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**Report on the Visit to Whawha ‘Young Offenders’ Prison on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2016**



## **1. Introduction**

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) is one of the five Independent Commissions established by the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) Act 2013. The details of the establishment, functions and reporting mechanisms of the ZHRC are provided for in Sections 242 to 244 of the Constitution. Within its broad mandate, one of the functions of the ZHRC is to carry out monitoring and inspection visits to prisons and other places of detention as well as other related facilities where different categories of people are institutionalised (S.243(1)(k)). With support of the project coordinated by the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR), ZHRC visited Whawha 'Young Offenders' Prison in Midlands Province on the 16<sup>th</sup> of February 2016.

The purpose of the mission was to assess the living conditions of juvenile inmates and the status of their facilities, as well as to hear the general concerns of the inmates and their proposals for solutions and recommendations. The visit aimed also at enabling ZHRC to come up with a report with findings and recommendations specifically directed to the relevant government ministries and departments in trying to improve conditions in the juvenile prisons in Zimbabwe.

The team was led by the Chairperson of the ZHRC, Commissioner E.H Mugwadi who is also the Chairperson of the ZHRC Thematic Working Group (TWG) on Children's Rights. Moreso, the visit provided an opportunity for the Commission to raise visibility on the institution's role, mandate and work and further strengthen partnerships with different stakeholders working with inmates.



Fig 1: *In the front, third from the left, Commissioner E.H Mugwadi touring the Whawha Young Offenders premises, in the company of Prison Officials and ZHRC Monitoring Team*

## **2. Objectives**

- i) To have an appreciation of the young offenders' experiences, for the purposes of making specific recommendations on their living conditions to Government, Parliament, and relevant Government Ministries and Departments.
- ii) To fulfil ZHRC's obligation to monitor and inspect prisons (in terms of section 243(1)(k)(i) of the Constitution) to ensure the observance of human rights and humane treatment of inmates in relation to enjoyment of basic human rights and provision of their needs as provided for in the International and local standards and regulations.
- iii) To introduce the ZHRC, as the National Human Rights Institution with the mandate to promote and protect the rights of prisoners in Zimbabwe to inmates, prison officials and other, relevant stakeholders.

## **3. Methodology**

In carrying out the mission, the ZHRC made use of a combination of methodologies to gather information for the generation of practicable and informed recommendations. Throughout the inspection visit, the interactions were highly participatory in nature. The approaches adopted included desk review, purposive interviews especially with Officials, focus group discussions as well as observations.

- 3.1 Desk Research:** A desk research was conducted on national, regional and international instruments and principles that guide the treatment of prisoners. The team was guided by a draft set of questions which paid attention to the various concerns of inmates as well as prison officials.
- 3.2 Observations:** The delegation toured Whawha ‘Young Offenders’ Prison premises (See Fig. 1) observing and collecting relevant information regarding the overall situation, paying particular attention to the general living conditions as they relate to human rights. Key issues noted included the general outlook of the environment, quality and quantity of food, water and sanitation related issues; clothing, bedding and shelter; education and health facilities, and also the manner in which interviewees responded to issues and interaction of inmates amongst themselves.
- 3.3 Key informant:** These were purposive interviews that were carried out with prison officials, including the Officer in Charge on the day in question. Clarifications were also sought from the Officers as the delegation was touring the premises.
- 3.4 Focus Group discussions:** Two focus group discussions were carried out with juvenile offenders to get their position on the general prison conditions, their concerns and proposed recommendations.



*Fig 2: ZHRC Chairperson leading a group discussion with inmates.*

#### **4. Ethical Considerations**

ZHRC had made effort in notifying the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services of its intended prison visits in the Midlands Province. It is worth noting that ZHRC received cooperation from the prison which enabled the ZHRC to carry out its work freely and waived the requirement of a confirmation letter from the Head Office. The Head Office and the station allowed the commission to take photographs but informed consent was obtained from the inmates concerned. During the photo shoots, ZHRC was accompanied by the Prison security team who would record the pictures taken in line with the prison's security requirements. It has to be emphasised that the photos taken were purely for the purposes of this report.

