



Zanu-PF Repeats Threats against NGOs

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Zanu-PF resolved to deregister NGOs that the party deems “errant”, but civil society has said they will not brook threats, which are against SADC principles, and only aimed at derailing their work.

The recently ended 13th Zanu-PF national people’s conference resolved in Gweru, that it, “instructs the party to ensure that Government enforces deregistration of errant NGOs deviating from their mandate.”

Crisis Coalition Spokesperson Thabani Nyoni has rubbished the threats noting that the issue of threats is not new to NGOs. Nyoni warned Zanu-PF against muzzling independent voices, and disturbing development practitioners and humanitarian work and cautioned that Zanu-PF intentions are against the SADC protocol.

“It is a testament to the fact that ZANU PF political leadership is in defiance of the values and principles respected and



Zimbabwe youth Mission meets Congress of Democrats Youth League (CoDYL) in Windhoek

recognized by SADC such as freedom of assembly, association as well active citizen participation that CSOs work to achieve. Perhaps the message from ZANU PF is that they are a party that leaves in fear of its fellow citizens, in fear of allowing public truth to be known, in fear of the will of the citizens and in fear of diversity and divergence. This attitude and approach is a reflection of leadership bankruptcy and a party that is caught in a time warp and unable to see that things are changing,” said Nyoni.

Nyoni added that, comments by Cde Gumbo are a reflection of the attitude of ZANU PF as a party and system of delegitimizing and criminalizing plurality and diversity of political and public opinion as represented by CSOs and other forms of media and political groupings is the very reason why the country's political process are under curatorship of the SADC through the Zuma mediation team.



Zimbabwe Youth delegation meets Students Christian Movement of Namibia

Zanu-PF Spokesperson Cde Rugare Gumbo on Thursday, November 12 said the party is targeting “all organizations that are being funded from outside the country. “Asked on what Zanu-PF considered as errant organizations, which are diverting from their mandate, Gumbo said:

“We are going to deregister all organizations that are being funded by outside donors, including organisations like Crisis Coalition. We know that you NGOs are pushing for regime change, through conducting seminars disguised as platforms to talk about good governance. Who brought good governance and democracy to Zimbabwe from Ian Smith? – the answer is ZANU-PF.”

Gumbo could not reveal where NGOs must get funding from and instead asked why NGOs need funding when their existence is not even necessary. The Zanu-PF spokesperson could not also say why the state allowed non-governmental organizations to be registered in the first place if they are deemed irrelevant.

File picture of police raids in Harare....

Thabani Nyoni told the Crisis Report that such threats are a sign of double standards for Zanu-PF to say that the party does not respect and believe in NGOs yet ZANU-PF itself has actually formed its “own proxy NGOs that have become megaphones of its ideology” and are allegedly coaching citizens on what to believe and say. Nyoni added that the resolution by Zanu-PF was also an evidence of hypocrisy by the party.

“When ZANU PF says that it does not believe in CSOs and they are not necessary, we find this puzzling in that ZANU PF participates in a number of activities organized by CSOs, using these spaces to promulgate its position. About being foreign funded, perhaps there is some intellectual dishonesty here. We say this because, successive ZANU PF governments have been receiving foreign funding for budgetary support and even to fund their vote buying escapades and no one has even labeled them foreign sponsored agents who are pushing a foreign capital accumulation agenda.”

The recent resolution is not the first by a Zanu-PF national people’s conference and as such, resolution is a reiteration of the decision by the 12th Zanu-PF national people’s conference in December 2011, in Bulawayo. Barely two months following the resolution, there was a crackdown on NGOs as evidenced by the declaration in February 2012 by Masvingo Governor Titus Maluleke to ban 29 NGOs from operating in the Masvingo province. Since then, the crackdown on NGOs has escalated nationwide as characterized by the wave of raids on several NGOs and the arrests of a number of civil society leaders by the police.

In February 2012, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC), National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations (Nango), National Constitutional Assembly (NCA), Zimbabwe Election Support Network (Zesn) and Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, and Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (Zimrights) issued a joint statement condemning Governor Maluleke’s decree.

The statement read that Maluleke’s actions violated sections 21 (a) and 22 of the Constitution, which guarantee the freedoms of assembly and association, and freedom of movement respectively. The civil society organisations argued that Maluleke in his official capacity as governor had no *loci standi* or jurisdiction over NGOs, stated anywhere in the Constitution of Zimbabwe, to register let alone de-register them. Civil society urged Maluleke as a public official to exercise his functions in accordance with the law and to observe and uphold the rule of law in terms of section 18(a) of the Constitution.

The NGOs which have been raided during the course of 2012 include Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (Zimrights), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, Election Resource Centre (ERC), and Gays and Lesbians Association of Zimbabwe (GALZ). An addition to the crackdown NGOs is the raiding of ZIMRIGHTS offices, and the arrest of ZIMRIGHTS Deputy National Programs Coordinator Leo Chamahwinya, on allegations of conducting illegal voter education on the 13th of December 2012.



Zimbabwe youth Mission meets Congress of Democrats Youth League (CoDYL) in Windhoek

We will fight to the bitter end till our leaders have realised that we are also citizens and leaders should stop treating us like second class citizens on the basis that we are young, the Zimbabwe and Namibian youths have said.

