

THE SMALL AND MEDIUM ENTERPRISES POLICY IN ZIMBABWE: A NARRATIVE OF STRIDES TAKEN TO MAINSTREAM THE INFORMAL SECTOR ACTIVITIES IN URBAN LOCAL AUTHORITIES IN ZIMBABWE

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ABSTRACT

The need to mainstream the informal sector in the economy came as a realization that the informal sector plays a significant role in creation of employment, providing goods and services to the poor and is also seen as an important hedge against poverty. Many governments had been trying to revamp this sector, but some had just given this call a lip service. Very little had been done to give the informal sector an opportunity to do business and contribute to the economy of the country. This paper traces the landmarks of the Zimbabwean government in terms of giving the informal sector space to do business. The research utilized mainly government documents and other documents to see what really the government intends to do to mainstream and promote the informal sector. The research found out that there is a lot being done by the government in terms of the policy framework which gives the directions and impetus for the development of the informal sector.

Keywords: informal sector, economy, government, urban, employment, production.

Background of the Study

The informal sector was until 1972, not recognized as sector that might need space in urban areas and hence it was not planned for in most of the urban centers in Zimbabwe. Most local

authorities applied a more militaristic respond to the existence of these informal activities as they did not want them in their areas of jurisdiction as this was evidenced by destruction of the structures and apprehending those found to be operating them. According to van Dijk (1996), in 1972 through the initiatives of the International Labour Organisation, the sector started to receive recognition after realizing its contribution to the economy. The sector is very important and its recognition can lead to mammoth economic benefit in urban areas. The sector's importance emanates from its contribution to production, employment and improvement in quality of goods and service, (van Dijk 1996). The informal sector started as an area of survivalist mainly for people who failed to be absorbed in the formal sector and rural migrants who are seeking a source of living (Rogerson, 1996). The sector had now grown in importance especially in developing countries to become a source of livelihood for a large segment of people including middle class people who are also earning a living from the sector (Rukamann, 2007). The informal sector's contribution to employment varies with countries and regions and it ranges from 20% to 70% (Todaro, 1994). However some researches show even higher contributions as some countries recorded as high eg., 75% in Morocco, and 90% in Peru, (Adeyinka et.al. 2006). The sector is estimated to contribute significantly to national Gross Domestic Product, (GDP), and the contribution is said to range between 20% and 40%, (Blackman and Bannister, 1998). In Zimbabwe the contribution by the informal sector is said to be more than 50%, (Government of Zimbabwe, 2002). The informal sector has the potential to build markets, expand trade, manage resources, fight poverty and generate employment, (Onyenechere, 2011). Its significance in creation of employment and poverty alleviation is premised in its ability to provide income to unskilled and semi-skilled workforce who could otherwise be unemployed. In this way the sector is playing a very crucial role in achieving sustainability of cities. According to Roy (2005), the informal sector is a way of enabling the poor and the disadvantaged to help themselves, through provision of goods and services with limited operational expenditure. The upliftment of the conditions of the poor and marginalized is very critical tenet of city sustainability as ignoring them will result in slum settlements, poor service delivery and decay of the city. This sector if well nurtured has the potential of growing and contributing significantly to the national economies. It is a potential seed bed for entrepreneurial development and represents practical methods of promoting economic growth (Anderson, 1998). It also represents a revolutionary

movement from below where the poor work out ways and means of surviving in a harsh urban environment characterized by lack of employment, (De Soto, 2000). However the sector is coming up against relentless opposition from the planning system that does not want to see it grow. These planners are still focusing on very old and archaic planning practices that are more interested in issues such as city order without dealing with more substantive and pressing issues such as economic development and the sustainability of the city. The planning system views the sector as an eye-sore hence they always work to suppress it through demolition of structures and chasing them away from their sites of operation. . The sector is therefore not planned for by many planning systems who focus mainly on the needs of well established and more lucrative sectors of the industry (Soto et. al. 1993). Urban planning systems are heavily biased against the urban poor such as the informal sector, hence are not providing for them. However, the informal sector is a real phenomenon of most urban areas and therefore needs attention and space in the urban sphere. This includes planning for the sector to bring sanity in the sector and provision of good and adequate services to the sector (Adeyinka et.al 2006). The neglect of the sector by most planning systems in the urban areas has forced the sector practitioners to do their business in very hostile environmental conditions. The emergence and proliferation of informal sector had been fueled by emerging economies especially those championed by the Bretton Wood institutions such as IMF and World Bank. These institutions had been promoting Structural Adjustment Programmes, which are associated with reduction of public service, downsizing of state enterprises and cut backs in civil service, (Rukamann, 2007, Adeyinka et.al. 2006). These economic programmes brought a lot of suffering especially among the poor and vulnerable groups. Those in the rural areas were hard hit, which resulted in massive migration into urban areas and these people were not readily absorbed in the labour market and most of them find refuge in the informal sector, (Rukamann, 2007, Meshram 2007). This was coupled by the unprecedented growth rate of most cities, which was not matched by corresponding growth in the size of their economies and this had resulted in high unemployment rates. This had been further aggravated by the slow rate of industrial growth, which had been overtaken by the rate of urban influx and this had fueled the growth of the informal sector, (Suharto, 2002, Adeyinka et.al. 2006, Rukamann, 2007, Turner, 1976). The informal sector has been developing so fast especially in the developing countries. Some countries are realizing their importance and are