#### **5. Legal Frameworks Governing Prisons**

##### **i. Constitutional and Legislative Frameworks**

The Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) Act 2013 is the supreme law in as far as ensuring the rights of inmates/detained persons is concerned. The following sections of the Constitution and other national legislation are relevant:

- **Section 50** -provides for rights of arrested and detained persons, to include the right to be treated humanely and with respect for their inherent dignity.
- **Section 51** - provides for the right to human dignity
- **Section 53** - provides for freedom from torture or cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.
- **Section 77** - provides for the right to food and water, this includes right to sufficient food.
- **Section 75** - right to education, to include a basic state-funded education
- **Section 81** - provides for the rights of children, this includes the right to equal treatment before the law, including the right to be heard.

The legislation governing prisons in Zimbabwe is the **Prisons Act [Chapter 7:11]** and Statutory Instrument 96 of 2012 which provides for minimum dietary scale for inmates.

### **Definition of a child in terms of the Zimbabwe Legislation.**

In terms of S. 81(1) of the **Constitution of Zimbabwe**, a child has been defined as any person who is below the age of eighteen(18) years. Efforts are being made to align the various pieces of legislation on children to the Constitution as currently they provide for varied ages.

### **ii. Regional and International Legal Framework**

Zimbabwe ratified the **Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)** in 1990, on 19<sup>th</sup> January 1995 it ratified the **African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (ACRWC)**. It ratified **ILO Convention No. 182 on the Worst Forms of Child Labour** in 2000<sup>1</sup>. The main instruments that were used to guide the assessment are the **United Nations Standard Minimum Rules on the Administration of Juvenile Justice ('the Beijing Rules')** 1985, the **United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles deprived of their Liberty ('the Havana Rules')** 1990, the **United Nations on the Rights of the Child (CRC)**, **United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners**, the **International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)** as well as the **International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)**.

Although not necessarily binding on states like a treaty, the following instruments provides guidelines for the basic minimum standards when dealing with inmates:

#### **a. The UN Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty**

These rules provides for measures to be taken to ensure that juvenile detainees, and offenders, are given fair treatment and receive consideration for their age.<sup>2</sup> These rules for example, states that life imprisonment without the possibility of parole should not be

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<sup>2</sup> United Nations General Assembly. Resolution 45/113. United Nations Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty .December14,1990



imposed for offences committed by children. In addition, the Beijing Rules provide that children shall not be subjected to corporal punishment. The Human Rights Committee has submitted that when dealing with child detainees, corporal punishment constitutes cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment contrary to article 7 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Thus, children are not supposed to be subjected to any form of cruel treatment whilst in detention. Basically these rules have their foundation from the Convention on the Rights of Children (CRC), and the detention standards are closely linked to those provided for in the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.

#### **Main Provisions looked at**

- **Physical environment and accommodation (S.31)** – provides that young offenders have the right to facilities and services that meet all the requirements of health and human dignity.
- **Clothing (S. 36)** – states juveniles should have the right to use their own clothes and/or clothing suitable for the climate....
- **Food & Water (S.37)** – provided that juveniles must receive food that is suitably prepared and presented at normal meal times and of good quality and quantity. Clean water has to be always available.
- **Education and Vocational training ( S.38)** – stipulates that juveniles of school going age have the right to education, wherever possible. S. 42 states that juveniles have the right to receive vocational training in areas that can prepare them for future employment.
- **Recreation ( S.47)** – Juveniles have the right to suitable amount of time recreation and physical training/exercises in open air.
- **Medical care (S. 49)** - juveniles need to receive adequate medical care that is both preventative and remedial. Special diets need to be available.
- **Contact with outside world (S.59)** – measures need to be taken to ensure that juveniles have adequate communication with the outside world , to receive regular visits and access to communication means.
- **Limitations of physical restraint and use of force (S.63)** – any instruments of restraint and use of force are prohibited. Such can only be used in exceptional cases where other alternative measures have failed. Disciplinary measures need not be cruel or degrading.

#### **b. United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners**

Some of the relevant provisions of this instrument pertain to the following:

- **Personal hygiene** - inmates should be provided with adequate water, toilet articles and are required to be generally clean.

- **Clothing and Bedding** –inmates are to be provided with adequate and suitable clothing, and that they should be provided with separate beds which are clean and sufficient bedding.
- **Food** - wholesome, well prepared food is to be given to inmates, and that drinking water should be available at all times.
- **Medical services** - a medical officer with knowledge of psychiatry is to be available at every institution as well as a dental officer.
- **Discipline and punishment**- discipline should not be more restrictive than what is necessary to ensure custody and order.

