

JCTR NEWS



Jesuit Centre For Theological Reflection Newsletter

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Editorial

The JCTR newsletter editorial team is excited to once again publish the first edition of the JCTR News in 2016. In case you are hearing about us for the first time, the JCTR is a faith based organization which conducts research, education, advocacy and consultation in areas that promotes social justice, especially for the poor.

“Whatever you do, do it for the greater glory of God” Exodus 15:1. As a Centre we strive to foster and bring change in the nation only for the greater glory of God. We are always reminded to find fulfillment in working for the just cause for Jesus and humanity.

This first quarter unlike other years saw the JCTR start the year on a very busy note as the current strategic plan comes to and end. The Centre went into planning for the period 2017 to 2019. However, it was the retreat that set the pace for the year as staff let go of daily life to pose, pray and seek direction from God in their work.

Catching among other items is the current research going on in Economic transformation. The research mainly focuses on agriculture value addition. Coincidentally, our 2016 first quarter story of change is on agriculture.

In giving input to policy direction, the Centre made three submissions to the national assembly.

These and more stories from the JCTR compiled just for you from the Media and information office of the JCTR.

Happy Reading and wishing all of you our readers a fruitful second half of 2016!

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2017-2019 strategic planning a success

The strategic period 2014-2016 can be termed as a successful one for the JCTR. The JCTR managed to work at a full staffing capacity and saw the team partnering with other CSOs to implement activities. The centre saw a wider coverage in the media and more collaboration with partners.

The Centre now is drawing close to the end of the 2014 to 2016 Strategic plan. In this vein, from the 22nd to the 26th of February 2016 days were spent at Chita Lodge in Kafue to come up with a strategic plan for the period 2017 to 2019. The process begun with a contextual analysis and understanding of the environment in which the centre is operating. Mr. Norman Chavula the Planning Monitoring and evaluation officer led the process with Head of programmes Mr. Geoffrey Chongo. All staff includ-

ing facilitators from all outreach areas took part in this important activity.

The Head of programmes emphasised the importance of this planning and urged all staff to contribute meaningfully to this cause. By the end of the four days spent there, a draft of the plan was almost concluded. New areas of ad-

vocacy were dwelt into and it remains to be seen how these will be integrated into the work of the JCTR. The new areas are; Climate Change, in line with the *Laudato si* and Gender.

This was just the beginning of the process and more is yet to be done to accomplish a working strategic plan that will be sellable to funders and partners. JCTR remains open to working with like minded organisations in its quest to promote social justice for all.

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The Ignatian way....

Jesuit social Centers communication officials met for training in Communication and advocacy skills in Nairobi Kenya at Hekima Institute of peace studies from February 15th to 17th 2016. Social centers' represented included: The African Jesuit AIDS Network (AJAN, Kenya), Arrupe Centre for Research and Training, (CARF, RDC), Research Center for

Development office (JDO) and the JESAM secretariat. JCTR was represented by Media and Information Officers Tendai Posiana and Agness Chileya.

The training Objective was to strengthen the operational capacity of the Jesuit Africa Social



Peace (CERAP, Côte d'Ivoire) Research and Creativity Center (CREC, Benin), Arrupe Social Centre (CSA, Madagascar), Centre of Study for Social Action (CEPAS, RDC), Jesuit Africa Social Centers Network (JASCNET, Kenya), Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection (JCTR, Zambia), Jesuit Hakimani Centre (JHC, Kenya), Jesuit Institute of South Africa (JISA, South Africa), Jesuit Refugee Service East Africa (JRS, Kenya), Service Yezu Mwiza (SYM, Burundi). Also present were communication officers from West Africa Province (AOC), Zimbabwe-Mozambique Province, the JESAM



Centres, so that they can be an effective driving force of social change in Africa.

It was a great learning process from all participants as all centres shared their best practices of how they

communicate to their publics. The most exciting process was being in groups and discussing ways of how the centres can communicate and coordinate their efforts in promoting justice.

