SADC moves into Harare
... as Zanu PF leaves Johannesburg empty handed

SADC has turned its attention onto the performance of the Inclusive Government; in particular Harare’s handling of outstanding issues in the Global Political Agreement (GPA).

The move is meant to guarantee a peaceful and stable political environment for the next election.

As a first step, SADC shall second its officials to Harare to ensure compliance with the expected precepts and tenets of the GPA “as soon as possible”.

Robert Mugabe and Zanu PF were strongly opposed to this latest position but the MDC and SADC remained resolute and unwavering for the sake of the people of Zimbabwe. At the end, Zanu PF lost its case.

At its summit in Johannesburg, South Africa, which ended on Sunday night SADC ignored Zanu PF’s violent and emotional objections to the report and resolutions of its Organ on Defence and Security tabled earlier in Livingstone, Zambia, in March.

After taking note of the report and the resolutions, SADC confirmed Africa’s confidence on the work of the troika and maintained the pressure by insisting on a direct SADC involvement in the implementation of the Global Political Agreement.

The former ruling party was so incensed what it called a counter-offensive for a rescission of the report.

Sunday’s full summit refused to bow down to Zanu PF’s desperate demands and maintained the pressure by insisting on a direct SADC involvement in monitoring the pace of progress towards a sober Zimbabwe.

In spurning Zanu PF and its vitriol against President Zuma, the regional public opinion in Johannesburg was the total rejection of the idea insisting on the GPA as the only roadmap to an election.

It flew in all its key media spin doctors and bussed several supporters into the city to propagate its position. In the end, they lost the information war.

Zimbabwe shall, once again, come under regional scrutiny at the annual SADC summit in August. At that meeting, the region expects visible progress in the fulfilment of the requirements of the GPA; an agreement on the remaining contentious issues blocking progress to a democracy and far-reaching political reforms; and an agreed roadmap to a credible election.

A major success story from Johannesburg was the total rejection of the Zanu PF’s call for a snap election in 2011, together with that party’s warped idea insisting on the GPA as the only “roadmap to an election”.

These two proposals were thrown out of the window and were never put on the table for debate and discussion.

Flashback to Livingstone...

1. The Troika Summit of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation met in Livingstone, Republic of Zambia, on 11 March 2011 to consider the political and security situation in the region, in particular in the Republic of Mozambique and Zimbabwe.

2. Summit was chaired by H.E. Rupiah Bwezani Banda, Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and President of the Republic of Malawi.

3. Summit was attended by the following Heads of State and Government:
   - Dr. carácter Arroyo, President of the Republic of Argentina.
   - Dr. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania.
   - H.E. Tran Dai Quang, President of Viet Nam.
   - H.E. Jacob G. Zuma, Deputy Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and President of the Republic of South Africa.
   - H.E. José Eduardo dos Santos, President of the Republic of Angola.
   - H.E. Hage Geingob, President of the Republic of Namibia.
   - H.E. Felipe Nyusi, President of the Republic of Mosambique.
   - H.E. Hage Geingob, Chairperson of SADC, President of the Republic of Namibia.
   - H.E. Augustine S. Mahiga, Chairperson of SADC, President of the United Republic of Tanzania.
   - H.E. Mohammad Hadi, President of the Republic of the Maldives.

4. Summit congratulated H.E. Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and his party Chama Cha Mapinduzi (CCM) for winning the general elections in November 2010.
JOHANNESBURG- South African President Jacob Zuma, the SADC appointed mediator to the decade-long Zimbabwean political crisis, has rejected rushed polls in Zimbabwe as toxic for a free and fair election.

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6. Summit recalled and reiterated its decisions of March 2009 on the urgent need to accelerate and consolidate political and economic reforms in Zimbabwe, and the need to find a lasting solution to the crisis facing the country.

7. Summit considered the report of the SADC Mediation Team on the development of the roadmap for returning the country to constitutional normalcy.

8. Summit decided to recommend the convening of an Extraordinary Summit to further consider the Madagascar Report as a matter of urgency.

