GWERU SMEs CHARTER AGAINST CORRUPTION

GWERU SMALL TO MEDIUM ENTERPRISES
ANTI-CORRUPTION FORUM (Gweru SMEs-ACF)
-adopting zero tolerance against corruption-

Concurring with Kofi Anan (2004) who in the Preamble to the United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) decried that :

> *"Corruption is an insidious plague that has a wide range of corrosive effects on societies. It undermines democracy and the rule of law, leads to violations of human rights, distorts markets, erodes the quality of life and allows organized crime, terrorism and other threats to human security to flourish. This evil phenomenon is found in all countries—big and small, rich and poor—but it is in the developing world that its effects are most destructive. Corruption hurts the poor disproportionately by diverting funds intended for development, undermining a Government's ability to provide basic services, feeding inequality and injustice and discouraging foreign aid and investment. Corruption is a key element in economic underperformance and a major obstacle to poverty alleviation and development."* he says

As small to medium enterprises (SMEs), we have noted with grave concern that corruption also affects our businesses negatively. In keeping thereof, there is a strong and convincing business case against this plague of corruption. Corruption is counted among leading obstacles to business development and hence our keen interest in anti-corruption.

As SME forum members, we have resolved to shun corruption at all times in order to strengthen and sustain our meaningful contributions to national development in support of our national priorities and the zero tolerance policy adopted by our Zimbabwean leaders. We are overjoyed by our distinctive contributions to national development which includes among others::

1. Employment creation;
2. Poverty reduction through being a source of livelihood;
3. Urban and rural development;
4. Value addition and beneficiation of local natural resources utilizing available expertise;
5. Backward and forward linkages that strengthen economic growth;
6. Flexibility and innovative capacity to generate new business with less capital;
7. Addressing the local and regional economic imbalances within the country;
8. Indigenization of the economy;
9. Technological transfer;
10. Human capital development through work related learning by trainees or interns;
11. Spreading the entrepreneurial spirit within communities;
12. Facilitation of a wider economic inclusion, creation and equitable distribution of wealth; and
13. Food security and nutrition.

As said above, we are proud of these contributions and herein pledge our commitment to anti-corruption which will in turn help to stimulate SME development.

To this end, we the undersigned members of the Gweru Small to Medium Enterprises Anti-Corruption Forum (Gweru-SMEs-ACF) do hereby commit ourselves to :

1. Denounce corruption affecting our businesses whenever and wherever it happens without fear or favour;
2. Resist corruption at all times ,which includes refusing to pay bribes to get tenders, permits or avoid being ticketed, among other scenarios;
3. Prevent corruption and ensure that we execute our business activities within the confines of the Zimbabwean law;
4. Report any act of corruption and ensure that our reports are taken seriously by the authorities we report to;
5. Raise awareness against corruption at all times;
6. Condemn all forms of corruption, regardless of whoever commits this evil;
7. Being an exemplary business sector at all times;

As members of the Gweru SMEs-ACF, we will do the following within twenty one (21) days from the date of signing of this Charter:

1. *Develop, implement and enforce Internal Anti-Corruption Policies for our businesses;*
2. *Inform and train our staff and other stakeholders associated with the business on our position on anti-corruption;*
3. *Ensure that our staff members sign and agree to be bound by the Internal Anti-Corruption Policy for the business;*
4. *Deposit a copy of the signed Internal Anti-Corruption Policy for the business with the Secretary of the Gweru SMEs-ACF;*
5. *Make financial and other contributions to the Executive Committee of the Gweru SMEs-ACF to ensure that the Forum's activities are sustained over time;*
6. *In the event of any violation of this Charter, we agree to appropriate sanctions decided by us through the Executive Committee of the Gweru SMEs-ACF.*

We, hereby sign this Charter out of our free will without being coerced in any way whatsoever. Furthermore, we agree to be bound by the same, giving the full rights to the Executive Committee of the Gweru SMEs-ACF to enforce the same against any member in violation of the Charter.

Membership No	Name of Company / Business	Sector	Name of Representative	Position	Tel	Signature	Date