

REPORT ON THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP OF THE RPAZ 2015-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN, 9 FEBRUARY 2015

The Radiation Protection Authority of Zimbabwe (RPAZ) is in the process of developing its five year strategic plan for 2015-2019. The current strategy was for the period 2012-2016, however the national and operating environment has drastically changed since the development of the current strategic plan, thereby calling for an urgent need to come up with a fresh strategy to direct the Authority for the next five years.

The new strategy will be in line with the socio-economic blueprint, ZIM-ASSET which is guiding the national development priorities. In addition Zimbabwe received an Integrated Regulatory Review Services (IRRS) mission conducted by international experts coordinated and supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in November, 2014, to review the national infrastructure for radiation safety; the strategy is expected to align with their recommendations.

RPAZ therefore sought to invite and incorporate submissions and input from stakeholders into the strategic plan by holding a Stakeholder Workshop at Holiday Inn, Harare.

1. PARTICIPANTS

The list of participants is attached in annexure 1

The programme is attached in annexure 2

2. KEY NOTE ADDRESS BY THE RPAZ BOARD CHAIRMAN DR N. NDLOVU AT THE OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP;

Deputy Chair of the RPAZ Board Mr. S. M Pawadyira, Government officials here present, RPAZ CEO, Mr. Reward Severa, RPAZ management and staff, distinguished participants, Ladies and gentlemen, a good morning to you all;

It gives me great pleasure to be in your midst today to officiate at this very important second stakeholder consultation workshop by RPAZ for the development of our strategic plan. Some of you may recall that we held a similar workshop in August 2011 as we were developing the Authority's inaugural 5-year strategic plan for 2012-2016. Having mentioned the 2012-2016 strategic plan, I am sure that quite

a few of you may be wondering why then are we here given that the current plan is supposed to run until 2016. I will delve into the reasons shortly.

In 2011, our esteemed stakeholders highlighted four priority areas which included capacitating the RPAZ, effective service provision, information dissemination as well as legislative relevancy and adequacy. I am pleased to inform this gathering that a number of achievements have been made and a lot has been done to address the areas identified to-date.

The Government of Zimbabwe has provided funds for procurement of operational vehicles and personal monitoring equipment, which have gone a long way in improving service delivery and other administrative operations of the Authority. There has been a steady increase in the number of inspection of facilities conducted every year and by end of 2014, the Authority managed to conduct 94% of the planned inspection activities.

The procurement of a new personal monitoring system has increased the capacity to monitor occupationally exposed workers from 1000 to 5000 in the period under review. Currently more than 1500 workers are under monitoring and the Authority is able to enroll workers for monitoring immediately as required due to the increased capacity.

However, let me hasten to say that, there is still more that needs to be done in terms of capacitating the Authority to effectively carry out the mandate. At the same time we still need to be awakened to the reality that government has a serious funding burden due to a number of challenges in the macro-economic fundamentals. As such the new strategic plan should come up with innovative, alternative ways of bridging the resource requirement gap that exists.

Ladies and gentlemen, the national and operating environment has drastically changed since the development of the current strategic plan, thereby calling for an urgent need to re-trace our footsteps and come up with a fresh strategy to direct the Authority for the next five years.

Zimbabwe now has a new socio-economic blueprint, ZIM-ASSET which is guiding the national development priorities. All government institutions have to realign their programmes in a way that meets the set development targets. Therefore, the new strategic plan will ensure that RPAZ plays its deserved part in the realization of national development targets.

Similarly, Zimbabwe received an Integrated Regulatory Review Services (IRRS) mission conducted by international experts coordinated and supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in November, 2014, to review progress made in the national infrastructure for radiation safety.

The national infrastructure was assessed against the international safety standards and requirements and a number of recommendations and suggestions were made to both the government and RPAZ on areas that fall short of requirements.

As a regulatory body, the Authority functions well when its plans and strategies are focused towards meeting stakeholders' expectations. In this regard, RPAZ board and management have realized the importance of your very valued input to enable the Authority to move forward in its operations and achieve its plans now and into the future.

