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ZAPU applauds Botswana's social welfare model

By Ruth Memeza Ncube, ZAPU Deputy Secretary General

As we witness the government of Botswana rolling out innovative social welfare measures, it is hard not to feel a sense of admiration and hope. The initiatives, which include a monthly allowance for newborn babies, free sanitary pads for female students, and a significant increase in the Old Age Pension, demonstrate a clear commitment to supporting the most vulnerable members of society.

As ZAPU, this is a perfect opportunity to applaud Botswana's efforts and show that, with the right leadership and good governance, Zimbabwe too can achieve similar successes. By highlighting Botswana's achievements, we can motivate and inspire young people in Zimbabwe to start thinking about the meaning of true leadership and good governance practices, how it needs to start long before one is in a leadership position.

It's essential to emphasize that good governance is not just about implementing policies, but also about demonstrating humility and integrity. By embracing these qualities, we can shape the characters and mindsets of our young people and create a better future for everyone.

So, let us take a page from Botswana's book and work towards creating a Zimbabwe where every citizen has access to quality education, healthcare, and social protection. A Zimbabwe where every member of society feels valued and supported. With the right leadership and good governance, we can make this vision a reality.

Some key takeaways from Botswana's social welfare measures that we can learn from include the following:

- **Targeted support:** Botswana's initiatives are designed to support specific vulnerable groups, such as newborn babies, female students, and the elderly.
- **Comprehensive approach:** The measures address multiple aspects of social welfare, including education, healthcare, and financial support. This support should extend to cover mothers who are struggling to make ends meet in the home. Many can benefit from government subsidized childcare facilities.
- **Commitment to good governance:** Botswana's government has demonstrated a commitment to transparency, accountability, and effectiveness in implementing these measures.

By adopting a similar approach, we can create a brighter future for Zimbabwe and ensure that every citizen has access to the support and resources they need to thrive.