trying to support this sector by giving them space in the urban sphere. Some local authorities are still engaged in a militaristic confrontation with practitioners in the informal sector. Others had made stride in trying to integrate this sector into their mainstream economy.

This paper will broadly look on efforts made by the local authorities in Zimbabwe in trying to involve the informal sector. It will also examine the extent of involvement to try and see what needs to be done to effectively integrate this sector in the mainstream economy. The research will specifically try to:

- Find out the regulatory framework provided by the policy for the informal sector.
- Examine incentives to promote the informal sector activities.
- Comment on the realistic chances of informal growth under the given circumstances.

Understanding the Informal sector

The informal sector suffers a definition problem because of the multiplicity of scholarly views. Some call it the unincorporated private enterprises owned by individuals or households, (Malte 2008). Others say they are enterprises that cannot be regarded as separate legal entities independent of their owner, (Hussmann, 2004). Others are of the view that they are non-registered enterprises, which mean they are not recorded in the national company registers and the national official statistics and accounts such as the Gross Domestic Product and the Gross National Product, (Hassan, 2003). They therefore do not pay taxes and are not regulated by national instruments that control the operations of companies. This usually creates friction with local authorities who often regard them as unregulated activities that cause a lot of problems in the city, (Tendler 2002). The informal sector is therefore left without municipal services and hence operate in deplorable environmental conditions. Another definition of the informal sector focuses on whether the enterprises are complying with established judicial, regulatory and institutional frameworks operating in the country or local authority. This refers to informal sectors as activities whose use, ownership and purpose of land cannot be fixed or mapped using any regulations or laws, (Roy, 2009, Hassan, 2003, Moyi and Njiraini, 2005). The informal

sector can also be easily understood when viewed parallel to the formal sector. Some call it the parallel economy other call it the informal economy, (Onyenechere, 2011,). Some call it the people's economy when they compare it with the capitalist economy (Nural Amin, 2002).

The government of Zimbabwe defined the informal sector as enterprises that are not formalized through the legal structures such as registration in terms of company Act or partnership agreements. They also include cooperatives registered in terms of Cooperative Society Acts and registered companies with employment levels ranging from 30-70, (Government of Zimbabwe, 2002)

The government of Zimbabwe had for long been marginalizing the informal sector and regarding it as useless economic activity, whose contribution to the economy was very negligible. They did not want to recognize their participation in the national economy. The best they did was to destroy them as they tried to eradicate these operations. The operations to eradicate the informal activities were peaked with the Operation Restore Order, an infamous operation by the government that eradicated all informal activities in urban areas (Tibaijuka, 2005). However at the turn of the century, with the debilitating effects of the Economic and Structural Adjustment Programme which was associated with massive retrenchments, they began to appreciate the informal sector as an important source of livelihood especially in the urban areas. The government started to promote these activities as local initiatives that emerged to be the sustainable way of resuscitating the economy that was experiencing a serious downward spiral due to the combined negative effects of the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme and the international sanctions that the country were subjected to.. These international sanctions were imposed at the turn of the century when the government embarked on the controversial land reform programme, which was characterized by chaotic and shambolic grabbing of land held by white commercial farmers. In response to these punitive sanctions the government refocused its attention on local initiatives and the informal sector was one of the critical areas that were targeted by the governments as a source of economic stimuli. In 2002 the government crafted the Small-Medium Enterprise Policy framework, whose main thrust was to strengthen the momentum of the small-medium enterprises. Their main agenda was to utilise the informal sector's ability to reduce, empower the marginalized and stimulate economic development. The