It is my expectation that you will provide your valuable comments and views pertaining to operations of the Authority with a view to facilitating improvement in service delivery where necessary.

The RPAZ has a mammoth task of protecting the nation and the environment against radiation effects, which can only be achieved with support and cooperation between the Authority and you our esteemed stakeholders.

With these few words I would want to wish all of you successful deliberations.

I thank you all....

3. PRESENTATION BY RPAZ CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER MR. R. M SEVERA

3.1 OVERVIEW OF THE RADIATION PROTECTION AUTHORITY OF ZIMBABWE

Mandate

- The Radiation Protection Act [Chapter 15:15] of 2004 establishes the Radiation protection Authority of Zimbabwe (RPAZ).
- RPAZ Mandate: Protect people and the environment against the harmful effects of ionizing radiation.
- Reports to the Office of the President and Cabinet

Organisation

- The Hon. Minister appointed a 10 member Board of Directors to oversee the running of the Authority in terms of Section 5 of the Act
- The Committees of the Board are as follows;
 - Technical and Monitoring
 - Human Resources
 - Finance
 - Audit and Risk
 - Legal
- The Board appoints the secretariat led by the Chief Executive Officer, who is also the Chief Radiation Protection Officer.

Functions

- Section 4 of the Act sets out the functions of RPAZ:
 - establish and maintain a national register of sources (imports, exports, users and operators)
 - Authorization
 - Inspections
 - Enforcement
 - Accreditation of persons with specified radiation protection responsibilities
 - Emergency preparedness and response
 - Waste management
 - Development of regulations, standards, and guides

Thematic Safety Areas

- Legal and regulatory infrastructure
- Occupational exposure control

- Medical exposure control
- Public exposure control and environmental monitoring
- Emergency preparedness and response
- Education and Training
- Transport safety

Activities

- Zimbabwe has a fairly wide range of uses of radiation applications;
- Medical (diagnostic and interventional radiology, nuclear medicine, radiotherapy and dental)
- Industry (level, mass, moisture, thickness and flow gauging and radiography)
- Security (baggage screening , whole body scanning)
- Research and education

Scope of Regulated Facilities

- Diagnostic and interventional radiology - 170
- Nuclear Medicine – 3
- Radiotherapy centres – 2
- Industrial facilities - 75
- Veterinary - 10
- Dental - 42
- Analytical - 5
- Monitored workers- 1860

Strategic Focus- 2012-2016

- Ensure financial sustainability
- Improve internal processes for effective service provision
- Ensure protection of the people and the environment against harmful effects of radiation
- Enhance effectiveness of regulated activities
- Ensure adequate, competent and motivated staff
- Capacity building and resourcing

Achievements

- Developed and sought approval for a new strategy supportive structure to increase the human resources capacity
- Increased occupational exposure monitoring capacity to 5 000

- Decentralised, opening a regional office in Bulawayo to serve the Southern region
- Re-assignment of the Authority from Ministry of Health and Child Welfare to the Office of the President and Cabinet in 2012 for effective independence
- Development and approval of the inaugural national Integrated Nuclear Security Support Plan (INSSP) in 2013
- Received an Integrated Regulatory Review Services (IRRS) Mission in 2014

Outstanding

- Revision of the Act to provide for regulation of Non-Ionizing radiation
- Waste management infrastructure

Outlook

- The Act is under review to make comprehensive provisions for safeguards, security, and non-ionizing radiation
- Extensive environmental monitoring
- Temporary waste management facility
- Construction of permanent offices and labs

3.2 FOLLOW UP QUESTIONS ON RPAZ CEO PRESENTATION

1. Clarification on the roadmap on radioactive waste management infrastructure in Zimbabwe given the number of disused sealed sources in mines and industries most of which are not operating
2. Has the country's emergency preparedness and response system been put under test and how effective was the response
3. Are there regulatory provisions on new technologies (eg GPS Diagnostics) as technology is increasingly evolving
4. Given the occurrence of uranium deposits in the country, how far has RPAZ gone and been proactive in engaging and getting involved in this and moving along with research in this area
5. Has RPAZ instituted research to ascertain if the increase in cancer cases are as a result of radioactive materials and sources
6. Why are there too many non-compliant facilities on the register as at 31 January 2015

