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Movement for Democratic Change

A Party of Excellence!

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Bulawayo salutes MDC

... as most civil servants openly share the party's national values



The MDC's vision for an open society in a new Zimbabwe is widely shared within the civil service and among professional officers, men and women in the security forces, President Tsvangirai said at the weekend.

The party's support base is derived from a 31-year cry within the public service for Zanu PF politicians to treat human life as an asset worthy of admiration, honour and celebration. The MDC's cardinal guide and anchor -- the people -- has naturally attracted most of the junior and middle-level civil servants to President Tsvangirai without much effort because of shared national values.

"The problem has never been the

ordinary soldier, a civil servant or the ordinary police officer. It has always been a small, parasitic clique at the helm of these institutions that is at the forefront of systemic violation of the people's fundamental rights and freedoms," he said.

"They have created a war situation in the country; which by its very nature subverts the Constitutional order and undermines the legitimate civilian authority in the country.

"As we trudge from the disputed poll of 2008 towards yet another election, the onus falls on SADC, Africa and the broader international community to stand by the people of Zimbabwe to ensure that their security, their freedoms and their vote is protected."

The rogue elements, with the aid of a few failed politicians like Jonathan Moyo, have

become so desperate with their loss of political clout that they are now keen to spoil the broth. The ground is slipping off their feet nearly every day that they are frantically clinging onto the past for salvation.

At the same time, MDC is becoming stronger and united despite these attempts to rock the boat. Examples from elsewhere show that spoilers would stop at nothing to hold onto a fast-disappearing iceberg, like Zanu PF -- hence the hoarse whimpers from the likes of Jonathan Moyo and a few misguided military generals.

Addressing a 30 000 strong crowd at White City Stadium in Bulawayo on Sunday, President Tsvangirai said the MDC should remain focussed, resolute and unshaken in the quest to achieve and bring real change. "We went into the transitional government knowing that everything would be a fight, foot by foot. We are not going to be intimidated," he said.

After its dramatic and unexpected loss of faith and confidence from its former allies SADC and the African Union, Zanu PF and certain elements of the security sector wish to collapse the inclusive government and call for a premature election. The MDC and the region are aware of the plot and would never allow it to succeed.

"Today Jonathan Moyo is behaving like the leader of Zanu PF. He is saying arrest Jameson Timba; and he gets arrested. He is saying arrest Tsvangirai; he knows that if they arrest Tsvangirai, MDC might pull out of the coalition government and that might be its end. That is what they want.

"If they ever arrest me and incarcerate me in the cells, let me rot in there, their plans should never succeed. Let me rot in jail. Even if they arrest or kill me, the MDC should remain in government. We cannot be intimidated by anyone and no one has the right to do that," he said.

"We got into this transitional to see how we can solve the challenges bedevilling this country. We did not get into this inclusive government to demobilise the people of Zimbabwe to fight for their rights and fight for their freedoms."

"We can not spend all our times fighting our differences simply because Mugabe and his colleagues are concerned with their personal preferences now," he said. "This nation must move forward."

By using violence and the state security to intimidate MDC members, Zanu PF is admitting that it is on the verge of death, he said. "A popular party and a popular leader do not have to scare

anyone. People simply grant that leader and his party the necessary mandate to preside over their national affairs. They never do that if they are scared. We are not scared of anyone," he said.

Earlier at the World Justice Forum in Barcelona, Spain last week, President Tsvangirai said:

"I am glad that SADC and the facilitator, President Jacob Zuma of South Africa, have exerted their energies to ensuring that the parties in Zimbabwe come up with a roadmap to a free and fair election. In the modern world of regional groupings and interconnected economies, it is necessary for peace to prevail even in the homes of our neighbours. That is why we are heartened by the unstinting effort of our colleagues in SADC in helping us craft a roadmap that will ensure a credible election, an undisputed result and a legitimate government.

"A roadmap, with time-bound milestones to ensure the people of Zimbabwe cast their votes in peace, with neither fear nor coercion. A roadmap that will ensure that the outcome of that election is respected and that the people's will is protected," he said.

Turning to the issue of the economy, President Tsvangirai said industries had to be supported and resuscitated in all the provinces so that we are able to protect our interests and rebuild our nation.

"We need to stop the bleeding of industries in Bulawayo, the Midlands so that we are able to protect and develop what we have. We have to invest and support our industries so that we are able to grow the economy," he said.

