



MEMBERSHIP POLICY

Developed in July 2009

- 1. Background:** The Harare Residents Trust (HRT) is an independent residents' movement operating in Harare Metropolitan Province whose main objective is to advocate and lobby service providers and policy-makers to provide quality services without compromise. The HRT was established in February 2008 by a Zimbabwean journalist, Precious Shumba, who brought together identified community leaders with a passion for community service. Residents in Harare Metropolitan Province have great expectations from service providers like the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA), TelOne, Government Agencies, parastatals, the City of Harare, the business community and elected representatives such as- the councillors, Members of Parliament and Senators. Structures of the HRT were established through a process of careful identification of residents who understood the value of tackling civic issues. At the beginning, the HRT would identify around five individuals to form the interim suburban residents' committee and induct them on the HRT approach, derived from the Jacksonville Community Council International (JCC) model, a United States-based citizens' initiative in the State of Florida that promotes the involvement of citizens in the tackling of complex community issues, based on voluntarism and pure dedication.

Within three months from date of establishment, the interim committee of handpicked citizens shall facilitate the holding of credible elections to have a legitimate committee leading the residents of the particular suburb, enhancing citizenship participation. Minutes of their elective meeting, clearly showing public participation should accompany the report. However, since 12 June 2009, when the HRT held its inaugural full Residents Council (RC) meeting, the process has changed with the mandatory participation of the Board to ensure all residents' committees being admitted into the HRT growing family are legitimate and fully compliant of the HRT direction as an organisation. The HRT's belief is to have strong and effective structures. HRT governance mechanisms must allow greater citizenship participation in determining their leadership. In suburbs where elections have not been conducted, the respective residents' committee shall remain a caretaker committee, a situation that requires the RC Vice Chairperson, in liaison with the Coordinator to proceed to call for elections in those areas. In line with our vision of being an effective advocate for good governance and accountability, the HRT shall identify a civil society organisation with experience in electoral issues to become the official organisation that conducts HRT elections at RC level.

2. Membership to the HRT:

- 2.1. Membership shall be open to residents' committees in Harare Metropolitan Province, who share the HRT Vision, Mission and Objectives.
- 2.2. A Suburban Residents' Committee shall at least have the following office bearers;
 - 2.2.1. Chairperson
 - 2.2.2. Vice Chairperson
 - 2.2.3. Secretary
 - 2.2.4. Vice-Secretary
 - 2.2.5. Treasurer
 - 2.2.6. Four Committee Members selected through a process of public participation.
- 2.3. To become a member of the HRT, a suburban residents' committee shall first meet the set down conditions, and pay a membership fee, and an annual subscription fee determined by the Board of Trustees.
- 2.4. A Suburban Residents' Committee shall maintain a membership register, and shall come up with its own membership fee structures, including membership categories, to facilitate the participation of strategic

partners.

- 2.5. The Board of Trustees shall admit as affiliate members to the HRT only those Non-Government Organisations and Community Based Organisations whose services and objectives directly benefit the residents.
- 2.6. The Secretariat shall avail a Membership Form to members satisfying the above criteria.

3. Administration

- 3.1. The Secretariat, in liaison with the RC Secretary or Chairperson, shall set the dates for convening RC meetings.
- 3.2. The Secretariat shall notify the secretary or chairperson of each residents committee in the RC seven (7) days prior to the meeting.
- 3.3. Each Suburban Residents' Committee shall be obliged to provide membership reports at all Full RC meetings.
- 3.4. The Suburban Residents' Committees may through the RC, request membership development programs to enhance residents' capacity to grasp local governance.
- 3.5. Attendance to Full RC meetings is open to a maximum five representatives of each suburban residents committee of Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Vice Secretary and Treasurer.

4. Elections of RC Leadership

- 4.1. Suburban residents committees shall elect to positions on the RC Leadership, suburbs and not individuals.
- 4.2. The suburban residents' structure elected to a position shall within 14 days following the Full RC nominate a representative and an alternate representative to occupy the position on the RC leadership, based on experience and knowledge of the position.
- 4.3. The RC shall elect;
 - 4.3.1. Chairperson
 - 4.3.2. Vice Chairperson
 - 4.3.3. Secretary
 - 4.3.4. Vice-Secretary
 - 4.3.5. Treasurer
 - 4.3.6. Four Committee Members- geographical considerations
- 4.4. Each term of office for the RC Executive leadership shall be two years, and can only be re-elected once, making a maximum of four years.
- 4.5. For avoidance of doubt, suburban trusts shall rotate leadership.

5. Rewarding of Outstanding Citizens and Organisations

- 5.1. The Board of Trustees, in liaison with the RC shall nominate three individuals or service providers in the area of human rights, local governance, business, police station etc.
- 5.2. At one of its sittings, the RC shall elect one of the nominees as the outstanding individual or service provider.
- 5.3. Selection shall be by secret ballot.
- 5.4. The selected individual or organisation shall be awarded a trophy and a monetary prize, determined by the Board, in liaison with the RC, depending on availability of resources.
- 5.5. The Secretariat shall assist the Board to fundraise for this purpose of rewarding outstanding citizens and organisations.

6. The Annual General Meeting:

- 6.1. An elective AGM of the Board of Trustees shall be held after every four years.
- 6.2. The RC leadership shall attend the Board of Trustees elective AGM.

6.3. An elective AGM of the RC shall be held after every two years.

6.4. Suburban Trusts' Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Secretary, Vice Secretary and Treasurer shall be the official delegates to the RC elective AGM, which shall be one of the Full RC meetings.

This policy was approved by the HRT Board on 27 July 2009 at a Board Meeting held at 12 noon at 5 Bates Street, Milton Park, Harare.