JCTR looks forward to more collaborative efforts with all the Jesuit social centres.

STORY OF CHANGE FROM THE KULIMA PROJECT – FEBRUARY 2016

This story comes from Ms Jessie Misozi Phiri Kabaghe of Funganisha Village in Nyangwena area of Rufunsa District.

Ms Kabaghe said that the most significant

Ms Jessie Misozi Phiri Kabaghe



change in her life came after she began practising organic agriculture in 2012. She was earlier involved in the “conventional” type of agriculture like everyone else, where she grew maize as a major food and cash crop. However she said that at that time she experienced many challenges because every year she was required to purchase agricultural inputs that included seed and both basal and top dressing fertilizers. She said that this was not only ex-

pensive for her, but that she also experienced other challenges associated with late delivery of inputs under the Farmer Input Support Programme (FISP), which usually affected her crop yield. “Since I began practicing organic farming I have not experienced these problems because the crops I now grow do not require chemical fertilizers and for most of them, I use seed from the previous year’s harvest. Organic farming is interesting and I’m still learn-

The groundnut field.



ing new things. What makes it more exciting is that we use things that are readily available within our communities”. She said.

...Kulima story of change

Under the Kulima Project Ms Kabaghe is involved in agro forestry, where she grows various fruit trees for sale. She has nurseries for various trees, which include Mango, Guava, Lemon, Orange, Avocado Pears and Bananas. She has also introduced into her nursery other trees, which include Senna Siamea, leucaena leucocephala, Moringa Oleifera, Musangu (*Faidherbia albida*) and *Tephrosia Vogelli*, locally known as *Ubu-ba*, with which she is experimenting to start making pesticides for spraying other crops. In order to have a constant supply of manure she rears goats, ducks, chickens and pigeons and she has a small herd of cattle. She said that previously she looked after goats and chickens but did not know how to build their houses. “Previously we were looking after chickens and goats but we did not know how to construct their houses. We were building the houses on the ground but now we have learnt to build them in high places. Not only does this protect our livestock but it makes it easy for us to from all our animal droppings, which we use to make compost manure. Droppings from all our animals are a source of manure for our crops”. She said. Ms Kabaghe said that



Poultry run with chickens, ducks and pigeons , source of Manure

she had also learnt other soil preservation methods, which includes intercropping and crop rotation. “Organic agriculture is about soil preservation, mostly we are adding nutrients to the soil through the manure, which we physically apply and by growing plants, which add nutrients to the soil. We have learnt that leguminous plants like Cow Peas, Pigeon

Peas, Velvet Beans, Groundnuts and Sun hemp are nitrogen fixing plants, so we intercrop them with other plants and when we practice crop rotation, we make sure that these exchange with other plants that use

the nitrogen in the soil. We have also learnt to test the soil pH, and when the soil acidity is high, we have learnt how to raise the pH by adding lime to the soil. A good soil must have an acidity of between pH 5.5 and 6.5” she said.

On her five hectare plot, Ms Kabaghe has planted two varieties of Open Pollinated Varieties (OPV) of maize known as Gankata and Afric 1, which were intercropped with cowpeas, and Groundnuts, which are intercropped with fruit trees. She said that the crop looks promising

...Kulima story of change

and she is assured of a good yield despite the poor rainfall pattern experienced during the 2015 to 2016 farming season.

On the impact of the organic farming under the Kulima project in her life, she said that organic agriculture has become her source of livelihood. "Once I harvest my maize, each year I leave 20 bags the food for my household and I sell the rest. Proceeds from the maize groundnuts, other crops and fruit trees provide me with income which I use to buy groceries and I am able to pay school fees for the children", she said. Ms Kabaghe also said that her problem of failing to grow her crops when she had no money to buy seed and fertilizers were over after she engaged in organic farming and she was no longer affected by the late delivery of farming inputs. She also said that she was saving money, which she could have been used for buying seed and fertilizers. Ms Kabaghe said that she now had access to healthy food, which is grown the natural way. "Organically grown food is healthier and tastes better; I am able to distinguish between organic crops from those grown from hybrid seed or those that are grown using chemical fertilizers. With this type of agriculture I am sure that I am managing the soil prudently and I am confident this farm will remain productive even for the future generations. Thanks to Kasisi Agricultural Training College (KATC) for

the training they have been providing to us." She said.

