



STATE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT



An Address by **Sesel Zvidzai**
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Context



The Constitution provides for devolution of governmental powers among

1

Central
Government

2

Provincial &
Metropolitan councils

3

Local
Authorities



Laws Relating to Tiers of Government



The
Constitution



The Urban
Councils Act



Rural District
Councils Act



Regional Town
& Country
Planning Act



Traditional
Leadership Act

Laws not aligned to the constitution



Inter Governmental Relationships



Interference

Central Government Interference with Local Authorities



Procurement

Procurement is centralised

Staffing

Staff recruitment has been centralised.

Budgets

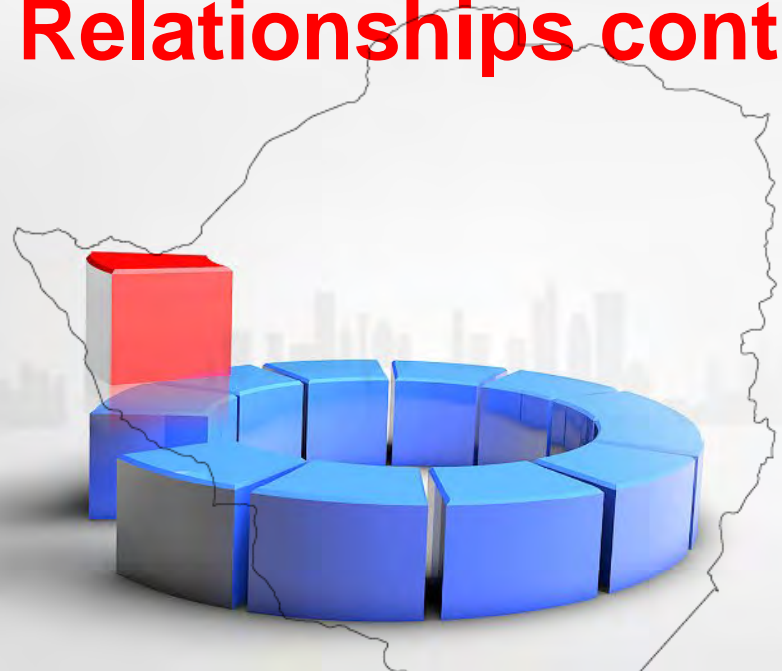
Budgets controlled by Central Govt and revenue streams taken away.

Innovation

Resolutions rescinded and innovations stopped



Inter Governmental Relationships cont....



Confidence

Lack of trust as tiers of government may not be under control of same party

Control

Usurpation of lower tiers of Govt by Central Government

Resources

Fiscal transfers from central government inequitable and insufficient

Remarks on SOLG



An environment of inter-governmental competition rather than cooperation



Mistrust.



Politically polarized environment leading illegal recalls, council committees rendered dysfunctional

