



# The Real Change Times



## Movement for Democratic Change

*A Party of Excellence!*

*The Official Mouthpiece of the MDC*

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# Zanu PF crisis deepens

## ... as SADC moves to avert a repeat of March 2008 aftermath

HARARE - Brigadier General Douglas Nyikayaramba, imitating the usual political carelessness of a beleaguered minority inside Zanu PF that is against change, has irreparably damaged Robert Mugabe's argument against security sector reform - a necessary step for Zimbabwe to have a credible, legitimate election to cast away its pariah status.

Nyikayaramba acted as the security sector's point person in Zimbabwe's electoral management in 2002 after it became clear that Zanu PF was destined for the political cemetery.

The then Electoral Supervisory Commission (ESC), chaired by Colonel Sobusa Gula-Ndebele, appointed Nyikayaramba to head its secretariat and save Zanu PF and Mugabe in the heavily rigged and extremely violent Presidential election of 2002.

SADC, which observed those elections and issued a mealy mouthed endorsement of the fraudulent poll, knows that Nyikayaramba is not his own man. He speaks and represents an influential section of the anti-democracy security forces which views Mugabe as a hapless front for Zanu PF's insecure, timid and dangerous hardliners.

At the recent SADC summit in Windhoek, Zanu PF and Mugabe published a position paper in which they showed utter disdain for security sector renaissance and modern focus.

"Nyikayaramba's statement has exposed Zanu PF's major weakness," said a SADC diplomat.

"These views have plunged Zanu PF in trouble. They have no plan or alternative message to what these army guys have declared, judging from their 2008 orders to Mugabe and his colleagues after they lost the election, a position Mugabe confirmed himself."

Another SADC envoy concurred. "These soldiers see the party as theirs, nothing else, a fact which has changed the debate within the SADC diplomatic community at the instant. These military men are keen to send out a message that they drive and direct Mugabe and Zanu PF. They think SADC is outwitting and short-changing them. Zanu PF will find it impossible to convince the region that the election it is crying out for is in any way different to what we have seen in the past."

Nyikayaramba made some startling comments, suggesting that Mugabe must be declared life president, a position that puts paid to the need for a nation election which allows for



Douglas Nyikayaramba

Zimbabweans to make choices in a democracy. SADC loathes that position and is keen to avert a repeat of the aftermath of 29 March 2008.

The way in which SADC handles Zimbabwe presents a double-edged sword to regional key leaders. Many face an election next year and, naturally, Zimbabwe shall feature as an issue because of our unusually large population scattered in the region.

To make matters worse for Mugabe, Nyikayaramba - a serving senior officer - severely dented Zanu PF's feeble argument that those officers in its ranks only joined and assisted the party after retiring from the military. President Tsvangirai's reaction to Nyikayaramba's interview with the Zimbabwe Independent was swift and unceasing; describing his utterances as a shameful threat to national security.

Zimbabwe experienced an unprecedented crisis of governance and an economic meltdown in the last decade purely because of the works of Nyikayaramba and a section of the securo-crats who sought to hold the nation to ransom on behalf of Mugabe and Zanu PF.

As the crisis deepened, the people of Zimbabwe rejected the blackmail on 29 March 2008, leaving Nyikayaramba with limited options and forcing the group to refuse to accept the national verdict. SADC, aware of that blot to regional peace and security, flatly refused to endorse once again and gave a desperate Mugabe a chance to buy back his legacy and be part of a lasting solution to the national crisis.

"Statements by service chiefs that they will not respect the expression of the people's will," said President Tsvangirai. "The statements... in which a senior army officer is trying to determine the date of the election, only serve to confirm the uniqueness of our situation and the importance of vaccinating State organs from acting like political entities. "We cannot have peace unless all these issues have been dealt with."

world that they will never accept to be rushed into a fake election by merchants of chaos and violence. Zanu PF can try anything under the sun to railroad an election but this would be impossible, at least this year or before fundamental reforms are visible at home and abroad.

"We all want a new era in this country; where knives, machetes, knobkerries, guns and booted feet as instruments of violence and repression are no longer fashionable," said President Tsvangirai.

Tsvangirai was addressing a new forum of Zimbabwean elders whose mission and desire is to promote peace and human security. He expressed surprise that Robert Mugabe, a senior citizen, absented himself from such a forum whose main catchment constituency resides in his age group, and slightly below.

"I questioned myself what the age limit in this panel is," he said. "I see there is someone who is conspicuous by his absence. It's none other than President Mugabe. It is a serious omission and you should extend an invitation to him," President Tsvangirai said.

He warned Nyikayaramba and his Zanu PF handlers for engaging in reckless election talk in a nation still hurting from Zanu PF tyranny and dictatorship that inflicted numerous wounds, some still festering, for such a long time.

"As a country, we have been forced to walk the painful road of violence and hatred and we are not prepared to walk it again," said President Tsvangirai. "We have lost relatives, houses and property. We have State agents actively engaging in shameful acts of violence and unbridled violation of the people's rights and freedoms.