government of Zimbabwe realized that the informal sector can be a major player in their ailing economy as it could contribute 60% of the Gross Domestic Product and contribute more than 50% of the total employment, (Government of Zimbabwe, 2002). The informal sector is made up of different sectors, which include manufacturing, repairs, and service, (Kanyenze, 2004). Sethuraman, (1981), defined informal sector as small scale units engaged in production of goods and services as micro enterprises. They include all the activities that are not involved in contractually and legally regulated employment. Dilek, 2009, also added that they are regarded as illegal or marginal economies and they include home industries. Okeke(2000), argued that informal sector activities are involved in retail trading, cottage industry, urban agriculture utility services and financial networking such as rotation savings and credit associations, money changing and pawn brokers. It represents a very important fabric of the urban system, which is a revolution from below characterized by entrepreneurial and tactical operations of the marginalized urban poor to survive the harsh economic environments in urban areas, (De Soto, 2000). The sector therefore presents a planning opportunity to come up with a planning strategy that integrates this sector into the main stream economy thereby contributing to sustainability of the city, (Roy, 2009).

The informal sector is also identified by employing few regular and paid employees and they have a non-agricultural character, (Hussmann, 1998). The size of work-force varies from country to country, some say less than 20 workers, (City of Cape Town, 2003), and in some cases with less than 50 workers, (Moyi and Njiraini, 2005) and some say less than 10 workers, (Nurul Amin, 2002). Despite the varied definition and academic discourse generated around the term informal sector there is a general consensus that all the definition revolve around issues of type of enterprise, and status of labour. The type of labour is characteristically unprotected by standing labour laws, are self-employed, own account workers and in most cases use family labour, (Nurul Amin, 2002). They are characteristically diverse, labour intensive, and variable. In Zimbabwe the informal sector is divided into clusters depending on the nature of their business. These clusters include; agriculture and agro-processing, mining, metal fabrication, carpentry, clothing and textiles

In an effort to regularize the informal sector, the government of Zimbabwe had put in place a lot of structures that are supposed to deliver a lot of processes in an attempt to try to formalize the sector. In their attempt to regularise the sector the government had established a fully fledged ministry responsible for the affairs of the informal sector. The ministry has offices throughout the country starting at district level, the provincial level and the national level. Officer at the district level work with various ward and village level structures of the informal sector. These structures are made in such a way that their operations start at the local level. This arrangement of structures allows for sustainable management of operations of the informal sector where structures are arranged in such a way that they work with people at local level. These local operations are very important as they are important in informing operations at higher levels such as the district, provincial and the national level and help in directing policy.

The government then moved a step forward by promulgating an act of parliament that will legalise the operations of the informal sector. The Small and Medium Enterprise Act Chapter 24:12 which was a development from the 2002 Small, Medium and Enterprise Policy and strategy document. The act provided for establishment of a funding organization in the form of the Small Enterprise Development Corporation (SEDCO). This organization was tasked to source funds for the informal sector. The organization is supposed to work with various other stakeholders in the financial services sector, which include the Agricultural Development Bank, and the Infrastructural Development Bank of Zimbabwe to provide funding facilities to the informal sector. Funds from the Small Enterprise Development Corporation are supposed to go a long way in assisting the informal sector in accessing capital funds for their operation, funds for renovations, acquiring tools and provision of support services. This kind of facility was non-existing before and this crippled operations of the sector. There is also a fund set aside called the Micro-Small and Medium Enterprise Fund, which was funded by various organizations such as government and Non-governmental organizations which availed funds in form of grants and donation to promote the operations of the informal sector.

The act also created space for the informal sector to participate in government tendering and contracting processes. To ensure that there is a smooth running of operations between the informal sector and various government and quasi-government organization the act provided for

the establishment of an advisory board that would work closely with the informal sector to establish their needs and advise the government and local authorities on such issues and also assist in developing and implementing schemes and policies that promote the informal sector. The recognition of the informal sector was championed by the International Labour Organisation starting in 1972 after realizing that the activities of the sector are very important for economic development. The idea was adopted in several developing countries and the sector gained prominence in their development agendas. The sector had grown into dynamic systems and had shown remarkable ability to sustain economies especially those of the developing world, as shown by its contribution to production, employment, incomes and even revenues for the local authorities, (Van Dijk, 1996). In some cases the sector had produced not only for the local sector but also for the export market, (Hall and Pfeifter, 2000). The importance of the informal sector had grown into being a mode of urbanization and a source of livelihood to millions of people in developing countries; hence it requires recognition as it is now a system of norms that governs the process of urban transformation, (Baudouin et.al. 2008).

