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OCTOBER 2024 NEWSLETTER

The NANGO Annual NGO Awards 2024
NOMINATIONS ANNOUNCEMENT

KEY DATES
Voting Opening Date: 15 September 2024
Voting Closing Date: 10 October 2024
Awards Ceremony: 25 October 2024

GENDER EQUALITY AWARD

- Zimbabwe Women's Bureau (ZWB)
- Emthonjeni Women's Forum (EFW)
- Musasa Project

To vote, please visit:
<https://forms.gle/aDZWk2pTwpKdbn9W6>

www.nangozim.org #NANGOAwards2024 #NGOAwards2024

EMTHONJENI WOMEN'S FORUM (EFW) was honoured with a national nomination for the NANGO (National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations) Gender Equality Award. This nomination acknowledges EFW's outstanding dedication to advancing gender equality and empowering women across Zimbabwe, particularly in rural communities. Known for its impactful programs, EFW has been celebrated for its efforts to prevent gender-based violence, support economic empowerment, and offer essential resources for women's rights.

EFW's nominations highlights its innovative and holistic approach, including economic empowerment, public education, advocacy and psychosocial support. Through income-generating projects, support for GBV survivors, and fostering an environment that challenges societal attitudes toward gender inequality, EFW has empowered women to lead self-sufficient, dignified lives.

The national recognition brings attention to EFW's transformative work in communities where many women are often left out. With initiatives such as community dialogues, male engagement sessions, and partnerships with traditional and religious leaders, EFW has fostered inclusivity, building support across different segments of society.

These nominations serve as a motivation for EFW towards empowering women with voice, choice, and agency. The national recognition is a powerful reminder that EFW's work is truly making a difference.

STRUGGLES OF PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS IN ACCESSING IDENTITY DOCUMENTATION

In Zimbabwe, particularly in rural areas like Tsholotsho, paternal grandparents face significant struggles in securing documentation for their grandchildren. With many parents migrating for work often to neighboring countries such as South Africa children are frequently left in the care of their grandparents. Cultural norms often dictate that a child belongs to the father and his family, leading many women to leave their children with paternal grandparents when they separate from their partners or leave in search of better opportunities. This situation becomes even more complex when it comes to accessing birth certificates as the Births and Deaths Registration (Amendment) Regulations, 2023 (No. 16), updated under Statutory Instrument 182, outlines that, when registering a child's birth, both maternal and paternal family involvement is required if the child's parents are unavailable. This regulation aims to ensure the accuracy and legitimacy of the registration process by verifying family lineage and providing additional family witnesses.



As a result, paternal grandparents, despite being primary caregivers, face bureaucratic hurdles that prevent them from obtaining essential documents for their grandchildren. This lack of documentation can have serious consequences, limiting the children's access to education, healthcare, and future opportunities.

PATERNAL GRANDPARENTS: STRUGGLING TO ACCESS IDENTITY DOCUMENTS FOR THEIR GRANDCHILDREN

Betty Sibandas' challenge of accessing identity documentation is a familiar one for most paternal grandparents in Tsholotsho. Betty has been looking after her two grandchildren since 2017 when their mother, her daughter-in-law abandoned them. The children are now in primary school, the eldest is in Grade 5 and the youngest is in Grade 3 and both lack the critical much needed documentation, birth certificates.

Betty explains her frustration: *"After my daughter-in-law gave birth, she left the children with her grandmother who brought them to me. I went to the Registrar's Office, but they said they need their mother's birth certificate and identity document."*

Betty recounts how difficult it has been to get her daughter-in-law to cooperate. *"I once called her, and she promised to come, but she never did. Now, I don't know what to do. My son passed away, and I can't keep following up with her. I am stuck, and so are the children."*

Betty's case highlights the challenges faced by many families in Tsholotsho in obtaining birth certificates. Without these documents, children are not only unable to sit for important school exams but also face a lifetime of restricted access to services and rights.

"How can we ensure these children have a future if we can't even secure the most basic documents for them?" said Betty, echoing the concerns of many grandparents and guardians struggling with the same issue.

TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Women in Ward 7 of (Vokola), Insiza are championing a multi-layered approach to economic empowerment, as they continue to see success in their greenhouse project. Equipped with a diverse skill set instilled by EMTHONJENI WOMEN'S FORUM (EWF), the women have integrated their training into a comprehensive strategy for sustainable development.

The women, who have received EWF's training in various fields, including "Start Your Business" financial skills, Internal Savings and Lending Schemes (ISAL), and GBV awareness as community cadres, are now leveraging their collective knowledge and expertise to drive the greenhouse project forward. Each participant brings a unique strength to the table, from financial literacy and savings management to community-building and support systems for GBV survivors.

"We're seeing how our skills really complement each other," said one of the greenhouse project leaders. *"Those with financial knowledge are helping us manage our budget and grow our income, while the community cadres ensure that we maintain a supportive environment for everyone."*

The women believe that this multi-layered approach, supported by EWF, is what sets their project apart. Together, they have a sustainable greenhouse a model of economic resilience and community support. The success of this project is now serving as an inspiration to other communities in Insiza, showing how skill-sharing and unity can foster long-term economic growth.