



Midlands State University

Faculty of Social Sciences

AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING EX-COMBATANTS AS AGENTS OF PEACE: A CASE OF ZPRA VETERANS TRUST FROM 2009 TO 2014.

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Dissertation submitted in Partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Science Degree in Politics and Public Management in the Department of Politics and Public Management

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DECLARATION

This is to certify that this project entitled “**AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF USING EX-COMBATANTS AS AGENTS OF PEACE: A CASE OF ZPRA VETERANS TRUST FROM 2009 TO 2014**” which I am submitting in partial fulfilment of the requirements for Bachelor of Science Honours in Politics and Public Management Degree by the Midlands State University, comprises only my original work and due acknowledgement has been made in the text to all other materials used.

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APPROVAL FORM

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DEDICATIONS

This piece of work is dedicated to the mighty and sovereign government of Zimbabwe and its patriotic Sons (War Veterans), who sacrificed and put their lives at risk for the liberation of this country. I further dedicate this research to my family members who have encouraged me to keep persisting in my studies when my morale was at low ebb.

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ABSTRACT

Globalization and the continued interdependencies in the international arena have intensified the growth and status of non-governmental organizations in the 21st century. Funded by great powers these NGOs have taken part as the leading practitioners of development in Africa. However, such measures are posing threats to the power and sovereignty of African governments, resulting in these States's obscurely reactions and labeling of NGOs as agents of imperialism. As a result, the existence and survival of NGOs has become hard-edged in political sensitive States like Zimbabwe. With special attention to peace-building NGOs, this dissertation therefore, explores government-NGO relations and its effects on promotion of national healing, reconciliation and peace-building in Zimbabwe. Thus, despite the harsh fabricated laws governing NGOs in Zimbabwe, ZPRA Veterans Trust (formed by Ex-combatants), has seen the necessity and need for peace-building in the country, based on the reality that people of Zimbabwe have been abused by the political instabilities and crises wandering the country since colonization until 2008 elections, leaving grave traumas, conflicts and disunity among Zimbabweans. This research therefore, seeks to reveal the unseen potential possessed by Ex-combatants that could make them best agents of peace, through examining survival strategies of ZPRA Veterans Trust, its challenges and most importantly the effectiveness of its programs.

ACRONYMS

ACPD T	Africa Community Publishing Development Trust
COSV	Coordinamento dell Organizzazioni per il Servizio Volontario
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration
EU	European Union
GH	Grace to heal
JOMIC	Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
MISA	Media Institute for Southern Africa
MSU	Midlands State University
NGO	Non- Governmental Organization
NYDT	National Youth Development Trust
ONHRI	Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration
PM	Pamberi Trust
POSA	Public Order and Security Act
TF	Tree of Life
ZANU-PF	Zimbabwe African National Union-People's Front
ZPRA	Zimbabwe People's Revolutionary Army

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Chapter One: Study Context

1.0 Introduction

The Civil Society has played a vital role in striving for peace-building and reconciliation of the traumatized conflict affected communities of Zimbabwe. This has been so due to the realization that since colonization, the liberation struggle and the political events that followed, the people of Zimbabwe have not received adequate attention and healing from the government. Thus, during the colonial era, liberation struggle, gukurahundi, mrambatsvina and 2000 to 2008 elections people witnessed what (Galtung, 1969) called direct violence which constitutes of physical hurting of human body. However, when the use of direct violence was shunned, another dimension of violence known as structural violence occurred. This is when people are discriminated according to their tribal backgrounds and political believes. For such reasons therefore, Zimbabwe has found itself snowed under ethnic, political and religious differences fuelled by suffering due to economic hardships all over the country leading to the eruption and flooding of different types of conflicts country wide.

As such, it stands to reason that all these mentioned problems represent a restless society that is thirst for peace. Yet, the government instead of paying attention to its distressed masses who are drowning in a pool of conflicts, it has focused more if not all of its energy to foreign issues. It is of this thinking therefore, that this study seeks to emphasize the need for peace in Zimbabwe and to assess the role that has been played by civil society organizations in peace-building so as to discover the loopholes and suggest a way forward.

1.1 Background of study

The thirty years war of Westphalia resulted in the birth of sovereign state system. (Morgenthau, 1972) defines sovereignty as the supreme legal authority of the State to give and enforce the law within a certain territory and in consequence, independence from authority of any other state and equal with it under international law. As such, this meant that, governments could form national armies, make laws, formulate policies, and set up professional fiscal and administration departments, which enabled them to maintain direct control over their subjects. This therefore, resulted in the abuse of power by some other governments, oppression of citizens by their own

government and violation of human rights, for example, the 2002 (POSA) of Zimbabwe was a violation of people's freedom of association. It is against such actions that, the civil society, strongly influenced by such atrocities, emerged and took its watch dog role.

There is an ongoing contestation and debate among so many scholars over the definition, use and understanding of the term civil society. However, for the purpose of this study, the paper will adopt and borrow an operational definition of the concept from (Biekark 1999; 58) who assert that, "Civil Society is an intermediate association (public) realm between the state and its citizens, populated by organizations which are separate from the State, enjoy autonomy in relation to the State and are formed voluntarily by members of society to protect or extend their interests and values". In this view, civil society can be regarded as the third sector of the State, which acts as a bulwark against totalitarianism and abuse of power by the government. In Zimbabwe, the associations have been there before, during and after the liberation struggle. Nevertheless, the post independency period has witnessed a gigantic growth of the civil society organizations. The focal point of most of these organizations has been on the democratization process. However, due to the hostile nature of the government who labels the non-governmental organizations as the agents of imperialism, most of these NGO have decided to focus their efforts on humanitarian aid and non political issues.

Taking from the above, it is worth noting that, in real practice many civil society organizations in Zimbabwe have become weak or have been sidelined in debating the mainstream discourse of development and human rights. Some have even circumvented the subject of peace and reconciliation because it has its roots in politics. All this has been necessitated by the fear to wear the tag of pursuing a regime change agenda. Those who try to tackle the subject have failed to penetrate the communities due to various reasons such as restriction of permission by local and government officials and lack of villagers' participation who are afraid to be labeled as supporters of the opposition among others.

As a result, the large sectors of the Zimbabwean population have been left suffering from political traumas and conflicts which have tone most of the families and communities apart. A dilemma which if left unsolved, will eventually lead to a civil or tribal war in Zimbabwe. As such, ZPRA Veterans Trust as a civil society organization has then seen the necessity of engaging itself in peace building so as to relieve the suffering communities from these life

threatening traumas and conflicts. It is against this background therefore, that this study seeks to unpack and reveal the effectiveness of using ex-combatants as peace agents, with ZPRA Veterans Trust being as a case study.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The Zimbabwean post independent era has been characterized by a politically volatile environment. Citizens especially those in the Matabeleland and Midlands regions have since lived a life of fear due to their subjection to the atrocious Matabeleland Midlands disturbances in the 1980s. Ever since this period, the country has been on the break of political violence during the country's elections. The country has never even tested positive peace as structural violence is roaming across the regions of the country. More importantly the youths and ex combatants have been used as perpetrators of violence by different political parties. This situation has been one of the major factors that resulted in the emergence of various civil society organizations with a mandate to preach peace in the country. In spite of their noble goals they have been labeled as agents of imperialism by the government hence they have failed to penetrate the societies. It is against this backdrop that the former ex ZPRA combatants realized the duty which lied on them to act as agents of peace as they are able to approach both victims and perpetrators of violence without reproach through the ZPRA Veterans Trust. In this regard the study seeks to explore the effectiveness of using ex- combatants as peace agents.

1.3 Organization understudy

ZPRA Veterans Trust is a registered non-profit and non-governmental organization with a countrywide membership, founded in 2008 by the ex-combatants of ZPRA who fought in the liberation struggle of Zimbabwe. The main objective of the Trust is to engage in conflict resolution, peace building, reconciliation, and in national healing activities within Zimbabwe. Thus, its formation was a direct response to dealing with and arresting the culture of violence in the Zimbabwean communities. As a result, it acts as a neutral body to facilitate and organize psychological counseling of victims and to safe guard against future human rights violations. As Karl Marx contends that: 'the tradition of all the dead generations weighs like a nightmare on the brain of the living', (Mair and Sithole 2002: 21). ZPRA Veterans Trust

therefore, emphasizes the need to heal memories of people living in and who are survivors of violent conflict, in a bid to bring about reconciliation in the Zimbabwean communities.

To achieve its vision and complete its mission, the Trust has been moving around rural and urban areas preaching the gospel of peace. Important to note is that, the Trust was formed at a critical period (2008) where violence had reached its boiling point. Therefore, the Trust started by first identifying key areas where violence was at its highest levels. After attainment of permission from local authorities they approached those communities using their strategies. As a result, the Trust went as far as Mashonaland central, Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Mashonaland West and Midlands provinces with the same mission. With such in mind, one may put forward the view that the outcome of the Trust's activities was fruitful as evidenced by the reduced violence in 2009 elections.

Ever since its formation, the Trust has continued with its agenda of peace-building despite all the challenges and hardships faced. It works in joint venture with cooperating partners and donors in peace building, social development and capacity building programs in the fulfillment of its objectives. Currently cooperating partners are Masakhaneni Projects Trusts, Tree of Life, Grace to Heal, Habakkuk Trust, Mafela Trust, National Youth Development Trust, COSV, ACPD, MISA-ZACRAS and Pamberi Trust. Therefore, when considering its progress, the rising question is that, if some of the ex-combatants can do such wonderful work, what then will stop others from doing the same? Since they have the ability to do so, another rising question is why not using them as its agents of peace?

The emphasis and need for peace clearly lies on the history of this nation. Thus, it is of paramount importance for one to note that, the history of Zimbabwe has been littered with violent conflict since the pre-independence era and little has been done in a bid to heal memories. Political, racial, ethnic and resource based conflicts, the causes of which are complex have been experienced in Zimbabwe. At community level conflicts are not only a political manifestation but also emanate largely from a relationship which is influenced and driven by one's access to resources, power and ability to influence decisions in his locality. Such political polarization therefore, divides communities into camps that cannot work together which is a hindrance to development. Therefore such divisions are a clear indication of continuing underdevelopments of

Zimbabwe unless the system is dealt with in an effective way by a very influential group like that of ex-combatants.

On the other hand, however, the axiom that War Veterans are the known perpetrators of violence has been sung by Zimbabweans as if it is a national anthem. This has resulted in the fear and labeling of War Veterans as brutal people. Yes, it would not be denied that some of the War Veterans were involved in violent actions. However, it seems to be unfair to judge these people without looking at the main reasons that caused them to act in such a manner. Without questioning who gave them such orders and why? Thus, one has to remember that War Veterans are soldiers who were trained and taught to follow orders as given by the instructor. A Thoroughly research shows that, violence was not their (*War Veterans*) own making, instead it was a cultivation of certain political figures and parties who used War Veterans as tools for winning the elections. Take note that, this was the period when the opposition was escalating and gaining shocking support from the masses. So the ruling party saw the danger of losing the elections, and as such, to avoid such a predicament instilling fear to citizens seemed to be the only way forward. The maddening question then was who is going to perform the task? Hence for some reasons War Veterans proved to be the answer.

In this sense, one stands to reason that War Veterans involved in violent actions were driven by the circumstances beyond their control, and as an influential group in this country, they were used to instill fear to people so that they would vote for the ruling party. In return they were each promised to be given a large farm, a deal which was not deniable to someone who went to war to fight for land ownership but never got any after independency. So to them, this was an opportunity presenting itself, a dream coming true. Nevertheless, the fact that, some violence perpetrators claimed to be War Veterans when they were not should not be ignored. Thus, some youths and other elders largely participated in these events. In other words, the term War Veterans was used as a passport or a permit to commit violent actions. This therefore has tarnished the image of genuine War Veterans to an extent that even today some bona fide War Veterans are denying their identity or to be called War Veterans.

To this end, this study therefore, seeks to reveal that not all the War Veterans were responsible for violence that occurred in Zimbabwe. It aims to expose the few War Veterans who knows the purpose of the liberation struggle, the War Veterans who are longing and are thirst for peace. The

War Veterans who dream of a peaceful Zimbabwe and wish to see Zimbabwe enjoying the fruits of peace which they fought for during the liberation struggle. Thus, some of such peace loving ex-combatants have publicized their interests in peace by forming ZPRA Veterans Trust.

1.4 Research Aim

The aim of this research is to examine the effectiveness of using Ex-combatants as peace agents through analyzing the strategies employed by the ZPRA Veterans Trust in carrying out its peace building missions within the country.

