AN EVALUATION OF MEDIATION AND CONCILIATION IN ZIMBABWE

MUDZAMIRI, Jane T.¹ and, MUDZAMIRI, Enock C.²

¹Midlands State University, Zimbabwe
²Research Unit, Young Women’s African Leadership Movement

Harare, Zimbabwe

ABSTRACT

Academic discourse on conflict management has concentrated mostly on the de-escalation of already violent conflict at the expense of latent conflicts that have the capacity to generate into full scale war. The focus has been placed more on already degenerated conflict situations rather than the pre-violent periods of conflict. However, the overall objective of this article is to identify the institutions and mechanisms used in the de-escalation of latent conflict in southern Africa before it degenerates into full scale war. It also analyses the impact of specific conflict management apparatus and processes. This article uses Zimbabwe as the primary case of analysis by seeking to give an explanation of the nature of the conflict in Zimbabwe. Finally, it also explores ways for the SADC to enhance existing, or develop new capacities in transforming conflict in Southern Africa. It is suggested in this paper that the SADC’s capacity to manage violent conflict in Southern Africa depends on the willingness of both internal and external actors to resolve the underlying issues to a conflict. More so, unwelcomed regional and international facilitation is an anathema to successful mediation of any conflict situation. Observations and document search were used to gather data in this qualitative study.

Keywords: Mediation, SADC, OPDSC, Zimbabwe, Conflict Resolution.