This story and many other stories from other organic farmers under the Kulima project indicated that there are many benefits in practicing this type of farming. Some of the major benefits include the improved soil fertility and the reduction in the dependence on hybrid seed and chemical fertilizer, which can be expensive especially for the small scale farmers. It was also recognised as a source of income. Not only is organic farming environmentally friendly, it has the potential for contributing towards the development of the agricultural industry, especially among small scale farmers and in rural communities and ultimately to the overall economic growth of the country. However, there are still challenges being experienced in this industry and these include the low support for organic farming by the government, which has subsequently led to difficulties in marketing of organic produce. It would be recommended for stakeholders in the industry to advocate for more sensitisation on organic agriculture as a more sustainable and ecological friendly agricultural method as well as advocating for policies that support of organic farming.

Active Citizenship a Must!

Mongu outreach office on February 15th and 16th brought together people from communities, NGOs, political parties etc.

The group gathered for a civic awareness meeting aimed at creating Servant Leadership-based communities able to identify major challenges affecting them and how these could be addressed through Servant Leadership Values and Civic Awareness. Also, to ensure communities understand the practices of effective Electoral Duties and Electoral Apathy and to ensure communities work together to challenge politicians to be servant leaders. Furthermore, the meeting educated communities that voting was a duty not to be left in the hands of a few, with a view to reduce voter apathy in the coming 2016 elections

The meeting which was held at the catholic Youth Alive Centre drew participants to resolve to sensitize others and work together in assessing aspiring candidates for people to vote for leaders with people

at heart stating that hardships in communities did not choose who to affect. The Youths in the meeting committed to promoting peaceful campaigns and elections and to say no to political party leaders sending them to participate in violence.

JCTR and likeminded CSOs including community members were urged to sensitize the grassroots in the outskirts so that they were not easily cheated that they were being monitored during voting. Some community members said there were people in the communities who believed that they were been monitored while casting their votes in the booths.

From the way the participants debated the issues tabled, it was clear that the knowledge imparted was understood and we look forward to a more active Mongu community especially during this election year.

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We Do it for Social Justice

The JCTR endeavours to promote the creation of a just Zambian Society for all. From January 2016 to March 2016, the JCTR in its advocacy work has made three submissions to parliament aimed at influencing policy direction on various national policy issues.

The first submission which was jointly made with Kasisi Agriculture Training College on the 15th of January to the Parlia-



mentary committee on agriculture mainly looked at influencing government to review the implementation of the farmer input support programme. The second and third submissions were to the committee on economic affairs, energy and labour on February 1st and 8th. The former was on the high levels of poverty amidst high growth in Zambia while the later was in line with transparency in the financial market,

Financial Intelligence Centre (Amendment) and Movable Property Bill Submission. The social and Economic development programme spearheaded these submissions.

Other than that, the programme issued out a statement on the Mining

Tax Policy Shifts which have become a Source of Concern for the JCTR and all well-meaning Zambians. Since 2011 when the Patriotic Front ascended to power, they have changed the tax policy not less than

three times.

The centre hopes that Government will critically analyse these issues in order to help reduce poverty and promote sustainable development. All well-meaning stakeholders are also called upon to continue speaking together strongly to government on such and other policy issues.

Economic Transformation, are we there yet?