"We refuse to be cowed and to be distracted from the urgent national assignment of fighting for democratic change in Zimbabwe. Any careless talk of an election before the nation is ready for it puts the country in an unnecessary war mode because any war environment necessitates the suspension of the constitution and the undermining of the civilian authority."

He called for patience and a political will to rescue Zimbabwe from further damage.

## I'm scared to leave office -- Mugabe

Robert Mugabe says Zanu PF is in such a deep crisis that he cannot gamble to take a break as party leader because the party would collapse instantly. Mugabe's position, made public a few hours before the SADC summit in Windhoek, confirmed the exhaustion inside the party and its plummeting fortunes since the landmark defeat by the MDC on 29 March 2008.

In response to a question his retirement plans from the usually pliant state media, Mugabe said he was terrified at the prospect of a dead Zanu PF. "Well, well, well. You don't leave the party amid problems and in a crisis such as we have. You've got to get the party out of the crisis and then you can retire," he said.

As if to comfort himself after such a damaging disclosure, he added: "And also, the party needs me, and we should not create weak points within the party. Once you have change, and if we had it now for example, the new man, or new woman - that might destroy the party for a while as it goes through transition. Any new leader needs time to consolidate, so we don't want to take risks at all."

"No risks at this time because there are people who have regime change as their objective. Tony Blair has been calling for it. His successors, we haven't heard the voice of David Cameron yet. But there's that other man with a round head. What's his name? Hague. William Hague. He seems very critical of us and seems to be onto regime change."

The reporter, expectedly, failed to remind Mugabe that Blair left the scene and was replaced by Gordon Brown (who also left) many moons ago.

Unfortunately, Zimbabweans have decided to give neither Mugabe nor any new leader any of the whiffs of oxygen they eagerly expect to enable them to regroup. The party is disintegrating nearly every day despite the fervent efforts of its desperate officials to hoodwink the church; some dubious and fringe organisations; and all the failed sycophants and criminals in Zimbabwe's midst.

Mugabe cited, as examples, the collapse of UNIP in Zambia and the Malawi Congress Party after the departure of veteran nationalists Kenneth Kaunda and Kamuzu Banda respectively. Little



Robert Mugabe

did Mugabe realise that he was following exactly the mistakes of both Kaunda and Banda - failure to manage a proper leadership succession mechanism.

"If the leader of the party is removed in a manner which disappoints a significant section of the followers, naturally there will emerge divisions," said Mugabe. "Some will say no you are not our leader. Others will come up to counter and then more will follow."

Together, united, winning, ready for real change!



# Open plan to rig elections unveiled

A leaked document from Zanu PF gives insights into the party's election strategy said to have been crafted by the party think-tank and some military officers for use in the next general election.

The strategy, contained in a voluminous document, has the following as its main highlights. It states that a range of tactics, depending on each geographical location, population dynamics and the dominance of the opposition, shall be developed and deployed in line with the main party strategy.

A pilot campaign scheme is already underway, involving state and other "sympathetic" newspapers, religious groups, war veterans, sections of the military, new farmers and party structures countrywide.

In summary, the strategy hinges on what Zanu PF calls the three Ds, that is, **DESTRUCT, DESTROY** and **DISMANTLE** the MDC. This strategy will be employed through:

- Demonising President Tsvangirai and MDC ministers – looking for inherent weaknesses of the MDC;
- Taking the sanctions and indigenisation campaigns everywhere; indigenisation and empowerment for the urban and middle class;
- Equalisation strategies – dirty campaign, corruption in local government, service delivery failure; use of the public media – demonising the MDC,
- Targeting civil servants and setting them up against the MDC
- Making use of the margin on terror – violence, harvest of fear,
- Disruption of MDC local government structures – targeting councillors,
- Electoral manipulative strategies targeting the voters' roll,
- Creation of electoral buffer zones – making it virtually impossible for the MDC to campaign or field candidates in some areas particularly constituencies where the MDC had small majority,
- Fragmentation of the MDC vote – granting tacit support, if necessary, to regional political parties in Matabeleland; new farm and mine seizures
- Effective deployments of our trained youths, MID, CIO, war veterans
- Making a visible presence in every village evoking the memories



Flashback to 2008: Zimbabweans wait patiently to reject Zanu PF and Mugabe

of the liberation struggle and the evils of white imperialism and colonialism; take charge of the correct teaching of history in schools – especially high schools, tertiary institutions and universities. Selective visits would also be made to shrines in Angola, Mozambique and Zambia to acquaint the youths with our history.

- Making use of traditional leaders – the custodians of Zanu PF support in the rural areas
- Making use of Zanu PF's superior understanding of regional politics SADC and liberation struggle links,
- Infiltration of the MDC – candidate selection, low and high-level leadership
- Security sector - the role of the military – candidate selection – raise money from everywhere: vendors, small traders, small

miners, transporters, farmers and churches.

- Mass mobilisation – Apostolic and evangelical churches, ordinary members one million members in Masvingo, Mashonaland Central, Manicaland, Gokwe in the Midlands and other parts of the country.
- Food handouts, farming inputs and donations from friendly embassies.