3.3 CEO'S RESPONSE TO DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. In the absence of an independent institution that can handle radioactive waste, government has mandated RPAZ the secondary responsibility of coming up with a waste management facility, the ideal case would be that independent players seek authorisations from RPAZ to manage waste management facilities. Land has been allocated for this activity for the construction of offices, labs and the waste repository for disused sealed sources. At the same time a national waste policy and strategy is being developed
2. The country's emergency preparedness and response system to radiological events needs to be seriously addressed immediately and prioritised. Cases of radiological events have been witnessed and RPAZ have managed to deal with these mostly because their extent were not major, the lack of protective gear and equipment is however a concern. The area of radiological emergency preparedness and response requires integration and coordination of a number of stakeholders and institutions thus RPAZ will continue to engage with key stakeholders and government on the matter
3. Stakeholders were called upon to utilise the notification system in case they intend to use a new technology as this will allow RPAZ to prepare in terms gaining the necessary competence (research and regulatory capacity) to regulate that particular technology.
4. Initiatives have been taken for facilitating the mining of uranium and RPAZ is currently in discussions with stakeholders and government in the development of a Uranium Policy of which a draft policy is in place. A national workshop is being arranged on the regulation of uranium mining and stakeholders will be invited.
5. The major causes of cancers in Zimbabwe were cited by Dr. N Ndlovu to be HIV/AIDS and HPV and lifestyle issues, we cannot therefore specifically and directly attribute this increase to radiation
6. RPAZ has upped its communication with stakeholders and the public and thus shall be providing information on compliances, inspections as necessary through of the website and other media. A number facilities failed to meet the 31 January 2015 renewal deadline as indicated on the website and thus call upon licensees to exhibit a positive safety culture and self regulation

4. STAKEHOLDER EXPECTATIONS

The workshop was divided into four breakaway groups that discussed stakeholder expectations and brought forward submissions on RPAZ strengths, weaknesses and areas of improvement/recommendations in the following sectors;

- Medical
- Industry
- Education and Training
- Government

4.1 Medical Sector

Strengths

- Communication is done on time and is effective (effective use of the website and direct correspondence with service providers)
- Effective inspections programme, the inspections are also thorough and timeous
- There is relative stakeholder engagement to some extent, though stakeholders are of the opinion that this can be improved
- Good structure – infrastructure in place (office).
- Efficient authorisation system, the renewal system needs to be improved though especially the need to differentiate the forms for new applications and for renewals
- Good turnaround on initial applications and inspections

Weaknesses

- Inadequate communication on TLDs
- Overregulation – Dental x-ray have a low risk level thus is expected to be differentiated from other practices in terms of authorisation etc
- Limited engagement with stakeholders and other bodies such as Allied Health
- Communication with other regulatory institutions / bodies that depend on their licencing
- Renewal certificates – turnaround period – delays and this delays other registrations.
- Need more research on clear areas that have radiation and also on areas with cancer
- Public information on Mobile phones boosters

- To do more for service providers such as tailor made training, workshops or even their attendance to regional workshops and training programmes.

Recommendations

- Need for independent technical auditing of RPAZ
- Have more technical personnel to do research on various areas that could be exposing people to radiation
- Streamlining authorisations on risk levels so that such facilities as dental are licensed different from diagnostic X-Ray equipment

RPAZ Response to submissions by medical sector

1. RPAZ has already started implementing a graded approach to authorisation, sectors will therefore be unbundled and authorisations issued by way of authorisation, registration and licensing including requirements and inspections.
2. The authority has always met the requirements in terms of financial auditing, in terms of independent technical auditing the government and RPAZ has had an Integrated Regulatory Review Services (IRRS) mission conducted by international experts coordinated and supported by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in November, 2014, to review the national infrastructure for radiation safety. They came up with recommendations suggestions and good practices for consideration by government and RPAZ. In addition RPAZ participates in inter-comparison exercises for TLD personnel monitoring, RPAZ has had one of the best results from the exercise.