"In the medium to long term, our economic vision has to start by revitalising existing infrastructure -- the railways, road, electricity -- these should be in place because they are enablers," said President Tsvangirai.

He said it was important for government to be dealing in developmental issues rather than have frictions in Cabinet.

Vice President Thokozani Khupe said Zimbabwe was at the last stages of achieving full democracy. "This election that we are looking forward to is the final push to delivering real change for our people. It is in this election that we will bury Zanu PF and seal the grave so that it does not resurrect.

"We will get that roadmap that will ensure that we have free, fair, credible elections," she said.

Hon. Lovemore Moyo, the MDC national chairperson, reiterated the preparedness of MDC to govern this country and said the MDC was irreversible and that change is inevitable.

"Our sorrows and troubles come with the Lancaster Constitution that has been used to abuse our people. We will not allow this constitution that infringes on our rights and freedoms to take us to an election. As the MDC we say 'No' to a Constitution that will not respect the will of the people and 'Yes' to a Constitution that is people centred.

"MDC is ready to govern and lead the people of Zimbabwe to prosperity," Hon Moyo said.

Addressing at the same rally, Hon. Tendai Biti, the MDC secretary general,



Thandi and Mbuso Sibanda at the rally. Their father, the late Gibson Sibanda was the founding interim leader of the MDC in 1999. At the 2000 inaugural congress, Mr Sibanda became the party's vice president.



Hove laid to rest No joy on Zim gems

The late Mr. Mfandaidza Hove, the MDC Secretary for Economic Affairs, Industry and Commerce, was on Saturday laid to rest at his home in Mberengwa North, Midlands.

More than 5 000 MDC members, villagers and colleagues from various universities thronged the Skanajena village to bid farewell to the illustrious academic, visionary politician and leader.

President Tsvangirai described the late Mr Hove as a man of integrity who stood for what he believed in with great conviction.

"The MDC has lost a man of integrity. A man who had love for the next person, a man who wanted to see a brighter future for the country," said President Tsvangirai

He said, losing a loved one caused a lot of grief but urged the family to not focus on the loss but concentrate on the successful life he led.

"To lose a loved one without expecting it is always a painful experience. To lose a father or mother unexpectedly is a difficult thing. But, there is a time to cry and a time to focus on the future. When you grieve, grieve so that you are able to move forward after the grief," said President Tsvangirai.

He said the loss to the entire Mberengwa family was a huge one as the Hove family was always striving to improve the lives of those in the district.

President Tsvangirai urged the people of Mberengwa to shun violence and to accept each other in their diverse views.

"We are always fighting on the television, at rallies, but this does not help build our homes.

"Instead, it causes unnecessary tensions that do not aid in national development. We may have different ideologies, but we must remain one family, one nation, one people," said President Tsvangirai.

The Midlands South provincial chairperson, Mrs Lilian Timveos said the death of Mr Hove was an even greater loss to the province, particularly Mberengwa North as the late Mr Hove was helping the community in income generating projects.

"There is no ward without a grinding mill. There is a peanut butter making machine in other wards whilst there is a cooking oil pressing machine in some of the wards through the help of Mr Hove," she said.

Family members said Mr Hove was a man of few words and much action, organised and articulate on developmental issues.

"We want to thank you all for coming to celebrate our father's life. It is an honour that all of you had to come all this way to mourn and celebrate with us. Our father was a leader with a vision, he was organised and he had love. If anything, he wanted to see happy faces and developed homesteads in this area," said Mufaro Hove, the late Mr Hove's eldest son.

Representatives from the University of Zimbabwe, University of Botswana, and Association of Certified Chartered Accountants (ACCA) attended the burial.



Mr Hove died last week on Sunday in Gweru after collapsing at an MDC rally. He died at the age of 65 due to an aorta haemorrhage.

Mr Hove is survived by his wife, Eunice, six children and four grandchildren.

He did his primary in Mberengwa before moving to Chegato for his secondary education. After high school, he left the country for the United Kingdom where he studied at Sheffield University.

On his return to Zimbabwe, he joined the University of Zimbabwe as an accounting lecturer until he was appointed Dean, a position he held until the time of his untimely death. He lectured at the UZ for over 25 years. He was the current president of ACCA Zimbabwe chapter.

A renowned academic and fearless fighter for democracy and real change, Mr Hove joined the MDC at its inception in 1999 and represented the party in the 2000, 2005 and 2008 parliamentary elections in Mberengwa.

