



Statement by Centre for Natural Resource Governance on the Occasion of the 33rd independence anniversary for Zimbabwe

Harare: 17 April 2013

Many were killed, many were maimed and dreams were shattered during the struggle for independence. Zimbabwe attained independence from Britain on 18 April 1980. The Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG) congratulates the people of Zimbabwe on the 33rd Anniversary of Independence.

It is now time Zimbabwe looks at how the gains of independence have been distributed among its citizens. It is rather sad that most Zimbabweans are much poorer today than during the colonial era. It is also unsettling that the gaps between the rich and poor, rural and urban and women and men continue to widen with each passing year.

Zimbabwe is rich in natural resources which, if managed professionally, can make a significant difference in the lives of the people. The country sits on an estimated 20-25% of the world's known diamond deposits. Further, Zimbabwe has the world's second largest reserves of platinum and chrome after South Africa. The country also boasts of impressive quantities of gold, coal, lithium, tantalite and methane gas.

Despite an increase in mining activities in recent years, the economy remains in a comatose state. Unemployment remains very high, hovering at above 80%. The benefits of land reform program and the subsequent indigenization law have all been felt by the country's political elites and their associates. The rural poor continue to be marginalized with far reaching consequences on women, children and the elderly

Although the situation is worrying, it is not too late for the country to put in place the right policies and put its economy on the development escalator.

As the nation celebrates 33 years of independence, CNRG calls on government to do the following:

- Ensure that Zimbabwe's natural resources are governed in a transparent and professional manner, for the good of all Zimbabweans
- make a strong commitment to fight corruption in high offices, especially those dealing with mining contract negotiations

- Use natural resource revenues to bridge the development gap between rural and urban communities
- Renegotiate mining deals that are not benefiting the Zimbabwean people

Contact Details

Tafadzwa Kuvheya: Communications and Advocacy Officer

Cell: 0778214013;

Farai Maguwu, Executive Director

Cell: 0735342058 Land+2632063620 Email: infor.cnrg@gmail.com