The Significance of the Informal Sector to the Economy

The sector employs a lot of people averaging 50% of the work force in Sub Saharan Africa (Onyenechere 2011). It is the first port of call for many urban migrants and their employment figures had been ever growing. In Nigeria it constituted only 27.3% of the urban work force in 1970 and by 1989 it had gone up to 38.2%, (Onyenechere, 2011). There were about 4.1 million workers in the informal sector world over in 1993 but the figures had sky-rocketed to 5.1 million in 2004, (Malte, 2008). The sector is no longer mainly dominated by the urban poor and survivalist, but skilled and well educated people are into this sector as they try to supplement their meager resources and this is also exacerbated by the huge unemployment in the developing countries. The informal sector is now a real urban phenomenon, (Jelili and Adedibu 2006) . This development had been going on despite the continued shrinking of the formal sector especially in developing countries.

In Zimbabwe a lot of people lost their jobs during the Structural Adjustment Programme, when 400 000 workers were retrenched between 1991and 1995, (Ncube 2000). This mainly affected towns, cities, mines, farms and the impact was even felt in the rural areas. The situation was

farther aggravated by a decade of economic melt-down that started in 1998 and eased in 2008. The formal economy has not been able to generate enough jobs to absorb the ever increasing job seekers, (Weeks and Mosley, 1996) and the informal sector had been the major absorber of the redundant work force and as such they are playing a very critical role in poverty alleviation and job creation and are fast becoming drivers of national economies (Skinnner, 2009, Muraya, 2004). In some countries like in Kenya, the sector had out-grown the formal sector in both employment figures and their contribution to the national economy, (Ikiara and Ndung'u, 1997). In Dharwai slumps of Bombay they are manufacturing products for the global market, (Hall and Pfeifjer, 2000). Therefore the role played by the informal sector can no longer be underestimated as this sector has developed to be the major source of livelihood for semi-skilled and unskilled workers who could have been otherwise redundant (Onyenechere, 2011, Rukamann, 2007, Dilek 2009). In sub-Saharan Africa, on average it constitutes 50% of the urban workforce. In some other countries the contribution is even higher percentages for example, 70% in Dhaka, 87% in Manila, (Joshi, 1999), 95% in Benin, (ILO, 1985), 80% in Addis Ababa, (Baudouin et. al. 2008) and 65% in Indonesia (Rukamann, 2007, Firdausy, 1995).

The Informal Sector and Urban Planning

The planning system in many local authorities has not helped the situation. It has been so rigid and unresponsive to the plight of the informal sector such that they were not providing space for this sector. The sector has been largely regarded as an eye-sore by many local authorities as they regard it as a source of social vices bedeviling urban areas and hence they had been no provisioning for this sector in the urban planning system. The only notable relationship that existed between practitioners in this sector and local authorities was that of hostility, where their goods were confiscated and practitioners arrested for illegal dealings. They therefore always played the cat and mouse game. Most cities' regulatory authorities did not have regulations that protect or regulate the informal sector and was mostly regarded as centers of social vices and criminal activities, (ILO, 1991, Salter 1998). This view had negatively affected the provision of services to the informal sector as there was no technical means or resources to provide safety and health security which are very important to prevent occupational disasters, diseases and environmental hazards.

The growing significance of the informal sector to the economies of the developing world resulted in a dramatic change of attitude towards the informal sector where most governments are now engaging this sector rather than destroying it. In the process of engagement by the government of Zimbabwe had taken a lot of initiative towards promoting the operations of the informal sector. The government had recognized that in order to promote the activities of the informal sector there is need to allow the sector to participate in government activities hence they amended the State Procurement Board Act. The amendment allowed for the government to create a quota system for the informal sector in government procurements and contracts. The government made it a policy that in all tendering and contracts to supply state goods and services, 25% is reserved for informal sector. Incentives such as tax holidays were also given to the private sector that sub-contract business to the informal sector. This was a deliberate move towards promoting the informal sector and creating business opportunities for the sector. The government also created investment opportunities for the informal sector by opening opportunities for foreign investors to directly invest in the sector. This aimed to widen the investment opportunities for the sector thereby giving it the impetus to develop. However there is still need to build investment confidence in the national economy by putting our economic fundamentals right. The Zimbabwean economy is slowly recovering from economic melt-down of 1998-2008 and had been regarded as a casino economy characterized by galloping inflation which once peaked over 2000%. It is very difficult at the present to expect foreign investors to pour their monies in the informal sector when formal companies are down-sizing and others are closing down.