**iv. Institution personnel** - officers are compelled not to use force except in self-defence, cases of attempt to escape or resistance to an order based on law or regulation.

## **6. Brief introduction to Whawha Prison Complex**

Whawha Prison Complex contains three different prisons in the same complex which are Whawha Medium, Whawha Maximum and Young Offenders which is for the young inmates that is those from the age of 15 – 21 years. Whawha young offenders was converted from an adult to a young offenders' prison on the 12th of May 2005 and it has a holding capacity of 450 inmates, young offenders live separately from adults. This institution caters for juvenile offenders from all over Zimbabwe. Whawha Prison Complex is located in the Midlands region, 23 km outside Gweru along Mvuma road. At the time of the visit, it was reported that the institution accommodated a total of 281 juvenile offenders who were all male. Staff compliment was at 129 Officers (82 male/47 females) to cater for various duties such as education, health, technical and general duties. The new organogram provides for 123 Officers.

## **7. Findings and Observations**

### **i. Prison Environment**

The delegation toured the premises of Whawha 'Young offenders' Prison sections which comprised of the cells, clinic, offices, classrooms, workshop, the garden, storeroom and the kitchen. The general outlook of the prison's environment was 'fair'. This, to some



extent was in line with the provisions of the U.N Minimum Standards which provide that; *“All parts of an institution regularly used by prisoners shall be properly maintained and kept scrupulously clean at all times.”*<sup>3</sup>

## **ii. State of Cells**

Article 10 of the UN Minimum Standards read together with S.31 of the UN Rules for protection of Juveniles, provides that all accommodation provided for the use of prisoners and in particular sleeping accommodation should meet all requirements of health, with attention paid to climatic conditions and particularly to cubic content of air, minimum floor space, lighting, heating and ventilation. In assessing the obligations in accordance with this provision, the ZHRC noted that the state of cells was ‘fair’ especially in regards to efforts to make them clean. There is however need to renovate and repair most of the cells and install doors. The cell entrances only have screens/burglar bars and no doors to close them. It was highlighted that this poses a challenge in winter and rainy seasons. The inmates complained of water getting inside the cells during rainy season and extreme cold in winter. They also stated that in hot seasons they are easily beaten by mosquitoes. There is need for constant repair and maintenance of the cells and the prison infrastructure. The conditions of the toilets were in a bad state.

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<sup>3</sup> Article 14 of the United Nations Standard Minimum rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.



Fig 3: One of the cell's entrance without a door and the typical dilapidated inside toilet.

### iii. Interaction with the outside world and relationship with Prison officials

The inmates complained of minimal interaction with the outside world since only one phone is available to cater for calls and these calls are made via the office in the presence of prison officials for security reasons. The inmates advised that they are permitted to send letters, although they seemed to doubt if they ever reached the intended recipients. Inmates acknowledged that they were allowed visitors and that the prison officers allowed them to have peaceful interaction with their relatives but only a few received visitors as in some instances, these are the people whom they would have offended and some of the inmates have lost contact with their relatives. Such a practice is in line with S.59 of the Rules for Protection of Juveniles and UN guiding rule which states that; *"Prisoners shall be allowed under necessary supervision to communicate with their family and reputable friends at regular intervals, both by correspondence and by receiving visits<sup>4</sup>."*

### iv. Food and Water

Article 20 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners and S.37 of the Rules on Protection of Juveniles emphasise the need for quality and quantity of

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<sup>4</sup> Article 37 of the UN Standard Minimum rules for the treatment of prisoners

food which is of nutritional value which must be adequate for health and strength and that it should be wholesome and well prepared and served. It also provides that drinking water should always be available. In addition, S.I 96/2012 provides for the minimum nutritional food that maybe served to inmates to include sadza, meat, sugar beans, vegetables, sugar, salt and porridge.

However, due to budgetary constraints cited by the officials, inmates are fed a diet that is of limited nutritional value. The inmates get meals three times a day with porridge in the morning at 08:00 hours, lunch between 12:00-13:00 hours and supper from 15:30-16:00hours, alternating sadza and beans or vegetables for lunch and supper. It was stated that due to economic hardships meat was not served as part of the diet and that it had been last served on Christmas and New Year's Day. The garden was the main source of vegetables providing two types of vegetables mainly covo and spinach. However, there were allegations from inmates that the quality of food did not meet minimum standards as vegetables or sugar beans were usually served without cooking oil (See Fig. 4) which was last served in December 2015, and porridge served without sugar. Prisoners also reported that meat was not part of the diet they received. During group discussions, inmates raised that the food portions were small and inadequate and there was no room to ask for more.

