



Converner/Moderator

Ibbo Mandaza
Sapes Trust Policy Dialogue Forum



Panelist

Joseph Mverecha
Chief Economist AFC Holdings



Panelist

Janet Zhou
ZIMCODD Executive Director

Date: 8 July 2021
Time: 17:30 - 19:30 CAT



Meeting ID: 530 628 3186
Passcode: 555888



Watch live stream via SAPES FACEBOOK PAGE
<http://www.facebook/sapestrust/>



Panelist

Phillan Zamchiya
Academic and Political analyst



Panelist

Tendai Biti
Former Minister of Finance, Zimbabwe

FORTHCOMING ONLINE POLICY DIALOGUE FORUM ON ZOOM No 12 for 2021

Thursday 8 July, 2021

@17:30 – 19:30PM CAT

“The Recent IMF and World Bank Reports on Zimbabwe: Evidence of Economic Recovery or Delusions Underpinned by Conventional Motives?”

Concept Note

Is it true that Zimbabwe is on the road to recovery? Are we headed for middle-income status in 2030? Or is the country really in deep trouble? It depends on who you listen too, and what they are talking about economically speaking.

Zimbabwe is rated as one of the most fragile countries in the world, as well as one of the most corrupt. Apart from reports on the existence of cartels and the Illicit Financial Flow associated with these, the Auditor-General reports that over ZWL7 billion (US\$90 million) worth of government expenditure cannot be accounted for.

Expert reports suggest that nearly 5 million people were food insecure in January of this year, and that this was now a feature of the urban areas. The Consumer Council of Zimbabwe, in its most recent report, estimates that a Zimbabwean family of six now needs the equivalent of US\$480 per month to meet its basic needs, and even the World Bank reckons that nearly 50% of Zimbabweans are now “extremely poor”. On top of all of this, the government creates even greater hardship by embarking on the destruction of the informal sector’s means of livelihood.

In this context, it seems difficult to understand how the World Bank and the IMF can give Zimbabwe even a passing grade in their latest reports, as they do, and against the background of multiple reports indicating that the government has not been taking their advice.

Why this change of heart? Why the suggestion that things are improving? Why the avoidance of the hard political realities in Zimbabwe? Is there something we all do not understand?

The 12th SAPES Policy Dialogue will bring together an expert panel to discuss the World Bank and IMF reports, and unpack what is missing.