa on the 8th May 2019 during the 5th East African Legislative Assembly sitting. Dr. Fanwell Bokosi, Executive Director with Mr. Tirivangani Mutazu, Senior Policy Analyst under the Debt Management portfolio, represented the organisation.

Key points of AFRODAD's presentation mainly tackled causes of Africa's debt crisis and trends, thereafter offering recommendations with a critical look at how reducing IFFs would play a significant role in closing Africa's financing gap. "While debt is a global issue, Africa's past debt crises have been devastating, creating the need to cautiously monitor this recent debt build-up". The meeting in Tanzania was therefore a good platform for AFRODAD to offer sustainable solutions to snatch Africa from crushing under the looming debt crisis".

The East African Legislative Assembly is the Legislative Organ of the East African Community. Its Membership consists of a total of 62, of whom 54 are elected Members (9 from each Partner State) and eight *ex-officio* members (the Ministers responsible for EAC Affairs from the Partner States, the Secretary General of the Community and the Counsel to the Community). The Assembly which holds six Plenary Sessions in every financial year has a principle of rotation. The last sitting (4th Meeting) was held in Zanzibar on February 16th, 2019 to March 9th, 2019. More information on EALA is available [here](#).

"While debt is a global issue, Africa's past debt crises have been devastating, creating the need to cautiously monitor this recent debt build-up"

AFRODAD is advising African governments on responsible borrowing and sustainable development



Engagement with Ugandan Members of Parliament and launching the African Borrowing Charter

AFRODAD, in partnership with [Uganda debt network \(UDN\)](#) fruitfully engaged members of Parliament (MPs) from the Public Accounts Committee (PAC) on the 16th May 2019 at the Ugandan parliament house. Discussions were centered on the African Borrowing Charter principles and guidelines and MPs eagerly received the information therein. Members, through the Chairman Mr. Nathan Nandala Mafabi, committed to reading the charter and its infographics to understand it deeper and act accordingly. The ruling party policy conference was scheduled on the 23rd and 24th May, and members added the discussion on the Borrowing Charter on their agenda. AFRODAD and UDN were invited not only to witness their commitment but to also guide further on the same.

African countries borrowed heavily during the 1970s until they hit a debt crisis which was solved by a relief for heavily indebted poor countries. However, debt levels have been rising dangerously again since 2008, with indications of some countries already entering unsustainable indebtedness levels by 2019 with some countries reaching Debt to GNP ratio of 200%.

In specific terms, Uganda recorded a government debt equivalent to 36.90% of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2016. Moreover, Uganda's Debt to GDP averaged 43.18% from 1997 until 2016, reaching a high at 71.50% in 2003 and recording a low at 19.20% in

2009. By Dec 2018, Uganda's debt to GDP ratio rose to 41%. While the Ministry of Finance (DSA Report, 2017) expects the debt to GDP ratio to rise to 47.8% in FY 2020/21, the International Monetary fund (IMF, 2019) Report has warned that Uganda's public debt is actually expected to grow to 50.7% in the 2021/22 financial year due to increased borrowing for infrastructure projects. Uganda's debt has been steadily growing and in FY 2019|20, interest payments will take UGX 2.9 Trillion, (\$4769.5 Million) which is 8.5% of the total national budget and the second largest share of the FY 2019/20 budget. The share of non-concessional loans from China has also been rising in recent years.

Another debt crisis must not happen! Thus, the African Borrowing Charter Initiative seeks to guide governments on borrowing responsibly for sustainable development. Countries should not borrow until repayment hinders it to meet its obligations to citizens.

The two organisations, in line with their respective mandates, partnered to launch the African Borrowing Charter to prevent a debt crisis in Uganda whether immediate or in later years. Upon discussions and the launch, UDN and AFRODAD hope that policy makers will take actions to adopt principles of the Charter and implement them in order to guide Uganda accordingly.

After the mentioned engagement, a well attended press conference was held at UDN premises.

The Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum has requested for stronger links with AFRODAD



The Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) hosted a joint sitting of standing committees and the regional women parliamentary CAUCAS (RWPC) from 22nd to 23rd May 2019 in Johannesburg South Africa and it extended an invitation to AFRODAD to discuss outcomes of the aforementioned IFFs regional dialogue that had a representation from SADC PF.