Taking a step further after the release of the 'Creating an enabling Pro Poor Business Environment,' study report The JCTR embarked on another research focusing on Agro Business and its role in economic transformation. The research which is being spearheaded by head of Programmes Mr. Geoffrey Chongo with financial support from CAFOD has seen a number of round table stakeholders meetings being held around the country. Some of the places where round table meetings have been held include Kitwe, Lusaka and Chipata.

Not only has it been a local study, JCTR from the 9th to 16th of March met in Addis Ababa to discuss economic transformation in the context of the sustainable development goals and the African Union Vision 2063 and initiate dialogue between UNECA and African civil society on the African economic transformation agenda to come up with strategies for an ongoing critical engagement of African civil society in the discourse

and implementation of the transformation agenda. Up to twenty Civil Society and United Nation Economic Commission for Africa, UNECA representatives attended the round table discussion.

After the research has concluded, it is expected that partners in this research which include, JCTR, Zambia, Hakimani, Kenya, poverty reduction forum trust, Zimbabwe and CAFOD, UK will report back to CAFOD on the outcomes of the roundtable meetings and more so how they will mainstream issues of economic transformation in their work.

In Inclusive economic transformation, indigenous financing is central. In contexts where there are resource and budgetary constraints we need to think more creatively about resourcing and most importantly stretch our thinking beyond taxation.

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We Pose and pray

To begin the year, the JCTR staff leaves everything to pose, reflect and seek God's guidance during the year by going on retreat. This year, the retreat was held from February 10th to 12th 2016 at Kasisi retreat Centre.

The retreat which was facilitated by Fr. Nicholas Hamakalu SJ led the team into refocusing on the fact that being at the JCTR is not by chance but a calling to a mission of spreading God's love through speaking for the voiceless. "When we meet broken people, we become more broken ourselves. Brokenness should make us have more humility," He reminded staff not to dwell on past glory but to continue breaking new ground and frontiers, especially through outreach. This was during the first session on "looking back with gratitude and humility".

Then the team went into looking to the future. Fr. Hamakalu said that staff should fit into the contemporary situations as Jesus was in touch with the present realities of that time. So how do we look to the future in this day and age? By living the present with passion and embracing the future with hope.

The second session was based on the Pope's guide to lent and diseases that in-

stitutions such as JCTR must watch out for. Fr. Nicholas said that giving up alcohol or meat was good because it changes one's body. Yet he challenged staff to change their hearts, rather than their bodies. He said fasting was a good thing but can become a trap on the other hand. He outlined the illnesses and diseases that JCTR should watch out for as follows:

- * Losing human sensitivity
- * Disease of excessive planning.
- * Disease of poor coordination amongst the departments or units.
- * Bragging rights—which wing of the JCTR is more important? Outreach or Faith and Justice? SED or Media unit?
- * Disease of gossip grumbling and backbiting.
- * Disease of closed circles – cliques.

Staff was reminded that there was dignity in being different hence; they should appreciate each other's energies and talents. "Let us keep the vision and mission of the JCTR alive for those who will take over from us.

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Care for our Common Home

The JCTR in collaboration with Caritas Zambia and Zambia Episcopal conference organised an international conference from April 25th to 26th 2016 which gathered delegates from around the world for on the Laudato Si.

The conference under the theme, **'care for our common home-** in the context of large scale mining and **agriculture,'** saw religious leaders, political

leaders, academicians, Civil Society Organisations and other interest groups converging at the Government complex to discuss issues of our common home, mother earth in light of climate change.

President of the pontifical council for Justice and Peace Cardinal Peter Turkson representing the Holy See graced the event while Apostolic Nuncio to Zambia and Malawi Most Rev. Julio

Murat was also present at the conference. The Zambian Government was represented by Minister of Lands Honourable Christabel Ngimbu.

The two day conference brought out challenges from the agriculture sector

and the effects that large scale mining has had on the environment. Best practices in Agriculture were shared by farmers in terms of combating the effects of climate change and ways of adapt-

ing. Commitments were also made by mining owners on enhancing their corporate social responsibility efforts to the communities around the mining areas .