In addition, Zanu PF has embarked on a sustained programme to counter existing civil society groups through the formation of new ones.

These include: the Zimbabwe Congress of Student Unions, Journalists for Empowerment, Lawyers for Justice, Upfumi Kuvadiki, Destiny for Afrika Network, Zimbabwe Revolutionary Volunteers Front, the Federation of Civil Society Organisations, the Zimbabwe Children of War Liberators

Association, the Zimbabwe Coffin Makers Association, Zimbabwe Exhumers Association, Youth in Natural Resources Management Zimbabwe, and the Millionaires Cashflow Club.

These organisations would take part in the campaign.

Meanwhile a report, published by South Africa's *Business Day* in Johannesburg says that despite clear and binding international agreements to the contrary, evidence now available shows that Zanu-PF is still determined to steal the next elections through the use of a variety of tools, including the voters roll.

In terms of the GPA there must be comprehensive reforms, including a new constitution, before a fresh election becomes a reality. Judging by the pace of progress on this holistic agenda, it is highly unlikely that an election is possible before mid-2012. One of the key documents needed for a credible outcome to be attained is a new voters roll for both the referendum and the elections for parliament and President.

In all previous elections the electoral register has been a major source of controversy. Drawn up by Tobaiwa Mudede, a known Zanu-PF supporter, it was notoriously full of dead and fictional voters - who always voted Zanu-PF. Previously, Mudede flatly refused to make the roll public, making it difficult for candidates and political parties to secure the document.

Mudede is understood to have already added another 366,550 new voters to the roll since 2008. Moreover, these are not all young voters coming of age. Although Zimbabwe's average life expectancy is has gone down significantly, an astonishing 33,206 of these new voters are aged 50-70, and another 16,649 are over 70.

Even more remarkable, 1 418 are over 100, although everyone knows that the famines and hardships of recent years have carried off most of the old. Oddly, although it is legally required for all voters to give a valid address, quite a few names on the roll lack one. There are also hundreds of under-age persons registered, some of them as young as two or three years old.

It is also striking that these anomalies are by no means evenly distributed across all constituencies. Instead they are concentrated in seats where Zanu-

PF feels under threat.

Thus in Mount Darwin East one finds 118 voters aged over 100, the majority of them all born on the same day, 1 January 1901. Another nine 96 year olds are all born on 1 January 1905 and 25 further 91 year olds are all born on 1 January 1910.

Once one looks at the new register as a whole one finds there are no less than 16,828 voters all born on the same day, 1 January 1901. Such a concentration of 110 year olds with identical birthdays is no doubt a planetary record.

Even more remarkable, though, no less than 1101 of these are concentrated in Mugabe's birthplace, Zvimba, which, no doubt, will help to guarantee a pleasing election result there.

All told the register includes 41,119 voters aged over 100. Yet in Britain, with a population more than five times the size of Zimbabwe and with an enormously higher life expectancy, there are only 10,000 people aged over 100. It seems clear that Mudede has only arrived at such absurd figures by systematically failing to remove dead voters from the rolls.

What is clear enough of Zimbabwe's 41,119 centenarians is that if they ever really existed they doubtless died long ago. It is also interesting to note that 18,525 voters are listed merely as being attached to "housing co-operative" associations without any proper address. Such phantom voters vote early and often in Zimbabwe.

However, this new data on the voters' roll makes it crystal clear that Mugabe intends to subvert the GPA and cheat his way back to power again.

## Apostolic sect members grab over 100 cattle

HARARE - Members of the Johanne Marange apostolic sect who have invaded one of the country's biggest dairy farms have forcibly grabbed over 100 cattle belonging to the farm's owner, Francis Kotze.

A Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) official told the Daily News that the apostolic sect members, reinforced by Zanu PF youths, had disrupted operations at Spillemeer Farm in Chipinge.

The official said the apostolic faith members ordered Kotze to remove a drove of pigs claiming the presence of the animals ran contrary to their religious beliefs. They however, demanded that he slaughter several sheep to feed them. They declared the cattle as theirs, the CFU official said. They are now milking the cattle themselves.

"The invaders have also looted his property and are demanding him to slaughter sheep for their meat. His workers are also being threatened with violence as they are supporting Kotze," said the CFU.

Police, the CFU said, had refused to intervene, claiming the matter was political.

The apostolic faith members, donning their famous white robes, invaded Spillemeer farm on Tuesday. They claimed to have an offer letter from government granting them ownership of the farm.

Kotze was one of the few whites remaining in the farming business following the violent takeover of farms under the land reform programme that began in 2000.

- Daily News

## Whither SADC Tribunal?

An Extraordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government met in Windhoek on 20th May. The Summit did not discuss the situation in Zimbabwe because South African President Zuma, the SADC facilitator of the GPA, was not present – he was still involved in local government elections in South Africa.

The Heads of State and Government will now have an opportunity to discuss Zimbabwe on the sidelines of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Council and Summit in South Africa on 12th June.