From the report on the dialogue's outcomes which was presented by AFRODAD's representatives to the house, Mr Tirivangani Mutazu_Senior Policy Analyst and Mr Rangarirai Chikova_Consultant under the Domestic Resources Mobilisation portfolio highlighted the need for more collaboration between AFRODAD and various regional parliamentarian bodies, among them SADC PF and EALA for the purpose of enhancing cooperation in the fight against IFFs from Africa.

Addressing the committee, Sophia Swarts Fischer who was representing SADC PF Members of parliament, stressed that strengthened cooperation between AFRODAD and SADC PF was vital in building capacity for the elected African MPs who play a crucial role of influencing policy within their respective nations.

In a statement, Mr. Tirivangani Mutazu, Senior Policy Analyst under the Debt Management portfolio

highlighted that AFRODAD will continue to capacitate MPs through its IFFs Conferences and enriched Summer School sessions with the requisite knowledge they need to perform some of their functions. "If need be, special trainings can be arranged and AFRODAD will continue providing relevant information to MPs in Africa to capacitate them to raise motions that relate to IFFs and Debt management" Mr Mutazu elaborated.

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Training

AFRODAD and OXFAM Partnered to Strengthen Malawian Journalists on Setting the Agenda for Public Debt Management

In an effort to sensitize media practitioners in Malawi on the implications of public and publicly guaranteed debt on human rights, poverty, inequality and macroeconomic performance, AFRODAD and OXFAM-Malawi hosted a media's capacity building workshop. It was held on 27-28 June in Lilongwe, Malawi under the theme, "Partnering with Media in Debt Management for Sustainable and Inclusive Development in Africa." Up to 40 journalists from different media houses from Malawi benefitted from the training. Last year in 2018, AFRODAD held [training](#) on illicit financial flows and public-private partnerships and [this years training](#) aimed at giving trainees a comprehensive or complementary understanding of Malawi's economic situation and their role towards its betterment. In addition, training was held in Zimbabwe and one is scheduled to take place in Zambia.

The overall aim of the workshop was to capacitate journalists to become champions in reporting on debt management and related issues. Objectives of the initiative included engaging and increasing media participation in the campaign for sustainable debt management in Malawi; building media professionals' knowledge and understanding of Debt Management; creating a network of journalists who can adequately report on Debt Management and related issues while promoting the exchange of innovative and effective techniques for monitoring and reporting debt management and related issues in the country. Training modules were: the Role of Media in Debt and Public Finance Management: Challenges and Opportunities;

Public Debt Management for Sustainable Development; nexus between Debt, Poverty and Inequality; and Accessing Debt Information and Debt Transparency.

Journalists (media), as government's fourth arm, are tasked with the responsibility to distance themselves from power in order to monitor it and challenge it accordingly. Participants were greatly empowered. Why Malawi? In the medium to long term, Malawi's external debt is sustainable and is classified as a moderate risk of debt distress. Moreover, Malawi's debt indicators do not breach the international thresholds. However, Malawi's debt is vulnerable to shocks related to exports emanating from weather shocks and changes in commodity prices. If you look at public debt sustainability which assesses both external and domestic debt, Malawi's public debt to GDP is at 42.7% compared to the recommended benchmark of 38%. Adding domestic debt to external debt is heightening Malawi's risk of debt distress.

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AFRODAD attended the New Development Bank 4th annual meeting and contributed to the process of establishing successful partnerships for sustainable development

A robust infrastructure network is critical for the development of any country. In developing economies, infrastructural development in the provision of roads, healthcare, education facilities and energy often meets challenges from struggling governments and that unfortunately cascades to ordinary citizens. With the absolute requirement for countries to provide policy, frameworks and the tools needed to facilitate economic growth, comes the need for financial injections to support sustainable development in struggling economies thus the New Development Bank (NDB) has been a blessing in bridging this gap.

The New Development Bank hosted its 4th Annual Meeting in South Africa Cape Town on the 1st and 2nd April 2019. It was the first time for the NDB to organize its Annual Meeting in South Africa and the event ran under the theme of “Partnership for Sustainable Development”. AFRODAD joined various Participants in the meeting that included various like-minded civil society organisations, government officials from Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) and other developing nations, environmental and energy experts, leaders of multilateral and national development institutions, distinguished scholars and prominent bankers.

The aim of the this meeting was for the New Development Bank to consolidate its four-year history and to plan the way forward towards a sustainable future in partnership with its member countries and other developing nations.

