



Dear LNYB-Campaign Coordinators,

I hope that we are all keeping well and carrying through the spirit of the campaign in our various programs in the communities, a campaign which seeks to bring to the fore youth primacy and translate our numbers as youth (67.7%) into engines of social change and transformation in Zimbabwe. May we be encouraged in the efforts of the Gambian youth who ushered in democracy even when this was challenged by their leadership and in the Kenyan youth, who are making 51% (approximately 9.996.000) of their electorate that will be voting this August. We are resolute that through the LNYB Campaign youth agency in Zimbabwe is rising from the grassroots, from a mere 4% of us voting to a gigantic number that will see 60% of us exercising fully the right to vote.

**Please take note of the following updates regarding the campaign:**

**African Youth Peace Forum- Dialogue Exchange Program (DEP) at Nairobi**

NAYO attended the Forum which brought together 100 youth delegates in Kenya with representation from 12 African countries running under the theme, “uniting for peaceful elections.” The Forum provided a space for African youths to reflect on electoral processes in their countries which have mostly been marked by violence, questions on legitimacy of the electoral outcome and youth social exclusion, marginalization and exploitation by the political elite. Panellists and youth delegates shared their diverse experiences. Electoral violence was a key theme in the conference with both victims and survivors of the 2007 to 2008 electoral violence sharing experiences; violent extremism and youth recruitment – exploring the root causes of this and sharing practical ways of rehabilitating radicalized youth; the role of Sports and Arts in building social cohesion and creating violent free zones for youth; digital media platforms and how youths can tap into these to strengthen participation and awareness on critical issues; exploring Alternatives to Violence and the concept of shared security – campaigning for the African Union Declaration to put guns by 2020 and seek resolve to conflicts in non-military ways. We shared on the LNYB Campaign and the situation in Zimbabwe – in the process creating networks and linkages to strengthen the LNYB Campaign.

A key outcome from the meeting is the Nairobi Declaration on African Youth Connectedness and Participation in the Peaceful Development of our Continent and the formation of the African Youth Peace Network (AYPNet). [Please find attached the declaration]. NAYO was selected to sit in the steering committee. We will be sharing more on AYPNet and hope that we can all join the network.

**Petition to Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC)**

A democratic, free and fair election entails that all eligible voters, without exception, are not deliberately and/or unnecessarily disenfranchised through a cumbersome and difficult process of registering as voters. ZEC has come out again making it mandatory for all prospective voters to produce proof of residence. It is a fact that the majority of urban dwellers are lodgers and tenants who will not easily have access to proof of residence such as utility bills etc. This move by the government seeks to curtail the youth vote and keep many of us from voting as we find it difficult to meet this requirement. Youths in Kenya for instance, are not subjected to this requirement and so is the same in other African countries. Youths register with an Identification Card and are given a voter registration card – on voting they appear with their ID and voter registration card.

In response to this we have drafted an urgent petition to be submitted to the Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) on proof of residence requirement and issues which we feel if addressed will

allow for an enabling environment that will see a free and fair election. ***Please go through and make your inputs on or before the 7<sup>th</sup> of July 2017.*** We intend to submit this to ZEC with your inputs and approval early next week and launch a series of advocacy initiatives to push hard on this and ensure it is scrapped off.

### **Young Voters Platform**

YVP hit the ground over the weekend in Mashonaland West and conducted door to door and brief meetings with community members popularizing the clarion call that we all are making under the LNYB Campaign to mobilize our young people. We are encouraged in their zeal and efforts and also sacrificial efforts to this end, they covered Chegutu Urban and Zvimba South in the drive over the weekend.

### **Provincial Coordinators Meetings**

#### **Harare Province**

The province met to deliberate on actions that can be undertaken by the province to popularize and launch the campaign at the community level. They agreed and set the 15<sup>th</sup> of July where they will be holding a door to door campaign sensitizing youth on the LNYB Campaign and general civic and voter education (though limited) in selected districts of Chitungwiza. Apart from this, the province is looking forward to launching a dialogue series on elections. A key issue that was also discussed is the need for the LNYB Campaign to run regular (bi-weekly) tweet-bates on youth and electoral issues that combine regional and local panellists to popularize the campaign and grow visibility of the social media handles. We welcome your inputs on this before this is rolled out.

#### **Bulawayo Province**

The province met and deliberated on the launch of the LNYB Campaign and agreed to do this through a clean up campaign in Bulawayo on the 29<sup>th</sup> of July. The province will mobilize at least 200 youths for this and use the clean-up to sensitize local citizens on the LNYB campaign and also undertake civic and voter education (though limited).

We are encouraging other provinces to share on their plans and in the absence of resources to support the critical work of the LNYB Campaign to make efforts to engage the private sector to assist in meeting critical costs such as refreshments, venue hire etc. depending on the nature of the activity. In addition to this, we are urging you to regularly meet as Coordinators in your provinces and also begin to map other youth organizations or actors we can rope in on the campaign.

### **Social Media and Visibility**

This is a crucial component in our flagship LNYB Campaign. Kindly note our social media handles below:

**Main Page:**      **Twitter - @LvNoYouthBehind**      **Facebook – Leave No Youth Behind 2018**  
**Hashtags:**      **#leavenoyouthbehind2018**      **#MaYouth**

The main page of the LNYB Campaign has grown over the last few months to a followership of 443 followers with tweets increasing on the day – however we need to up the visibility of the campaign. We also are urging Coordinators to share with us their Twitter and Facebook handles so we grow the online community.