A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO DEPARTMENT OF PEACE AND GOVERNANCE IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE DEGREE IN PEACE AND GOVERNANCE

REPRESSION OR SOLUTION: AN ANALYSIS OF OPERATION MURAMBATSVINA IN ZIMBABWE’S MUFAKOSE HIGH DENSITY SUBURB 2005-2012.

SUBMITTED

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ABSTRACT

This study looked at whether Operation Murambatsvina was meant to be a solution to the problems of Urbanization or it was meant to repress the people of Zimbabwe. The major objectives of the study were to examine the reasons why the Government (GoZ) embarked on Operation Murambatsvina, to investigate whether the Government of Zimbabwe was genuine or not in executing the operation and to assess the impact of Operation Murambatsvina. The study concentrated on Mufakose which is situated in Harare. The researcher used interviews and questionnaires as data collection methods. Questionnaires were administered to Harare City Council and the people who were affected by the operation. Politicians, academics and the international organizations which are UNICEF and Red Cross were interviewed. Random sampling was used in the research. The major findings of the study are that the GoZ was responding to the economic social challenges engendered by unplanned rural-urban migration which included overcrowding, the spread of communicable diseases, illegal activities of exchanging foreign currency through black market and other moral decadence of prostitution among other things. Operation Murambatsvina was repressive in nature and outcome. Operation Murambatsvina resulted in a number of consequences including deterioration of access to health, education, shelter among other things. The study also found out that the International organizations had to respond quickly in order to alleviate challenges arising from the operation since it was a crisis situation. The researcher recommends that the Government should implement mechanisms like Growth Point Policy to curb the movement of people from rural to urban areas, the local authority should be proactive in reading trends of the rate of population, the GoZ should avoid operations of this nature and politics should be solved by other means and also the Government should set a Government programme to build houses for genuine people who were affected.