In a keynote address by the Host Country, BRICS Inter ministerial Committee - Co-Chair, H.E N Pandor, she noted that the focus for the meeting was to strengthen

collective efforts and partnerships to bridge the infrastructure gap and address development needs of the Bank's member countries and other emerging and developing countries.

“The current infrastructure investment needs of the bank's member countries are considerable and it is well known that domestic resources are not sufficient on their own. Thus, the NDB is well-positioned to partner with its member countries and support their policy priorities towards achieving sustainable development.” She said.

Ms Pandor raised concerns of the levels of poverty in Africa highlighting depressing data projections that stipulates that by 2030_ 9 out of 10 people that will face abject poverty will be in Sub Saharan Africa.

AFRODAD's representative to the meeting, Mr. Adrian Chikowore highlighted on the sideline that, the meeting also emphasized the need for civil society to be robust and remain steadfast in influencing African governments to curb IFFs so that domestic resources mobilization is enhanced for the achievement of sustainable financing for development. Africa needs to ensure that financing mechanisms such as PPPs are backed by well thought out comprehensive feasibility studies.

The NDB, currently presided over by K.V. Kamath, is a multilateral development bank established by Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS), in accordance with an Agreement signed on the 15th July 2014 in Fortaleza, Brazil. The purpose of the Bank is to mobilize resources for infrastructure and sustainable development projects in BRICS and other emerging economies and developing countries. Activities of the Bank complement the existing efforts of multilateral and regional financial institutions for global growth and development.

AFRODAD IS INVOLVED IN TACKLING THE NEXT WAVE OF SOVEREIGN DEBT CRISES



Spring Meetings 2019, Washington DC

#TackleDebtCrisis

The Civil Society Policy Forum (CSPF) has become an integral part of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank Group Spring and Annual Meetings, providing an open space for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to dialogue and exchange views on a wide range of topics with World Bank Group and International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff, their peers, government delegations, and other stakeholders.

During Spring Meetings, AFRODAD together with a group of leading Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) organised and sponsored a high-level event under the theme “Tackling the Next Wave of Sovereign Debt Crises”. The event took place on the 10th April and it was attended by world leaders, finance ministers, business leaders, development groups and journalists from around the world. Moreover, AFRODAD hosted another high profile event on the 12th April under the topic “Challenges to the Economy, stabilizing the CEMAC Region: Prerequisite to successful economic and Fiscal Reforms for effective debt management.” There is need for another structure that deals with debt and as civil society our call is a fresh debt workout mechanism which is fully independent and transparent enough to protect the rights of citizens, said Dr. Bakosi.

Speakers at the Wednesday high-level forum included Dr. Bokosi, Benin's Finance Minister Romuald Wadagni, the IMF's First Deputy Managing Director David Lipton, Larry Elliot from the Guardian and Legal expert lee Bucheit and Prof. Odette Lienau.

According to Mr Lipton, public debt is almost surpassing levels last seen in the crises of the 1980s: 35 low-income countries are either in distress or at high risk of distress. “There is need to reduce risks of debt crises by improving ability to spot vulnerabilities and to effect debt transparency, helping countries to better manage debts at an early stage and to strengthen governments' ability to raise revenue”.

Panelists emphasized the need to do things differently and move away from the status quo. They called for both creditors and lenders to prioritize transparency ahead of anything else. “We must not do what we did before, we must not wait and watch a debt crisis happen, or take 20 years to act because in the process people will die and unfortunately the majority will be the most vulnerable members of our society” said Dr. Bokosi.

Benin Finance Minister, Romuald Wadagni also emphasized challenges associated with transparency as the main driver of debt crises in Africa. “If multinational institutions lend to a government and those loans are not disclosed, there are high chances that funds will be abused. Unfortunately nations suffer when the time of servicing comes as most of the money meant for public services like health and education is diverted to unscrupulous activities.”

AFRODAD was represented by Dr. Fanwell Bokosi and Tirivangani Mutazu who also attended other side and main meetings.

Engagement & Recommendations



AFRODAD together with selected African partners implementing a four year Diakonia programme in promoting domestic resources mobilization in sub-Saharan Africa received accolades for progress made so far. This was during a stakeholders Annual Review meeting hosted by the project funding partner from 15th to 17th April 2019 in Naivasha, Kenya.