SADC Tribunal The Summit considered the report of the Committee of Ministers of Justice and Attorneys-General on the review of the Role, Responsibilities and Terms of Reference of the SADC Tribunal and decided as follows:

to mandate the Ministers of Justice and Attorneys-General to initiate the process of amending the relevant SADC legal instruments and submit a progress report to the August 2011 Summit and a final report to the August 2012 Summit not to reappoint members of the Tribunal whose term of office expired in August 2010 and not to replace members of the Tribunal whose term of office will expire on 31 October 2011 to "reiterate" the moratorium on the Tribunal receiving any new cases

and hearing any cases until the SADC Protocol on the Tribunal has been reviewed and approved.

While this decision on the Tribunal technically falls short of the "abolition" claimed by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, its practical effect is much the same, because the Tribunal will not be able to function and will soon have no judges at all.

The report by the Committee of Ministers of Justice and Attorneys-General has been not been made public, but a drastic reduction of the Tribunal's jurisdiction is foreshadowed by the Summit's decision and recent statements by Minister of Justice Patrick Chinamasa.

It also seems inevitable that the Summit will not be taking steps to compel Zimbabwe to accept and act on the Tribunal's decisions in the Campbell case and other cases on the land question.

Withholding the report of the Committee of Ministers and AGs from public scrutiny is regrettable, given that the independent consultants hired by SADC to advise the Committee are reported as having rejected Zimbabwe's contentions that the Tribunal was not legally established.

## Chombo bares his dirty teeth in Mutasa

*Ignatius Morgen Chiminya Chombo is at it again, pursuing his relentless war against MDC councillors countrywide.*

*This time he was down in Mutasa district in Manicaland, where he has suspended two councillors.*

*Chombo, a political meddler in MDC controlled councils, accused councillors Owen Mbona and Michael Nyangani of dishonesty and mismanagement.*

*Nyangani was accused of awarding timber harvesting contracts to various companies without council approval; and allocating flea market stands to MDC supporters at Muchena Business Centre without against council policy.*

*"Thus showing favour to individuals hence you abused your office in that it is alleged you intimidated internal auditor (s) who were lawfully carrying out their duties thereby creating in the mind of an ordinary person, lack of confidence in the administration of the council," the allegation to Nyangani.*

*Chombo went further: "On a date unknown but sometime in 2009 you misappropriated funds from sand harvesting amounting to US\$95 which amount was supposed to be surrendered to council."*

*The two councillors are denying the charges. Chombo has appointed Mutare lawyer Peter Makombe, Obert Muzawazi the town clerk for Mutare, Nowell Mundeta the district administrator for Chipinge and Richard Maruta, the Manicaland provincial administrator to a committee investigating the councillors.*

*Chombo's interference in local authorities is now common fare. Between 2001 and 2003 he fired almost all elected MDC mayors and councillors in major cities such as Harare, Chitungwiza, Chegutu and Mutare, replacing them with Zanu PF commissioners.*

*After 2008, Chombo has caused havoc in several local authorities, suspending and dismissing councillors across the country at will.*

# Police wantonly target MDC activists in Harare



Mr Last Maengahama

Police yesterday arrested dozens of MDC activists and their families, most of them in their homes and workplaces on allegations of killing a police inspector who, his colleagues say, was murdered by unknown revellers at a liquor store in Glen View, Harare.

It is important to note that before any investigations had been done the police rushed to the national press to blame the MDC. The resultant arrests of MDC members are therefore an attempt to justify this unorthodox behaviour.

By late last night, the MDC and its lawyers failed to ascertain the whereabouts of those randomly picked up, ostensibly to facilitate investigations. The secrecy in which the swoop was carried out raises suspicions

as neither the party nor the accused's lawyers have been able to trace those netted in the offensive.

It is a fact that the police deny suspects food, and if injured, access to medical aid. For that reason, the MDC is keen to know about the fate of those unfortunately caught in the latest police dragnet.

The party has only managed to ascertain some of those arrested to include Last Maengahama, an MDC national executive member and resident of Glen View, and his three brothers, Stanley, Edson and Lazarus Maengahama; and Odus, Llyod and Precious Chitanda -- all related to Glen View North chairperson of the party, Mrs Chitanda.

Also picked up were Mavis Madzokere, the wife of Glen View councillor, Tungamirai Madzokere, and Ollyn Madzokere her sister-in-law. The two were picked at their home.

Stefan Takaedzwa was picked up outside the MDC headquarters, Harvest House yesterday afternoon on the same allegations.

The arrest of MDC members is a clear attempt by the police and Zanu PF to try to portray the MDC as a violent party, which it clearly is not.

# Zimbabweans wish for peaceful elections

...encouraged by South Africa's recent transparent polls

The MDC local government wishes to congratulate the South Africans for holding peaceful elections on the 18th of May 2011.

In those elections the African National Congress largely emerged with a fresh mandate to lead the local government in South Africa.

As a matter of public record, these elections were held in a peaceful, transparent manner.

Both winners and losers wilfully accepted the people's verdict mainly because of open manner in which the polls were conducted.

We in Zimbabwe yearn for the day a similar situation will present itself to us following decades of Zanu PF tyranny and dictatorship. This heavily compromised the secrecy of the vote; celebrated Zanu PF violence as a campaign and coercive tool; and allowed for anarchy to rein in the determination of people's will.