Laws regulating work of tiers of government not aligned to the constitution



Not delivering to expectations of the people



Local Govt In Zimbabwe

The Service Delivery Truths

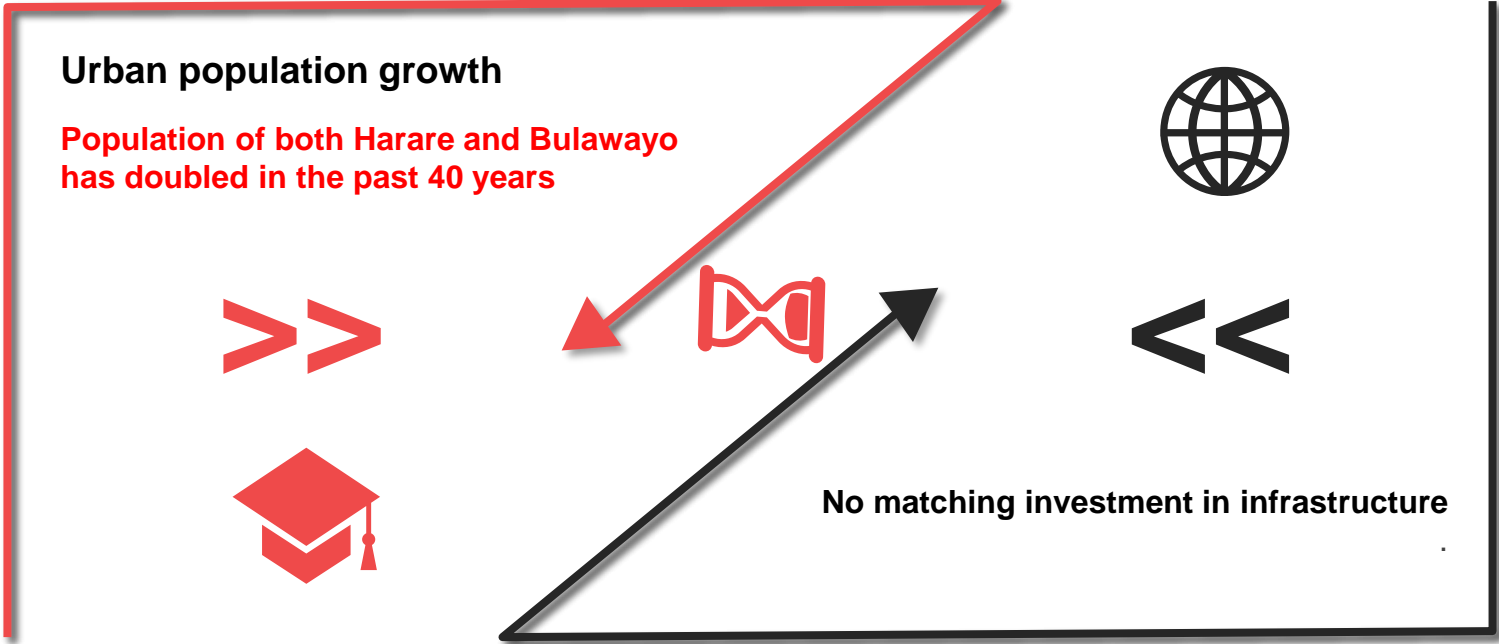


- 01 Infrastructure decay, roads impassable
- 02 Water and waste services poor
- 03 Shortage of decent shelter
- 04 Neighborhoods dilapidated
- 05 Recreational and amusement parks non existent
- 06 Safety and security , public lighting poor
- 07 Transport for commuting publics erratic
- 08 Poor Day care centres and primary health care





Truth or Excuse: What is the Truth





Hindrances to service delivery

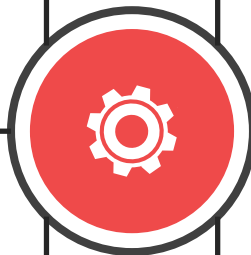
Excessive ministerial powers within a poisoned political environment and very nature of our overly polarized politics



Central Government reluctance to implement devolution so as to unleash the full potential of local strengths



Senior Council staff are employed, rewarded, dismissed by central government.. They account to Central Government



Procurement is done by Central Government



Budgets are passed by Central Government



Enfeebled Mayors & councilors
- **Mayors have no power**

A look at Procurement of Water Treatment Chemicals



(effects of centralization)

01 Hydrated Lime

02 Aluminium Sulphate

03 Sulphuric Acid

04 The above are key chemicals for water purification

05 All used to be made locally at Zimphos and G&W minerals in Harare

06 Now all imported through Chemplex from Zambia

07 Hydrated lime costs 120 usd ex Zambia, councils buy this from Chemplex for nearly 500 usd per tonne!!





Employment of Senior Staff:

The Case of James Mushore in Harare

- Harare City council did a rigorous selection process for Town Clerk
- Banker James Mushore was appointed by council March 2016
- Fired by Kasukuwere on the day he was appointed
- *Kasukuwere said “the Town Clerk of Harare was the second biggest Job in the country, and cannot be held by a non Zanu PF person”*
- Harare went for years without a substantive Town Clerk
- Heads of departments could not be removed until Central Gvt allowed that through the local government board





Central Government stifling innovation



The unbundling strategy

Creation of utilities

A business approach to find new revenue streams
and service provision re-modelling

All slowed down by Central Government
through the joint ventures act

Resolutions often rescinded



Towards Smart Local Governance

A system that delivers superior services



Implement Devolution fully; this is a system that was voted for by the people of Zimbabwe.