Prison officials stated that the budget apportionments that they were receiving were inadequate to cater for the ideal situation at the prison. They stated that they had been receiving some support from other organisations such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Donors and Faith Based Organisations, among others. Prison officials indicated that in as much as the resources were not enough, the situation was generally manageable considering the state of the economy.

An unusual matter that was flagged out in regards to food was a serious concern on the absence of special dietary requirements. This fall short of the requirements of S.49 of the Rules for the Protection of Juvenile which emphasizes the availability of special diets on medical grounds. The ZHRC team was advised that there was no special

dietary requirement for those who were ill, especially those with stomach ulcers, in so doing endangering the health of inmates. “*Tinoshanda nezviripo*” said the Officer in Charge in Shona, meaning they have to make do with what is available. The inmates indicated that they have their last meal for the day around 4pm and were not allowed to take any food into the cells thereafter, yet some of their health conditions will not allow them to eat under pressure. Consequently they spent the night with empty stomachs, and became hungry during the night. Their request was that special measures be put in place to enable them to access food later into the night in order for them to eat in an unperturbed state.



*Fig 4: Picture showing vegetables without oil being prepared at the prison kitchen*

#### **v. Health/ Medical Care**

There was a clinic at the prison complex. It was reported that inmates receive treatment daily and a visiting doctor came to the prison from Gweru General Hospital upon request. It was also reported that emergency cases were referred to Gweru General Hospital. There was also a sick bay with a capacity of 8-10 beds to cater for inmates who were on bed rest however, the sick bay was below minimum expected standards (See Fig 5). One ambulance was available for the whole region and therefore caters for 14 prisons. There was a nurse-in-charge stationed at the prison and two (2) other nurses, three social workers and one psychologist. Article 22 of the UN Minimum Standard rules provide that there should be availability of medical personnel at every prison and there was compliance, with room for improvement.

Medical supplies, in particular drugs were said to be in short supply at the time of the visit. Medication for Anti-Retroviral Treatment (ART) were available but rendered less effective due to poor diet. Nevertheless, in regards to other illnesses inmates pointed out that paracetamol was the most available drug at the institution. The inmates also grumbled that in terms of medicines for chronic illnesses, the supply was inconsistent and erratic. The health personnel at the prison indicated that they were guided by the **Zimbabwe Patient Charter (ZPC)**, which states that all patients should be treated equally with the critical ones being served first. The ZPC states that patients have a right to access the health system at the time of need, both as non-paying and paying patients. In the event that patients have contact with the health service, it is important for them to remember that the service is there to respond to their needs. General rights to access and treatment deals with hospitality, confidentiality, privacy, discrimination, choice and redress grievances<sup>5</sup>. The nurse in charge pointed out that the last death was recorded was in 2013. The deceased was a chronic patient.



*Fig 5: Picture showing some of the beds for patients at the clinic and the consultation room.*

## **vi. Clothing and Bedding**

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<sup>5</sup> Zimbabwe Patient Charter for the treatment of patients



The ZHRC noted that the clothing and bedding situation at the prison was inadequate and the inmates and prison officials confirmed that observation (See Fig. 6). A considerable number of inmates had worn out uniforms. Some inmates pointed out that the situation had worsened to an extent that they had to wash their uniforms during lock up, in their cells and slept naked during the night since they were given one pair of uniform. The prison officials were allowing relatives to bring clothes similar to prison garb for the inmates. Such an initiative follows the spirit of the provisions of S.36 of the Rules on the Protection of Juveniles, which allows for inmates to have their own decent clothing material. However, it was noted that not every inmate enjoyed this privilege because most of the inmates were not in contact of their relatives. There were limited mattresses, and also the ones available were in a bad state. The statutory requirement of two uniforms per inmate was not being met.