9. Summit urged all Malagasy Political Actors to reject violence or threat to use violence during the transition.

10. Summit committed to consolidate and protect the achievements made in the mediation process and urged all the political parties to cooperate and support the work of the SADC Mediation Team towards the free, fair and credible elections.

11. Summit reiterated that the Malagasy-Malagache Dialogue continue to be guided by respect, inclusivity and transparency.

12. Summit commended His Excellency Joaquim A. Chissano, former President of Mozambique, and the SADC Mediator on Madagascar for his efforts in finding the lasting solution for Madagascar's political crisis.

13. On Zimbabwe, Summit received the report on the political and security situation in the country as presented by the SADC Facilitator Mr. Jacob Zuma, the President of the Republic of South Africa.

14. Summit appreciated the frankness with which the report was presented by the SADC Facilitator and commended him for the work he has been doing on behalf of SADC.

15. Summit recalled past SADC decisions on the implementation of the GPA and noted with Disappointment insufficient progress thereof and expressed its grave concern and delay of the implementation of the GPA.

16. Summit noted with grave concern the polarization of the political environment as characterized by, interalia, resurgence of violence, arrests and intimidation in Zimbabwe.

17. In view of the above, Summit resolved that:

1. There must be an immediate end to violence, intimidation, hate speech, harassment, and any other form of action that contradicts the letter and spirit of GPA.

2. All stakeholders to the GPA should implement all the provisions of the GPA and create a conducive environment for peace, security, and free political activity.

3. The Inclusive Government in Zimbabwe should complete all the steps necessary for the holding of the election including the finalisation of the constitutional amendment and the referendum.

4. SADC should assist Zimbabwe in formulating guidelines that will assist in holding an election that will be free and fair in accordance with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

5. The Troika of the Organ shall appoint a team of officials to join the Facilitation Team and work with the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) to ensure monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the GPA. The Troika shall develop the Terms of Reference, establish the terms and conditions to provide regular progress report, the first, to be presented during the next SADC Extraordinary Summit. Summit will review progress on the implementation of GPA and take appropriate action.

18. Summit endorsed the report of the SADC Facilitation Team on Zimbabwe.

19. In reviewing political and security developments on the continent, Summit noted with grave concern the deteriorating security and humanitarian situation in Cote d'Ivoire leading to increased deaths, displacement of persons and influx of refugees.

20. Summit called on Mr. Laurent Gbagbo of Cote d'Ivoire to establish a one party state dictatorship to form the Zimbabwe Unity Movement, Mr. Mugabe's vile efforts to form a one party state dictatorship under the Criminal Law Codification and Sentencing Act as well as the announcement of a roadmap to lead to the lifting of sanctions was a clear sign of desperation.

21. They have run out of ideas, it's not only hoonskis who have been hanging around the country, it's the Zimbabwe Police, Intelligence and army who have been conducting scorched earth tactics.

22. The report entitled “Footprints of Abuse” shows that the MDC lost 281 of its supporters in eight of the country’s provinces who succumbed to death as a result of police violence and legal sanctions.

23. The report launched last week shows. More than 280 MDC supporters were murdered in the country by Zanu PF thugs between 2008 and 2010, a report launched last week shows.

24. They are saying they want to go to an election before the elections in 2008 when they will become a solution to the country's political crisis rather than to join the Facilitation Team and work with the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) to ensure monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the GPA. The Troika shall develop the Terms of Reference, establish the terms and conditions to provide regular progress report, the first, to be presented during the next SADC Extraordinary Summit. Summit will review progress on the implementation of GPA and take appropriate action.

25. The late Edgar Tekere, who died last week in Mutare after a long battle with cancer, was buried in Harare on Sunday with full military honours despite an earlier attempt by Zanu PF and Robert Mugabe to refuse him the hero’s status.

MDC mourns nationalist Tekere

President Morgan Tsvangirai last week paid his condolences to the Tekere family following the death of a veteran nationalist and fearless fighter for the independence and democracy in Zimbabwe, Mr Edgar Tekere.

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For the independence and democracy in Zimbabwe, Mr Edgar Tekere.

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The late Edgar Tekere.
President Tsvangirai last week announced that the MDC had dismissed the party’s secretaries at the party head office, Harvest House in Harare.