Civil society groups on Friday walked out of a Kimberley Process meeting in the Democratic Republic of Congo in a show of no confidence in the regulator after it lifted a ban on Zimbabwe diamonds.

Mathieu Yamba of the DRC, the chairperson of the global KP, last week said diamond sales would be allowed from two mines, Mbada and Marange Resources in Chiadzwa, where investigators found gross human rights abuses in 2009.

But civil society groups in the KP slammed the decision, saying human rights abuses in Zimbabwe have not been addressed.

In a joint statement, the organisations said Kimberley's deal with Zimbabwe fell short of what is needed to protect civilians living and working in Marange. Aminata Kelly-Lamin from the Network Movement for Justice and Development in Sierra Leone said they represent communities that have suffered from diamond-fuelled violence, and communities that hope to benefit from diamond wealth but they can no longer go back to these people, look them in the eye and tell them that the scheme is working to protect their interests, when it is not.

Alfred Brownell from Green Advocates, Liberia said Marange has been the scene of very serious human rights violations over the past three years. Yet the deal tabled did not credibly address the question of how to protect local NGOs monitoring and reporting to the KP on conditions in the area.

Meanwhile, the MDC has said the people of Zimbabwe in particular the civil servants would tremendously benefit from the revenue generated from the sale of diamonds on the international market.

"To this end, the MDC's position is that our country should be compliant with the international requirements. This unmitigated compliance with the international requirements must ensure that there is uninterrupted flow of revenue into the country," the MDC said.

The MDC believes diamonds and other mineral resources belong to the people of Zimbabwe and must be exploited for national benefit in a transparent manner. The current system under which the military is heavily involved in the mining and marketing of diamond with revenues undeclared to the national fiscus is clearly unacceptable.

The U.S. State Department Spokesperson Victoria Nuland expressed America's "deep disappointment" with the lack of consensus reached regarding Zimbabwe's Marange exports.

"The United States is deeply disappointed with the Kinshasa Intersessional as it related to Zimbabwe...The United States believes that progress with respect to exports from the Marange area of Zimbabwe can occur solely through a mechanism agreed to by consensus among KP participants.

"Contrary to some reporting, the Kinshasa Intersessional did not reach a consensus text. The Chair has circulated a text to participants which did not attract consensus," Nuland emphasizes.

"We believe that work toward a solution must continue, and that until consensus is reached, exports from Marange should not proceed," she declares.

"We remain ready to work with the Kimberley Process Chair and others to find a solution. The Kimberley Process works best when producers and consumers are collaborating, and when civil society is an active participant. The U.S. would like to ensure the Kimberley Process's future and enable diamond exports to contribute positively to the region's people and economy.

"Despite the continued challenges surrounding Marange, the United States welcomes the collaborative efforts toward effective diamond sector governance demonstrated during the intersessional by a number of producing countries, such as the Central African Republic, Ghana, Guinea, and Liberia," concludes Nuland.

Currently, US First lady, Michelle Obama is visiting neighbouring Botswana and South Africa where she is addressing Young African Female Leaders.

Mrs Obama is not visiting Zimbabwe but will have the opportunity to address two female young leaders from the struggling nation, once the breadbasket of southern Africa.

The US recently praised diamond-rich Botswana and South Africa, saying they are very "democratic", very open and with an economic future unrivalled by none regionally.

Byo: always a shining star

From Page 1



Hon Thokozani Khupe addresses thousands of party supporters at White City Stadium in Bulawayo. Hon Khupe, a champion for democracy, child and women's rights pledged to work tirelessly towards breast cancer research and eradication after she was diagnosed with the disease.

said the MDC's vision was to build a \$400 billion economy by 2030.

He however strongly condemned violence, and rigging in the coming elections.

"No to violence, stolen elections, propaganda and a leadership without love for the people. Yes to a new government, leadership and violence-free election."

"Zanu PF can arrest us, use the media to tarnish our personalities and even kill us but there is no bullet, gun or missile that will derail the idea whose hour has come. We will defend the will of the people; we will defend the election result," Hon. Biti said.

The Women's Assembly chairperson, Hon. Theresa Makone spoke against the use of intimidatory tactics by the security agents to aid the losing Zanu PF.

She said as women they were going to

use of their 52 percent majority to vote Robert Mugabe and Zanu PF out of government.

"Zanu PF is a hornless owl. The women of Zimbabwe are not going to be intimidated this time. We are going to make sure that the 52 percent majority counts for something," said Hon. Makone.

Promise Mkhwananzi, the MDC Youth Assembly national secretary said the youths in Zimbabwe were ready to defend the people's vote in the next elections.