Of particular concern to the MDC is the unending desire of the military and the security establishment in Zimbabwe to continue to meddle in a civil order of the country by perpetuating a de-facto of emergency in a nation.

Further, political corruption, ballot stuffing, ethnic score-settling and pure political sadism remain sad hallmark to our electoral management system.

Zimbabweans can only envy the people of South Africa for their achievement of true democracy.

The latest remarks by Brigadier General Douglas Nyikayaramba, a senior military official, calling for an election this year are totally unhelpful as they smack of a deliberate attempt to pursue a culture of interference with a universal sentiment that abhors the railroading of a nation towards an illegitimate and insecure election.

Nyikayaramba and those of his ilk are clearly overstepping the constitutional



Aftermath of a free and fair election in Zaka in 2008

mandate and are better advised to steer away from civilian processes essential for the good governance of the nation.

The MDC implores on the nation to ignore Nyikayaramba's misguided political tantrums as they fall outside the boundaries of the basic duties of the military and its commissioned officers.

Free and open elections ensure that elected representatives acquire clear legitimacy and true authority. This inevitably leads to public faith and trust in these institutions.

As a party of excellence, the MDC solidly stands behind President Jacob Zuma, the ANC and all the South Africans for their maturity and guidance to the region.

We are particularly encouraged by President Zuma's determined stance, in his capacity as a SADC facilitator towards resolving the Zimbabwean crisis of governance.

We sincerely hope that Zimbabwe's next elections would be conducted in the same spirit and manner that the South Africans held these historic elections.

# Reforms essential for free and fair polls



Hon. Douglas Mwonzora

HARARE - Hon Douglas Mwonzora, the MDC national spokesperson said a free and fair election should have the correct atmosphere; a free and accessible national broadcaster; the rule of law; an impartial and professional security sector; absence of intimidation, harassment and violence on the voters; a credible Zimbabwe electoral commission; a credible voter's role and a democratic constitutional framework.

At a public discussion forum organised by the Mass Public Opinion Institute, MPOI, in Harare last week under the topic: 'Elections roadmap - hopes and fears', Hon Mwonzora said Zimbabwe must at one point, have free and fair elections to determine who must legitimately run the affairs of the people of Zimbabwe.

"After everything has been said and done, Zimbabweans must have a free and fair election to determine who must legitimately run the affairs of this country. Never again shall Zimbabwe go back to the period of inconclusive

elections that produced an illegitimate leadership," said Hon Mwonzora.

He said there is need for a clear roadmap to an election with clear guidelines.

Hon Mwonzora said it is impossible to have elections this year as the constitution is yet to be completed.

He said we should have a clear roadmap with time frames, and said the MDC is ready for a free and fair elections any day, any time as long as it is not in the mould of the sham 27 June presidential rerun, where Zanu PF unleashed violence on innocent citizens in Zimbabwe.

"A roadmap is those fundamental things that must be put right before we go for an election. We need to conclude the constitution process, we need security sector reforms, we need a clean vote's role, we need to have an independent electoral commission, and we need an independent national broadcaster - independent from politicians," he said.

Pastor Trevor Maisiri of the Africa Reform Institute said Zimbabwe was a fragile state because it had failed to administer its economic productivity, societal equity, politics of citizenry preference and institutional efficiency either due to lack of capacity or mismanagement.

"When a nation is deemed a failed state, it therefore means the international community including regional bodies like SADC and AU, have got the responsibility to protect the citizens.

"So when a nation fails to move in those four categories, then it is the responsibility of SADC, AU to move in, not for the sake of the political parties, but to protect the citizens," he said. Goodsen Mguni said Zanu PF can pull out of the GPA and Mugabe an-

nounces elections at any time. He said Zanu PF was not afraid of SADC and the guarantor to the GPA, South Africa President Jacob Zuma.

"We are not afraid of SADC, We are not afraid of Zuma (South Africa President). If Jacob Zuma had gone to Windhoek; he was going to be told one or two things. We are not going to allow SADC to tell us that we must surrender power to MDC, never!" said a fuming Mguni at the public forum.

Zanu PF has been calling for the holding of election without an election roadmap and have been deploying state security agents in the rural areas to step up its intimidation machinery ahead of the expected election.

The MDC has however maintained that Zimbabwe will only go to an election when there is a clear election roadmap and a full implementation of the Global Political Agreement, which includes having a constitutional referendum before the announcement of election.

However, Hon Mwonzora said it was unfortunate that the octogenarian Zanu PF leader was being wrongly advised by people who acted without proper knowledge of the 19th amendment.

"I hope Mguni is not in a position of advice to Robert Mugabe, because if he is, then Mugabe is being advised wrongly. It is suicidal to go against the wishes of the world, it is suicidal to go against the wishes of our African brothers, it is suicidal to go against the wishes of the people of Zimbabwe.

"It is not a question of fearing president Zuma, it is a question of respecting him and respecting his special position in this impasse. He is the mediator of the dispute and he deserves our respect. President Zuma deserves better," said Hon Mwonzora in response to Mguni's utterances, which he said promptly before vacating the room.