1.5 Research Objectives

The main objective of this research is to promote the use of ex-combatants as peace agents in Zimbabwe. As such it will be further supported by the following sub objectives

- To examine the strategies used by ZPRA Veterans Trust in its peace building missions.
- To understand ZPRA Veterans Trust's engagement with the community and the government.
- To unpack the challenges faced by ZPRA Veterans Trust in its peace building operations
- To generate solutions to the Trust's problems so as to ensure its continuity.
- To examine the effectiveness of ZPRA veterans Trust peace building activities.
- To illustrate the effectiveness of using ex-combatants as peace agents.

1.6 Research questions

The major question informing this research is how ZPRA Veterans Trust has been successful in its operational strategy of bringing peace in the country? This will be bolstered by the following sub questions

- What strategies were used by the Trust to network with the communities?
- How did the Trust relate with community and the government during program implementation?
- What challenges did the Trust face in carrying out its peace building mandate?

- What are the possible ways to alleviate the Trust' challenges so as to ensure its continuity in peace-building?
- How effective was the Trust's program?
- Are ex-combatants a relevant group with the ability to successfully tackle the subject of peace in Zimbabwe?

1.7 Significance of the study

In a country like Zimbabwe that is suffering from diseases such as conflicts and political violence, this study is very significant as it seeks to provide cure to the disease by identifying suitable measures to be taken if Zimbabwe is to taste peace. Thus, the study recognizes ex-combatants as the best doctors to the named diseases thereby revealing the unseen potential possessed by ex-combatants that could make them best agents of peace. Notwithstanding the fact that, in the Zimbabwean politics war veterans have been labeled as brutal people and perpetrators of violence, the study however, conveys a different picture that perceive ex-combatants as the only group with the courage, experience, knowledge and skill to penetrate communities and produce positive results of healing, reconciliation and peace in Zimbabwe with reference to ZPRA Veterans Trust's works. Therefore, the study examines and suggest ways in which government can use and work together with ex-combatants to tackle social issues such as peace and conflict resolution so as to address past problems with the hope of healing memories and creating a stable foundation for future generations to develop, while at the same time changing people's bad perceptions and views about the war veterans.

1.8 Theoretical framework

This research will be predicated upon the 4Cs theory of civil society, (the approach is abbreviated as follows; confrontation, co-operation, co-optation and complementarily). This approach is carefully chosen in this study as it helps to explain the government's interaction with the third sector. The 4Cs framework is based on the institutional interests and preferences for policy ends and means- cooperation in the case of similar ends and similar means, confrontation in the case of dissimilar ends and similar means, complementarily in the case of similar ends but dissimilar means and co-optation in the case of dissimilar ends but similar means (Najam; 2000). In this regard, the study seeks to examine how ZPRA Veterans Trust has pursued a peace agenda

within the communities by employing the 4Cs strategic approach. The researcher's choice of the 4Cs approach is informed by the ethnographical study as the researcher has worked within the ZPRA Veterans Trust for one year as an attaché, as a result the participant observational analysis highlighted that the Trust has pursued the above strategies in its engagement with the government and in trying to bring about sustainable peace in Zimbabwe. The theory will help to unpack the strategies used by ZPRA ex combatants in bringing about sustainable peace.

1.9 Study delimitations

The fact that the researcher has been working for ZPRA Veterans Trust over a year, gives her more advantages to carry out sound research. Thus on top of the experiences and knowledge she gained during her period of attachment, she will also use the good reputation built during the placement period to acquire as much information as she can. This therefore, will help the researcher to come up with a detailed and sound dissertation. Furthermore, the fact that she stays in Bulawayo where there is headquarters of the Trust seem to be an added advantage as it gives her a chance to meet the majority of members of the Trust relevant for the interviews, and it gives enough time for data collection period.

1.10 Study limitations

This study is only limited to those combatants who are the members of ZPRA Veterans Trust, as they are the ones engaging in community healing, reconciliation and peace building missions. As such they have direct confrontation with both the victims, survivors and perpetrators of violence which gives them first hand information. Due to financial constraints and travelling expenses, the student will be limited to gather information from only those ex-combatants in Bulawayo. As for follow-up interviews, travelling expenses, limits the study to use one district which is Fulabusi for follow up interviews. As such, chief Maduna's kraal will be chosen because the place is allocated on the way to Zvishavane which will make travelling easy for MSU-Zvishavane campus student.

1.11 Definition of key terms

Who are Ex-combatants?

The term ex-combatants refer to a group of those people who were engaged in a war, battle or struggle, in this case Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. Ex-combatants are those people who sacrificed their lives and went to war to fight for freedom, democracy, development and independency. Some went to the bushes and never came back; some were wounded and got back home with lifetime disabilities, injuries, wounds and scars all over their bodies. Some experience difficulties such as torture, some were raped while others witnessed traumatizing situations like watching dozens of their friends, sisters, brothers and relatives being slaughtered like goats, and killed in combat and bombings.

Ex-combatants are those people who stood still when Blackman blood was shed. They are those people who never looked back when the sounds of white men's machine guns was trampling in their ears. They never gave up even when human slaughter was the order of the day. Thus Ex-combatants are those warriors who despite all the hardships in the bushes, where prepared to die for their own country, to die for the right reasons that is to liberate the people of Zimbabwe, to bring independency, to deliver the Zimbabwean soil to its original owners who are me and you today. They represent liberation, independency, peace and development.

Peace

According to (Miller, 2005: 55) peace refers to a political condition that ensures justice and social stability through formal and informal institutions, practices and norms. Thus with this definition, peace can be understood as the occurrence of harmonious relations between governments, and absence of war, hostilities, retribution and violence among different social group.

Peace-building

It refers to policies, programs and associated efforts to restore stability and effectiveness of social, political and economic institutions and structures in the wake of war or sometimes other disabilities or catastrophic events. (Miller, 2005:56).

Agents

The term refers to a group of people who provide services for a specific effort or goal.

1.12 Chapter Summary

The chapter laid down the foundation of the study which will guide the researcher throughout the study process. Thus, it introduced the main points, ideas and views that would be explored by the researcher on the chosen topic. It further elucidated the reasons and the cause behind the choice of topic while at the same time justifying the subject matter. By so doing, it therefore provided the location of the study which gives the reader a clear understanding.

Chapter Two

Literature Review and Theoretical Framework

2.0 Chapter introduction

A lot of literature both negative and positive has been written about the ex-war fighters. Most of these studies explore the Disarmament, Demobilization and Re-integration processes. Some studies seek to understand ex-combatants' ways of survival after the bushes. Very few scholars have concreted much on ex-combatant's socialization with the community, and in most times; those who have done so, viewed them as potential threats or perpetrators of violence. To this end, there is dearth of literature that views ex-combatants as a potential group that may guide the communities towards successful peace-building. This chapter therefore, seeks to acknowledge and analyze previous writings and researches done concerning Ex-combatants, and most importantly to find a gap left in the literature of ex-combatants and to fill it.

2.1 Zimbabwe's re-engagement of War-Veterans

The process of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) has been regarded as key to a peaceful transition from a war period to a post-conflict situation. Thus, DDR is a process that after disarmament, seeks to provide veterans with equitable, sustainable assistance and opportunities to acquire social skills needed to survive life after combat, as part of their reintegration into society. The process is supposed to address attentively the welfare of the ex-combatants so that the thought of going back to war never crosses their minds again. Thus, (Mhanda, 2011) stipulates that failure to implement a complete DDR process in any country consistently culminates into instabilities caused by disaffected Veterans. Nevertheless, in Zimbabwe the process has not been completely implemented, and it has taken a different route

which saw ex-combatants being used to pursue the agenda of the ruling party through violence while those who refused to do so were dumped by their own government as soon as they entered the borders of their new born country Zimbabwe. As a result of this, a huge faction of scholars, independent researchers and analysts have risen with criticism against the government.

To begin with (Dzinesa, 2000 in Mhanda, 2011) point out that, no sound reintegration policy was made, adjacent to the provision of \$400 grants, hence the opportunity to plan a comprehensive DDR strategy at the earliest possible stage was lost. As such, the limited reintegration strategy resulted in ineffective integration of these demobilized combatants". Subject to analysis, one is persuaded to note that the scholar concur with the view that from the beginning the Zimbabwean government failed to make the right procedures for integration of the veterans into the society. Thus, in this regard (Dzinesa, 2000), is of the view that, despite the existence of a devoted Demobilization Directorate, there were other programmatic and institutional gaps left, these included a lack of broad and consistent socio-economic profiling of combatants, the failure of the government to implement financial management skills training for those ex-combatants inexperienced in handling (demobilization) money, intensified by the absence of elaborate and workable business or cooperative support mechanisms and lack of proactive monitoring mechanism.

In addition to the above, (Dzinesa, 2000) further goes on to assert that " due to poor planning of veterans policy of integration back to the society, the involvement of ex-combatants in a variety kinds of violence during the transition from war to peace was without a shred of doubt ". With this in view, one has to note that the scholar views ex-combatants as a threatening group that may engage in different forms of violence at any time. Thus, the scholar is more concerned of the danger of ex-combatants engaging in conflict situation. Hence, his writing mainly aims at criticizing the ZANU-PF government for its failure to make and implement a meaningful veteran's policy. However, this research seeks to take a different dimension by viewing ex-combatants as a group of people with potential to resolve conflicts and build peace within the Zimbabwean communities. Also as part of the reintegration process and as a way of boosting their (ex-combatants) confidence and make them feel at home, the study seeks to portray ex-combatants as an influential group of people who understand the implications of war and would not want to experience it again.

Furthermore, (Knight, 2008) puts more emphasis on how effective the DDR process can play a part in broadening countrywide recovery efforts and support the twin goals of sustainable peace and development. Thus, he argues that a well controlled and administered security sector is essential in ensuring the successful post-war peace building and in avoiding any possible relapses of violent conflicts again. In this view, one is deemed to note that the scholar is aware of the results of an incomplete and unfair DDR process. Therefore, he appeals to the government by identifying and commending fruits and advantages of a complete DDR process which are national recovery, security, peace and development. Taking this into consideration, one is compelled to note that, the scholar puts more effort on the DDR process and improving the country's security sector. Thus, the scholar says nothing about engaging ex-combatants in peace-building programs. As such, since the scholar eliminated the subject of engaging ex-combatants as peace agents to affected communities, this research therefore seek to fill in the gap.

In addition, (Nilsson, 2005) in his book focuses more on showing how DDR programs can be important tools for development. Hence his writing mainly aims at improving knowledge regarding integration process of ex-combatants as it is an integral part of demilitarization of post-war societies. Thus, the scholar mainly relates DDR process with issues of development, less is said about War-Veterans engaging in peace-building or being the agents of peace. In this regard therefore, instead of picturing ex-combatants as victims of an incomplete and ineffective DDR process and as perpetrators of violence, this study seeks to view ex-combatants as facilitators of peace-building process thereby providing them with a chance to become agents of peace.

Nonetheless, despite the issues of DDR process, (Chandra and Jemima, 2009) seek to identify opportunities for closer linkages between transitional justice measures and develop activities in peace-building context. Thus, the paper, seeks to clarify on the opportunities and risks of developing DDR process and victim-centered justice activities either in broad co-operation or in a more tightly integrated fashion. By so doing, it is imperative to note that the scholars are more concerned with peace-building activities in post-conflict situations and are trying to suggest a more effective ways of tackling the subject. As such, in their paper they evaluate possible measures to be taken so that the government and other peace institutions will know the right methods to use. In this way, it is believed that this will create healing, satisfaction and peace in

different communities. Even so, the fact that ex-combatants are seen as victims should not be ignored as it marks the divergence of the two researches.

To add on, (Robbins, 2006) argues that, the role of those formally engaged in the conflict as ex-combatants seems to have been largely forgotten. As a result, he developed a project that seeks to fill the gap, by engaging ex-combatants as agents of change through developing community-based approaches to support their return from civilian life. Nascent to this, one may submit that the project share a common terrain with the study. Hence, Robbins is one scholar who notices the potential within the ex-combatants and considers engaging them in community based projects of peaceful resolutions between them and the communities receiving them. However, the fact that in the project the ex-combatants are engaged as one of the partners in need of help not as the facilitators of the program indicates a point of departure from the aim of this research.