"If Zanu PF denies us our right to the election result as it did in 2008 this time we will have no choice as the MDC Youth Assembly but to defend the people's vote," said Mkhwananzi encouraging voter registration especially amongst the youths.



Some of the Bulawayo residents at the rally



Sifelani Dube, former Zanu PF provincial secretary for indigenisation and empowerment publicly joined the MDC on Sunday.



The National Organising Secretary, Hon Nelson Chamisa and his deputy, Abednico Bhebhe welcomes thousands of MDC supporters to the rally.

Meet Jonathan Moyo – Mugabe's born-again admirer



Hon Timba, Secretary for International Affairs

HARARE - Police spokesperson Wayne Bvudzijena maintains that Hon. Jameson Timba has to be charged for contravening Section 33 of the Criminal Law, Codification and Reform Act for undermining or insulting the office of the President.

He said the police viewed seriously Minister Timba's comments thus they would want to see the law take its course.

For the record, Hon. Timba merely gave an account of what transpired at the recent SADC summit in Johannesburg as a person who attended the meeting as an MDC delegate. What he said, as it is and without any innuendoes or negative aspersions on the person of Robert Mugabe, is already in the public domain.

The MDC cannot avoid an interesting paradox in the manner in which the police treated a public request from Jonathan Moyo who, for two straight days, was given airtime on ZBC to whine about Hon. Timba's arrest. Moyo's views on Mugabe, which are negatively much stronger than those of Hon. Timba, have never attracted police excitement.

The following are some of the excerpts from his published instalments.

Numerous other accounts, showing Moyo's low opinion of Mugabe can be obtained by Bvudzijena and his colleagues at, among other places, <http://www.prof-jonathan-moyo.com/> with utmost ease.

29 October 2006

"Mugabe is now leader of a shelf political party that exists only in name even with those seemingly high numbers in parliament ... Mugabe could reverse this were he to resign now and give the remaining scattered faithful ones in his party some hope to inject a new dynamism before time completely runs out with the result of consigning Zanu PF to the fate suffered by Unip in Zambia, Kanu in Kenya and the MCP in Malawi.

"The rot in Zanu PF smells in government where the Cabinet has become no better than a status club in which ministerial positions have no strategic policy value as they have become instruments of patronage to gain personal access to national resources and the illusion of power and influence.

"This explains why government has



Bvudzijena: Never saw Jonathan Moyo's salty and hinky comments on Mugabe?

now resorted to ruling through Government By Operations led by jittery security arms, implemented an undeclared state of emergency and roped in the Reserve Bank to pursue an unprecedented law and order approach to monetary policy in order to criminalise Zimbabweans, whether as individuals, families or businesses, to make them insecure and vulnerable to inhuman and barbaric attacks in the name of restoring order reminiscent of the Gukurahundi days.

"But the most compelling reasons for Mugabe to resign now have to do with his own fallen standing in and outside the country. The prevalence of unkind jokes about him on text messages and the Internet say it all.

"Mugabe now lacks the vision, stature and energy to effectively run the country, let alone his party. He is without compassion, maybe because he is now too old, too tired and not in the best of health. His failure to visit stranded families left homeless and suffering from the irrational acts of his own government speaks volumes of his cold and cruel leadership style.

"From all discernable indications, Mugabe has lost influence and is now viewed with suspicion or cynicism or both by his peers in the SADC, African Union and across the developing world where he used to enjoy considerable authority..."

"Mugabe has no reason whatsoever to continue in office as that is no longer in his personal interest and is most certainly not in the national interest. He just must now go and the fundamental law of the land gives him a decent constitutional exit that he must take while he is still able to do so to save the nation and preserve his legacy."

... 29 May 2007

"... Tekere's autobiography makes three history-marking disclosures about how Mugabe rose into and remained in power to the point of becoming a terrible liability to Zimbabwe today..."

"Mugabe has come to be surrounded by dodgy political characters along with other bureaucratic and media sycophants who are known for their malice and incompetence.

"The third disclosure from Tekere's autobiography that has particularly rocked Mugabe and his propagandists beyond belief is the book's conclusion that the blame for 90 percent of Zimbabwe's ills should go to Mugabe, not the much touted economic sanctions, and that there is now a critical and urgent need for bold leadership within Zanu PF with courage to tell Mugabe that he is now a liability to Zimbabwe and that he should retire and pass the baton to a younger and more imaginative leader."