The Zimbabwe youth delegation under the banner of Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition and the Namibian Congress of Democrats



Chiedza Chiwetu and Liberty Bhebhe

Youth League (CoDYL) concurred that there is need to form a united front against leaders who think they can rule forever by hoodwinking young people into believing that they are leaders of tomorrow.

The youths were speaking during a notes sharing meeting held in Windhoek, Namibia on December, 12. CoDYL was represented by Secretary General, Sandra Gases and Secretary of Information and Publicity, Raino Regardo Tsamaseb while the Zimbabwe youth delegation comprised of National Youth Development Trust (NYDT) Director, Liberty Bhebhe and Female Students Network (FSN) representative, Chiedza Chiwetu.

CoDYL Secretary for Information and Publicity Raino Tsamaseb conceded that young people face the same challenges in the region.

“The issues you raise about young people’s tribulations are not new to us. We are being oppressed by the same liberation movements who believe that by liberating us from the wrenches of apartheid and colonialism, they should continue to enslave us.

We now need to tell our story together as young people”, said Tsamaseb.

The CoDYL Secretary General stated that corruption is rampant in Namibia and that there is selective granting of empowerment projects and scholarships to young people in Namibia. She said that development as a phenomenon is a preserve of those aligned to the ruling party.

FSN Representative Chiedza Chiwetu informed the Youth League that corruption is like cancer in Zimbabwe and that it is confined to a particular group of people who are immune to prosecution as a result of their political affiliation. She also mentioned that the Presidential Scholarship in Zimbabwe is highly partisan.

“The issues you raise here in Namibia are the same issues we are grappling with in Zimbabwe. You cannot get a loan to start a project if you are not aligned to a particular political party in Zimbabwe. For us young women , it is even worse because at times, we are forced to go out of our way in order to benefit from programmes that are otherwise deemed to be national and inclusive”, said Chiwetu.

The Namibian young people promised to organise a meeting with government officials so that they can impress upon them to persuade Harare to be transparent and accountable to its own people and to fully implement a gamut of reforms which must pave way for the holding of free and fair elections in Zimbabwe. The youths also agreed to create a Southern Africa Youths social platform for information sharing, solidarity and amplification of issues that affect young people in the region.

The Zimbabwe Delegation is on a four day mission in Namibia to seek support from SADC citizens to urge their governments to put pressure on Zimbabwe to implement key reforms before the next election pencilled for 2013. The key message being driven by the Zimbabwe youths is that Zimbabwe must finalise the constitution making process, eliminate all forms of State sponsored violence, fully implement electoral reforms, realign the security sector , ensure security of persons, be transparent in the management of natural resources and institute a non- partisan youths empowerment initiative before the next harmonised elections.



The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is a broad based civil society network of over 72 active members comprising churches, women’s groups, social movements, residents associations, labour unions, human rights lawyers, and health professionals. It was formed in August of 2001 to focus on democracy, human rights, good governance and sustainable development issues – working locally, regionally and internationally.

Zimbabwe Youth delegation meets Students Christian Movement of Namibia

The Zimbabwe youth delegation which is currently in Namibia on a regional youth advocacy mission met the Students Christian Movement of Namibia on Wednesday, December 12, 2012.

The Zimbabwe Delegation which is made up of the Director of National Youth Development Trust (NYDT) Liberty Bhebhe and Female Students Network(FSN) representative, Chiedza Chiwetu told the six (6) member group of Namibian students drawn from different institutions of Higher learning that their visit was meant to get an understanding of problems facing young people in Namibia and search for areas of mutual interest as a starting point towards building a 'generation to generation' engagement and solidarity.

"We are here to build a relationship. For the past ten years we have enjoyed publicity as a result of voices from the region and the international community. We need to begin to appreciate as Zimbabweans that solidarity is reciprocal and we need to begin to speak out on issues that affect the Namibian youths. More so we need to begin to talk broader issues that affect young people beyond our borders and come up with solutions that will create stability, jobs and development in SADC. We need to support each other in crises and happiness. Africa is for Africans and we must build it for our own benefit and for the generations to come", appealed Liberty Bhebhe.

The Namibian Christian students agreed with their Zimbabwe counterparts that there is need to collectively hold governments accountable for their failure to provide for their people particularly the youths.

"Governments seem to have neglected their role. There are challenges which we need to tackle collectively as young people. The youth's representation in parliament is pathetic both in Zimbabwe and Namibia. We do not have decision making powers since this is regarded as an elders' zone. Young women are extremely marginalised and we need to find ways to enhance the participation of young people in decision making processes. We need to begin to collectively advocate for a quota system for young people in parliament in the SADC region and start from somewhere as a united front", said an agitated Tonaleni Ndemuneda, a final year student from the University of Namibia.

The Zimbabwe delegation impressed upon their Namibian counterparts to approach the government of Namibia to push for reforms in Zimbabwe before the next election. They also appealed to the Christian students to approach their church elders and persuade them to play an active role in putting pressure on the Government of Namibia to play an active role in making sure that Zimbabwe holds a constitutional referendum and that people are allowed to vote freely in the next election which is scheduled for 2013. The female students attending the meeting agreed to create a face book account for female students which they will use to push for their issues collectively. They also agreed to continuously engage through exchange learning visits.

The Zimbabwe Youth delegation is currently in Namibia to garner support from regional youths towards putting pressure on Harare to fully implement requisite reforms before the next election which is scheduled for 2013 in Zimbabwe.



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