The first implementation year which commenced last year in July will end in December 2019 but implementing partners are already reporting progress around various thematic areas they are executing. The three implementing partners in this project are: AFRODAD, Transparency International and Tax Justice Network Africa (TJN-A) prioritizing five intervention areas linked to existing frameworks and policies for EAC, ECOWAS and SADC: i. Harmful tax competition between member states; ii. Tax evasion and tax avoidance; iii) Public debt management; iv) Corporate transparency and accountability in the extractive sector; and v) Institutional and programmatic capacity of regional CSO partners.

According to Diakonia, reports from the first implementation year by partners show that there are already positive results being registered under tax evasion and tax avoidance, public debt management and institutional strengthening. Particularly, the baseline study that seeks to provide analytical input by assessing trends and the current situation in Sub-Saharan Africa with regards to Domestic Resource Mobilisation which is being concluded.

“During the first implementation year, AFRODAD has managed to carry out various preliminary activities that have already shown positive outcomes. We hosted a Summer School in Malawi and a regional Illicit Financial Flows dialogue in Botswana that brought together



multiple stakeholders and policy actors including parliamentarians from Africa, CSOs from a variety of fields, academia, media and religious organisations. We also commissioned researches on the domestication of the AMV: Terms of Reference (TORs) for AMV studies in ECOWAS and a regional research on the monitoring and implementation of regional protocols on finance and investment in SADC, ECOWAS and EAC” reported Mr. Rangarirai Chikova, Consultant under AFRODAD's DRM portfolio.

Participants in the meeting also took time to discuss and give analytical input towards the baseline study assessment being carried out by a consultancy firm, the Africa Centre for People, Institutions and Society (ACEPIS). The three implementing partners gave their comments that will be used to adjust specific thematic outcomes for each partner.



AFRODAD Contributed to Southern Africa Political Economy Series of meetings on the Political Economy of Resource Looting in Southern Africa

AFRODAD represented by Mr Adrian Chikowore attended a one-day conference held in Harare, Zimbabwe on the 23rd May 2019 at the Southern Africa Political Economy Series (SAPES) office to discuss and suggest solutions to the billions of dollars that SADC countries are losing in minerals and oil revenues.

The conference was organized by three organisations: SAPES Trust, Southern Africa Resource Watch (SARWatch) and the Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG). The meeting brought together approximately 70 participants from government, civil

society, mining companies, organized labour, and local communities. The goal of the meeting was to fathom what is happening in SADC countries with a view to expose corrupt networks and to provide clear recommendations on how these countries (individually and collectively) can prevent resource looting. This can be done through promoting transparency and accountability; sharing experiences; advancing social and economic rights and contributing to knowledge production.

There must be Fiscal transparency for Africa to make a positive step towards sustainable development!



Rangarirai Chikova
Policy Analyst - Domestic Resource Mobilisation

AFRODAD responded to an invitation from Transparency International Zimbabwe Fiscal Transparency for a breakfast policy dialogue on the topic "Fiscal

Transparency as a Key Pillar of Domestic Resources Mobilisation and Development" held on 7th May this year, in Harare, Zimbabwe. AFRODAD was invited due to its capacity as a valuable stakeholder with input towards developing lasting solutions to the fight against corruption within Zimbabwe and Africa as a whole.

Mr. Rangarirai Chikova represented the organisation as a panelist. The Policy Dialogue focused on the Auditor General and the discussion was framed around policy gaps and challenges that are undermining the effective role of the Auditor General in Zimbabwe.



AFRODAD allies with the East African Community in promoting trade and investment for sustainable development in Africa.

Trade and Investment can potentially play a critical role in transforming the lives of the most vulnerable groups in society namely women, youth and people living with disabilities through fostering growth, promoting industrialization and innovations, creating jobs and enhancing further regional and global economic integration. However, experiences especially in Africa have revealed that the absence of supportive and inclusive legal and policy frameworks for trade and investment can result into further marginalization of the poor and can lead to increased unemployment, poverty, macroeconomic instabilities and general under development.

These challenges were taken up at the multi-stakeholder conference hosted by the East African Community (EAC) and implemented by the Southern and Eastern Africa Trade Information and Negotiations Institute (SEATINI) in partnership with DIAKONIA and RosaLuxemburg Stiftung in Nairobi Kenya from the 29th to 31st May 2019. Various stakeholders and international partners that included leading civil society organisations in Africa, representatives from the World Bank, the academia and media were invited and discussed in-depth concerning the evolution of trade and investment agreements and their implications on the realization of the sustainable development goals.