.... 17 August 2007

"On offer is the self-indulgent leadership of President Mugabe who is now too old despite his photogenic makeup, has become very tired, visionless and beleaguered.

"Mugabe remains in office not because he is in charge of the goings-on in the wider society but largely if not only because of considerations of his personal and family security in a world that is increasingly becoming hostile to former heads of state with unresolved human rights and corruption issues during their rule.

"A leader in this kind of a box in which Mugabe now finds himself tends to invariably construct his own political reality which in turn blunts his ability to tell the difference between winning a popular victory and securing a stolen result at the polls. There is no way such a leader can ever enact correct policies even if they smack him on his face.

"This explains why even with the best of intentions by some within his inner circle, Mugabe's leadership has become inherently limited and in fact doomed to fail.

"No wonder his associates are now un-

able to distinguish between defending their beleaguered boss as a person and defending his principles, human ideals or policies."

.... 17 August 2007

"... since Independence Mugabe's leadership has tragically failed to lay the foundation of a vibrant, dynamic and prosperous nation. While there are a number of explanations for this, the main one is that Mugabe is given to using high-sounding words to put his ambition over and above any enduring human principles or ideals....

"In the same vein, the disastrous failure of the otherwise necessary land reform programme undertaken in 2000 is defined by its lack of grounding in enduring human principles and ideals that can withstand the prejudices of the moment.

"Mugabe's self-indulgent propaganda that Constitutional Amendment 17 brought finality to land reform remains dangerous nonsense because, as a trained lawyer, he should know better that there can never be such finality through a law that bars people who lost land during the chaotic reform process from approaching the courts.

"Against this backdrop, and given the breadth and depth of the current crisis that has left Zimbabweans in



Moyo: gadfly, disciple or violence merchant?

total despair, one does not have to be malicious or mischievous to understand that Mugabe simply does not have the leadership vision and capacity to pull Zimbabwe from the woods. He is just not that kind of leader.

24 December 2007

"..If President Robert Mugabe truly and honestly believes that he is a serious presidential candidate in the general election scheduled for March 2008 and that he can best govern this battered country until 2013 should he win, then he miserably failed to demonstrate that at the controversial Zanu PF extraordinary congress which started late yesterday afternoon.

"The simple truth is that Mugabe has no national reason to seek re-election and that Zanu PF is being particularly irresponsible by allowing him to do that in a disgraceful manner as shown yesterday at the special congress.

"So pathetic was Mugabe's performance that when he was formally declared the ruling party's presidential candidate, fair-minded Zimbabweans in and outside Zanu PF who had or still have a soft spot for him for one reason or another did not know whether to laugh or cry.

"The televised ill-fated declaration was as unwise and as sad as a different but morally equivalent event some 29 years ago when an aged and out-of-shape Muhammad Ali unwisely agreed to defend his world heavy weight boxing title against a young and agile Leon Spinks

who went on to clobber and humiliate him on February 15 1978.

"Because Zanu PF's irresponsibility has caused it to fail to protect the national interest and because Mugabe is apparently determined to thrive under that failure in pursuit of his personal ambition to be president for life, it is now up to Zimbabweans across the political divide to rise to the challenge by finding a united front to stop Mugabe and his cronies from turning their self-indulgence into a national catastrophe.

"Before he was declared as the Zanu PF candidate yesterday, Mugabe opened the Zanu PF special congress with an uncharacteristically insipid speech, delivered in a cracking voice and notable for its shocking incoherence, irrelevance and lack of inspiration. His rambling speech sent a clear, loud and very worrying message to bemused delegates that Mugabe now represents an unhappy past."

... 13 April 2008

"If there is one sobering thing that can be unequivocally said about why the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) has scandalously delayed the announcement of the March 29 presidential election, it is simply that President Robert Mugabe did not win the election and is now desperately trying to steal the result through an unjustified recount because he does not have any prospect of winning a run-off or a re-run.

"Had Mugabe won the election, even with less than the absolute majority required under the Electoral Act, ZEC would have announced the result ages ago and Zimbabweans would have been spared the constitutional uncertainty and political anxiety that have put the nation on the brink of utter chaos and mayhem.

"The simple truth which ZEC has found hard to stomach and which Mugabe and his shocked cronies have found hard to swallow is that Morgan Tsvangirai won the presidential election even if with less than the required absolute majority. In other words, Tsvangirai got more votes than Mugabe and thus defeated him.

