Nearly 5 000 children live on streets

Bridget Mananavire • 20 March 2017 4:56PM • 2 comments

Share this article:

3

HARARE - Zimbabwe has an estimated 4 701 children living and working on the streets of the country’s major cities — Harare, Mutare, Bulawayo and Beitbridge — the Social Welfare ministry has revealed.

Without clarifying how recent the estimates were, last week Social Welfare deputy minister Tapiwa Matangaizde said government had conducted a count in the four cities and came up with the statistics.

This comes as there has been a public outcry on the surging population of children living on the streets, with some committing criminal offences, especially robberies.

"At the last count, the ministry estimated that a total of 4 701 children were living in and working on the streets. Children without families are placed under foster care, others in government institutions and registered children's private institutions. At places of safety, children should be able to attend school as well as receive livelihood skills," Matangaizde told senators during their Thursday seating.

"Last year, a total 463 children were removed from the streets countrywide," he said.

He added that “the exercise of removing these children is a mammoth one which needs assistance from the public, supporting partners and civil society”.

"In order to finance the programme, government has established the Children on the Streets Fund which is supported by civil society."

Matangaizde said government needed assistance from various stakeholders to ensure the children are removed from the streets.
“As part of the overall ministry’s mandate, government through the ministry, implements the National Action Plan for Orphans and Vulnerable Children."

“Using the National Case Management System, family structures are protected and are brought up within the normal family environment. This task is not for government alone and we appeal to the honourable members from the different constituencies to ensure that they actively work in their areas in providing support to this initiative," he said.

Matangaidze was responding to a written question by Manicaland senator David Chimhini on “what government plans are, as regards the removal and rehabilitation of street people who are a nuisance to motorists as they break vehicle windows and breach public peace.”

- Children
- Street-kids
- Social-Welfare
- Poverty
- Human-rights
- Tapiwa-Matangaidze

Related Articles

**Children's sex book causes stir** JAKARTA - A children's book is at the centre of a controversy in Indonesia because it teaches children about masturbation. A photo of the book - I Learn to Control Myself, ...

**Fruit-flavoured drugs to slash TB deaths** HARARE - More children are likely to survive tuberculosis (TB), the leading infectious disease killer, after Zimbabwe announced it plans to introduce new strawberry and raspbe...
Aid agencies' pull-out threat a nightmare HARARE - President Robert Mugabe's regime continues to manipulate the magnanimous relief effort by western governments and aid agencies, forcing the humanitarian agencies to m...

'Food aid politicisation affecting children' HARARE - Children are the hardest-hit by Zanu PF's continued politicisation of food aid and abuse of other government-sponsored programmes, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) ha...

Gallery commences story-telling sessions HARARE - The National Art Gallery of Zimbabwe (NAGZ) on Saturday commenced holding story-telling sessions over the weekends. The sessions will be spearheaded by award-winni...

Comments (2)

some thing must be done, its actually a disturbing state

tinashe - 20 March 2017

The influx of children into the streets is a result of failed policies mismanagement and corruption by the same government there is no-ways we can expect it to come up with solutions. Its a lost cause.

Sinyo - 21 March 2017

Post a comment

Readers are kindly requested to refrain from using abusive, vulgar, racist, tribalistic, sexist, discriminatory and hurtful language when posting their comments on the Daily News website. Those who transgress this civilised etiquette will be barred from contributing to our online discussions. - Editor

Name: 

Email:

*Your email address will not be shared.*

Message:
Nearly 5,000 children live on streets - DailyNews Live

Verify:

Enter the three characters from the image on the right. This helps prevent automated 'bots' from submitting spam to the site. This field is NOT case-sensitive. If the characters are a bit hard to see, try refreshing the code by clicking the image.

Post

Popular this week

@dailynewszim

Zim ups flood aid appeal to $188m https://t.co/dGlOe617YW

© 2017 Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe (Pvt) Ltd. All Rights Reserved.