*Fig 6: The prison cells showing prisoners' blankets and thin mattress*

## **vii. Prison Kitchens facilities**

At the time of the visit, there were two kitchens at the prison; one with electric pots that needed repair and the other one which uses firewood. The prison had resorted to using firewood for cooking due to malfunctioning electric pots. Only one electric pot was working at the time of the visit. The kitchen premises were 'fairly' clean and inmates

were responsible for preparing food. The equipment in the firewood kitchen is dilapidated and in bad state (See Fig. 7).



*Fig 7: A picture showing the state of the kitchen facilities at Whawha Young Offenders' Prison.*

#### **viii. Accommodation for Staff**

The staff establishment was not proportional to the staff accommodation in place. The majority of prison officers were resorting to lodging outside the Prison complex. This compromises security especially in dealing with emergencies where officers have to be summoned or mobilized. The prison official also pointed out the challenge of transport to ferry them to and from work.

#### **ix. Toiletries**

The team noted that consumables for inmates such as soap, skin petroleum jelly and toiletries which are of paramount importance in maintaining hygiene for inmates were inadequate. This is not in line with Articles 12 to 15 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules which provide that sanitary requirements need to be adequate to enable every prisoner



to comply with the needs of nature in a clean and descent manner. Some inmates stated that they have resorted to spreading their blankets in the sun as a measure to “disinfecting” lice and bad odour.

#### **x. Education & Vocational Training**

Whawha ‘Young Offenders’ Prison has educational facilities providing for both primary and secondary education for inmates only. At the time of the visit, the Institution had 181 students, 96 primary students and 85 secondary students. The Prison had 6 qualified teachers and it was noted that the teacher student ratio for juniors is 1: 40 and for infants it is 1: 25. Such efforts are highly commendable and are in line with S.38 of the Rules for the Protection of Juveniles which stipulates that the right to education has to be observed wherever possible for young offenders. The also institution has an examination center but no candidate had registered for the June examinations at the time of the visit due to lack of funding which was said to be dependent on donors and willing relatives. Examinations registration fees are a big challenge at the institution.

It was pointed out that even when the examination fee is sourced it is not adequate to register for the minimum number of subjects for one student, that is five subjects and above. In most cases students write less than three subjects and those who are definite that they will pass are given first preference thus disadvantaging average and below average students. The ZHRC was informed that in 2015 ZIMSEC examinations a considerable number of students managed to pass with grade B or better. The major challenges faced by the Institution are lack of examination fees due to resource constraints, inadequate primary and secondary text books as well as set books, limited computers, poorly ventilated classrooms that accommodate two or so different grades/forms, unavailability of funds to advance to tertiary level, inadequate furniture to just mention but a few. ZHRC was shown stocks of books donated by UNICEF neatly shelved raising concern as to whether they were being used by inmates. At A level only commercial subjects are offered. The Education Officer highlighted the need to improve ventilation in the old class room blocks. The students who spoke through their

'headmaster' (an inmate) highlighted the desire to use computers which some of them had never used as they were incarcerated at young age.

Not all was gloomy, with the assistance of donor partners, the education complex had a new state of the art block of classrooms which were not yet in use awaiting finishing touches (See Fig,7).



*Fig7: A newly constructed block and the inmates at the block.*

#### **xi. Disciplinary measures**

ZHRC was informed by the officers that there were clearly set up procedures used by the Prison system in dealing with discipline issues for both inmates and officials. Officials were clear that they try by all means necessary not to use restraining measures nor force- which is prohibited in terms of the Rules for the Protection of Juveniles. In terms of inmates' disciplinary measures, the officials stated that they make use of remission of sentence to award good behavior and removed the privilege in cases of indiscipline. This system was said to be very effective and a deterrent measure as inmates did not want to stay in prison for unnecessarily longer periods.

From the interviews conducted with inmates separately, there were varying responses on discipline. Some inmates confirmed that set up disciplinary measures were effected as and when necessary and thus acceptable. On the other hand, other inmates stated that there were serious levels of abuse under the guise of 'discipline'. This group of inmates alleged that one can be beaten over petty issues such as requesting for more food. They alleged that those beaten, are beaten at the back, under their feet and

buttocks using strips of tyres or button sticks or 'anything' within the vicinity of the effecting official.