With regards to the above literature review, it can be noted that most of the scholars tend to specialize more on the Demobilization, Disarmament and Re-integration process. Thus, some wrote about the negative effects which views ex-combatants as threats if the process is not successfully implemented, while others try to elaborate and further increase knowledge on how to make the process to be effective and successful. There is a gap and very limited literature on engagement of ex-combatants in community activities, those who attempt to do so, only engage them as perpetrators of violence or victims of war not as agents of peace. It is against this backdrop therefore, that this research seeks to fill in the gap by bring a different facet that views ex-combatants as a group with the potential and nerve to peacefully penetrate the frustrated communities of Zimbabwe and build positive peace, using ZPRA Veterans Trust as a case study.

2.2 Ex-combatant's general lives in Zimbabwe

After the attainment of independency in 1980, Zimbabwe embarked on the demobilization process which included dissolving of the three military forces that is Rhodesian Forces, ZPRA and ZANLA into one single army known as the Zimbabwean National Army. The process however, seemed to have taken a hostile manner which segregated and rejected some of the soldiers and Colonels due to different reasons. One may affirm that such isolations were reactionary methods used to punish those soldiers who were refusing to succumb to a new

political dispensation under Zimbabwe African National Union (ZANU) government which had gained majority vote in 1980's elections. While one may also argue that such segregation was a signal for the then upcoming ethnic differences and tribalism which heralded the 1982 to 1987 Matabeleland- Midlands disturbances. Thus, in support of this (Dzinesa, 2000) posit that, about 20 000 ex combatants were incorporated into the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) from a group of about 75000 combatants. This therefore, meant that the Zimbabwean communities had to reintegrate two thirds of poor and homeless war veterans. Sadly and worst part is that, these might warriors were left alone to find their own ways back to the society, a task that was not easy and impossible to some. In light of this, it can be stated that the failure for these combatants to receive full reintegration phase has further impacted to their sustainable livelihoods and human security across gender divide.

In regards to the above, it is of paramount importance for one to note that, since 1980, the life of those war-veterans who had bad luck of not making it to the national army has not been easy as expected by most people. Thus, the unfair and incomplete DDR left most of the Ex-combatants disenfranchised and as a result, many of them escaped to neighboring countries to find sanctuary as they had been made enemies of the state they had fought to liberate. Sadly some were faced with the challenge of losing all their relatives and families during the liberations struggle and so they had to start building new families, while others went back to land tilling, farming and their other old ways of survival. Out of 75000 thousands soldiers only a handful and alleged ZANU loyal ex-combatants really enjoyed the fruits of the liberation struggle.

The implications of such a set-up were not easy as these jobless war veterans could not put enough food on the table for their families, could not provide for other necessary family needs such as clothing and some even failed to educate their children. Such hardships therefore became wounds on the hearts of ex-combatants as it reminded them of the Smith regime. Ultimately, this resulted in these War Veterans threatening to go back to the bushes against the government that was turning a deaf ear to their needs. It was because of such threats that the ZANU-PF government decided to bribe the angry war veterans with lump sums of 50 000 dollars to each one of them. However, it turned out that by accepting such compensation the War Veterans were binding themselves to ZANU-PF War Veterans marriage whereby the party became the heading "husband" while War Veterans played the submissive "wife" role. This resulted in ex-

combatant's vulnerability to exploitation and wrong persuasion which saw them being used to pursue interests and agenda of the ruling party.

In support of the above, (Kriger, 2003) in her book entitled "Guerilla Veterans in Post-War Zimbabwe", argues that, the country's post war politics is shaped by poor decisions and policies adopted soon after independence. Thus, she is of the view that, the new ZANU-PF government in 1980 inherited the colonial system of governance of which its legacy has set a stage for subsequent violent conflicts within the country. She further goes on to mention that the veterans programs were characterized by a central political dynamic whereby the ruling party and its liberation Veterans worked together to launch power and privileges. This therefore, negatively mounted into a violent and extractive political order since the two (ruling party and its guerrilla veterans) struggled to sustain power through land invasions and suppression of any political opposition. With this being said, one may hazard that, the reason for the falling building that is Zimbabwe today is a result of the wrong foundation that was laid down soon after independency. Thus, the policies, decisions and actions that were made back there in 1980s still have great impact and influence to present day politics which negatively affects peace, unity and development of the country.

2.3 Relevant Peace organs in Zimbabwe

There are two fundamental peace-building organs within the government of Zimbabwe. These are the (ONHRI) Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration, and (JOMIC) Joint Monitoring and implementing Committee. These two, were created with the aim and mandate to spearhead the process of peace-building, national healing and reconciliation in Zimbabwe. Thus, this came after 2008 electoral violence that almost torn the country apart culminated in a situation whereby supporters of the leading opposition party known as (MDC) Movement for Democratic Change were raided in their homes, some beaten to death while their homes were burnt to the ground by the supporters of the ruling party ZANU-PF. In view of this, one could see the possibility of civil war taking up in Zimbabwe. In order to avoid such a tragedy, there was a need for an immediate peace-building board that was to lead the country's transition from violent situation to peace relations, hence, leading to formation of these two entities (ONHRI) and (JOMIC).

2.4 Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation, and Integration.

The organ was established in 2008 in line with article seven of the Global Political Agreement signed between the ruling party ZANU-PF and the opposition MDC. The organ was meant to curb the culture of violence that has been roaming the country since independency. As such, its purpose was to guide the nation towards healing, facilitate reconciliation process and lead the integration of the Zimbabwean communities. However, the organ has been criticized by many scholars for failing to carry out its mandate. Thus, (Mashingaidze, 2009) postulates that the organ does not have necessary and properly organized channels to ensure effective national healing and reconciliation. To him, the Organ's currently national healing efforts are unsuccessful, due to the sense that there is no union of ideas among government officials; instead it is dominated by lack of understanding which divides the organ resulting in divergence of ideas. With such in view, Mashingaidze posit that, this together with the issue of induced incapacity for state institutions such as the office of the Attorney General to prosecute human rights crimes makes the process of healing and reconciliation in Zimbabwe remain a delusion.

In addition to the above, (Mbire, 2011) sates that "Since its establishment in 2008 the ONHRI has made little progress in promoting reconciliation and healing". This has been so due to the failure of the inclusive government to create a National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration Bill to provide terms of reference for the organ and its ministers and to give legal basis. For this reason, this has become an obstacle to the understanding and clarity on the purpose of the institution. Hence, making the organ vulnerable to political interference and polarization, which in turn, has made the national healing and reconciliation efforts a difficult task. In light of this, the fact that ONHRI's work has mainly centered on consulting only the Church, CSO and Chiefs sidelining the ordinary people and victims who are suppose to be the key clients of the process has culminated in it being termed as elite driven process functioning in a transition period without transition.

2.5 Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee

Like ONHRI, the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee which was set up by Global Political Agreement has also been broadly condemned for failing to live up to its mandate. Thus, the board was launched in 2009 with a multiplicity tasks of which one was to ensure peace-

building and encourage dialogue among political parties that are signatories of the GPA. In light of this, (Hlatshwayo, 2015) is of the view that JOMIC failed to create a mechanism to help those already affected by political violence, He goes on to state the organization only stood to focus on the future and current perpetration of violence rather than reconciliation and national healing. Therefore, one is bound to note that, its ignorance of the past events was a huge mistake in the healing process as there is no healing and moving forward without acknowledging the past. Thus, despite its said achievements on other tasks, it stands to reason that the institution failed on the subject of national healing and reconciliation. With regards to this, it is imperative to note that both two organs meant to spearhead the process of healing and reconciliation in Zimbabwe has loopholes that require immediate attention and adjustments if ever Zimbabwe is to taste peace.

2.6 Other relevant players in the field of peace-building

Importantly to note is that, besides the two national healing organs stated above, there are other institutions that are actively involved in the subject of national healing and peace building in Zimbabwe. These consist of an array of Non-Governmental Organizations such as Heal Zimbabwe Trust, Zimbabwe Peace Projects, Women's coalition of Zimbabwe, Masakhaneni Projects Trust, Tree of life, Grace to Heal and many more others. Cognizant is that, in their operations of peace building, these NGOs have their specific targeted groups whom they tend to direct their projects to, depending on the type of project at that time, for example the woman's coalition is focusing on healing and reconciliation between women supporters of ZANU-PF and MDC. Thus, as much as their efforts are greatly appreciated, the fact that they have specific targeted groups leaves aside other affected groups in the community unattended. This therefore, signifies the need for a certain organization probably government funded, that will carry out peace building programs targeting everyone in the Zimbabwean communities without selection.

2.7 Challenges faced by NGOs in Zimbabwe

They are internal and external challenges being faced by NGOs operating in Zimbabwe. This section will however, focus on external challenges only. Thus, according to (Chakawira, 2011), African governments have reacted obscurely to the existence of NGOs. As per se, the Zimbabwe government is not excluded from that, in the sense that it has manipulated the political process

through fictitious laws and policies accompanied by arbitrary arrest, and corruption that has threatened and toughened the existence and operations of NGOs in Zimbabwe. In support of this, (Lee, 2011) point out that, due to its alleged correlation with the opposition, the civil society has received excessive attention from the ruling party since 1990s. One is bound to note that this is very true as it is evidenced by the imposition of laws such as, ‘The Private Voluntary Organization Act of 2004 and Zimbabwe-NGO Bill. Thus, these laws limited donor funding of NGOs which culminated in some of the NGOs failing to carry out their programs as planned. On top of that, the act also accorded the government through ministry of social welfare, power over registration, finances and operations of NGOs. As such, this meant that the government had full control over NGOs which makes the word “non-governmental” futile like a toothless dog.

In this regard, it can be argued that, in Zimbabwe, government and NGOs relations can be described as topography of political struggle, with the State threatening NGOs dealing with politics involving issues such as peace building, justice and human rights violations. For this reason, (Chakawira, 2011) stipulate that, such a political harsh milieu generated so many challenges to NGO which culminated in some of these organizations totally ending their activities and some leaving the country. Thus, only a handful were able to survive from these harsh treatments by the government. This therefore, serves as proof of unsympathetic conditions being faced by NGOs operating in Zimbabwe, leading to sour relations between the two sectors.

However, when considering the colonial history of this country, one may contend that, it is unfair to just judge the Zimbabwean government for the tight laws imposed to NGOs. In the sense that, political analysis has proved that, Western countries have been using NGOs as tools for sinking information in Africa and to pursue its imperial interests. As evidenced by (Shivji, 2011:6) who warn that “...the unawareness of NGOs about the fundamental struggle between imperialism and nationalism, some of the NGOs wind up playing a party as ideological and organizational agents or protagonists of imperialism...” In this regard, it can be argued that, through such laws the government of Zimbabwe is defending and protecting itself from its external enemies and threats. Therefore, such a scenario presents a complex web of flash points, whereby the government is protecting its sovereign from western enemies either at the expense of its civil society, or without realizing that somehow it is threatening its third sector. Thus, it can be stated that, both parties have apathy to heal, reconcile and ensure sustainable peace within the

Zimbabwean communities but they both do not trust each other, hence, leading to oppression of the weaker party by the powerful party. As such, in a bid to solve this dilemma between the Zimbabwean government and NGOs in the country, this study seeks to provide a better way of interaction between the two parties, endorsed by the following theoretical framework.

2.8 Theoretical framework

This research is based upon the ‘four Cs’ framework propounded by (Najam, 2000). The approach is abbreviated as follows; (Co-operation, Confrontation, Complementarity and Co-optation). Given that the framework is based on institutional interests and preferences for policy ends and means, it is then carefully chosen in this study as it helps to explain the NGO-Government relations and interactions. According to (Najam, 2000) the hypothesis informing this framework is that, institutional actors, government and non-governmental each pursue certain ends (goals) and have a preference for certain means (strategies). As such, floating with the policy stream, they bump into one another in one of four possible combinations. These are ...

- a) Seeking similar ends with similar means which results in **co-operation**.
- b) Seeking dissimilar ends with dissimilar means culminating into **confrontation**.
- c) Seeking similar ends but preferring dissimilar means best described as **complementarity**.
- d) Preferring similar means but for dissimilar ends resulting into **co-option**.

In this case, co-operation implies a situation whereby government agencies and NGOs do not only share similar policy goals but also favors similar strategies for achieving them. Thus, such a scenario is likely to occur in areas of delivering human services and relief, thereby producing an active NGO-government co-operation. For example in cases whereby NGOs literally runs nation food distribution programs such as World Vision in Zimbabwe. Confrontation, however, according to the model, presents a situation whereby there is total divergence of goals or preferred ends and means between the government and the NGOs, most of these cases involve interrogation of government’s mal-administration and policy defiance by the NGOs. Complementarity on the other hand, occurs when the goals of government and those of NGOs are the same or parallel, which gives both parties no choice but to complement each other in achieving similar ends even through different ways. Lastly, co-optation takes place in a situation

where government and NGO seem to have similar preferences regarding means but dissimilar ends, however, the model highlights that, under such circumstances, one or both parties will attempt to change the goals of the other leading into manipulation and outright confrontation or one party giving in into the needs of the other.