If the Electoral Act had not been amended after the 2002 presidential election to require a run-off where no candidate gets an absolute majority, Tsvangirai would have been sworn in by now and Zimbabwe would be in a totally new situation under his MDC government and we would not have the current charade of a dissolved cabinet whose defeated ministers are now seeking to unconstitutionally smuggle themselves back into office under spurious but self-serving interpretations of Section 31E of the Constitution."

13 April 2008

"Because Mugabe is so stubborn as to be incapable of doing the right thing on his own, those who still have his ear and the ear of the military and security complex around him, need to appreciate three inescapable realities facing officialdom and communicate them accordingly:

- The current electoral stalemate created by ZEC on Mugabe's behalf cannot be resolved through a recount, rerun or runoff. It would be foolhardy to use an election to resolve an election impasse. What is needed is a negotiated settlement for a transitional process that recognises the will of the people as expressed on March 29 while also appreciating Mugabe's institutional sensitivities and personal anxieties along with those of his close associates in key organs of the state.

- Zimbabweans have crossed the electoral Rubicon which means that Mugabe simply cannot win any election; not even one which is neither free nor fair in his favour. Mugabe's days of electoral victories are irretrievably gone.

- In the most unlikely event that Mugabe were to win a recount, run-



He lies...No, he never lies, says Moyo

off or rerun by hook or by crook and thus remain in office, the economy would reject him with devastating consequences for the livelihood of ordinary people to the point of necessitating never before seen chaos and mayhem.

What this means is that Mugabe no longer has any electoral option involving him as a candidate outside a negotiated settlement for a gracious exit. He is certain to be humiliated in untold ways if he should be unwise enough to participate in a runoff or rerun as no rational voter can see him turning around the economy or just running this country for the next five years.

The Zanu PF claims that only Mugabe can secure the gains of the liberation struggle in general and the land reform programme in particular are plain silly and if they are true, then God help us because Mugabe is not going to be with us for any sustainable period in revolutionary terms."

Poorest tinpot

Bulawayo-- Zimbabwe is the second poorest country in the world a New York based financial magazine revealed in its monthly report this week.

The report released by the monthly Global Finance magazine on Thursday says Zimbabwe is second poorest in the world after Congo-Brazzaville which is at the bottom of the list among 182 countries in the wealth classification.

"The poorest 10 countries were by order of their poverty Congo, Zimbabwe, Burundi, Liberia, Eritrea, Niger, Central African Republic, Sierra Leone, Togo and Madagascar," said Global Finance report.

The report says Qatar is currently the wealthiest nation on earth after it steadily pushed up its way on the global rich list, aided by its massive gas wealth. The small European state of Luxembourg was the second richest.

"The richest country is occupied by Qatar a GDP per capita of US\$ 90,149 in 2010. The poorest country is the Republic of Congo, with a per capita of only US\$ 342." The report also showed the other 9 countries in top 10 richest nations include by order of their wealth Luxembourg, Norway, Singapore, oil-rich Brunei, the United States, Hong Kong, Switzerland, Netherlands and Australia.

Zimbabwe's arrears to foreign lenders now stand at US\$6.4 billion and the country has agreed to clear its debt through debt cancellation and using revenues from its minerals to settle part of the money it owes. However, the economy is on the mend since 2009.

- Radio VOP

Military takeover?



The military has taken over 52 key civilian state institutions with the blessing of Robert Mugabe and Zanu PF, says a Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition report.

An investigation conducted between September 2010 and March shows the military as having firmly positioned itself in strategic civilian matters.

"The increased militarisation of the state has led to the military taking control of an expanding range of decisions and actions from political strategy to the formulation and implementation of agrarian and economic policy," says the report.

In the past 11 years, senior military officers, as the real political managers of Zanu PF's patronage system, have taken up key positions in election management and administration; forestry, wildlife and natural resources; public transport; commerce and industry; food procurement, distribution and food security; oil and fuel supply chains; agriculture; railways; banking; baking and seed companies; mining; the public media; and many other key sectors of the economy.

In 2009, for example, the Information, Media and Publicity minister, Webster Shamu of Zanu PF, in violation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) appointed eight senior military officials to boards of media and information state companies – the Broadcasting Author-

ity of Zimbabwe (BAZ), Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH), Zimbabwe Newspapers (ZIMPAPERS), New-Ziana, Transmedia and Kingstons.

The idea is to saturate Zimbabwe's prime levers of the economy and society with men, recently retired, or still in uniform as a way of keeping Mugabe and Zanu PF in power.