The panel also included the Minister of Education, Hon David Coltart and the national chairperson for Mavambo/Kusile/Dawn, Philip Chavhunga.

# MDC cherishes Africa Day

The MDC last week joined the rest of Africa in celebrating Africa Day, a day in Zimbabwe that represents a cherished dream.

In a statement published by party spokesperson, Hon. Douglas Mwonzora said Zimbabweans had gallantly fought against colonialism in a national project whose ideals are unfortunately yet to be realised after a colossal betrayal by an elite entrusted with the people's mandate to help them assume a new identity in the changed circumstances.

"Within a short space of time we realised that our lives started to stagnate, later to regress, into a national crisis of governance that nearly thrust us in a state of permanent disability," Hon. Mwonzora said.

"Our experience showcased negative returns fairly early into independence with the unfortunate spectre of violence and human rights abuses, particularly in western Zimbabwe where a while estimates vary a close to 20 000 people are believed to have been massacred in the Gukurahundi era.

"The peace dividend we desired after almost a century of colonialism was hardly claimed as Zanu PF paid little or no heed to universal human rights conventions; denied us the space to extend our freedom; and muzzled the advance of our common humanity," Hon. Mwonzora said.

He said the plight of Zimbabweans took a nasty turn at the end of the millennium when the people sought to challenge Robert Mugabe and Zanu PF hegemony and unbridled supremacy over the people.

"That struggle is still with us although we, as the MDC, are happy to note that it is now in its penultimate stages.

"This year's Africa Day theme; 'The State of Peace and Security in Africa', is appropriate considering our continued fight for democracy, human rights, and against poverty, elite corruption and

disease," he said.

Hon. Mwonzora said the African culture is clear and unambiguous: 'We celebrate our diversity; dialogue and democracy; we see our differences as invaluable sources of strength; and love peace and security.

"However, despite these flaws, the people's Party of Excellence, the MDC would like to take this opportunity and salute the people of Africa, especially the African Union and SADC for stepping into Zimbabwe as underwriters of a transition and peace pact to see us through 28 difficult years of a dictatorship," he said.

The support Africa proffered to Zimbabwe, Hon. Mwonzora said was historic much as it was appreciated because the MDC believes in Africa and has faith the continent's solidarity with Zimbabweans whose roots date back to the struggle against colonialism.

"As we commemorate this great day, we remain optimistic that all is not lost. With our collective potential always beckoning for attention, peace and security are non-negotiable.

"Examples from else in Africa show that significant strides have been made to empower the people as evidenced by the emergence of more than two dozen nascent democracies spurred by a generational evolution of Africa's leadership in the recent past," he said.

He said the democratic journey in Africa, although not fully fledged in some countries must be maintained. Africa must be able to sustain the budding democratic culture; to root essential institutions that protect and respect the sanctity of an African life; to open up its societies to unfettered opportunities for all.

Africa celebrated the formation of the 48th anniversary of the African Union (AU) on 25 May. AU was formed in 1963 and was then known as the Organisation of African Union (OAU).



A Zanu PF activist on a campaign trail in Uzumba in 2008

## Fresh charges for Mash Central chairperson



**Mr Godfrey Chimombe**

The recently elected MDC Mashonaland Central chairperson, Mr Godfrey Chimombe was last week given summonses to appear in court for two trumped-up charges that he had been previously acquitted for.

The two charges are that he undermined the authority of the President in Mt Darwin in 2010 and another of inciting public violence in Mbire.

The summonses were served on Mr Chimombe by police officers from Bindura Police Station.

On the first charge, the police are

claiming that Mr Chimombe on 6 February 2010 at Pfura Stadium, Mt Darwin, he addressed a rally and made unlawful and abusive statement saying "Down with Mugabe".

He was arrested last year on this charge but was acquitted by a Bindura magistrate after spending more than a month in remand prison.

On the second charge, the police are claiming that Mr Chimombe incited MDC supporters in assaulting 45 women from Zanu PF and broke down 40 window panes at Mushumbi Primary School in Mbire on 6 April this year.

The charge sheet claims the 45 women are receiving treatment in hospital where they are admitted but does not mention the hospital.

Mr Chimombe was arrested in April over the trumped-up case and spend a week in remand prison before he was acquitted.

He has been ordered to appear in court in Bindura on 7 June and 13 June. The provincial chairperson has since

2008 appeared at the Bindura magistrate's court facing over 15 different charges. However, he has been acquitted on all these charges as the cases were all trumped-up.

"Since I became the provincial chairperson, there is an interest by the police and Zanu PF to frustrate my work in this province hence the attempt by the police to bring back charges that had been dropped by the courts. However, Zanu PF will not succeed in bringing real change to Mashonaland Central," Mr Chimombe said.

Meanwhile, the online publication, [newzimbabwe.com](http://newzimbabwe.com) reports from Johannesburg that a new film being promoted as the "definitive account" of President Robert Mugabe is set to get its first screening at an international festival in South Africa next month.