In this regard, the study seeks to examine how ZPRA Veterans Trust has pursued a peace agenda within the communities by employing the four Cs strategic frameworks. The researcher's choice of the theory is informed by the ethnographical study as the researcher has worked within the ZPRA Veterans Trust for one year, as a result the participant observational analysis highlighted that the Trust has pursued the above strategies in its engagement with the government in trying to bring about sustainable peace in Zimbabwe. Therefore, the theory will help to unpack the strategies used by ZPRA ex-combatants in a bid to ensure effective peace-building within the Zimbabwean communities. Above all, considering the subject matter of this research, the study emphasizes on the co-operative approach because in this case, both the government and ZPRA Veterans Trust have similar ends that is to ensure national healing, reconciliation and integration, therefore they ought to join hands and use similar means for greater results.

2.9 Chapter Summary

The chapter provided a detailed review of available literature on Zimbabwe's re-engagement of War Veterans after the liberation struggle. The researcher gave an insight on how the peace process was disturbed in Zimbabwe, through analyzing the way in which DDR process was done. The chapter also provided a critic of how the incomplete and inefficient DDR process affected their Ex-combatants' lives and still bears a strong influence on their actions today. Also, an assessment of peace organs in Zimbabwe was done, that is (NHRI) and (JOMIC) which revealed loopholes of these institutions. In addition, a brief account of other CSOs and NGOs involved in Zimbabwe's peace building process and their challenges was presented. Lastly, the chapter presented a detailed theoretical framework in which the study will be based on, leading to conclusion that, NGO-Government cooperation may provide basis for national wide replication.

Chapter Three

Research Methodology

3.0 Introduction

A proficient selection of a research method ensures that all the important issues in the study obtain proper assessment and all the related facets and events are examined and investigated accurately. This, chapter therefore, offers a detailed explanation of the data collection procedures to be undertaken during the research process. (Haralambos & Holborn, 2004:214) are of the view that, every academic theme demands a methodology to explore its findings and conclusions. Therefore, a qualitative methodology would be employed in this research, because it centers on meaning, practice and understanding thereby giving the researcher a chance to freely relate with the individuals whom she/he wants to hear their stories, (McCandles and Bangura, 2007:211). It further centers on obtaining non- statistical information from the informants' descriptions. (Mertler, 2006), postulates that qualitative methods necessitate the collection and analysis of narrative data, for instance, observation, interviews, journal entries and transcripts. This chapter therefore seeks to explain in detail the tools and the methodology selected for this study.

3.1 Research design

A research design is a strategy that the researcher seeks to use in order to obtain answers to research questions and achieve research objectives. It is the focal point of any social study because, it constructs the study by clarifying what the researcher will execute from study hypothesis, data collection, data analysis and to final conclusions of the study. On that premise, a case study method will be employed as it allows the researcher to study, investigate and explore an issue in-depth and in greater detail. Thus, since (Yin, 2009) insinuate that a case study research may utilize a single case or multiple cases. This research however will adopt a single case study method as a way of acquiring deep understanding of the strategies used by ex-combatants of ZPRA Veterans Trust in their peace-building initiatives. The research will be both descriptive and explanatory as it seeks to understand how ex ZPRA combatants have managed to network

with rural and urban societies in Zimbabwe. The ZPRA case study is deemed appropriate as it helps to describe and finally understand what the Trust has experienced during its peace-building programs. Also, ethnography will be used since the student was attached and interacted with ex-ZPRA combatants for one year during industrial attachment.

3.2 Targeted Population

The population that interest the researcher constitutes members of the Trust that have been actively involved in the liberation war history, peace and conflict transformation, and have first hand information and experience of what it is like to deal with traumatized communities. The research will engage on a follow up process, whereby the researcher will communicate with the victims and those who participated in the peace-building programs to here the results or impacts of the Trust's projects. In this regard, the researcher has to have a population that will be representative of a wider society. The population under study would be drawn from both male and female ex-ZPRA combatants for the purposes of gender equality.

3.3 Population Samples

The researcher will initially apply a convenient sampling method from which a snowball sample will be developed. Population sampling is the process of altering from the models of grand theories to testable hypothesis which requires a reduction process that 'atomizes' (Tayie, 2005). A sample is a small segment usually 10% of the entire faction which provides a feasible and coherent means of making a statement about a large group. In this regard, the researcher will have four groups of samples. First of all, the researcher will purposively sample the population of the ex ZPRA combatants who have a membership in the ZPRA Veterans Trust. Thus, there will be a sample from the founders of the Trust, a sample from the field officers who have been part of the four year 2010-2014 peace-building project and another sample from the interns who were attached at ZPRA during the four year peace- building project. On top of this, the study will further engage a sample from the community members where ZPRA projects were implemented.

3.4 Sampling Procedures

The researcher will make use of the snowball sampling technique also known as purposive sampling. This is so because, the technique ensures that participants are selected based on their extensive knowledge of conflict and peace-building issues. This will be effective as it will draw out necessary data from respondents strategically interviewed. This type of sampling is commonly used and suitable if valuable information is about to be lost or distorted as a result of sourcing from the wrong personalities.

3.5 Data collection techniques

Data collection refers to the actual processes that are followed in obtaining information from different sources. In this case the sources of information are ex-combatants who are the members of the Trust (Trust founders and field officers); interns once attached in the Trust and community members from the selected Filabusi district. In the study, data will be collected from primary sources using key-informant interview technique and questionnaires. Secondary sources will include reading of documents released by the Trust such as monitoring and evaluation reports. Thus, the research will use the triangulation method of gathering data. Triangulation is the use of more than one data collection tool when conducting a research.

3.6 Interviews

(Kvale, 1996 in Brenner 2000: 3) describes an interview as an objective dialogue. Such a description is valid because interviews are instigated by interviewers with the intention of gathering relevant and necessary information. As such, data collection in this study will be based on written individual interviews, recordings and questionnaires. These interviews will be held in English and vernacular for those who are unable to articulate themselves in English language. This is so because, the researcher believes that use of vernacular is likely to yield a higher response rate and also put respondents at ease which enables them to open up and give insightful answers to questions posed. Therefore, each session of the interviews will run for 15 to 20 minutes at the Trust's head office in Bulawayo.

Interviews were carefully chosen in this research because their dialogue manner provides the researcher with a chance to ask for clarification of issues where she did not understand, and

another advantage is that interviews gives the interviewer greater control over and during the interview process. As such, focused interviews will be concentrated much on individuals known to have been involved in a particular experience or activity, for example in this case the ex-combatants who have been in the community healing and reconciliation projects teams.

3.7 Interviews for key informants

The key-informant interview method of gathering data will be used in the study in the since that it allows the researcher to attain valuable information from key informants with respectable positions in the Trust's governance structure.

3.8 Data Analysis

Documents analysis falls under the secondary data collection method. In this case, it will include analyzing of monitoring and evaluation reports, and any other documents that will be produced by the Trust, so as to produce quality research.

3.9 Document Analysis

In the study, questionnaires, recordings, written interviews and contextual data will be analyzed and explanations of occurrence of certain events will be done. The contextual data will be collected from monitoring and evaluating reports written by the Trust during and after the COSV funded peace-building action program. Also a report written by COSV as the funding donor will be analyzed.

3.10 Data Presentation

Data found will be presented in paragraphs complemented by tables, diagrams and source surveys. It is believed that these, data presentation methods portray data in a way that will give the reader better understanding thereby revealing variations and trends about the research topic.

3.11 Ethical considerations

Confidentiality

In the study, the researcher will maintain privacy and make sure that confidentiality is preserved. As this is further supported by (Brenner, 2000) who emphasizes that researchers should prioritize protection of the people involved in an interview study because it is their responsibility in every research involving humans. Therefore, since in this study, the researcher seeks to come up with solution on the prevailing problems of people and not to become an additional problem. The researcher will be secretive and information given by participants will be treated with confidence. In this in view, the researcher will maintain her ground as a researcher not a gossip or a spy.

Informed Consent

Informed consent is a paramount ethical principle in qualitative research. The term means that potential informants should willingly partake in the research processes and they must be informed that they can terminate their involvement for any reason at anytime with no cost (Payne and Payne: 2004p68). When seeking a person's consent you have to be open about the project that you are doing, explain to them why you want their stories. Hence there is need to build a relationship with the subjects. There has to be an aspect of willingness and volunteering to participate. Consent can be written or on camera consent. Written consent can be used for people that understand the legal jargon that is written on the consent form. The signing of the consent form is vital for your own protection as the researcher from prosecution in the event that the subject changes their mind about their participation in the research.

Equality

Equality implies that information gathered from all respondents whether from rural or urban areas will be equally acknowledged. Further, all the respondents will be given equal respect, which means that information from higher positioned members of the Trust will be given equal treatment with that of lower positioned personnel. Lastly, not to forget issues of gender, meaning that information from both male and female respondents will be considered equally as they all would have participated in the projects.

3.12 Chapter summary

This chapter provided a plan, structure and sequence of the research methodology. Thus, it highlighted and justified all the methods of data collection to be used by the researcher in a way of answering research questions and achieving research objectives. Therefore, using the outlined methods data will be gathered, and presented in the next chapter.

Chapter Four

Data Presentation and Analysis

4.0 Introduction

This chapter serves to interpret, organize and analyze the data that was obtained from the field by the researcher. This therefore implies that, all the views, responses' and answers obtained by the researcher through questionnaires and interview guides will be categorized, interpreted and analyzed properly in this chapter. As such, data will presented in the form of thematic headings drawn from research objectives, supplemented by tables, diagrams, graphs and pie charts so as to simplify the interpretations and explanations of the findings.

4.1 ZPRA's Peace-building interventions

As a peace-building organization, ZPRA Veterans Trust works in post conflict areas to facilitate conflict resolutions, peace-building, reconciliation and national healing activities in Zimbabwe. In 2010, the Trust began a four-year program entitled "Community Healing and Reconciliation Program". The main objective of the program was to ensure that the warring communities are able to move beyond their conflicts and develop into functional communities again. As such, the Trust visited different provinces such as Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South, Midlands, Mashonaland West and Mashonaland central among others implementing the program. Therefore, data collection for this research was mainly based on the stated program. Hence, questionnaires, interviews, recordings and offices documents were used to investigate the operational strategies of the Trust, its relations with communities and the government, challenges encountered during program implementation, its achievements and the effectiveness of its interventions. In this sense, findings in these investigations will help the researcher to come up with actual facts in analyzing the data gathered, and in providing the researcher with conclusion for the study (research topic), thereby determining whether the idea of using Ex-combatants as agents of peace in Zimbabwe is effective or it is just an illusionary thought.

4.2 Research Background

As noted earlier before, ZPRA Veterans Trust is a huge organization, comprising of one hundred and forty-four active members. As such, in an effort to carry out this study, the researcher had an expected sample size comprising of 30 members, which is 21 % of the Trust population size. Nevertheless, due to uncertainties of this world, the researcher managed interview 20 members out of the 30 expected which makes it approximately 14 % of the Trust's population. To backup the study and its findings, the researcher designed another sample of interns who were attached at the Trust and a follow-up interview sample from the community members who attended and participated in the Trust's programs. The Trust started engaging interns in 2010 whereby they were taking four interns each year, which meant that by 2014 the Trust had employed 16 interns from whom the researcher had expected to at least interview 10 of them. Unfortunately out of 10 expected, the researcher managed to get hold of 6 resulting in 37,5% of the total number of interns, and out of ten community mobilization team, the researcher was able to interview only five of them. Subject to analysis, the response rate of these samples is therefore presented in table below. Surprisingly and important to note is the fact that, the same people who returned questionnaires are the same people who showed up for the interviews. Therefore, the table will represent the response rates of both questionnaires and interviews.

Table: 1

Questionnaires and Interviews response rates.

