

Zimbabwe Launches Millennium Development Goals Report

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Zimbabwe launched its Millennium Development Goals Report in Harare, with pledges by Government, Business and Civil society to prioritise eradicating poverty, empowering women and fighting the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

Zimbabwe President, Robert Mugabe, officially launched the report and reaffirmed his support for the 2002 Millennium Declaration endorsed by more than 190 world leaders in Johannesburg, South Africa.

“ The human being is at the center of development and so no human being should be condemned. The Government of Zimbabwe has pledged to fight poverty, hunger, disease and exclusion and this has been the vision of the country since 1980,” said President Mugabe.

President Mugabe said even though the country was aware of the need to afford each individual basic human rights, this was being hampered mainly by prolonged drought and the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

“ The country is still recovering from the effects of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programmes which negatively impacted the economy of the country and the turnaround strategies currently being implemented will increase the economic sustainability of the country, therefore helping achieve the set goals of the Millennium Development Goals,” he said.

President Mugabe also said the country had made great strides in education. However, eradication of extreme poverty still remained a major challenge.

He said there were numerous areas in health, gender and education that were of concern to the nation and measures had been put in place to address these concerns. On the environment, President Mugabe said the Environmental Management Act was put in place to address environmental challenges, which included water and sanitation, deforestation, siltation and urban housing shortages.

IUCN-World Conservation Union Regional Director for Southern Africa, Dr James Murombedzi said it was encouraging to note that the Zimbabwe Government shared the same vision as the rest of the world in implementing strategies to achieve the set targets aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

“ The Government, The United Nations and the civil society share the same vision of attaining the set goals. The partners have all pledged to make available resources to make this vision come true. AS IUCN - we will support this initiative

by mobilising our capacity to meet the challenge and providing technical backstopping in the entire process,” he said.

The Government of Zimbabwe is a State member of IUCN – The World Conservation and the two, through the Ministry of Environment and Tourism as well as other arms of government, have implemented various activities aimed at building capacity, improving livelihoods and generating knowledge.

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