"Whatever Happened to Robert Mugabe?", an 80-minute film by Simon Bright, has been given opening night billing at the 13th Encounters South African International Documentary Festival to be held in Cape Town and Johannesburg from June 9-26.

In advance publicity material, the festival's organisers said the documentary "tells the stories of Rhodesia's transition to Zimbabwe and the personal journey of Robert Mugabe, using one to explain the other, finally suggesting why Mugabe chose the road he has".

"As a biography it has everything - first-hand accounts of Mugabe's early life with a desperately poor Catholic mother, what he was like at school, the effects of a Jesuit education and his rage against his absent father," the organisers said in a statement.

They added: "The parallel story of the transition is equally well researched, as are later episodes of importance, notably Lancaster House, the Matabeleland genocide and the growing role of global business in Africa's economies.

"But it's the behind-the-scenes jostling for power which Bright exposes that are the most riveting, and from it Mugabe emerges as unquestionably one of history's most canny, devious leaders. It is a haunting film, the music an achievement in itself, a mix of liberation, folk and contemporary sounds."

Bright was co-producer of the 1996 Zimbabwe liberation film, "Flame".

Although many books have been written about the mercurial Zimbabwean strongman, 87 this year, fewer biographies have been released on film.

### Handiende - Mugabe

*Then you get segmentation of the party and that is not good. That is what kills the party. You don't want Zanu PF to go the way of UNIP in Zambia.*

*Mugabe's lack of confidence in his deputies and other senior officials provided a further damper to their ambitions and buoyancy as political leaders. If anything such a declarative statement from an 87-year old smacks of derision; its shocks the party's rank and file to the core; and drives the youths to search for alternative homes with a brighter future - like the MDC.*

*Even Solomon Mujuru and Emmerson Mnangagwa, leaders of the two Zanu PF factions that are always on each other's thoughts, even over flimsy turf fights, were in an atypical agreement that Mugabe is now lost and his statement was disruptive to the party.*

*The two have now deployed their energies internally to maintain a firm grip on their little gangs which are both dependant on rogue military elements for their existence and campaigns.*

## Chief stalls MP's trial

A Zombe chief, Samuel Samambwa has for the fourth time failed to testify in the trial of MDC Midlands North chairperson, Hon. Costin Muguti, Zombe MP, Hon. Rodgers Tazviona and six MDC activists are facing trumped-up charges of threatening him.

The trial is at the Kwekwe Magistrate's Court and Chief Samambwa is the key witness in the trial. Hon. Muguti is the MP for Gokwe Kabuyuni.

Last week Chief Samambwa failed to come to court claiming he was looking for some missing people in his area.

A fortnight ago, the chief said he had failed to attend court due to the unavailability of transport, a situation which is now annoying the defence.

The defence lawyer Tapera Sengweni complained bitterly over the delays.

"This is the fourth time we have had to move the trial date, with the State giving us new reasons every time to stop trial. If they are not ready on the next date we will file for refusal of further remand," said Sengweni.

On April 20, the trial failed to take off

after the State failed to provide a video recording of the alleged incident which had been requested by the accused's lawyers.

On January 30, the two MPs and the six activists visited Chief Samambwa's home to enquire on why the chief was confiscating MDC regalia from activists in the area and threatening to flush out perceived MDC activists from his area.

At the High court in Harare on Monday, the trial of Energy Minister and MDC deputy treasurer Hon. Elton Mangoma was postponed to June 6 due to the unavailability of the prosecutor handling the matter.

Hon Mangoma is being charged with abuse of public office arising from the procurement of fuel by one of his ministry's departments at a time when the country had run dry, threatening to ground business.

Hon Mangoma denies the charge. He faces a separate charge involving what the state says was an irregular multi-million dollar deal in the purchase of essential equipment. He is on a US\$5 000 bail for each of the two charges

## Moyo celebrates victory over Moyo

Hundreds of MDC supporters and villagers last weekend attended victory celebrations for the Speaker of Parliament and MDC national chairperson, Hon. Lovemore Moyo at Brunapeg in Mangwe, Matabeleland South province.

The celebrations were to mark the re-election of Hon. Moyo as the Speaker of Parliament.

Among the guests was President Tsvangirai who was the guest of honour.

At the meeting President Tsvangirai said desperate attempts by Zanu PF to push through an election would be vigorously blocked by the MDC and other progressive organisations.

"It is not about having a new Constitution and holding elections this year. It is about having a perfect document that protects and respects the will of the people. It is therefore better for us to take our time being thorough as we write this important document," President Tsvangirai said.

He said the negotiators from the three political parties in the inclusive government and a team from SADC facilitator, President Jacob Zuma were working on an election roadmap that would usher in a new democratic dispensation.

President Tsvangirai said he was "a very clean man" who had never killed anyone in his political career and challenged Zanu PF and Robert

Mugabe to come out clean in public and declare the same.

"My hands are very clean and conscience is clear. I did not kill anyone during Gukurahundi. I did not kill anyone during Operation Murambatsvina and I did not kill anyone during the 2008 presidential election run-off.