It is the responsibility of every well meaning human being to take care of the home that God gave us, for our sake and for generations to come.



Bishops of Zambia pose for a photo with President of the pontifical council for justice and peace Cardinal Peter Turkson ,Minister of lands Hon. Christabel Ngimbu... And Apostolic Nuncio for Zambia and Malawi Rev. Julio Murat

JCTR and Coalition members picket parliament on enactment of ATI Bill



JCTR Executive Director Fr. Leonard Chiti reading out the petition to Hon. Kabinga Pande supported by Operation Young Vote Executive Director Guess Nyirenda

JCTR together with the Civil Society Coalition on the enactment of the Access to Information Bill on May 4th picketed parliament where they presented a petition signed by 101, 799 people from 70 districts demanding the enactment of the Access To Information law.

The petition was presented to the chairperson of the information and broadcasting committee Kabinga Pande by coalition chairperson Fr. Leonard Chiti.

Fr. Chiti reiterated that the coalition will remain steadfast and work with progressive members of parliament and

other stakeholders to ensure that the Access to Information Bill is tabled without any further delays.

The enactment of the ATI bill will **enhance government's transparency, and accountability.**

The JCTR is hopeful that this Bill will be enacted into Law sooner rather than later **for the enjoyment of the citizen's freedom.**

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Friends of the JCTR

The Zambia Catholic University (ZCU) Development Studies students accompanied by their Lecturer Mrs. Martina Mwanza on Friday April 8th 2016 visited the JCTR offices in Kitwe.

The Visit was a familiarisation tour on the advocacy



Scholastics pose for a photo with JCTR Director Fr. L. Chiti and Media and Information Officer Tendai Posiana



Zambia Catholic University Students

And in Lusaka, the centre hosted Jesuit scholastics from Zimbabwe who were accompanied by Fr. Francis Chishala. The scholastics were on a familiarisation tour on the work of JCTR being one of the social centres for the Jesuits.

work of the Centre on social justice.

The team was hosted by assistant media and information officer for the JCTR; Miss. Agness Chiley.

The JCTR looks forward to more collaboration with the ZCU team and the Scholastics!

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Chavuma Baseline Survey Results Launched

In partnership with DIAKONIA, the Jesuit Centre for Theological Reflection's (JCTR) Social Accountability Project (SAP) on May 18th 2016 launched the Chavuma District baseline survey report whose research was conducted in 2014.

The baseline survey was meant to create a

basis for advocacy and to raise community awareness on issues of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) in light of mining explorations that are being conducted Chavuma.

From the findings, there is generally little awareness among community members on public and corporate social projects

undertaken and their involvement in the planning of these projects.

JCTR on this day also launched the Chavuma Rural Basic Needs

Basket with two researchers at the center of data collection on a quarterly basis. The RBNB is a tool among others that the JCTR uses to bring out the living conditions of people and use it to lob-

by government and other stakeholders in order to promote a dignified livelihood.

The Chavuma Baseline study report can be accessed from our website on;

www.jctr.org.zm/images/ChavumaBaselineReport.compressed.pdf

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Picture focus



JCTR staff during a referendum and Bill of rights clinic. The clinic was conducted prior to a countrywide sensitization campaign that the team has embarked on.



Media and information officer Tendai Posiana attending to guests at the JCTR stand at the 6th Zambia mining and energy conference and exhibition held at the Mulungushi Conference centre.



JCTR programme officer explaining the work of the JCTR to the Jesuit scholastics who visited the Centre



Sharon Chileshe, SED Acting Programme Manager at a public hearing on the 2017 National Budget. The hearing was in collaboration with Caritas and CSPR



SED Acting Programme manager Sharon Chileshe addressing stakeholders at a public discussion on sustainable agriculture



Coalition members picketing at parliament for the enactment of the ATI Bill

Give us a call for more information about our advocacy work;

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“A just Zambian Society guided by Faith where everyone enjoys the fullness of life”.