The key masterminds of this strategy, who see Zanu PF as nothing but a special purpose civil vehicle to crust a military junta and to dupe the world into believing that Zimbabwe is a nominal democracy, include Air Vice Marshal Henry Muchena, Air Commodore Michael Karakadzai, Air Vice Marshal Abu Basutu, Major General Engelbert Rugeje, Retired Major General Gibson Mashingaidze and Brigadier General Douglas Nyikayaramba.

Nyikayaramba is the overall spokesman of the group. In 2002, Nyikayaramba managed the Presidential election as a full time member of staff of the then ESC. The result of that election was so flawed that President Tsvangirai challenged it in court, but was never heard to its conclusion.

The military has undertaken various missions in a bid to shore up Zanu PF's waning fortunes. In all their ventures, they only managed to heighten the level of looting and state asset-stripping -- attracting the ire of the people in the

process. By 29 March 2008, Zanu PF was so unpopular that Mugabe lost the election by a wide margin. The military junta intervened and forced him to stay in office.

The resultant political stalemate led to the formation of the GNU as a transitional mechanism towards a full democracy. Today, the military is at it again threatening that unless Mugabe and Zanu PF are declared winners in the forthcoming elections, it would refuse to accept the people's verdict, a claim dismissed by president Tsvangirai as ridiculous and untenable.

"The military's meddling in political and civilian affairs has been strongest in Mashonaland East, where soldiers stationed in Mudzi have taken army drills to villages. In Manicaland province traditional chiefs were summoned to an "indoctrination workshop" where Brigadier-General Douglas Nyikayaramba told them to support ZANU PF or be deposed from their positions," the report says.

"There are genuine fears that diamond revenue from Marange, which is not properly accounted for, is being used by the military and those aligned to Zanu PF to build a war chest to fund electoral violence should Zimbabwe go to elections in 2011 as Zanu PF so much wants."

Although the leadership of the military was openly partisan, says the report, many ordinary soldiers have often demonstrated a strong desire to be professional.

The report recommended change.

"There were abnormally longer and haphazard queues at the Tobacco Sales Floors, a situation made worse by several lorries and trucks bearing police and military plates which were bypassing the queues," reads the first report of the committee.

"There were abnormally longer and haphazard queues at the Tobacco Sales Floors, a situation made worse by several lorries and trucks bearing police and military plates which were bypassing the queues," says a separate report from the parliamentary portfolio committee on agriculture, lands, water and resettlement.



Plan to decimate MDC Youth Assembly

Hawks in Zanu PF and in the state security establishment have decided to scatter, decimate and immobilise the recently elected MDC youth assembly leadership after belatedly realising the centrality of the party youth constituency – the 18 to 35 year age group -- in the 2008 election.

Since the murder of a Harare police officer at a liquor outlet in Glen View, scores of MDC youth leaders have become prime targets for arrests, abductions and harassment.

The party youth leadership is now unable to openly enjoy its democratic right and freedom to assemble and to associate because of the disturbances. After the April congress, Zanu PF strategists were alarmed by the composition of a renewed MDC youth assembly and started to spy on its movements with increased agility.

The death of the Harare police officer has now become a useful ruse to persecute and liquidate the assembly as a first step towards moving directly into the party's senior leadership. Before this incident which resulted in the arrest of 20 Glen View residents, Zanu PF youths because of their dwindling numbers could hardly campaign in Harare – except in Mbare where they work with a hooligan outfit, Chipangano, and the police.

The Sunday Mail, a newspaper which always mirrors Zanu PF thinking, leaked the party strategy to have a go at the MDC youth assembly two weeks ago when it claimed that Robert Manyengavana, Tendai Mutsvaka Muchekahanzu and Solomon Madzore were recently smuggled to South Africa where they have joined a group that is allegedly receiving military training being conducted by some Europeans in North West Province. The newspaper said the Criminal Investigation Department confirmed that the police were after several MDC.

Manyengavana is the MDC youth secretary for Harare, Muchekahanzu is the party's youth chairman for Mufakose while Madzore is the national youth chairman. National spokesperson Douglas Mwonzora said the MDC was receiving the news that these three members or any other leaders of the youth assembly were wanted by police. "It is absolutely not true that the MDC

is receiving military training anywhere," said Hon. Mwonzora. "Police have not at anytime advised us that they were looking for these young men. We also are at a loss as to why these allegations can be made against the party.