## **xii. Skills development and rehabilitation activities**

There were a number of rehabilitation programmes for inmates at the prison. The inmates participated more in gardening activities, building, keeping the yards clean and rabbit keeping (See Fig 8). The institution is applauded for offering such activities as they are in line with Article 78 of the UN Standard Minimum Rules as well as the Beijing Rules, which state that recreational and cultural activities are necessary for the mental and physical benefit of inmates. ZHRC acknowledged and applauded the diversified range of skills of development as not all of the inmates are talented in academic education. The Prison offers various development skills at the Prison workshop ranging from welding, carpentry and motor mechanics, but because of financial constraints the inmates could not go for trade test. The workshop also faced a number of challenges ranging from unavailability of capital, raw materials, hand tools and text books. The prison utilizes Agricultural Shows to show case their products but generally there were no markets for the goods.





*Fig 8: A collage of pictures showing the prison garden and workshop*

### **xiii. Other challenges faced by Inmates**

As reported, inmates also complained of ill-treatment at the hands prison officials through beatings. They stated that the prison had unhygienic standards with containers in which prepared food was stored posing a great health risk to inmates as they were old and rusty. Sacks were placed inside the containers to hold the food because the containers were worn out. The unavailability of laundry lines made inmates to resort to other unhygienic ways of drying blankets like spreading the blankets on the ground where they picked up dust, thus exacerbating spread of diseases. Disabled inmates complained that they were receiving the same treatment as the able bodied inmates. They alleged that their physical status was not being considered when it came to labour at the Prison.

## **8. Conclusion**

The ZHRC applauds the efforts being made by the ZPCS and other stakeholders in ensuring humane incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders. However, there is need to improve conditions of inmates and provide adequate basic needs to incarcerated inmates at Whawha 'Young Offenders' Prison. Urgent attention should therefore be directed at improving the cells condition, food, clothing, bedding, education, and health situations. It is recommended that a Human Rights Based Approach (paying more attention to observance of human rights for inmates) be applied through training of prison officials in order to keep improving the treatment of inmates, in particular. If

necessary, the training curricula for prison officers should be reviewed to adequately focus on human rights protection and promotion.

## **9. Recommendations**

The ZHRC makes the following specific recommendations for action:

- i. The Parliament of Zimbabwe to vote for an adequate budget for the ZPCS to ensure the improvement of prisons countrywide with regards to their infrastructure and living conditions of inmates especially on meeting the minimum dietary scale to avoid cases of malnutrition and provision of special diet for inmates with illnesses and conditions that require special diet.
- ii. The Ministry of Primary and Secondary Education (MOPSE) is encouraged to send a team to visit the Whawha Young Offenders' Prison so as to appreciate the educational needs of the young offenders. There is need to source essential textbooks for the inmates, ensuring that UNICEF books are fully utilized, and providing computers so that inmates are exposed to current technological trends. Efforts should also be made to engage MOPSE and the Zimbabwe Schools Examinations Council concerning the exemption of inmates from paying examinations registration fees.
- iii. On allegations of excessive use of corporal punishment and other inhuman or degrading treatment, the ZHRC recommends this allegation should be fully investigated by the ZPCS, and if necessary the ZHRC should conduct further investigation. Otherwise the use of alternative means of discipline as provided for in the Prisons Act and Prisons Regulations should be enforced by the ZPCS. Positive discrimination should also be accorded to disabled inmates in relation to labour provision.
- iv. The ZHRC recommends that the Ministry of Finance avails funds for urgent maintenance and repairs and refurbishment of infrastructure at Whawha 'Young Offenders' Prison. Attention should be paid on the state of the cells and improved ventilation in old the classrooms, securing all prisons cells with doors to protect inmates from environmental elements such as rain and the

- cold, flushing system for toilets and laundry drying lines. More development partners should be approached to render assistance in this regard.
- v. The ZHRC recommends that the Ministry of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs coordinates with fellow Ministries such those responsible for Water and Health to bring about a holistic approach in addressing the hygiene and sanitation needs in the prison. There is need for the provision of disinfectants, toiletries and soap so that the incarceration of inmates does not amount to inhuman and degrading treatment.
  - vi. ZPCS should work towards construction of more staff quotas closer to the institution to alleviate the accommodation and transport challenges of inmates.
  - vii. The ZHRC commends and recommends the continuation of health education that is being provided at the Prison. It is also recommended that HIV/AIDS education and T.B awareness raising programmes in prisons be intensified. In the same vein, the ZHRC proposes the expansion of the Prison Clinic through the construction of more rooms in order to cater for consultations, examinations and dispensary which will promote inmates' right to privacy.