4.2 Industry

Strength

- Good response & turnaround time in terms of authorisation of facilities
- Inspection & monitoring; assists in improving the management of radiation materials & encourages compliance
- Visibility to stakeholders and licensees
- Efficient use of communication systems such as website, Act & Regulations and other licensing documents are easily obtainable on the website
- Establishment of the Authority that is capacitated

Weaknesses

- Student driven Regional Office (Bulawayo)

- Enforcement not being felt as shown by the list of non-compliant facilities published as at 31 January 2015
- Improve information dissemination
- NORM Regulations SI 99 of 2013 – no prior consultation
- High licence fees; targeting few facilities, in addition pressure is mounted on the few facilities that are trying to comply
- Response on emails could be improved
- Waste management is a concern, lots of mines and industries are no longer operational and radioactive sources may not be secure at these facilities
- Concern on industry protection (people and environment). Poor Emergency preparedness & response systems.
- Research & Development not impressive yet there are vast areas and opportunities for such
- Copying and pasting other countries' regulations and standards.

Recommendations/Areas of improvement

- Standard and guidelines establishment and involvement of industry
- Customize regulations and standards to the Zimbabwean set up
- Incentives on waste management, the current set up is such that there are no incentives for efforts of managing waste
- Process of engagement can be improved in terms of developing regulations and standards
- Emergency Preparedness and Response system to be put in place, a backup plan should be developed in the short term whilst this system is being developed
- Waste Management, to publicise all suppliers of radioactive equipment so that industry can engage these for disposal arrangements
- Undertake research and development in radiation hazards in industry and mining sectors, opportunities exist for PHD students
- Tailor made training & Awareness in industry
- Board Structure must take cognizant of industry so that it is also represented

RPAZ Response to submissions by Industry

- Non-compliance may be as a result of the law not being punitive enough as the facilities get away with minor punishments for gross non-compliances, the law needs to be amended and awareness workshops for the justice delivery system may also be the solution
- RPAZ has a clear system of development of regulations and standards where stakeholders are invited to submit their input by way of workshops

and website announcements. It is usually the stakeholders that do not come forward when these workshops are being done, RPAZ will further engage on the matter especially on the implementation of the NORM regulations.

- Regulations are set based on international standards as the effects of radiation are the same worldwide, thus these are harmonised to some extent. In addition RPAZ has seven standards with Standards Association of Zimbabwe and thus implore stakeholders to provide comments to these standards.
- Revision of the Act is currently underway and industry submission on its representation in the Board is an area that will be considered.

4.3 Education and Training

Strength

- RPAZ engagement of its stakeholders is commendable
- Efficient use of communication systems such as website, Act & Regulations and other licensing documents are easily obtainable on the website

Weaknesses

- Lack of research and development to include indigenous benefit
- Lack of adequate awareness to the public

Recommendations/Areas of improvement

- Engagement of corporate in coming up with research areas
- To consider including aspects of radiation at an elementary level
- To pursue cooperative arrangements with other regulators such as EMA, NSSA

4.4 Government

Strengths

- Visibility to stakeholder's very notable- existence of website and constant engagement.

Weaknesses

- Visibility to the general public not satisfactory

Recommendations/Areas of improvement

- RPAZ can consider conducting road shows, placing awareness advertisements in the media, observe and raise awareness on National Radiation Day(s) if there are any.
- Develop a framework for Emergency Preparedness & Response
- RPAZ should engage parent Ministries or regulators prior to reaching out to users
- Consider signing MOU with the Ministry of Mines for Uranium production cycle.
- Full implementation of signed MOUs signed with other regulators and institutions

5. CLOSING REMARKS BY RPAZ CEO, MR R. M. SEVERA

Mr. Severa thanked all participants for attending the workshop and for their active participation and urged stakeholders to continue taking such and other platforms to interact and engage on issues of interest. Continuous engagement is crucial and RPAZ values the feedback from stakeholders. RPAZ shall consider all the inputs from stakeholders in its 2015-2019 strategic plan. The report of the stakeholder workshop and the draft strategic shall be available to stakeholders on the RPAZ website.