"I challenge Mugabe and Zanu PF to come out in public and say the same," he said.

In his address President Tsvangirai thanked the Moyo family for bringing up a principled man like Hon. Moyo who had turned out to be a respected person in the MDC, nationally and the international community.

Hon. Moyo crushed Zanu PF's Simon Khaya Moyo for the important post of Speaker in March.

Before the election of the Speaker, another Zanu PF discredited politician, Jonathan Moyo had attempted to bribe MPs from the MDC to vote for the Zanu PF candidate.

Jonathan Moyo had been instrumental in the nullification of Hon. Moyo's post after he had appealed to the Supreme Court.

Present at the celebrations were attended by several senior MDC officials who included Matobo Senator, Hon. Sithembile Mlotshwa, Lobengula MP, Hon. Samuel Sipepa Nkomo, and several traditional leaders.

## Real change is the MDC's goal

The MDC will continue to fight for real change, democracy and good governance despite attempts by Zanu PF to use the military forces to thwart change in the country, Masvingo provincial chairperson, Wilstaf Sitemere said on Saturday.

Addressing over 500 party supporters at a rally held at Baradzanwa Business Centre, Ward 8, Bikita South, Sitemere said the MDC's obligation was to address the challenges faced by the poor in the community and would therefore continue to fight for democratic change in Zimbabwe.

"The MDC is for the poor and everyone interested in democratic change are fully behind the party," he said.

"We are still in the struggle and we should not relax. In fact we must keep on pressing towards achieving total change in the country. We must therefore remember that the struggle is still on. We all desire a better Zimbabwe. People in neighbouring countries are leading better lives.

"Our country is blessed with natural resources yet we are impoverished because a few greedy Zanu PF individuals are looting the national resources. Zanu PF mandarins have been bleeding the country dry for decades," said Sitemere.

He said the MDC had contributed meaningfully towards real change in the few months the party formed the inclusive government in 2009.

"Look at what we have achieved in the past few months that we have been in government. Schools have been reopened and hospitals are functional. We now have reliable public transport. The Constitution-making process is still going on.

"There is a lot of controversy surrounding the issue of elections but our position is very clear five can only go for polls when there is a clear roadmap that ensures a free and fair outcome," he said.

Sitemere said the Zanu PF Commissariat was loaded with army personnel, which was a clear indication the party wanted to use military force to suppress the will of the people during election said Leader Sitemere.

"The shows that the people in Zanu PF are confused and they are quaking in their boots. They know they cannot win the elections but they just want to confuse the electorate".

The rally was attended by several senior MDC provincial leadership who included, the deputy provincial secretary and Gutu East MP, Hon. Ransome Makamure, treasurer and Masvingo mayor, Femius Chakabuda, deputy secretary and Bikita West MP, Hon. Heya Shoko, Youth Assembly chairperson and Gutu Central, Hon. Oliver Chirume, Women Assembly chairperson, Judith Muzhavazi, Bikita South MP, Hon. Jani Varandeni, organising secretary and Zaka East MP, Hon. Earnest Mudavanhu and Bikita Senator Kokerai Rugara.

## Stop abusing youths - Madzore

The MDC Youth Assembly chairperson Solomon Madzore has said there is need to address critical aspects that affect the lives of the youth like education as they as important tools in helping rebuilding Zimbabwe.

Addressing guests at the Independent Dialogue in Harare last week, Madzore said the youths in Zimbabwe were not being guaranteed of having access to education.

"Education is a fundamental right but unfortunately that same education has been reduced to something else, something like a privilege.

"Young people in Zimbabwe are not guaranteed of that education and yet it is education that equips us as young leaders of today with various skills as we lead and move forward," he said.

He acknowledged that poverty was the cause of youths easily being used as perpetrators of violence and called for an economic model young people can access to be developed. Madzore said because of the misrule of the economy by the then Zanu PF regime had had a serious effect on the lives of most of the youths in the country.

"The current youth policies created by Zanu PF have not responded effectively in mainstreaming youth participation in the economic activities that should reduce youth unemployment.

"The alarming statistics of youth unemployment, social marginalisation, HIV/AIDS, and lack of popular participation clearly demonstrates the dire situation that is limiting youth involvement in the governance



**Solomon Madzore**

systems of the country.

"The government's empowerment policy should not be anchored on the basis of grabbing companies and land; it should be progressive and ensure there is production. The youths should have access to bank loans and the government should support existing youth projects and businesses," he said.

Madzore said the MDC Youth Assembly is unequivocally committed to establishing an education system that is imaginative, holistic and will assist in the creation of a culturally, socially, mentally, physically and economically prosperous and democratic society.

"The MDC Youth Assembly will ensure that every youth has access to a high-quality education that will enable them to optimize the use of their talents and make their way in a competitive world," he said.



Those who have names of perpetrators of violence in your constituencies feel free to phone or write to MDC Information and Publicity department. Telephone: 04-770708 Email: [mdcnewsbrief@gmail.com](mailto:mdcnewsbrief@gmail.com) Postal Address: Harvest House, 4th Floor, 44 Nelson Mandela Avenue, Harare.