Sample Category	Distributed questionnaires&Expected Interviewees	Returned Questionnaires & Interviewed People	Response rate in percentages
Trust' Founders	10	7	70%
Field Officers	20	13	65%
Interns	10	6	60%
Community Members	10	5	50%
Total number	50	31	62%

Source: survey

A snowball sampling technique was used to select respondent from the Trust officers, mainly targeting specific individuals whom the researcher knew they had knowledge about the Study and they had been actively involved in the Trust’s programs. All the interviews were done during week working days whereby respondents will come and meet with the researcher in the ZPRA Veterans Trust’s office in Bulawayo as according to appointments. The procedure was applied to all the samples except for community members, whereby the researcher relied on the Chief for mobilization for people interviews

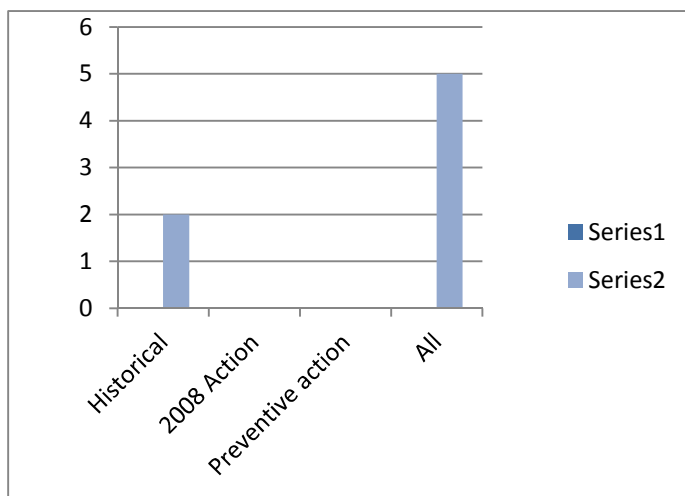
4.3 Reasons for Trust’s formation

In laying foundation for the study, the starting point of the research was to understand the reasons why out of all the issues affecting Zimbabwean communities the ZPRA Veterans Trust chose to focus on peace-building. The intension was to identify the major cause of concern behind formation of the Trust. Hence, the question below served as the researcher’s guide.

Questionnaire for Trust’s founders

As the founder of this organization, what factors made you to choose to focus on peace-building?

Figure: 1



Source: survey

As illustrated in the diagram, 71% of the total respondents stated that, the formation of the Trust was a result of multifaceted issues that involved historical background of the country, 2008 violence, preventive action and others factors that were not part of the possible answers. Only 29% of respondents mentioned historical reasons as the major cause of formation of the Trust. The other two possible answers received zero response, maybe due to the fact that they were already included in other answers. This therefore, shows that the need for peace-building should be prioritized in the country as they are many factors affecting peace in Zimbabwe. As such, for this to succeed there must be cooperation between the government and peace-building organizations, which buttresses the cooperative method of Four Cs theory.

4.4 Operational strategies of ZPRA Veterans Trust

During interviews, ZPRA members revealed that, the Trust employed a number of different strategies to approach the communities and to implement its peace-building initiatives. First of all, the Trust conducted trainings and peace-building teachings within its personnel before going to the field. This was to make sure that; all the program facilitators understand the meaning of peace and the importance for peace-building in Zimbabwe. Therefore, the researcher asked the two groups that are ZPRA's field officers and interns about their understanding of peace and the need for peace-building in Zimbabwe, since they were the facilitators of the program; and in the following are the findings.

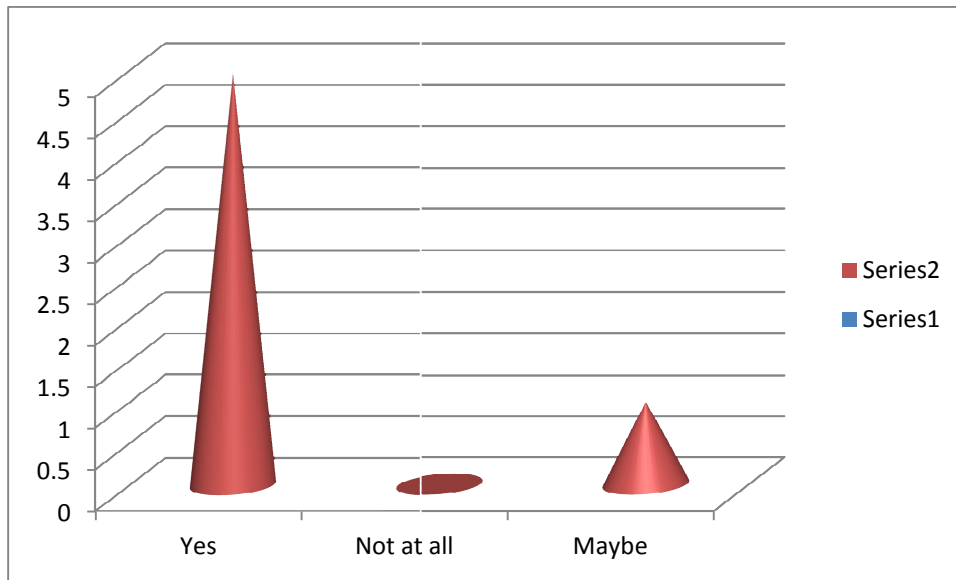
Question 1 (Field Officers)

This question sought to examine what the field officers has to say about healing programs in the country. It inquires their views pertaining the need for healing in Zimbabwe. As such, before uttering their opinions about the subject matter, the Officers were asked to consider the history of this nation. The purpose of this question was to assess whether they understand the importance of healing in this nation. Hence the question read as the following.....

Taking into account the history of this country, do Zimbabwe needs healing?

The response rate was 100% as all the officers agreed on the same answer as noted in the diagram below

Figure 2



Source survey

The above diagram reveals that 100% of the respondent highlighted that to greater extent Zimbabwe do need healing. Thus, all the officers ticked possible answer “very much” to stress the need for healing in country. This therefore shows that, both non-governmental organizations dealing with peace building together with the government’s peace organs must pull up their socks and work hard in restoring the long lost peace and harmony within the country’s communities. This therefore, will reduce unnecessary conflicts and it will enhance security of the country.

Questionnaires for Interns

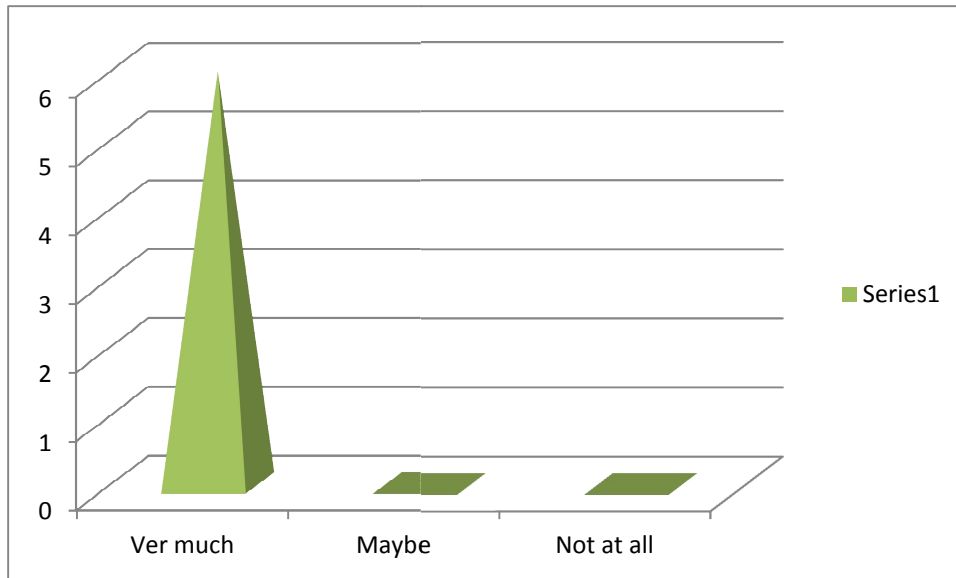
Question one

The first question for this sample category aimed at examining whether the Trust’s interns understands the need for peace-building in this country. This is so due to the fact that, each one of them have spent one year of their lives working and interacting with the Trust members. As such, this meant that, they have been partaking in ZPRA’s activities and witnessing or sometimes even facilitating healing sessions. This therefore attracted the researcher attention of examining

whether they now exceedingly understand the need for peace-building in this country. The question read as following

As a former ZPRA Veterans Trust attaché, do you understand the need for peace-building in Zimbabwe?

Figure: 3. Attained answers



Source Survey

The findings highlighted that six out of six respondents claimed that they really understand the need for peace-building in Zimbabwe, resulting in 100% response rate. This was two due to peace-building teachings and trainings conducted by the Trust, and due to the sense that, these interns have been operating on the ground, going to different communities to facilitating healing sessions and memorization processes. As such, this exposed them to factual realities of this country whereby they got to meet and interact with traumatized individuals who are still suffering from (PTSD) post-traumatic stress diseases. Therefore, such occasion made them realize that most of the citizens in this country carry with them burdens of past wounds that are causing conflicts and lack of cooperation within communities' culminating in delayed development of the country. In this manner, one could note that these people really in need of help and support to lessen the burden and to heal. Hence, in that way giving interns a clear understanding of the need for peace-building in Zimbabwe.

Other strategies

After trainings and organization of team members, each team would therefore, seek permission for program implementation from the local authorities of their allocated districts. Thus, recognition of traditional leaders (Chiefs) by making them first pot of call into the community was another strategy used by Trust to easily get permission. When permission granted the Trust would then set up structures for commencement of the program. In this process, inclusion of some of the villagers into the team by making them coordinators of the program was also a strategy employed by the Trust, so as to inject a sense of program ownership among community members. Also the Trust would invite the police force for security of people and to prove that it had no hidden agendas. Furthermore, distribution of peace-building literature, peace-teachings, holding of workshops, seminars, outreaches and memorization were parts of healing activities. These activities involved truth telling as it was believed that, saying out their grievances and what is in their hearts to each other will create connection between people and they get to be relieved from wounds and quarries they would have been carrying with them for a very long time. Also there was engagement of games during healing process which were meant to spice the program so that people would not get bored. Lastly, as a way of ensuring sustainability of the program, the Trust established (CCRC) Community Conflict Resolution Committees that will handle any conflicts arising within their villages. All these strategies therefore appeared to be very effective as ZPRA excelled in its program and left unforgettable footprints.

4.5 The Trust's engagement with the community and the government.

The Trust's relationships with the community and the government were divergent. Thus the interviews revealed that, the Trust created harmonious relations rooted by respect, discipline and a common need that is to ensure peace with the communities. Such interactions were therefore, the main engineers behind survival and continuity of the Trust. To prove this, the researcher conducted a follow-up interview from Fulabusi districts, where questionnaires came with the following results.

Questionnaires for Community Members

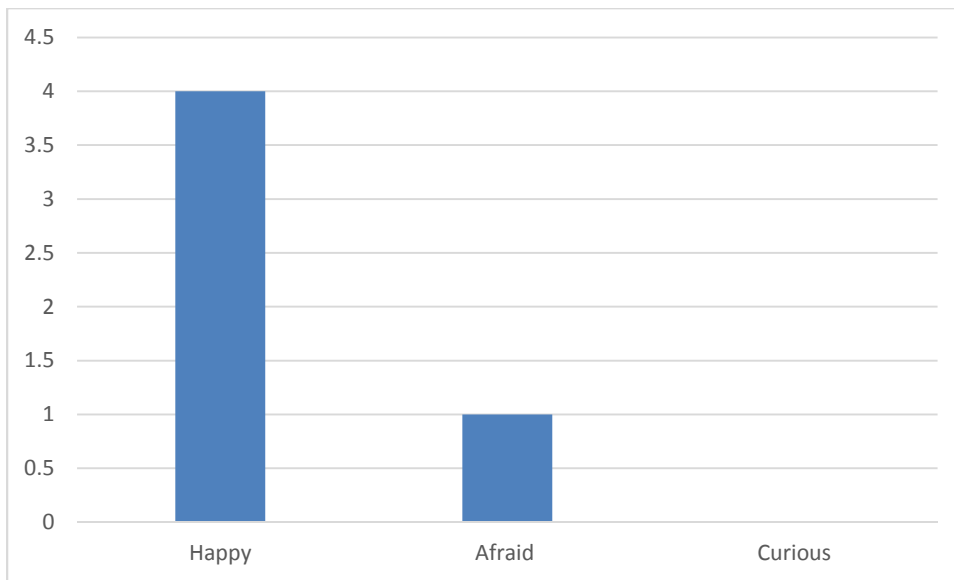
Question one

The first question, sought to understand how the villagers felt when they got the message that Ex-combatants were coming into their communities for peace-building. This question aimed at investigating perception of Ex-combatants in this country. Hence the question was structured as the following....

As a community member who participated in ZPRA’s programs, how did you feel when the War Veterans were coming to your community with the gospel of peace?