Annex 1: List of participants

PARTICIPANTS TO THE STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATIVE WORKSHOP OF THE RPAZ 2015-2019 STRATEGIC PLAN, 9 FEBRUARY 2015

Stakeholders

Mark Chikore	AGS
Nobuhle Zimaminyana	AHFOZ
Dorcas Mwedzi	Attorney General's Office
Dorcas Mwedzi	Attorney General's Office
Lovemore Makurofofa	Cancer Association of Zimbabwe
Claudious Murawo	Consultant- Eco Safety Products
Stephen Tsoroti	Correspondent-Financial Gazette
S Gaihai	DD Manager- ZMDC
Lawrence Mhatiwa	Deputy Director- MOHCC
Elijah G Molife	Flat Bridge Medical
Patrick Musira	Freelance Journalist
Abednego Chigwada	Group SHE Manager- Zimplats
Enock Musungwini	Health Profession Association
Godfrey Dube	Marketing PR and Sales –Standard Association
Jabulani Chisipo	Media
Chivako Munyoro	Media
Nicholas Mbara	Ministry of Defence
Canaan Mangani	Ministry of Energy and Power Development
Sibongubuhle Mpindiwa	Ministry of Mines and Mining Development
N Ncube	PPC ZIM
Enoi Lungu	PPC Zimbabwe

B. Munaki	President's Department
Brian Mahoso	PSMI
Martha Makwaiwa	Radiographer-PSMI
Shepherd Mabunjwa	Security Manager- Aviation Ground Services
Godfrey Muroyiwa	Technician – University of Zimbabwe
Timothy Gutu	University of Zimbabwe
T Simango	ZBC/ Radio Zim
Francis Beyuo	ZIDA
A. K. B Chigwada	ZIMPLATS
Ernest Matsvimbo	ZIMPLATS
George Zulu	ZIMRA
Gibson Mawudutse	ZIMRA
Anderson Chiraya	

Radiation Protection Board

Dr N Ndlovu	Chairman -Radiation Protection Board
Mr M S Pawadyira	Vice Chairman -Radiation Protection Board Director – Department of Civil Protection

Radiation Protection Authority of Zimbabwe

Reward Severa	Chief Executive Officer- Radiation Protection Authority (RPAZ)
Lovemore Mazuru	Finance Manager- RPAZ
Vongai Mavurayi	Legal and Corporate Affairs Manager - RPAZ
Justice Chipuru	Quality Assurance Manager- RPAZ
Sindiso Ncube	Licensing Manager- RPAZ
Innocent Mayida	Inspections and Dosimetry Manager- RPAZ
Brian Mutangandebvu	Human Resources and Administration

	Manager- RPAZ
Itayi Chishanga	Regional Manager(South) - RPAZ
Company Jembere	Internal Auditor- RPAZ
Roselyn Chifamba	ICT Officer - RPAZ
Bridget Mudota	Corporate Affairs – RPAZ
Ngoni Katsidzira	Radiation Scientist- RPAZ

Rapporteurs

Brenda Ndinde	Legal and Corporate Affairs Officer- RPAZ
Amos Muzongomerwa	Radiation Scientist- RPAZ
Bridgeta Mudota	Corporate Communications Officer

Facilitator

Albert Chandaengerwa	Gallaway Management Consultancy
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Annex 2: Programme for the Workshop

STAKEHOLDER CONSULTATION WORKSHOP

MONDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2015

HOLIDAY INN, HARARE

PROGRAMME

TIME	Activity	Facilitator
0830-0900	Arrival and Introductions	Facilitator
0900-0910	Welcome Remarks by RPAZ CEO, Mr R Severa	
0910- 0920	Key Note Address by Board Chairperson-Dr N Ndlovu	
0920-0930	RPAZ Overview	R. M Severa
0930-1000	GROUP PHOTO AND COFFEE BREAK	
STAKEHOLDER DISCUSSIONS		
1000-1100	Stakeholder Expectations- groups	Facilitator
1100- 1200	Stakeholder Expectations –groups	Facilitator
1200- 1300	Report back –Stakeholder group inputs	
1300-1400	LUNCH BREAK	
	End of programme	