



*Women's
training and
education on
Electoral
Laws!*



MUREHWA AND
MARONDERA.



WOMEN EMPOWERED

Motivated and aspiring women from Murehwa and Marondera were in for a treat from the 3rd - the 6th of May. Powered by the support from the Netherlands Embassy, WLSA took to these communities to train and educate women aged between 18 to over 50 on electoral laws.



MUREHWA 3-4 MAY & MARONDERA 5-6 MAY

Notable in making the training sessions a success are members from the Ministry of Women's Affairs, who were pivotal in identifying and mobilising the women in the communities.

As proceedings began WLSA's legal officers would share with the communities the mandate of the organisation and what the organisation has achieved in empowering women. This included assisting women in taking up leadership roles and the creation of financial freedom. The legal officers further unraveled some of the constitution provisions, principally sections 56,80,17 and 80.

To encourage the participants, present were women that have taken leadership and political roles as a result of the training received from the previous cycle. From Murehwa Mrs Ruze who contested for the councillor position, spoke to the women about her journey. In Marondera the youthful Jingang Tazivazviono and Blessing Makunde shared their stories as well.

Martha Musingwani (35) from Murehwa said " The sessions helped us understand that we have to be brave and persevere once we begin on the journey towards leadership roles".



WHAT LEADERSHIP MEANS ?

During the leadership training the women were asked on what qualities they think a good leader should possess. Some of the common responses included :

good communications skills

confident

good people skills

good hygiene practices

humble

fearless

selfless

accept criticism,

amongst the many.



CHALLENGES FACED IN TAKING UP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

There was a unanimous resounding that women face a lot of barriers compared to the male counterparts. The recurring challenges are summed up below.

- lack of support from families, communities and fellow women complemented with the pull down syndrome
- lack of financial support
- lack of confidence that is characterised by timidness, stereotyping of women
- lack of knowledge

OPPORTUNITIES IN TAKING UP LEADERSHIP POSITIONS

When it was all said and done the women requested for capacity training sessions to help them overcome the barriers. The "spirit of Ubuntu" as described by the women could contribute greatly towards capacity building. Moreover, they requested that WLSA share written material such as flyers to raise awareness and disseminate information that can be shared with more women.

As the sessions concluded, women were further taught to dream big and turn those dreams into vision that they can implement towards their desired goal. Angela Dawiro from Marondera stated "Munhukadzi anokwanisawi kutorawo nzvimbo pazvigarozvehutungamiriri" (Women can take up leadership positions).

WLSA advised the women, there will be more sessions to be conducted and will come with other stake holders such as Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) to train them on requirements for registering as political positions. The women expressed gratitude and said they look forward to more sessions.