The table below, shows responses

Figure: 4



Source survey

In this research, 80% of the respondents noted that they were happy when they saw Ex-combatants coming with the gospel of peace. However, one has to note that their happiness came from different basis. Thus, during interviews, some stipulated that, the 2008 violence that was roaming the country during the period was threatening their day to day lives whereby they lived each day wondering what was going to happen tomorrow. As a result, such feelings of insecurity made them desperate and thirst for peace, which is the reason why they were happy

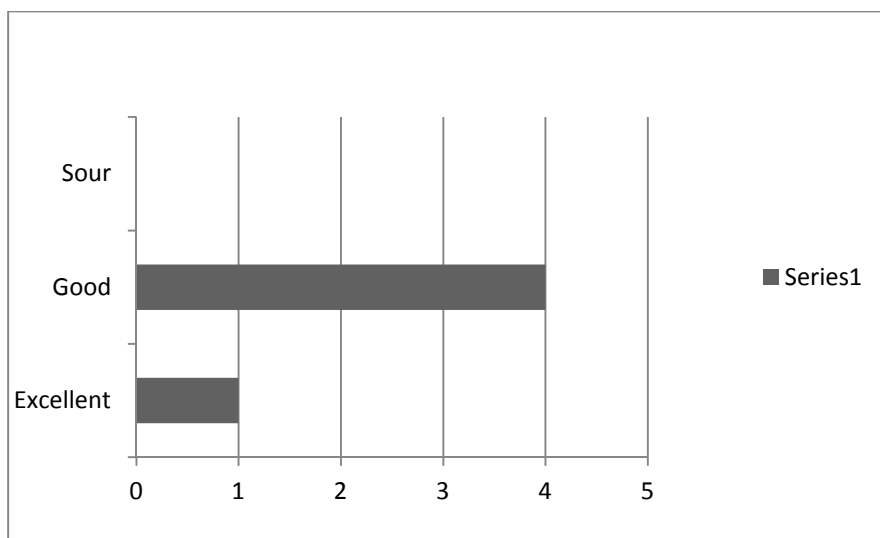
when ZPRA Veterans Trust appeared out of the blue with the gospel of peace. Some however, believed that since some of the violence perpetrators were War Veterans, therefore coming of other War Veterans with right purpose was going to relieve them by teaching their fellow colleagues the right from wrong. The 20% which stated that it got afraid when the message that Ex-combatants were coming for peace-building to their community gives the reader a clear picture that, these people were afraid because they knew War Veterans as brutal people who have been long broadcasted as violence perpetrators. As such, this justifies respondent's feelings of being afraid.

Question two

The second question was aimed at examining ZPRA Veterans Trust's relations with community members during project implementation. Thus, it sought to understand how the Trust members interacted with villagers. It inquires whether the Trust use dictatorship also referred to (Master-Slave) method, or it was harmony relations (Father-Son) method, whereby community members were treated with respect and made to be the owners of the program while the Trust members as facilitators played disciplined children's roles of taking orders from their fathers. Hence, the guiding question for this research was.....

How would you describe the Trust's relations with the community members during its project implementation?

Figure: 5



Source survey

In the findings, 80% that is 4 out of 5 respondents stipulated that the Trust had good relations with the community. Furthermore, the other 40% that is 1 out of 5 people commented that the relations were excellent. This therefore, proves that it is not all the War Veterans who are perpetrators of violence. Thus, there is another portion among War Veterans that still represent the true meaning of the liberation struggle and is proud and eager for acting as the symbol of peace.

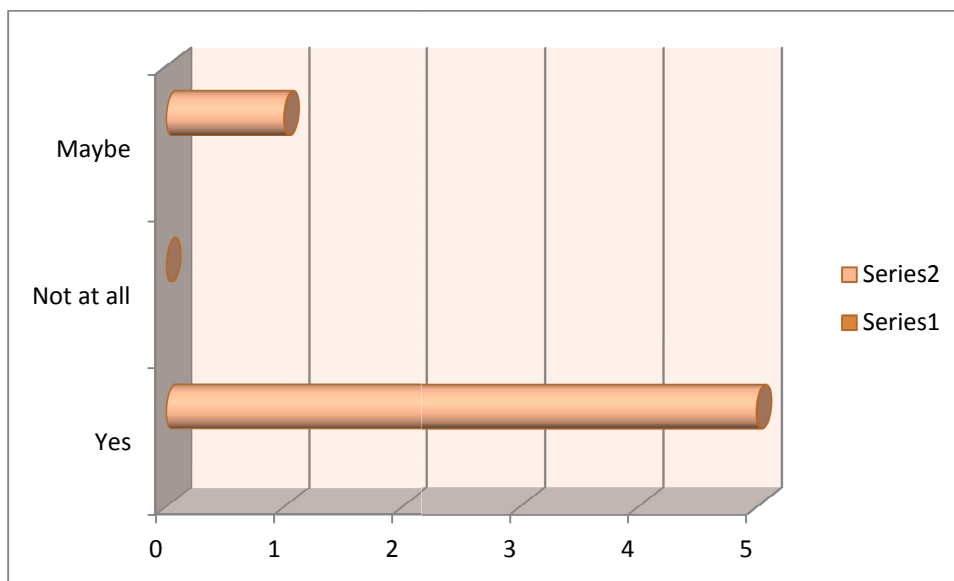
Questionnaire for Field Officers

The second question sought to understand much about engagement of Ex-combatants in peace-building. Thus, since the War Veterans had a dreadful history of violence in this country, the main aim of the research question was therefore, to understand how the communities welcomed these Ex-combatants who surprised them with the gospel of peace. The question reads...

What was the community's reception and perception of Ex-combatants as peace agents?

The findings are presented in the diagram below

Figure: 6



Source Survey

As illustrated in the diagram, it can be noted that the majority (69%) of respondents highlighted that the Zimbabwean communities appreciated them and their program. One may point out that, probably it is so because, that time Zimbabwe was succumbing to the culture of violence that was escalating each day. As such, the communities were tired of the situation and overwhelmed by the feelings of insecurity to the extent that when Ex-combatants showed up with such peace programs they welcomed them with open hands. On the other hand, a handful of respondents that is (31%) noted that, at first they were feared but later on appreciated as the program progressed. One may justify this, by stating that such reactions were probable in a country where War Veterans have a history of violence, which in turn stimulated feelings of mistrust among community members

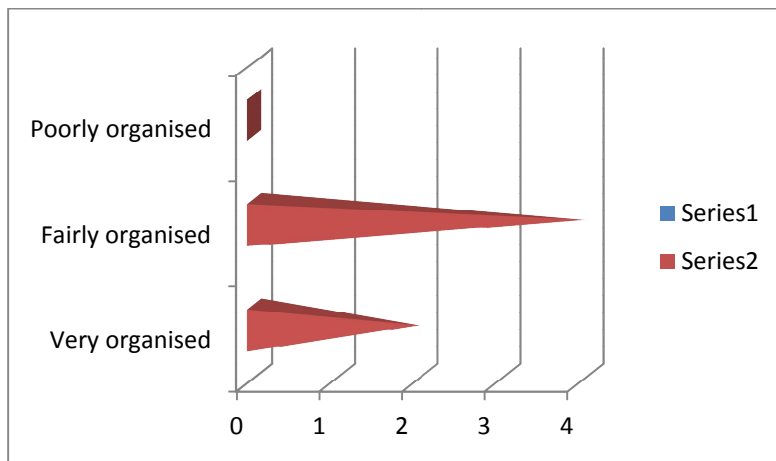
Questionnaire for Interns

The second question aimed at understanding from the intern's view point, the organization of ZPRA Veterans Trust's planning cell. This included the Trust operating methods, discipline and arrangement of their activities. Thus, it sought figure out interns' judgments and what they had observed during their placement periods. Below is the question asked....

How organized was ZPRA Veterans Trust's planning cell?

The findings are presented in the following diagram.

Figure: 7



Source survey

On the findings, 4 out of six (67%) of the respondents highlighted that the planning cell of the Trust was fairly organized. While 2 out of 6 (33%) noted that the planning cell was very organized. Therefore, with this in mind, one is deemed to note that the findings are reasonable, because as a growing entity, the Trust can not be expected to be 100% perfectly organized. Thus, it will improve step by step as it encounters challenges and learn from them.

4.6 Relationship with the government

However, notwithstanding the good relations the Trust had created with different communities, tables turned down when it came to the government. Thus, no matter how hard the Trust had tried to be innocent to the government by following all the legal procedures required for Trust's operations, from its registration to police clearances, the government, in turn never trusted it. One may argue that, this was due to the sense that, the Trust was formed by members of the former ZPRA forces that was a political wing of ZAPU which became an opponent of the currently ruling party ZANU during the 1980 elections. As such, for this reason, the government never believed that peace-building was the agenda of the Trust; instead it thought that, peace-building was just a mask for a conspiracy attack against it. Hence, it became hostile to the Trust in so many ways as this will be further clarified under challenges faced by the Trust. In this regard, one may submit that, such hostilities complement the 4Cz theory of NGO-Government interaction, which stipulates that at times the interaction of the two culminate into confrontation whereby the two parties are seeking dissimilar ends with dissimilar means.

In regards to the above, it is of paramount importance for one to note that, mistrust is the major problem between the two entities, that is the government and NGOs in this case, ZPRA Veterans Trust. Thus, government has desire to ensure peace in its country but it does not trust the NGOs as most of them are vulnerable to Western influence, which results in these NGOs being used as agents of imperialism. As such, as a way of protecting its sovereign power, the government is responding to the situation by imposing restrictive laws, harsh operating environments and tight security for NGOs. On the other hand, Ex-combatants are not comfortable of seeing the country they fought for sinking in conflicts, while its citizens are suffocating in traumas and internal wounds which overrides the purpose for the liberation struggle. Hence they see it, as their duty to

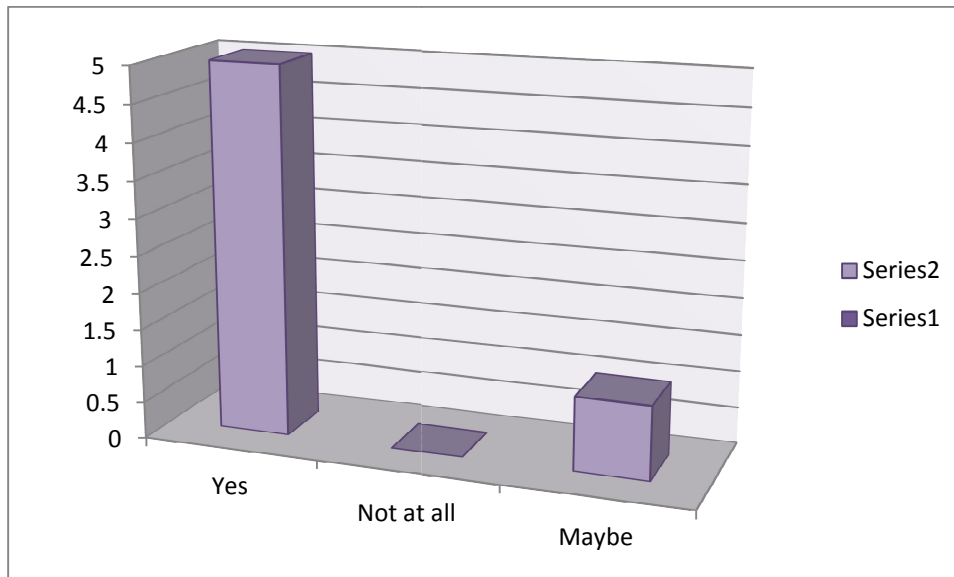
engage in peace-building so as to relieve these suffering masses from their miseries. In this view, since both parties want the same thing, therefore, the researcher suggests cooperation for a common cause as the best solution to the dilemma. To investigate the possibility of this idea, the researcher designed a question for founders of the Trust as noted in the following.

Question 2 for Trust founders

The second question was aimed at understanding what Ex-combatants' have to say about the idea of engaging them and the government onto a co-operation of peace-building. The main idea was to contemplate their perceptions about War Veterans or NGO- Government co-operation in Zimbabwe. As a result, the guiding question and findings was as presented below.

Do you think Ex-combatants cooperation with the government in peace-building is likely to produce positive results?

Figure: 8



Source survey

The above diagram reveals that 71% of the respondents were of the view that Ex-combatants cooperation with the government in peace-building has higher chances of producing positive results. Thus, only 29% of the respondent were not so sure about the idea hence they said maybe,

showing that it might produce positive results while at the same time there are chances of failure. With such in mind therefore, one might argue that, since 80% percent of the respondents thinks that the idea is likely to produce sustainable peaces in Zimbabwe, the idea therefore deserves a trial.