Diakonia program manager, Ms. Sandra Kidwingira, who chaired one of the first debate session said "It was so encouraging to see such a broad group of stakeholders come together to analyse the rapid changes in Africa's Trade and Investment policy landscape. This is a step in

the right direction because promoting trade and investment along sustainable principles is one of the means to achieve SDGs". What Africa needs is a more conducive institutional and policy environment that provides the right incentives for nations and institutions to cooperate thus building on their respective comparative advantages towards enhanced sustainability.

Trade and investment are fundamental in helping countries in Africa to successfully integrate into the global economy. Both trade and investments have proven to be the most effective anti-poverty and pro-development tools for most African countries.

Notable suggestions that came out of the discussions , among other things included: a commitment by partners to lobby for the strengthening of policy coherence for development; policy proposal in areas considered vital for achieving SDGs such as social inclusion, sustainable consumption and production; and for nations to create a more enabling environment for investments that would make African countries more attractive locations for productive and sustainable Foreign Direct Investment - both in infrastructure and in productive assets.



AFRODAD remains steadfast in contributing to stronger extractive industries revenue management in Africa

AFRODAD joined executives from the biggest mining companies in Zambia, government officials, International investors and the Church from 11th – 13th June 2019 in Lusaka for the Zambia Alternative Mining Indaba (ZAMI) to discuss opportunities in the industry and to lead a discussion based on its recent research findings on Illicit Financial Flows (IFFs).

The ZAMI's theme was **"Our Zambia, Our Minerals, Moving Towards Meaningful Transparency and Accountability"**. The overall event's aim was to create a policy and legislative dialogue space where stakeholders proposed legislative and policy changes to allow the country to benefit from natural resource extraction. Hosts for the event are Publish What You Pay Zambia in conjunction with the Zambia Conference for Catholic Bishops (ZCCB), Council of Churches in Zambia (CCZ), Center for Trade Policy and Development (CTPD), Action Aid Zambia, Diakonia Zambia, Joint Country Programme (NCA, DCA, CA), Jesuit Centre for Theological

Reflection (JCTR), Oxfam Zambia, Transparency International Zambia (TIZ) among other civil society organisations in Zambia.

AFRODAD was represented by Mr. Rangarirai Chikova who presented findings from AFRODAD's recent research "Assessing the Political Economy and Drivers of Illicit Financial Flows and Corruption and the Nexus between

Corruption and Domestic Resource Mobilization in Zambia. The study helped to deepen the understanding of stakeholders on issues that relate to trends, drivers, and implications of IFFs and Corruption on government revenues including economic development and social investment in Zambia. 'It is the ideal platform to discuss issues relating to IFFs within the mining sector in the country and Africa as a whole and suggest solutions to address them. One finding to highlight is that Zambia alone accounts for 65% of the continent's IFFs from copper, and that has to change' said Mr Chikova.



Rangarirai Chikova
Policy Analyst - Domestic Resource Mobilisation

AFRODAD attended validation workshop on baseline Study for Promoting Domestic Resource Mobilisation in Sub-Saharan Africa

AFRODAD attended a Diakonia one day's stakeholder validation workshop in Nairobi, Kenya to validate findings of a baseline study under the programme "Promoting Domestic Resource Mobilisation in Sub-Saharan Africa".

Diakonia is working in close consultation with the Embassy of Sweden in Addis Ababa and AFRODAD was identified as one of the key regional civil society actor to be part of implementing partners together with Tax Justice Network Africa (TJNA) and Transparency International Kenya (TI-Kenya).



Tirivangani Mutazu
Senior Policy Analyst - Debt Management

In a statement, representatives from Diakonia noted "with the baseline study now complete, a validation of the same is necessary in an effort to promote synergy among implementing partners and to raise awareness of the programme".

Objectives of the workshop included: validation of the baseline study findings; building synergy among partners and with Transparency International chapters in Africa, raising awareness of the DRM programme while deepening the programmes reach in ECOWAS Proposed activities.

AFRODAD urged Civil Society Organisations in Malawi to advocate for the effective regulation of privatized services to protect citizens' rights.