Councils will govern out of their own initiative, exercise power autonomously and pursue their strengths, and peculiarities



Accompany this with fiscal devolution, councils should be allowed to find productive revenue streams; Rates, fines and supplementary charges are low yielding revenue streams



Councils must be allowed to employ own staff on merit

Legislative Framework



Align the laws with the constitution

The spirit of the constitution is that local authorities be run by elected people; The mayor should have more power than the Town Clerk. Reintroduction of the Executive Mayors a necessity. A clear uncontested chain of command, with authority with responsibility.



Local Gvt Board

There is no place for a Local Govt Board in a devolved governmental system, council should be able to employ, reward and punish their own employees



Education

Mayors and councilors should have some minimum qualifications



LOCAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING

01

Fiscal devolution

- clear formula for equitable distribution of resources

02

Funding

Funding top-ups for infrastructure such as roads, water and waste water

03

Flexibility

Flexibility with respect to borrowing particularly for housing and informal settlements upgrading

04

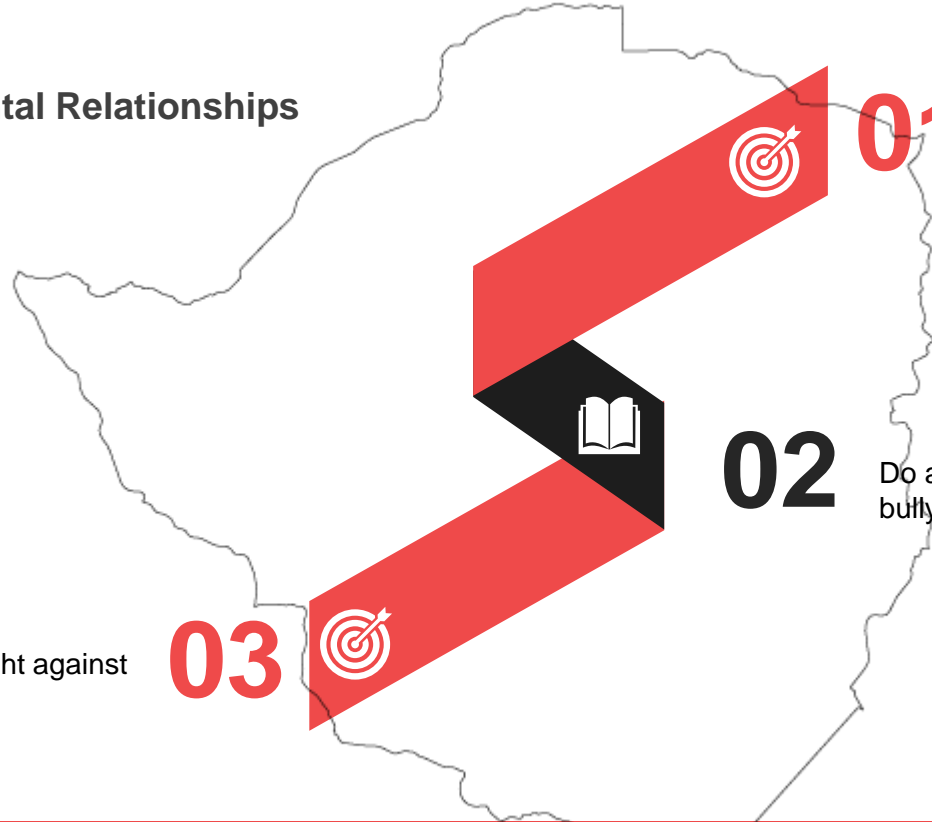
Legislation

Non restrictive rules on borrowing





Inter-Governmental Relationships



01

Create a platform to engender Inter-governmental cooperation

02

Do away with centre periphery bullying

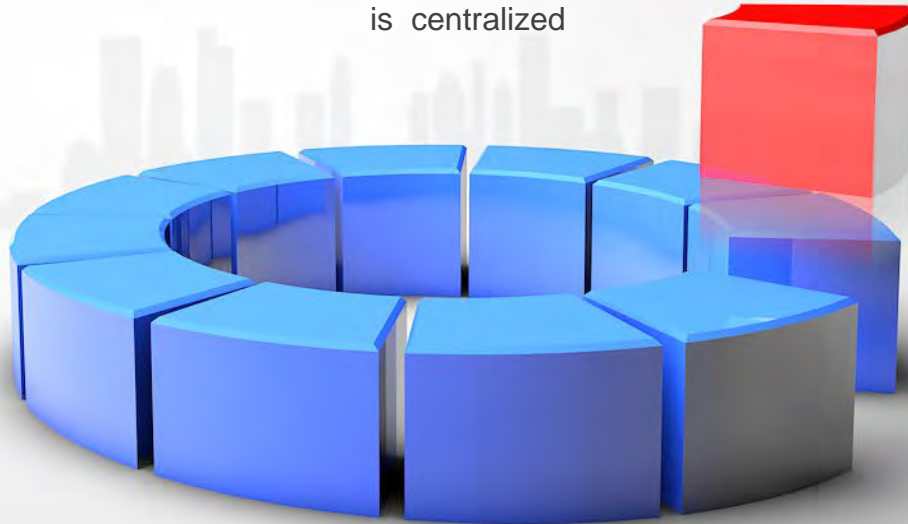
03

Non partisan fight against corruption



Procurement

Every council should be able to procure to best advantage. Dis economies of scale set in when procurement is centralized



People & Local Government



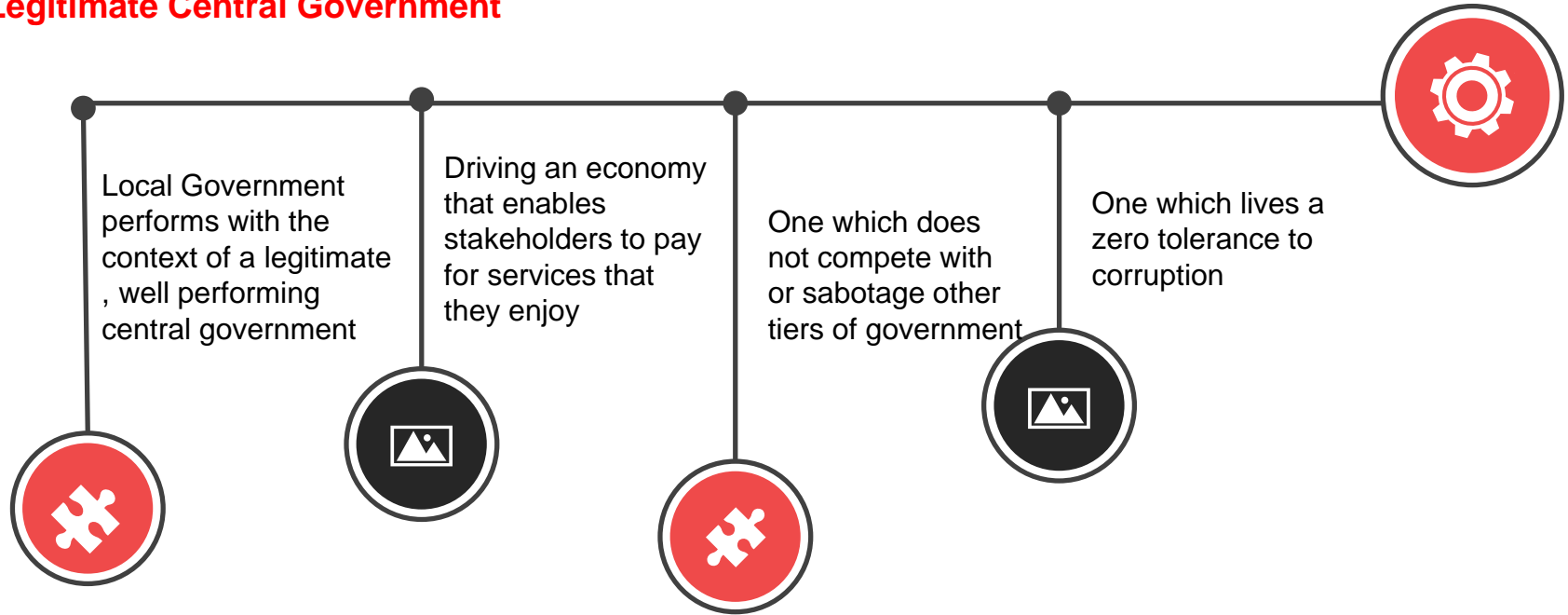
Place people at the centre of policy making, evaluation and general management of councils areas



Recalls should involve the voters



Legitimate Central Government





Thank you