4.7 Challenges encountered by the Trust

According to the interviews, the Trust encountered a number of economic, socially and politically challenges during project implementation. On the economic side, interviewees noted that sometimes lack of funding was a challenge to the Trust. This therefore limited it in its activities and travelling distances. Thus, sometimes workshops that would have been scheduled for one week time frames, they ended up being reduced into three days workshops. As such, this therefore burdened facilitators with more work and little time to rest. On the social side, the interviewees mentioned language barrier as the major cause. Thus, they stated that sometimes they had to meet with older people who needed to be approached in their language, for example the Nambians people in Hwange, the BaTonga in Binga and the Kalangas in Plumtree. In such cases therefore, they had to find some interpreters.

Nonetheless, the interviews recorded that, of all the challenges, politically challenges were the major and most irritating ones. In this segment, the respondents mentioned that, threats from the security agents were the major challenges. Thus, they mentioned that sometimes the CIOs would block them on their ways to workshops, or intrude in the middle of seminars/workshops and dismiss people. Sometimes they would even threaten community members not to attend the meetings culminating into lack of participation. On top of this, due to fear of political affiliations, some of the Chiefs (though few) would chase away the Trust or denied them permission to implement the program in theirkraals. All these challenges therefore, had a greater impact on the Trust's activities and achievements.

4.8 Effectiveness of the Trust's peace-building activities.

The data collected mentioned that the four-year community healing and reconciliation program implemented by ZPRA Veterans Trust was very effective. Thus, community members stated a number of reasons to justify their responses. As such, some mentioned that ever since the program there are improved relations among villagers, when a conflict arises the Community

Conflict Resolution Committees resolves it before escalating. Some even testified that, after telling their stories and saying out their grudges, they got relieved and they began to healing from past wounds. Some mentioned that talking and listening to other peoples stories during the activities freed them from obstacles and traumas that have been blocking them from moving on. Therefore, these sayings were further supported by answers from different questionnaires.

Questionnaire for community members

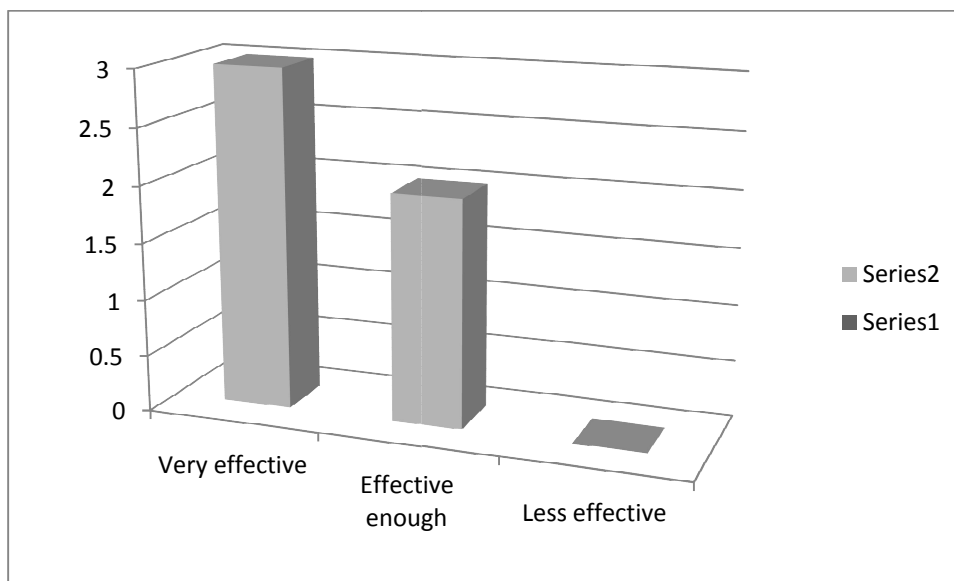
Question three

The last question for community members sought to assess the effectiveness of ZPRA’s peace building initiatives. This was to be achieved through getting judgments from community members as according to their perspectives. Such a method of gathering views from the community was believed to be very useful in helping the researcher to evaluating the Trust progress. As such, this therefore led to the following question.

In your judgment, how effective was the Trust’s peace-building programs?

The table below shows the findings

Fig. 9



Source survey

As presented in the diagram, in the findings 60% of the respondents stated that the programs were very effective, while the other 40% graded it as effective enough. All the respondents defended their judgments by mentioning that, since the program implementation the number of conflicts has been reduced, and whenever a conflict arises, it is quickly solved by the community conflict resolution tribunals that were set up by the Trust as part of the program. In reference to such findings, one may note that the peace-building action programs implemented by ZPRA Veterans Trust were highly effective.

4.9 How effective is the idea of using Ex-combatants as peace agents?

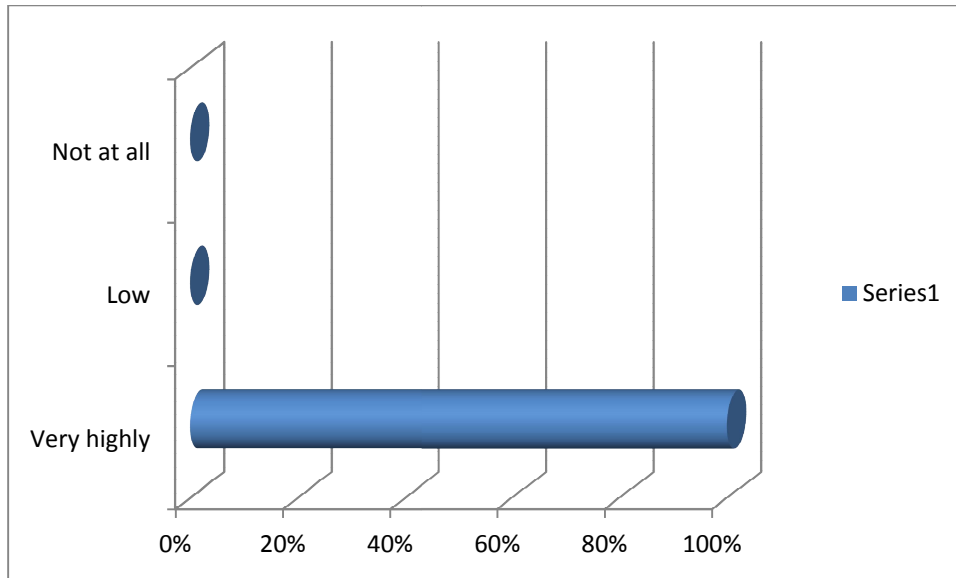
This sub heading forms the most important part of the study as it seeks to explore the effectiveness of the idea of using Ex-combatants as agents of peace. Thus, the findings under this section together with other sections are going to determine the conclusion of this study. As a result, the researcher posed question to different samples including interns, field offices and founders of the Trust as a way of engaging them in this investigation in a bid to understand their thoughts about the idea.

Questionnaire for Field Officers

This question for field officers of the Trust aimed at hearing their judgments concerning the idea of using Ex-combatants as agents of peace. Thus, basing on their experiences in the Trust, the main objective of the question was to examine the self-confidence within and possessed by these Ex-combatants. The question reads

In your judgment, is the idea of using Ex-combatants as agents of peace effective?

Fig. 10



Source survey

All the respondents (100 %) stated that the idea was very highly effective. In the sense that, the peace-building program implemented by their fellow colleagues ZPRA Veterans Trust proved to be very successful. As such, if the Trust is extended and other War Veterans recruited chances are very high for the group to ensure effective and sustainable peace in the country. With these findings, one is persuaded to mention that for some reasons Ex-combatants have self-confidence and assurance in conducting peace-building activities within the country

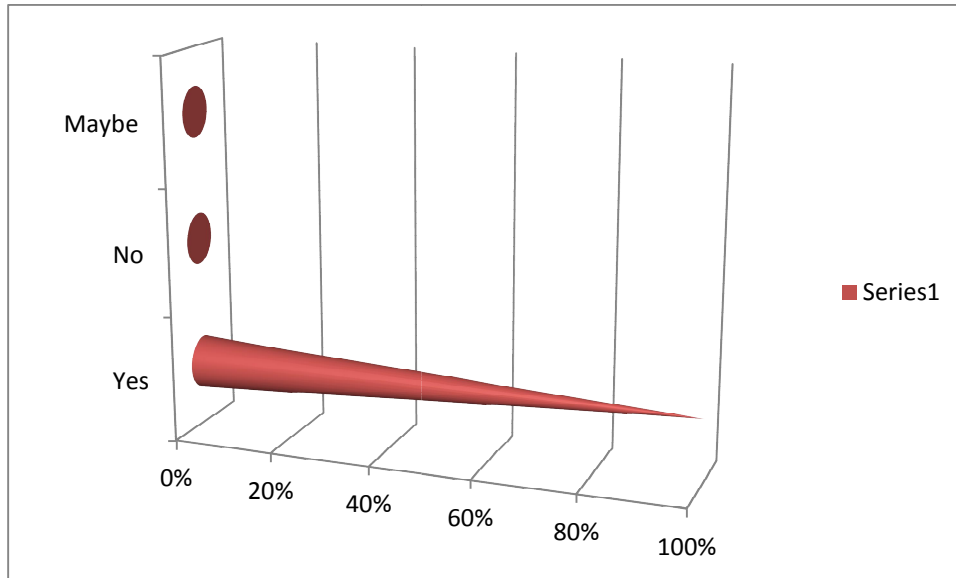
Questionnaire for Trust Founders

The questionnaire for Founders of the Trust further sought to assess their views and judgments concerning Ex-combatants’ capacity to ensure effective peace-building country wide. The objective was to weigh how much faith they had on themselves. As such the question read as following.....

In your view, do Ex-combatants have enough capacity to ensure effective and sustainable peace-building country wide?

All the respondents said yes, which gives us a representative diagram such as one below.

Figure: 11



Source: Survey

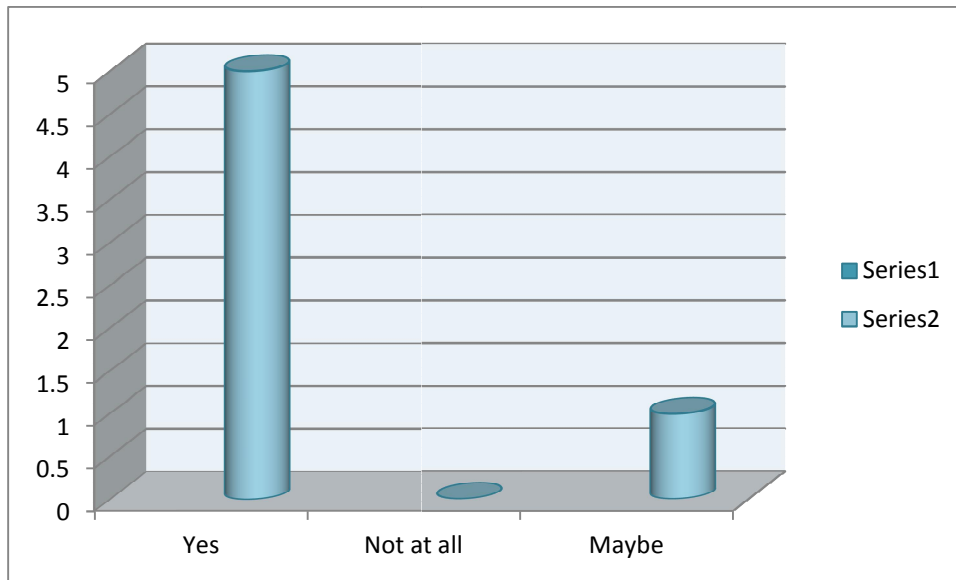
The fact the findings yielded 100% response as shown in the above diagram, serves to clarify that ZPRA Veterans Trust has faith and courage on themselves and other Ex-combatants. Such spirit therefore shows desire and a willing spirit among Ex-combatants. In this sense, one might stipulate that, these Ex-combatants deserve to be provided with enough resources needed to carry out their peace-building missions around the country.

Questionnaire for Interns

The last question for this category sought to hear interns' judgments about the topic of this research. The main objective was to hear from their perspectives whether Ex-combatants have enough potential to carry out successful peace-building missions in Zimbabwe. The question read...

Judging from your experience at ZPRA Veterans Trust, do you think Ex-combatants have the potential to ensure effective peace-building in Zimbabwe?

