



CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST FOR CONSULTANCY SERVICE IN DEVELOPING A PUBLIC POLICY BRIEF ON ISSUES AFFECTING ENTREPRENEURIAL DEVELOPMENT AMONGST THE WOMEN OF ZIMBABWE.

Organisational Background:

Women Alliance of Business Associations in Zimbabwe (WABAZ) is **COALITION** of women in business associations in Zimbabwe. WABAZ was formed in July 2011 under the auspices of the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) for the purposes of connecting female entrepreneurs with the resources necessary to integrate them into mainstream economy. WABAZ as a coalition for women business organizations, representing over 12,000 informal and formal women entrepreneurs, from throughout the country aims at supporting these organizations to speak with a unified voice on issues that affect women entrepreneurs, advocating through collective action for policy reforms, and encouraging greater grassroots participation in strengthening economic democracy in Zimbabwe.

Mission Statement

WABAZ empowers women in business through dialogue, advocacy, networking and information sharing.

Project Background

Since 2009, Zimbabwe is undergoing change. This transformation is largely due to the Global Political Agreement that temporarily resolved the political crisis precipitated by the elections in 2008. The unity government was able to prevent the further disintegration of the economy that had shrunk 40 percent over 10 years. One of the groups hardest hit by the economic crisis are women entrepreneurs working in the informal sector that suffered from unemployment, underemployment, hunger, and even an increase in domestic violence.

While the immediate political and economic future is uncertain, the hope that the people of Zimbabwe will build a functioning democracy will never be realized unless women are integrated into the mainstream economy. Women economic empowerment is one of the most effective tools to ensure that women become effective participants in transforming society and the current problems plaguing the country and actively participating in the democratic process. Women have been marginalized in this society, most significantly in the economic sector. It is therefore important that at these initial stages of

transformation, the needs of women entrepreneurs are known. It is also important that women entrepreneurs be equipped with the tools to participate in democratic governance and the freedom of association to be long-term contributors in rebuilding Zimbabwe.

Despite the adoption of policy instruments that seek to empower women, the Government of Zimbabwe is facing a number of challenges. These challenges include the challenge of providing services, a cumbersome bureaucracy that does not incentivize women entrepreneurs to join the formal economy, and a lack of strong partners among various civil society groups. The inadequacy of government's effort and resources in empowering women calls for strategic partnership between the public sector and the private sector.

The Assignment:

To facilitate the development of a public policy brief that addresses the needs of women entrepreneurs and suggesting specific recommendations to the authorities. Based on the information collected during regional meetings and monthly meetings of representative leaders of women's business organizations, the consultant is expected to come up with a synthesised policy briefs that will inform the advocacy by WABAZ

Methodology :-

1. Review “**An Analysis of the Enabling Environment and Potential for Women’s Empowerment**” study by Dr Manyeruke and information collected during town hall meetings around Zimbabwe.
2. The consultant is also expected to conduct secondary research on issues affecting women entrepreneurs.
3. The consultant will facilitate a meeting with the WABAZ steering committee to decide upon the top **THREE** issues affecting women where WABAZ advocacy would have some success in changing policy, regulations, government processes and some potential solutions.
4. The consultant will prepare three separate policy briefs (no more than 10 pages each) outlining the problem, potential solutions, and specific actionable items the government can do to solve the problem. The problem, solution, and actionable items must be based on research of the law and current practices, knowledge of government structures, policy environment, and Zimbabwe governance structure. As part of the process the consultant must provide a draft that must be approved by WABAZ, ZNCC and its partners.
5. Once the draft is approved, the consultant must meet with the WABAZ executive committee for comments and suggestions and make further changes to the Policy Briefs before final submission.

Timeline:

The assignment should be completed within (1) Month

Deliverables:

Three separate policy briefs (no more than 10 pages each) outlining the problem, potential solutions, and specific actionable items the government can do to solve the problem.

Budget:

The consultant is expected to propose a budget for the assignment covering both professional and reimbursable costs

Interested candidates are required to tender in their proposals which must incorporate the following:

- a) A **cover letter**, not exceeding three (3) pages clearly outlining the proposed task.
- b) A **Profile** or **Curriculum Vitae**, not exceeding four (4) pages, outlining the qualifications, experience in similar projects and the supporting team members, and
- c) A **methodology**, not exceeding three (3) pages clearly describing the Consultant's understanding and knowledge of the subject. This should also cover the analytical and technical model framework that will be applied in this task.

In awarding the contract, priority will be given to Quality service, delivery, costs, and timeliness. Canvassing will lead to disqualification.

Interested Consultants can send their proposals to:

The Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce, 25 Harvey Brown , Milton Park, Harare

Email: kipson@zncc.co.zw or kipson.gundani@gmail.com or wabaz@zncc.co.zw

Closing date: 18 May 2012 @ 1300hrs.

N.B. *The Costs of preparing the research proposal are not borne by the ZNCC nor WABAZ*

Mandatory Criteria

Consultants must meet all of the mandatory criteria below and must demonstrate in writing how they meet the mandatory criteria below and compliance with all ZIMRA Tax requirements:

- ❖ The Consultants must send their CV and proposal highlighting their experience and qualifications.
- ❖ Preferred candidates ideally possess at least a Master's degree in a directly related field, i.e. Economics, Law, Finance, Business Management, or Social Sciences, and
- ❖ The Consultants must provide sample of public policy brief they have previously developed.
- ❖ The consultant must also provide three contactable referees

Applications not meeting the above criteria will naturally be disqualified from the process.

The Adjudication Process.

The Adjudication process is in 2 stages:

Firstly, the ZNCC Technical Team meets to consider the Applications and makes formal recommendations.

The ZNCC Technical Team makes recommendations to the WABAZ leadership committee and our funding partners, who makes final decision and awards the contract.

The End!!!!