It is not true that the three are on the run and it is also not true that the party is hiding them. Police must just learn to do their work professionally. This is a purely criminal matter and is being spoiled by the police politicising the case and trying to establish links where none exist."

Two weeks later, no one other than The Sunday Mail has indicated that they were interested in interviewing the MDC youth leaders.

Meanwhile, High Court judge, Tendai Muchena is still to pass a ruling on the bail application for 23 MDC members who are facing trumped up charges of murdering a police officer in Glen View last month.

Two weeks ago, Justice Uchena reserved judgment on their bail application, saying he needed more time to go through the arguments.

While in custody the MDC member were severely assaulted and the state was ordered by Magistrate Shane Kubonera to conduct "an impartial investigation" into the torture.

"My clients have various complaints against the police which they wish placed on record. They were subjected to heinous assaults and trauma. Some of them were dragged from their beds in the middle of the night," said Charles Kwaramba, their lawyer.

Although the police denied having assaulted them, the MDC activists entered the pain in deep pain. They took turns to show the injuries to magistrate Kubonera.

The group includes Tungamirai Madzokere, the Glen View councillor who showed a deep cut on his left limb and swollen hands while his eyes were blood stained.

Yvonne Musarurwa, Cythia Manjoro and over a dozen others struggled to walk into the court room.



Zanu PF appeals to MDC for help on Jabulani Sibanda

Zanu PF has been plunged into confusion in Masvingo over the role Jabulani Sibanda should play to show up the plummeting fortunes of that party.

Sibanda has been in the province as a frontman for Zanu PF's most brutal, rogue elements who are normally supported by the security sector, to use violence as a principal campaign tool.

Sibanda's actions have instead pushed a lot of people away from Zanu PF and scared the local leadership. Some say he is fanning factionalism in that party.

It has never been clear who is bankrolling Sibanda in this campaign and why Masvingo has been his first choice destination.

Last week, desperate senior Zanu PF officials approached MDC officials in the province and asked for their assistance in calling for Sibanda removal.

The MDC, villagers, civil society and MPs have since last year been mounting pressure to have notorious Sibanda removed from the province and arrested for fanning violence through hate speech.

Isaiah Muzenda, the chairperson of the Masvingo provincial chapter of the Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans (ZNLWVA) formally wrote a letter to Sibanda informing him that war veterans were not happy with his activities and that there was

their decision was for him to leave Masvingo.

Zanu PF's Masvingo Provincial Coordinating Committee (PCC) further wrote another powerful letter to its Politburo complaining about Sibanda's conduct that was bringing more harm than good to Zanu PF.

Zanu PF's decision to send back the rogue Sibanda to Bulawayo was reached at a highly charged PCC meeting held at the Chiefs Hall. After that meeting the provincial chairperson, Lovemore Matuke met some senior MDC officials in the province and begged them to pile up pressure for the removal of Sibanda from the province.

Matuke pledged to support MDC members in Bikita, Zaka, Chivi and Gutu to boost up the ousting of Sibanda in the province.

"We have seen that we can do without him. The decision to ask Sibanda to leave Masvingo was reached after people discovered that he was doing more harm than good," Matuke said.

The motion to dismiss Sibanda was moved by the provincial administrator and a parliamentary hopeful Edmund Mhere and seconded by former Gutu South legislator Shuvai Mahofa. Mahofa was in tears as she narrated how Sibanda meetings were blocking villagers in Gutu to sympathise with her and attend her meetings.

"I have tried several times to call for meetings in Gutu but the people are resisting saying they have had enough of Zanu PF because of harassment by Sibanda," said Mahofa.

"We have since written a letter to him to express our concern over his activities here in Masvingo province," Muzenda said.

"As the provincial leadership, we expressed our disquiet over the way he is harassing villagers and intimidating people in the rural areas to support our party, Zanu PF. We therefore advised him to stop immediately and go back to his home province and continue with his activities there.

Sibanda has been camped in Masvingo province since mid year last year forcing villagers to attend his illegal meetings in districts such as Gutu, Bikita and Chiredzi and threatening them with violence if they do not vote for Robert Mugabe and his Zanu PF party in next elections.

A defiant Muzenda said the war veterans had enough evidence showing that Sibanda was terrorising villagers.

"This is against what the war veterans fought for. We fought to liberate the people not to terrorise them. That's why we are saying he must leave Masvingo alone," he said.

Sibanda says he will resist his eviction.



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 Postal Address: Harvest House, 4th Floor, 44 Nelson Mandela Avenue, Harare.