

JUBILEE-ZAMBIA
“Debt Cancellation for Poverty Eradication”
hosted by
JESUIT CENTRE FOR THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION

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JUBILEE-ZAMBIA QUARTERLY BRIEF
JANUARY – MARCH 2003

CONTENT

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- *LATEST INFORMATION*

EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT DEBT

Information Generation and Distribution: We updated our brochure on “Jubilee-Zambia” and prepared two other materials namely a pamphlet on “Why Jubilee-Zambia has continued” and a leaflet on Jubilee-Zambia’s Positions on various issues. These materials will be published and circulated in the second quarter.

MEDIA UTILISATION

Our media activities have been mainly through press statements. Jubilee-Zambia has released 2 statements on the following:

1. Jubilee-Zambia Commemorates Germany’s 50th Anniversary from External Debts! Through this statement, Jubilee-Zambia appealed to the German Government (Zambia’s 3rd biggest creditor) to cancel Zambia’s debt based on the same rationale that was used to cancel the debts of Germany fifty years ago. Zambia needs to rebuild its economy just like Germany needed to do so under the London Agreement of 27th February 1953.
2. HIPC – A Half-hearted Response to Zambia’s Debt Burden: As part of launching of the research report on “The Status of HIPC in Zambia”, Jubilee-Zambia prepared a statement expressing the concern that HIPC was in fact blocking serious focus to find a sustainable solution to the debt problem in Zambia.

SUPPORTING OUR PARTNERS

Zambia Congress of Trade Union (ZCTU): In March, one of our major partners, ZCTU in conjunction with FES, held a workshop on “General Orientation to the PRSPs and the Zambian PRSP process.” At this workshop, we presented a paper on “A Critique and Commentary of the PRSP as a Panacea to Poverty Alleviation and the Development Crisis in Zambia.”

MOBILISING PEOPLE FOR DEBT CANCELLATION

Petitions:

We launched a petition collection exercise on the Debt Mechanism in January this year. Our 5 Provincial Teams are collecting these petitions. We are aiming to submit these petitions to Government by May 2003. Part of this exercise aims at soliciting support from Members of Parliament on the need to establish the Debt Mechanism in areas where our Teams exist. This exercise is on-going.

Strategic Partnership with Policy Makers

MPs: Jubilee-Zambia has been working very closely with some Members of Parliament on the Loan Contraction Process. Five MPs are part of the Loan Contraction Process Review Team. The main role of this team is to critically monitor, advice and guide Jubilee-Zambia’s Loan Contraction Process Programme. Our aim is to facilitate a participatory process through which civil society can contribute to setting up an effective system that will govern the loan contraction and debt management system in Zambia. So far, two meetings to review the draft research report on loan contraction in Zambia have been held. In addition, we have been sending information on Jubilee-Zambia and Debt to Members of Parliament in general

Government: For this quarter, we are specifically relating to Government through the Ministry of Finance and National Planning (MOFNP) on the Loan Contraction Process. Government is represented on the Loan Contraction Process Review Team. Thus, the loan contraction is giving us a common issue on which we can consolidate our links with Government. We also shared information on debt with the Ministry of Finance and National Planning under the quarterly information distribution system.

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION

Multilateral Creditor – International Monetary Fund (IMF)

Privatisation: Since last year 2002, privatization has continued to be a major economic, social and political issue to the people of Zambia. Specifically in relation to debt, Jubilee-Zambia held two meetings with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) on privatisation and HIPC. Our major concern was that the IFIs were using HIPC to continue imposing harsh policies on Zambia. We also used this opportunity to express our concern on the implications of continuing with the current privatization programme in Zambia.

Launch of the HIPC Report: Using the occasion of launching the HIPC Report, Jubilee-Zambia engaged the IMF Country Representative in a discussion on the performance of the HIPC initiative in Zambia. Jubilee-Zambia urged the IFIs to acknowledge that HIPC in its current form was truly failing in Zambia. The IMF Representative also expressed worry over lack of an active civil society in monitoring debt relief resources and worsening domestic debt.

