INVESTIGATING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF CCJP AND EFZ IN PROMOTING PEACE IN ZIMBABWE DURING THE PERIOD OF GOVERNMENT OF NATIONAL UNITY. (2009-2013)

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ABSTRACT

The study seeks to investigate the effectiveness of the role played by CCJP and EFZ in promoting peace in Zimbabwe during the period of the government of national unity (2009-2013). To achieve this objective, data was collected from the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace and EFZ. These organizations were examined to evaluate how their various contributions promoted peace during the period of the Inclusive Government. Antonio Gramsci’s views on civil society were also explored to trace the history and background of civil society. This paper utilized historical research design to gather data since the research is based on the Government of National Unity period. Through peace building workshops, youth leaders’ workshops, peace committees trainings, democratization efforts, service delivery and civic education, civil society organizations managed to restore relationships that had been broken by political contestations prior to and after the 2008 harmonized elections. A number of peace building experts from CCJP, EFZ, a few purposively sampled political activists and some peace activists were also sampled as well. Thirty questionnaires with structured and unstructured questions were administered to individuals who belong to the above mentioned groups. Ten individuals from those groups were physically interviewed. Graphs, tables and pie charts were used to present data gathered followed by a simple and short analysis. The main purpose of this research is therefore to outline the roles that are played by civil society in promoting peace and to evaluate the effectiveness of civil society in promoting peace in Zimbabwe. Data was therefore collected and presented, conclusions were made and recommendations were also given on the ways in which civil society can increase its effectiveness in promoting peace. It was recommended that civil society organizations should invest more resources on civic education so as to promote a culture of peace and also encourage political tolerance. The study revealed that the culture of impunity is the major driver of violent conflict in Zimbabwe. It was also revealed that civil society organizations were to a greater extent effective in promoting peace in Zimbabwe between 2009 and 2013 as reflected by low levels of violence during that period and the largely peaceful 2013 elections.