There are also initiatives to develop the human capital base in the informal sector. The government realizes that development of human capital is a very important move towards developing assets of people in the informal sector. These programmes are run by the Small Enterprise Development Corporation (SEDCO) which is an arm of the government with an already established ministry. This organization is supposed to give training to the people in the informal sector and these training programmes include courses in entrepreneurship, how to start a business, record keeping, stock taking, cost management accounting and marketing, corporate governance and upgrading of technical and production skills. All these courses are supposed to place informal sector practitioner in better place to run their businesses. The corporate

governance skills equip practitioners with skills on business ethics and corporate governance and the technical skills are imparted in collaboration with institutions of higher education such as technical colleges, vocational training centers and the private sector. The ministry of Small-Medium Enterprise plays a very critical role in coordinating linkages between the informal sector and these various educational institutions. They also coordinate attachments programmes, hands-on-technical assistance, study tours and mentorship. They also have an office that coordinates networking and establishment of partnerships such as joint ventures, sub-contracting and franchising arrangements.

Product Enhancement and Marketing

In an attempt to give the informal sector hands-on experience on running and increasing business, SEDCO, established beacon projects in each province based on the comparative advantage of each province, where people can come and learn how they are run and go back to their areas and practice what they had learnt. The major thrust was to give informal sector practitioners an enhanced industrial processes and enterprising skills. However the practicality of such an endeavour remains to be seen especially in view of the varied nature of the informal sector. There are so many different activities in the informal sector and to choose only one to be the representative of the provincial profile of the informal sector will be very difficult if not impossible. To make sure that the informal sector produces goods and services that can compete at any other market; the government had created links between the Standards Association of Zimbabwe and the informal sector to assure quality and competitiveness of goods and services produced by the informal sector.

There are efforts in place to promote goods and services produced by the informal sector by organizing operators into cluster based development units and each unit receives support that is specific to the nature of its business programme. This is aimed at promoting and fostering business potential of each cluster in order to enhance export growth and industrial expansion. The identified clusters included; agriculture and agro processing, mining, transport, light engineering, metal fabrication, carpentry and furniture manufacturing tourism, and textile and clothing

The informal sector activities are not aimed at the local market only but they are also allowed to participate in the regional and international market. In this view government is in the process of working out ways of simplifying procedures for exporting and importing of goods and services so that the informal sector can fully participate in the international market. They are going to review traffic and custom duty to ensure that the informal sector can import raw material and sell finished products at competitive prices by so doing they will be trying to reduce the cost of doing business on the international market. Local business is also encouraged to do business with the informal sector and there are incentives in place to encourage this. Established companies that are in business with the informal sector receive tax reliefs or tax breaks. They are also exposed to a revised tax regime.

There are bilateral and multilateral trade agreement that the country had entered into both in the region and in the international community and the informal sector is encouraged to take advantage of them and market their products. The government of Zimbabwe is promoting the look East policy where it is targeting the insatiable market of China, India and other Asian countries and the informal sector is encouraged to take part in those policies and sell their products. The form of doing business in the informal sector is regulated by the Zimbabwe Chamber of Small-Medium Enterprise, this organisation provides the platform for the informal sector to network with other business partners to generate market linkages for their goods and services and strengthen their advocacy for mainstreaming of the sector into the main economy. It is also a good platform for the practitioners in the sector to establish a unified voice for the development of the informal sector and creation of an enabling environment. This organization can also interface with organizations of established industries such as the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce, Zimbabwe Chamber of Mines and the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries. All these linkages are aimed at creating platform to exchange notes that will allow the informal sector to grow.