The portfolio secretaries are expected to spearhead the party’s programmes for the next five years.

During the meeting the MDC leadership called for an end to state-sponsored violence against the MDC, which they described as disfruntialism in the inclusive government. As a result there is clear marginalisation of the MDC in the inclusive government. For example the MDC’s ministers are rarely published in the national media.

The meeting noted with concern the dangerous and irresponsible statements by some members of the security forces to the effect that they will not accept any order from the MDC. The meeting noted that any such action on the part of the security forces will be treated as a declaration of war.

The meeting further identified the state-sponsored violence as the greatest threat to the national security in Zimbabwe at the moment. It has been a state-sponsored violence then there can be no free and fair elections in Zimbabwe.

The meeting noted that Robert Mugabe, who is a principal within the GPA, has never spoken against state-sponsored violence. The inexcusable conclusion is that the GPA supports state-sponsored violence.

The meeting also noted with concern the issuing of false and unfair electrical energy of hate speech towards the MDC by Zanu PF in the state media. The hate speech is clearly a prelude to more physical violence against the MDC.

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Of great concern to the leadership was the issue of concentrating on investigating this crime, the police were busy blaming and unaccountably long detentions of MDC members in connection with the death. The order by the magistrate that the accused should be accorded medical treatment immediately were a clear vindication of our earlier assertion that police were physically abusing MDC members.

The meeting called on the community to regard the rehabilitation school classroom blocks in their area.

The meeting totally rejected as lame the utterances by the likes of Brigadier-General Douglas Nyikayaramba and other members of the security forces.

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Six MDC run local councils are set to benefit from the African Development Bank’s US$30 million’s grant that was signed by the Finance Minister and MDC Secretary-General, Hon. Tendai Biti in Lisbon, Portugal last week.

The project is set to benefit millions of residents in Harare, Mavingo, Chitungwiza, Kwekwe, Mutare and Chegutu.

The agreement will see the financing of a massive water supply and sanitation rehabilitation project that is set to improve aged infrastructure in six towns and cities assisting over four million people living in these towns and cities.

He noted the need for Zimbabwe government to work towards clearing the country’s external debt arrears, which currently stand at US$8.8 billion, a move he said would be a significant step towards accelerating the process of the country’s recovery.

Invest in education - Cross

Hon. Eddie Cross, the MDC Secretary for Research and Policy Coordination and Minister for Education, Sports, Art and Culture, said last week that an MDC government is committed to education and since its inception to government has prioritized the welfare of children.

Hon. Cross said 25 percent of government funds were committed towards the education sector in efforts to up-scale the learning environment.

He said this to teachers, pupils, parents and the community of Barham Green during the official opening ceremony of 6 rehabilitated classroom blocks in their Bulawayo South Constituency.

“The MDC has managed to increase government allocation towards the country’s education system. It is because we as the MDC regard education as a fundamental tool of the state and we have repaid the community and we have taken the students of the community and we have given them good education.”

Before the coalition government was formed at least 2/3 of the girl child was out of school but today we can see that the government has managed to give the children and are girls going to school.

“Children are a very important asset of any family and especially a nation because they are the future. The MDC will not sleep until every child in Zimbabwe is given enough and adequate education in their communities.”

Hon. Cross said it was important to uphold the importance of education as failure to do so could influence an increase in child labour and slavery.

Present at the handover was Hon. Eric Marinenga Constitutional Affairs Minister who confirmed that the Constitution Development Fund is the MDC’s brain-child towards effecting community development regardless of political background.

“The CDF seeks to address the needs of a community detected by the community itself unlike the District Development Fund and the local authority funds. Fortunately enough the first phase of the funds all over the country have attracted our children from hording cattle and goes back into the learning rooms.

“MDC has a clear vision to rebuild the country’s education system. It is faced with the challenge of identifying the most urgent areas that are in need of immediate attention such as education and health institutions to name a few. Matinenga described the occasion as a transparent for our community and its leadership and called on the community to regard the CDF as benefit for everyone.”