Jubilee-Zambia will be organizing the civil society's participation in the Pre-Spring World Bank/IMF meetings starting on 12th April 2003. Through a teleconference facilitated by World Bank Zambia Office, Jubilee-Zambia will engage officials from Washington on the issues of HIPC and Privatisation in Zambia. We expect 12 Jubilee-Zambia partners to participate in this conference scheduled for Thursday 10th April 2003

Bilateral Creditor – German Government

Germany Commemoration: Jubilee-Zambia joined German people to commemorate 50 years after debt cancellation. We met the Germany Ambassador to Zambia, Dr E Kristof. Accompanied by Jubilee-Zambia partners from the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) and the Free Federation of Trade Unions in Zambia (FFTUZ), the meeting focused on the need for total debt cancellation for Zambia, the HIPC initiative and PRSP. Jubilee-Zambia issued a press statement on this event.

Non-Government Organisations (NGOs)

Strategic Partners: After identifying our strategic partners, we held a meeting on 4th March 2003 to look at our networking and communication strategy for this year. We agreed to meet for three times this year in order to review our performance. Jubilee-Zambia is expected to continue circulating information on debt to these partners. We also encouraged our partners to involve us in their activities.

Jubilee-Zambia and the PRSP: As usual, we have continued to participate actively in the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper process. Under the Civil Society for Poverty Reduction (CSPR) Network, Jubilee-Zambia is a member of the steering committee and the task force on information and advocacy.

RESEARCH ON DEBT

Technical

HIPC: We launched the research report on "The Status of HIPC in Zambia" on 27th March 2003. The research covered the period 2001 - 2002 of HIPC implementation in Zambia. The main finding was that HIPC was not working in Zambia and that it would not assist Zambia to significantly overcome its debt and poverty crises. The report revealed that poor management and monitoring were the key barriers to ensuring that the poor benefited from debt relief resources.

Loan Contraction: Continuing from the previous year, the draft report on the loan contraction process is now ready and under review. We expect to have the final copy of this report by the end of April. We have formed a team comprising Members of Parliament, Government and civil society representatives to review the report and map the way forward.

Desk

To strengthen the link between debt and other important concerns in Zambia such as HIV/AIDS, economic development and poverty, we have planned to undertake a lot of desk research. For this quarter, Jubilee-Zambia prepared a short but very analytical paper on "Making Aid Work In Zambia: Grants Versus Loans."

The main message was that considering the poverty levels, HIV/AIDS pandemic and economic problems in Zambia, the best and sustainable form of external financial support must be grants and not loans. The paper was published in the Times of Zambia, the main government paper on 15th January 2003.

SOLIDARITY AGAINST DEBT

Strengthening Our Jubilee Provincial Teams

Livingstone Capacity Building Workshop: For this year, we started our capacity building programme with the Jubilee-Livingstone Team. Held from 19th-21st March 2003, this “revival” workshop aimed at giving the new members of the team a good orientation of the Jubilee campaign in Zambia. Some new members of the team include the Women organizations, Youth groups and Church groups. We plan to conduct similar workshops but on different topics, for three other teams in the coming quarter.

Provincial Team Representatives’ Meeting

On 26th March 2003, all the 5 Jubilee Provincial Team representatives met in Lusaka, Zambia to share and exchange ideas on their activities. This meeting focused on annual provincial activity plan. It also looked at the main constraints that the teams were facing. For activities, the common ones were public sensitization, soliciting local authority support and monitoring of HIPC debt relief resources. Lack of accommodation, communication facilities and inadequate funding were the major constraints discussed.

JUBILEE-ZAMBIA AT REGIONAL LEVEL

SAPSN Annual General Meeting

Jubilee-Zambia continues to be a partner of Southern African People Solidarity Network (SAPSN) and member of the Co-ordinating team of this network. In February, Jubilee-Zambia participated in the Annual General Meeting whose main agenda issues were review of the SAPSN Annual Activity Plan, transfer of the Secretariat from AIDC (South Africa) to ZIMCODD (Zimbabwe) and the role of SAPSN members. The meeting also looked at substantive issues in Southern Africa such as Trade, Privatisation, NEPAD, Poverty and Debt.