Figure: 12



Source survey

The results of the research showed that 87% (5 out of 6) respondents commented that Ex-combatants have the potential to ensure effective peace-building in Zimbabwe. Such comments were based on the Trust’s achievements in their operations. Thus, monitoring and evaluating results of the Trust’s activities highlighted that in communities where the Trust did its programs, there were huge changes in communities in terms of working together, understanding and harmony. Since, the culture of violence was also reduced; this showed that given enough resources and support, Ex-combatants had the potential to carryout effective and positive peace-building country wide.

4.10 Document analysis

The office documents supplied by the Trust complemented data gathered from the primary sources. Thus, the document through the COSV report noted that EU had agreed to fund 123 activities of the Trust. These were broken down into thematic areas of capacity building, workshops with traditional leaders, community healings, reconciliation and memorialisation. Therefore,the report written by the program director to the European Union highlighted that the

program was very effective as it managed to restore long lost relations and unlock doors for dialogue among community groups. This was further evidenced by more invitation for the Trust's interventions by many communities that have been subjected to conflict and violence. This therefore, supports the topic of this study by showing that Ex-combatants are the only group with the capacity to indulge in direct social inclusion in this political harsh environment of Zimbabwe.

On the challenges faced by the Trust, the action program report to COSV stated that out of 90 programs that were supposed to be carried by the Trust during the first quarter of the program five of them were blocked by state security agents and cancelled. Statistically this therefore, meant that apart from other challenges such as weather or climate changes, threats from the security agents affected the action program by 18%. This therefore, support primary sources responses that disturbances by the State security agencies were the major challenges faced during the program implementation. Hence, this indicates the tense and hostile Government-NGO relations in Zimbabwe.

4.11 Chapter summary

This chapter presented and analyzed data gathered in chapter three of this research. It reflected the methods used to collect the data that is through questionnaires and interviews conducted with Trust's founders, its field officers, the Trust's former interns and not to forget community members from Filabusi district. As such, the gathered data was presented in the form of brief explanations followed by diagrams, and tables. As part of interviews, there was a certain portion that demanded the responded to suggest ways to solve the Trust's challenges, this therefore, combined with the researcher's views would be discussed in the next chapter.

Chapter five

Summary, conclusions and recommendations

5.0 Introduction

This chapter aims at providing an overview of the entire research, offer conclusions drawn from the study as well recommendations for the Trust's way forward. Such recommendations will be presented as suggestions to ZPRA Veterans Trust, on how to overcome its challenges and threats, so as to carryout effective peace-building missions in the country

5.1 Summary

This study was driven by the extensive conflicts and traumatizing scenarios that have been accumulating in the soil of this country since its origin. Such experiences have been witnessed through events such as colonization and its devastating rule, the liberation struggle, the traumatic 1980s Matabeleland-Midlands disturbances also called (Gukurahundi), the operation mrambatswina and the electoral violence that has been prevailing in the country over a decade. Therefore, such incidents have created tensions, hatred and quarreling among people in the Zimbabwean societies, which in turn has escalated into conflicts, lack of cooperation and underdevelopment. However, as much as the civil society and government are trying to deal with the predicament, they are factors that are blocking the success of the two entities. It was against such factors therefore, that this study sought to examine the causes behind failure of reconciliation and national healing in Zimbabwe; and to offer a way forward by identifying Ex-combatants as the only group that may spearhead a successful peace-building and reconciliation for the good of this nation that is at risk of civil war and fall down. As a result, ZPRA Veterans Trust an Ex-combatants organization was used as a case study for the research.

The main aim of the research was to identify strategies used by ZPRA Veterans Trust in its peace building intervention programs, and assess its effectiveness in bringing about peace in different provinces and districts, as well as explore the challenges being faced by the Trust in implementing its peace building programs. As such, a set of questions and objectives spearheaded and guided the entire research process. In addition, a variety of scholarly books and documents were reviewed so as to complement the research process.

The findings revealed that, ZPRA Veterans Trust in a bid to reduce the effects of conflicts, it has intervened and introduced peace building programs that helped the communities to heal and work together in different provinces of this country. As a result, communities have learnt to cooperate and work together for a common good despite their different religious and political backgrounds. However, due to financial challenges, the Trust's programs did not cover the entire nation. This therefore, signifies that there is still a lot of work that needs to be done in spearheading Zimbabwe's peace building process. Thus, such a job does not need one organization, but a joint cooperation with the government and other relevant organs.

5.2 Drawn conclusions

The research made the following observations.

- The research observed that there is an unending tension and mistrust between the government of Zimbabwe and the civil society. The government thinks that its external enemies are using NGOs to pursue their imperialist agenda. As a result, to avoid such threats the government has put tight security and repressive laws governing operation of NGOs in the country so as to reduce them and affect the progress of the few surviving.
- Also, the study noted that, the ZANU-PF government misunderstood the reasons and the agenda for ZPRA Veterans Trust; instead it thought that peace-building was just a mask being used by the Trust to push the agenda for ZAPU. Such misunderstandings therefore, resulted in tight security being put to monitor the Trust, which at times threatened and disturbed the Trust's activities.
- The research further unveiled that existing legal frameworks and institutions put up to spearhead the process of national healing are ineffective as one may like to call them as mere paper tigers. Thus, the ministry for healing and reconciliation, together with the so

called Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration are failing to serve their purposes. Hence, symbolizing the need for a more effective and committed entity.

- The research also observed that the government is reluctant to facilitate healing, resolve conflicts and ensure sustainable peace among communities, as there is little political will to step up against these issues. As such, these conflicts continue to tear families and communities apart, which hinder development of this nation.
- Noteworthy is the fact that ZPRA Veterans Trust has succeeded in its peace-building missions despite all the challenges, threats and disturbances put forward by the government. Therefore, the study concludes that, given enough resources and support, Ex-combatants have the potential to carryout effective and sustainable peace-building country wide, with reference to ZPRA Veterans Trust
- The research concludes, by mentioning that Ex-combatants are the only group that could be Trusted by the government when it come to imperialism and western influence, Thus, because of the hardships they faced during colonization and the liberation struggle they will never betray their nation. As such, the government therefore, needs to cooperate with these people and use them as its agents for peace-building.

5.3 Recommendations

During data collection, the interviews gave respondents a room to formulate recommendations that can be adopted in order for the Trust to overcome or alleviate challenges and improve in its operations. Therefore, below are the recommendations suggested by the respondents.

- There should realignment, clarification and lessening of laws governing the functioning of civil society, because such repressive laws gives the government total control over civil society organizations which in turn negatively affect and dilute the real purpose of civil society.
- The government needs to sober up and follow the right channels of the United Nation to envy peace and rule of law; as such it should support such activities and control its agencies and instruct them to not disturb tremendous work like peace-building activities.

- Also, people should learn to distinguish between the government and a political party, meaning that the government officials including the police and central intelligence agents have to serve interests of a people (government) not those of a single political party.
- In order to curb the culture of mistrust between the Trust and the government, the respondents recommended that there should be cooperation between the State and the Trust. Thus, since the two have a common interest that is to ensure peace within the country, therefore they should use common means to achieve their common goal as suggested in the theoretical framework presented in chapter two.
- The Trust on the other hand, needs to engage within its self other Ex-combatants whether they are from ZANLA or ZPRA wings as long as they are willing to become agents of peace in this country. This will help the Trust to grow and lessen its burden.

5.6 Research Conclusion

As a political science student of Zimbabwe, the researcher realized that there was a dilemma of mistrust between the government of Zimbabwe and its civil organizations. The predicament has therefore, negatively affected the functioning of non-governmental organizations including those dealing with peace-building and reconciliation. However, as one should note, such quarreling does not provide the nation with healing, reconciliation and peace needed for its development. Therefore to solve this problem, the researcher has suggested the use of Ex-combatants by the government as agents of peace. To test the effectiveness of the idea, the researcher has used (ZPRA Veterans Trust) an Ex-combatants organization dealing with peace-building and community healing as a case study. The study, therefore, examined strategies used by the Trust in its missions and evaluated its achievements. Hence, the findings reported that the Trust was very successful and its activities were of great help to the former traumatized and now released few communities visited by the Trust. In this regards, this research therefore, together with its idea of using Ex-combatants as peace agents, serves as a piece of contribution to the troubled government of Zimbabwe for the good of this nation.

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Zimbabwe-NGO Bill 2004

Zimbabwe Private Voluntary Organization Act of 2004.

APPENDIXES

APPENDIX: FOR TRUST FOUNDERS

QUESTIONNERS

Tick the appropriate

1. As the founder of this organization, what factors made you choose to focus on peace-building?

Historical	<input type="checkbox"/>
2008 violence	<input type="checkbox"/>
Preventive action	<input type="checkbox"/>
All	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. Do you think ex-combatants cooperation with the government in peace-building is likely to produce positive results?

Most-likely	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. In your own view, do Ex-combatants have enough capacity to ensure effective and sustainable peace-building country wide?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART B

Answer in full

1. In four lines, explain the strategies used by the Trust in order for its programs to be accepted by the communities?

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2. What was the government’s response to the formation and operations of the Trust?

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3. What are the challenges being faced by the Trust in carrying out its peace-building missions?

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4. Would you suggest any possible ways you think can bring solution to these problems?

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5. As the founder of this Trust, do you think government’s support of Ex-combatants in peace building is likely to increase the success rate of the Trust? Support your answer.

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APPENDIX 2: FOR FIELD OFFICERS
QUESTIONNERS

Tick the appropriate

1. Taking into account the history of this country, do Zimbabwe needs healing?

Very much	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. What was the community's reception and perception of Ex-combatants as peace agents?

Appreciated	<input type="checkbox"/>
Despised	<input type="checkbox"/>
Feared	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. In your judgment, is the idea of using Ex-combatants as agents of peace effective?

4.

Very highly	<input type="checkbox"/>
Low	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART B

Answer in full

1. As one of the field officers of this Trust, explain how the Trust managed to network with the communities?

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2. What are the challenges encountered by the Trust during the implementation of the four year peace-building action program?

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3. What do you think are the possible ways to alleviate those challenges?

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4. What was the government’s response to the Trust’s peace building initiatives?

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5. Judging from your experience in the Trust, is the idea of using Ex-combatants as peace agents the better solution to a conflict affected and traumatized country like Zimbabwe? Justify your answer

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APPENDIX 3: FOR TRUST INTERNS

QUESTIONEERS

Tick the appropriate

1. As a former ZPRA Veterans Trust attaché, do you understand the need for peace-building in Zimbabwe?

Very much	<input type="checkbox"/>
A little	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not at all	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How organized was ZPRA Veterans Trust's planning cell?

Very organized	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fairly organized	<input type="checkbox"/>
Poorly organized	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. Judging from your experience at ZPRA Trust, do you think Ex-combatants have the potential and capacity to ensure effective and positive peace-building in Zimbabwe?

Yes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Maybe	<input type="checkbox"/>
No	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART B

Answer in full

- 1. What methods were used by the Trust to approach the communities during your attachment period?

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- 2. Explain the challenges faced by the Trust in executing its programs?

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- 3. In your own view as a graduate, what do you think are the possible ways to assuage such challenges?

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- 4. Do you think using Ex-combatants as agents of peace is a brilliant idea to a needy and conflict tainted country like Zimbabwe? Explain your answer

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- 5. Given the opportunity to work at ZPRA Veterans Trust, what would you do or suggest in order for the Trust to improve in its execution of tasks?

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APPENDIX 4: FOR COMMUNITY MEMEBERS

QUESTIONEERS

Tick the appropriate

1. As community member who participated in ZPRA's programs, how did you feel when the War Veterans were coming to your community with the gospel of peace?

Happy	<input type="checkbox"/>
Afraid	<input type="checkbox"/>
Curious	<input type="checkbox"/>

2. How would you describe the Trust's relations with the community members during their projects implementation?

Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/>
good	<input type="checkbox"/>
sour	<input type="checkbox"/>

3. In your judgment, how effective was the Trust peace-building action program?

Very effective	<input type="checkbox"/>
Effective enough	<input type="checkbox"/>
Less effective	<input type="checkbox"/>

PART B

Answer in full

1. As a participant to such peace-building programs, explain how effective were these action programs?

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2. Comment on how relevant was the Trust's programs to your community?

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3. Explain whether it is necessary for the Trust to continue with its operations to other communities?

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4. Considering your interactions with ZPRA Veterans Trust members, do Ex-combatants have the potential and capacity to ensure effective peace-building? Defend your verdict

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5. In your view of the Zimbabwean history, does government's cooperation with Ex-combatants in such programs likely to produce positive results?

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