6 rehabilitated classroom blocks were officially handed over to the Ministry of Public Works by works. The classrooms were plastered, painted received new doors and windows and at the value of US$ 21 048,33 with help of residents in Harare, Masvingo, Chitungwiza, Kwekwe, Mutare and Chegutu.

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The intention was to avert a crisis as the issue of intention falls away as she said once the State agrees that there was an acute shortage of diesel in the country, “summary itself accepts that there was an intention to commit a crime. But we know that each and every witness has confirmed that there was no intention of committing a crime. Without going to tender, this was done in order to save the country from a fuel crisis.

Hon. Mangoma, who is being represented by Bhebe Mtsweni, submitted that the state’s evidence fell short of what is required to place him on his defence.

“If we were to look at the evidence of each witness individually, my Lord, you will be aware that there were so many state cases because each witness came with his own version of the state case which was variably different from preceding state witnesses.

“In this case the state has so disarrayfully failed to make out a case. It was the state who accused that all criteria are met for discharge,” she submitted.

She said the state had failed to show that the Minister had bought fuel for authorising the purchase of diesel from NOOA Petroleum.

She said the state ought to lead evidence of prosecution from stealing quarry stones worth US$700 in his constituency.

Hon. Mushonga was arrested in March but the case was thrown away after the prosecution failed to prove charges. Defence lawyer Thabani Mpofu successfully mounted an application for a discharge at the end of the prosecution case.

Mpolo convinced the court that the quarry stones in question were used for development project in Mazowe Central and were never converted to the MP’s personal use.

In Harare, the arrest of MDC supporters at Nyika Growth Point, Mazvingo, Mr Mtsweni said the party was aware that the people of Mazvingo were being harassed by hooligans like self-styled war veterans but they should not lose hope as charge was coming.

“I therefore urge you to remain focused on delivering real change to the people of Zimbabwe and the core duty of the MDC is to have the country’s economy working again,” he said.

“Jubilani Sibanda is tormenting villagers falsely claiming that he is a war veteran but we all know that he is just being used by Zanu PF to calling for security section reform,” he said.

Addressing the same rally, Mavingo provincial secretary and Mazvingo Urban MP, Hon. Tongai Manu urged traditional chiefs and the police to carry out their duties in a non-partisan manner.

“There is need for sweeping reforms across all arms of the state to enable credible elections to be held. These polls would only be held after the crafting of a clear roadmap.

“Police officers are being used by Zanu PF to disrupt MDC activities across the country – that is why we are calling for security section reform,” he said.

Hon. Mutariki further took a swipe at Zanu PF for trying to sympathise with the civil servants while the party’s zealots were looting the country’s natural resources.

“Civil servants are being hoodwinked only by Zanu PF regarding matters of their salaries. Zanu PF is playing politics of patronage with government workers. We must be aware of the fact that government is battling to cater for the welfare of its workers using meagre resources. The Zanu PF bigwigs are stealing diamonds at Chidzimba yet they claim to sympathise with civil servants,” he said.

Hon. Harrison Mudzadi, the provincial information and publicity secretary and Zaka Central MP said Zanu PF was supporting the people’s freedom in Mazvingo.

“The Zanu PF functionaries are now suppressing the basic freedoms – such as the freedom of expression and association. They are frightening villagers for supporting the MDC and that is how the colonial regime operated,” said Hon. Mudzadi.

The rally was attended by several senior Mavingo provincial members who were not on stage.

Shaya Shoko, Gutu Central MP, Hon. Oliver Chimbo, deputy provincial chairperson, Hon. Romsane Makuwana and provincial chairperson, Judith Muchavariya.

MDC Deputy Treasurer applies for discharge

Bikita – MDC members should remain focused on delivering real and rescue Zimbabwe from its political and economic quagmire, the MDC Masvingo provincial chairperson, Wilstoff Sitemere has said.

Addressing hundreds of MDC supporters at Nyika Growth Point, Mazvingo, Mr Sitemere said the party was aware that the people of Mazvingo were being harassed by hooligans like self-styled war veterans but they should not lose hope as charge was coming.

“I therefore urge you to remain focused on delivering real change to the people of Zimbabwe and the core duty of the MDC is to have the country’s economy working again,” he said.

Only the MDC can save Zimbabwe