

Report on launch of Book: “Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Population Control Drugs in Developing Countries” on the 11 March 2016

Co-authored by Tobaiwa Mudede and Richard Hondo



Report by Caiphas Chimhete

Background

The book, *Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) and Population Control Drugs in Developing Countries* was launched on the 11th of March 2016 following intense media debate by advocates of GMOs, pro-birth control drugs on one side and those calling the use of traditional birth control methods on the other side. The co-authors of the book believe that promotion of birth control drugs and the call for smaller populations by the West was a deliberate policy to cause diseases and weakening developing countries' national defence capacities.

The book chronicles how in 1929 Margaret Sanger, an American lady of German origin, put down subtle and persuasive birth control programmes for the marginalised black communities in America which ended with disastrous effects on blacks. Sanger's programme was made official policy of the western world. The book also looks at how Henry Kissinger in the 1970s brought into fray birth control drug manufacturers to flood developing countries with donated population control drugs. The book claims such drugs cause myriad of medical conditions including silent killer hypertension, cancers and general overweight.

“As senior citizens, we have seen physical and emotional distress, accompanied by drug induced-diseases, wreak havoc on the populations of developing countries over the years, slowly but surely, conditions which are a creation of the developed world if the truth must be said,” the authors wrote in the preface of the controversial book.

Launch

The launch was attended by about 100 people including medical doctors and professors. Renowned medical practitioner, Dr N. Mutizira-Nondo gave the key note address while medical bio-chemist Mr A. Nhamoyebonde also spoke glowingly of the book. Officials from the Ministry of Health and Child Care however did not attend the launch although an invitation was extended to the ministry.

Mudede and Hondo attacked modern family planning methods like Depo-Provera, Norplant, jadelle and many others saying they were a threat to women's health and a ploy by the West to control Africa's population growth so as to compromise their national security.

The book lists more than 57 defeats that it claims were caused by modern family planning methods including those mentioned above. Mudede and Hondo also highlighted what they said were advantages of traditional birth control methods such as withdrawal, abstaining from sexual intercourse during the woman's fertile phase of the menstrual cycle as well as herbal remedies.

Several women gave testimonies about the harmful effects of modern family planning methods (hormone based contraceptives). The women alleged that modern family planning methods were harmful to their health causing **excessive bleeding, loss of libido, poor eyesight, headaches, weight gain, kidney failure** and other problems.

"Doctors give contraceptives to women today and treat the side-effects tomorrow," said one of the women.

The women said the advantages of traditional family planning methods included that they are **cheaper, easily available, widely acceptable, also prevent STIs and HIV/Aids as well as instilling our traditional social and cultural values.**

Nhamoyebonde said there was need for more research on GMOs to determine the exact efforts of GMOs on human beings giving an example of cow that were fed on mad in the Britain resulting mad cow disease. He also gave an example of a drug that was administered on pregnant women in 1961 resulting in many of them producing deformed babies.

Hondo said Depo Provera was first administered on black Americans who later realised that they were being duped and they sued the manufacturers of the drug for huge sums of money. The drug was banned in the US but surprisingly it is still being used in Zimbabwe. "We are slowly being killed with our consent."

He said UK, with a population of about 70 million people, have more reasons to apply control measures than Zimbabwe which has about 13 million people.

On GMOs, the authors of the book said all genes in GMO foods are not digested in the gastrointestinal tract (GIT) because they are not digestible. They enter the blood stream where they functionally interfere with normal genetic process.

The book claims that research has establish GMO link in the following diseases and health institutions:

1. Obesity
2. Impairment of Digestive System
3. Induction of Diseases – Asthma, sterility, sexual dysfunctional
4. Induction of foetal deformities

Effect of GMOs on Developing Countries' Economies

Seeds that grow GMO food are a property of the GMO seed producers. This means that farmers from developing countries who adopt the GMO technology must import the seed from the producers in the developed world. In simple terms, wealth is being transferred from the poor countries to the developed world. There is no benefit to poor countries in this scenario.

Mudede threatened

Mudede, who is also the Registrar General, claimed during the book launch that he had been threatened by people from high offices and the media for writing the controversial book. He however said that threats will not deter the authors of the book from propagating their theories against modern contraceptive methods in favour of traditional methods.

**The book is likely to trigger a lot of debate about the available family planning methods in the country especially now that a lot women are starting to come out in the open talking about what they suspect are side-effects of these hormone based contraceptives. It is not enough for the Ministry of Health and Child Care to continue administering the drugs on the simple reason that the "benefits outweigh the side-effects" without further research.*

There is need for more research.

ENDS///