JUBILEE-ZAMBIA AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Jubilee-Zambia in Porto Alegre

World Social Forum: Jubilee-Zambia joined civil society in the world in Porto Alegre for the 3rd World Social Forum in Porto Alegre in January this year. Represented by our Policy Analyst, Mr Jack Jones Zulu, Jubilee-Zambia used this platform to discuss and share the debt problem of Zambia with various audiences. Amongst the several other issues, Mr Zulu concentrated on explaining why Jubilee-Zambia has decided to continue the campaign against debt after the Millennium Year of 2000, Jubilee-Zambia’s participation in the HIPC and PRSP processes of Zambia. We were also able to know what other groups were doing on issues of debt, trade and poverty.

VISITING JUBILEE-ZAMBIA

EURODAD: We received Ms Kath Noble from European Network on Debt and Development in the middle of March. Under EURODAD, Kath works on the Economic Policy Empowerment Programme (EPEP) and is in Zambia to be acquainted with civil society activities around economic empowerment and civil society.

We are expecting three other visitors namely from Netherlands Institute on Southern Africa (NISA), Jubilee-Australia and Jubilee-USA in the coming quarter.

ORGANISATIONAL ISSUES

Jubilee-Zambia Steering Committee (JSC): The JSC met on 27th March to review the Jubilee-Zambia Annual Activity Plan, including the activities of the teams in the provinces. The committee advised the secretariat to continue strengthening the provincial teams, work closely with policy makers and also involve the committee in some of the activities.

Quarterly Review and Planning: The Jubilee-Zambia national office staff met at the end of this quarter (March) to review the performance in the last three months and also plan in detail for the coming quarter. On the review, the programme is on schedule but need to strengthen our communication system. On the coming quarter, most of the activities will be focused on following up research findings with different stakeholders, media, publicity and community drama activities.

Other major issues to look out for in the next quarter are the meeting with Jubilee funders, meeting among Jubilee-Zambia, CSPR and CCJP, Media Day, Debt Forum and the launch of the Loan Contraction Process.

NEWS FROM JUBILEE IN THE PROVINCES

MONGU – The main action is centered at creating a network with stakeholders in the education sector in the province to ensure that more HIPC debt relief resources are used to improve the education services in Western province. This monitoring will be accompanied by an intense public sensitization programme on debt and HIPC in Zambia. The community radio will play a key role in these activities.

MONZE – Continues to monitor the use of HIPC debt relief resources. In addition, the team has planned to raise the issue of debt during national days throughout out the year. It will also work to strengthen the newly established Jubilee-Monze School Clubs.

NDOLA - The team will mainly focus on sensitizing people at community level on the impact of debt on their day-to-day living. The team is aiming at encouraging more people, especially local communities to support and join the campaign against debt in this area. The team will be working with the community radio station “Ichengelo” to conduct these public awareness programmes. In addition, the team will continue monitoring the use of HIPC debt relief resources.

KASAMA – Will continue its programme of soliciting political and local authority support to the Jubilee cause in the area. Part of this programme will target Church leaders. The main objective is to create a strong local leadership support for the Jubilee movement in Kasama. The team will continue monitoring the HIPC debt relief resources.

LIVINGSTONE: This team has embarked on an intense programme of publicizing the presence and purpose of Jubilee in Livingstone. Part of the programme will look at how to ensure that the local leadership supports Jubilee-Zambia and is part of the movement. It is also strategizing on how it can begin to pay attention to the HIPC issue at local level.

OTHER ISSUES

Dissemination of Information: We continue to disseminate information on a quarterly basis through the post, e-mail and website.

Monitoring and Evaluation: We still have our bi-weekly and quarterly monitoring and evaluation sessions.

Improving our capacities: We will be acquiring new computers for the project and also check our training calendar in the coming quarter.

We look forward to any questions, comments or suggestions you may have.

Thank you

From

Jubilee-Zambia Secretariat

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11th April 2003