

# Govt, UNDP equip local authorities with investor skills

Local News

By MARGARET LUBINDA | Jul. 2, 2024 | 2 Min read





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**THE Local Government and Public Works ministry in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) have embarked on training workshops to strengthen local authorities to effectively engage with the African Continental Free Trade Area, an opportunity for local authorities to promote intra-African trade, stimulate growth and foster development.**

The three-day workshop, which began yesterday in Bulawayo, saw the participation of 46 local authorities, out of 92, with the other half set to attend a similar workshop next week.



Ministry strategic policy planning, monitoring and evaluation director Elina Karwi would be equipped with skills to work within their communities for growth.

“The workshop is aimed at equipping local authorities with tools to develop, promote investment from the region as well as to be able to work with the business communities in their localities,” Karwi said.

“Local authorities are key as a third tier of government and the closest to the citizens on a daily basis and they know the needs of the citizens.

“This is why we believe local authorities are the agents that should be capacitated for economic development within the region.”

UNDP programme analyst (governance) Wadzanai Madombwe cemented the role of local authorities as they are expected to spearhead economic development in their areas.

“The Constitution of Zimbabwe makes it very clear that the local authorities, over their respective areas of provision, are now expected to spearhead economic development activities under their jurisdiction,” Madombwe said.

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“By virtue of that, it makes them a key player in terms of targeting them to have the necessary skills to interpret the free trade agreement and also facilitate economic activities in their areas.”

“They have got the opportunity of knowing the business units which are under their jurisdiction and they are able to mobilise, facilitate and incentivise the businesses, especially the small and medium enterprises (SMEs), which we are talking about, the ones which are led by women and youth.”

details in terms of where the markets were.

Meanwhile, the ministry has revealed that women are a very important stakeholder in any country, saying, therefore, a lot of efforts are being made to ensure women are being given opportunities.

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