Over 30 CSOs working in health, education advocacy and programming within Malawi including representatives from ministries of Education and Health attended AFRODAD's one day policy advocacy and monitoring capacity building workshop in Malawi, Lilongwe. The main intent was to share knowledge and understanding of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) as a financing model while building and exchanging innovative and effective techniques for monitoring and reporting PPP issues in Malawi.

Discussions throughout the training emphasized the need to ascertain success factors necessary to make PPP projects at country level viable and to debate on the state of affairs regarding the privatisation of health services and education in Malawi. The workshop was a great opportunity for CSOs in Malawi and various government ministries in the education and health sector to get acquainted with the PPPs' concept (with detailed definition of partnerships, types of partnerships and benefits of partnership for the public sector) and to get feedback and recommendations from various researches done by AFRODAD focusing on privatisation, education and health service delivery.

In line with the privatisation of health services and



Adrian Chikowore
Policy Consultant - International Public Finance

education in Malawi, AFRODAD's Policy and Research Consultant under International Public Finance Mr. Adrian Chikowore, highlighted that findings from researches done by AFRODAD revealed that Malawi continues to have a growing number of unlicensed providers in the health sector worsened by a

weak re-licensing system. He noted that Private schools remain unaffordable to the majority except the affluent households i.e. 'low-fee private schools' cost poor families at least one-third of their available income. Moreover, there is a high uneven geographical distribution of those Private schools. Privatisation presents elements of inequality and Malawi has not been spared given the existence of many Private schools and health services.

Mr. Chikowore also cautioned CSOs and the government in Malawi to prioritise the regulation and monitoring of the private sector across the country: "Inspection from the regulatory authorities is very poor for both the education and health sector. Of importance was a call for CSOs in Malawi to participate in the privatisation discourse as a venture to engage the government and private actors who currently shape the nature of privatisation in Malawi.

Is this what adding salt to injury means?

OPINION



Mozambique debt levels remain unsustainably high and it was ranked the 9th least developed country in the world out of 189 ranked countries (UNDP). External debt declined from 103.7% of GDP at end-2016 to an estimated 85.2% by end of 2017 (World Bank). The country continues to be in default of its Eurobond and the two previously undisclosed loans that amount to \$2 Billion.

Despite the country's reality, IMF made a "generous" move and issued a US\$118.2 Million Rapid Credit Facility Assistance to Mozambique, meant for rebuilding efforts

after Idai. The nation's wound is too fresh and deep to have salt rubbed on it! The tragedy killed over 700 people and caused an estimated \$2 billion in damage. It's a bit fair that the latest loan has less conditions as this type of loan has a grace period of 5 and a half years with a final maturity for 10 years. However, this is still too heavy for Mozambique, considering that the 2 illegal loans are still bending the nation's shoulders. If the recent IMF loan is for rebuilding, where will funds to service it while repaying other loans come from? The first step should be cancelling illegal loans owned by a sinking nation instead of offering more loans!

AFRODAD at the African Development Bank's annual meetings in Malabo, Equatorial Guinea Republic

With 1 billion people, Africa has a combined GDP of more than \$3.4 trillion. Such a market could create huge opportunities for producers on the continent. But to make it a reality, African governments and regional economic communities should intensify efforts aimed at facilitating the free movement of goods, services, people and trade across borders.

The Bank's Annual Meetings represent a unique opportunity to discuss challenges and ways to advance the continent's regional integration agenda. AFRODAD was among 3,000 invited participants along finance ministers, governors of central banks, policy makers, civil society groups, heads of international

organisations and business leaders from the Bank Group's member states. The meetings commenced on the 11th June through the 14th of the same month.

This year's Annual Meetings focused on 'Regional Integration for Africa's Economic Prosperity', falling under one of the Bank's five priority areas known as the 'High 5s' (Light up and power Africa, [Feed Africa](#), [Industrialize Africa](#), [Integrate Africa](#) and [Improve the quality of life for the people of Africa](#)).

AFRODAD was represented by Dr. Yungong Theophilus Jong, Policy Analyst under the Debt Management portfolio.



AFRICAN FORUM AND NETWORK
ON DEBT AND DEVELOPMENT

2019 AFRODAD SUMMER SCHOOL

Theme:

Illicit financial flows and domestic
resources mobilisation in the era of
digital economies in Africa:
opportunities and challenges

NOVEMBER 25 - 29,
PRETORIA,
SOUTH AFRICA