Most operations in the informal sector are outside planning system of most cities as the cities pursue old and rigid planning practices, which continue to regard the informal sector as city nuisance. There is need for a paradigm shift and start to see the importance of the sector in the economy and try to accommodate the sector, (Onyenechere, 2011, Rukamann, 2007). Most of

the planning systems in developing countries are still guided by colonial planning practices most of which are transplants from developed countries, (Solo, et.al. 1993). These planning practices are usually misfits in the situations and contexts of the developing countries. They do not capture the realities that are in their towns. They are still routed in city models from the developed world, which put more emphasis on aspects of physical attractiveness displayed in the layout plans with architecturally designed units, (Adeyinka et.al. 2006). They virtually disregard the important economic aspects of the informal sector, which are very important livelihoods strategies of the majority of urban people. They regard the informal sector as an infiltration in the urban system rather than an important segment of the city system that deserve respect and space in it. The paradigm shift should see social issues also taking centre stage in planning, where the plight of the disadvantaged are also considered when making decision in the city and this will augur well with the demands of sustainable development, (Gondwe et.al. 2011, Roy 2005).

In an attempt to do away with these archaic practices the government of Zimbabwe had tried to mainstream informal activities in all municipal plans. All local authorities are urged to provide the informal sector with suitable land for workspaces and provide infrastructure development in a participatory way, where the practitioners in the informal sector actively participate in the identification and development of such workplaces. In this way local authorities are working in conjunction with other stakeholder in the private sector to try and provide services and infrastructure for the informal sector. The private sector is encouraged to participate in the provision of infrastructure through established schemes such as the Built Operate and Transfer (BOT) schemes or the Built Own Operate and Transfer (BOOT) scheme. They are also encouraged to lease equipment to the informal sector so that they can access plants and machinery. Local authorities are also tasked to provide serviced land, business premises and infrastructure for water and electricity reticulation. It is now a government policy that land for informal sector should be suitable for their workplaces with the required ancillary services. These local authorities are helping in the provision of industrial incubators, commercial hives, industrial parks, factory shells and innovation hubs. In order to give security of tenure on the land allocated to the informal sector, local authorities are required to give titles to land allocated to them. This will go a long way in giving them security of tenure and also enable them to use it as collateral in other business transactions such as getting a loan from the bank.

Conclusion

The informal sector has been major driver of most urban economies in the face of dwindling formal sector employment and had been growing in significance which can no longer be ignored. It has now grown into a culture of urban residents especially the low income people, (Jonathan and Halder, 1987, Turner 1976). Planners of the developing world are trying to integrate this sector into the mainstream economy in their attempts to get to grips with the realities of their towns through developing planning systems that focus on poverty eradication. City planning systems can no longer afford to ignore the informal sector as it had evolved as an important feature of the urban system. They are a real phenomenon of the urban fabric and deserve space in the spatial distribution of the city. The informal sector is a very important development tool for developing countries and can be the only way to realize their development fortunes. (De Soto, 1989) Governments especially the Zimbabwean government had been putting institutions in place to try and support initiatives from the informal sector. There are legal instruments in place that now legalize the operations of the informal sector and support groups that champion the cause of the informal sector. The financial sector is being persuaded to financially support the informal sector and if all the initiatives by the government are to come to fruition, the informal sector is poised for tremendous growth.

The need to create sustainable cities is a critical goal in the new millennium. This calls for cities that are more self sufficient, sustainable and enjoyable, (Williams, 2000). Sustainability of cities is a concept that was borrowed from the sustainable development concept coined by the United Nations Environment Conference in Stockholm in 1972. Generally the term refers to use of resources by the present generation without compromising the needs of the future generation (Gondwe, Feng and Anyewnabgo, 2011). This development concept was further developed at the Rio Conference of 1992, which emphasised the role of local government and other stakeholder in the management of the environment. The conference strongly emphasised the participation of the marginalized groups in the development process. The Johannesburg Conference of 2002 was more explicit in the need for environmental management in the poor neighbourhoods. To achieve this there is need for infrastructural planning to allow for service provision; proper waste management and good public health manage to afford food safety and disease vector control,

(Williams 2000, McGranahan et.al., 1997). A good environmental management system ensures a healthy community characterized by healthy citizens and this is in line with the provisions of the Ottawa Charter for Health Promotion, which calls for peace, shelter, education, food, income, social justice and stable ecosystem as fundamental conditions and resources for good health (Williams 2000). The condition of social justice calls for equity for all citizens and this means the poor neighbourhoods have the right to access such things. All these aspects should be provided by the local authorities or they can come up with policies that will allow other players to provide such services while they retain the role of quality assurance.

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