



The Real Change Times

Movement for Democratic Change

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The Official Mouthpiece of the MDC

Tuesday 12 July

MDC Information & Publicity Department, Harvest House, 44 Nelson Mandela Ave, Harare, Zimbabwe

Issue 076 2011

Masvingo throws out Zanu PF

... despite a spirited campaign the people turn their backs away from dictatorship and corruption

Zanu PF must stop using the poor civil servants' salaries as a political tool to shore up its disappearing fortunes, says President Tsvangirai.

Salaries and benefits must address the pressing needs of all the workers and their families. Politicians should never gamble with people's salaries by dangling the issue of their welfare to score insincere points, he told an MDC peace rally at Mucheke Stadium in Masvingo on Sunday.

The reality is that civil servants deserve a better life after 30 years of Zanu PF abuse and starvation wages and near slave labour conditions of service.

Those caught in the hyper-inflationary environment, authored by Zanu PF, have had their entire savings and pensions wiped out overnight.

Yet Zanu PF, instead of proffering a public apology to millions whose livelihoods it destroyed for nearly three decades, the party wants to portray itself a champion of workers' rights and workers' concerns.

The insistence on Finance Minister Tendai Biti to simply raise the salaries when the reality shows that Zimbabwe is stone broke was both irresponsible and an act of cheap propaganda designed to turn the people against the MDC.

"But the truth is that government has no money to do so. However, as government we should look at where we can get the money and we are committed to do that," he said.

"Don't doubt our commitment. We will address that issue," he said saluting the civil servants for their dedication under difficult conditions over the past 10 years.

President Tsvangirai said it was the duty of the government to ensure that the "super patriots" – a term he used in describing the patriotism shown by the civil servants - are taken care of properly.

He said there was a discord in the operations of the inclusive government with Zanu PF throwing spanners into the system in order to frustrate the operations of the coalition government and call for elections.

"For the last six months there has been fighting in the inclusive government and calls for elections by Zanu PF. This has resulted in the decline of foreign investors.

"We can't have growth in the country when there is no investment, no production at the farms and companies," he said. He gave the example of the recent arrests of the MDC Deputy Treasurer



General and Energy and Power Development Minister Hon. Elton Mangoma and that of Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office, Hon. Jameson Timba.

"These are some of the problems that are affecting the operations of the inclusive government. However, we are going to ensure that the country does not slide back to 2008," he said.

President Tsvangirai said as the Prime Minister and head of government, he was going to ensure that the gains that the country managed to achieve since the formation of the inclusive govern-

ment are maintained. "We have to make certain that schools and hospitals remain open and functional. We have not arrived and people should continue fighting for their rights. People should be at the forefront of the struggle not only Morgan Tsvangirai," he said.

Three ministries, the Media, Information and Publicity, Justice and Legal Affairs and Home Affairs were mentioned for their involvement in suppressing the will of the people.

"The Information Ministry through the state media is promoting hate speech

while the Justice Ministry is being used to prosecute ministers that it is supposed to protect. (Johannes) Tomana is a square peg in a round hole. On Home Affairs, I am not against the police but on the actions of one person who continues to cling to power.

"I don't hate police officers but if some of them like the rest of the police force were professional then there will be peace and stability in the country," he said.

President Tsvangirai urged the people to be registered voters ahead of the coming elections.

"Above all we should make sure that elections are done in a free and fair manner with no violence. A winner is a winner. As MDC we are committed to real change in the country," said President Tsvangirai.

At the same rally, MDC Secretary General Hon. Biti said Zanu PF was now left with only one friend – violence.

"It has one Bible – killing. But the people of Zimbabwe are making a statement. They are making a statement for real change and good governance," he said.

Hon. Biti said because of Zanu PF's violent behaviour, the country was facing a developmental challenge as investors were shunning the country.

"Zimbabwe has been at a pause since 1980. How can we say we are liberated when we have no jobs, no vibrant economy and no healthcare access?" he said.

Women's Assembly chairperson, Hon. Theresa Makone said what Jabulani Sibanda was doing in threatening villagers in Masvingo province would only cause further divisions in Zanu PF than increasing its membership. She challenged Brigadier General Douglas Nyikayaramba to remove his army uniform and join politics.

"The army should be there to protect the country from outside forces not harassing innocent civilians. Zanu PF is a spoiler. Civil servants are not getting their salaries because Zanu PF is looting diamonds," she said.

MDC Youth Assembly Deputy Chairperson, Costa Machingauta said the Youth Assembly was not going to sit and watch when parents were being forced to attend Jabulani Sibanda's meetings.

The peace rally was attended by several senior MDC officials who included the Deputy National Chairperson, Hon. Morgen Komichi, Deputy Secretary General, Hon. Tapiwa Mashakada, Deputy Treasurer General, Hon. Mangoma, the National Organising Secretary, Hon. Nelson Chamisa and his deputy Hon. Abdenico Bhebhe, and party spokesperson, Hon. Douglas Mwonzora.

New Zanu PF rigging plan out

Out of desperation to reclaim lost ground in the rural areas, Zanu PF decided to deploy at least two senior military officers in each administrative district of Manicaland and Masvingo as part of what it calls the "throw it all" campaign strategy ahead of the elections.

The implementation of the strategy, co-ordinated by retired air vice marshal Henry Muchena and his deputy in the Zanu PF Commissariat, Kizito Kuchekwa, is being fast-tracked before SADC despatches the region's three monitors to the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) in terms of a resolution of the SADC Organ on Defence and Security.

Zanu PF insiders say Muchena and Kuchekwa are frantically working overtime to wrestle the two populous provinces from the MDC after the 29 March 2008

Zanu PF defeat which saw the party lose a substantial following in the rural areas.

Part of the grand reclamation plan includes the fielding of former military personnel as Zanu PF candidates in most of the rural constituencies; the invocation of war time campaign methods which covers forced all night meetings; the so-called "re-education seminars"; intimidation and violence against perceived dissenters.

"We are still working hard to discourage support for MDC elsewhere, in particular the Mashonaland provinces which, though we retained in 2008, registered a more than 60 percent growth in the MDC support," Kuchekwa said. "The two senior military officers would command several units of non-commissioned officers in civilian clothes who are already being deployed back to their rural homes for action."

A register is being compiled of the war



An MDC supporter lost an eye to Zanu PF violence in 2008

veterans and the areas they worked during the liberation struggle for fresh deployment. "Most of them, though slightly aged, know these areas and the

people well. They are going to revive all our war time structures and to form new ones for the purposes of the campaign."

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Half year lost to quarrels

President Tsvangirai says a political stalemate in the last six months has affected relations in government and struck at the heart of economic development, faith and investor confidence on Zimbabwe.

At the launch of the medium term plan, designed to be a compass for economic policy up to 2015, President Tsvangirai said poor relations inside the government and among the principal political actors has had a negative impact on the transition.

"Mugabe and I agreed when we met that the first one and a half years we were progressive but in the last six months there have been discord," he said. "Why don't we go back to the time when we believed in ourselves?"

He said it was important that the three parties revert to the period where they were able to make decisions that benefited the people.

"In spite of our political variations, we must commit ourselves to the principal objectives of the medium term plan," he said.

On the ZCTU's concerns that they had not been consulted in the formulation of the plan, President Tsvangirai said:

"I strongly believe in the tripartite situation. Its unfortunate when one of the parties complains it means its a two legged pot.



He said Zimbabwe is notorious for producing quality paper economic blue prints but some have fallen short on implementation.

"In the Medium Term Plan, we need to set the correct precedent by effectively implementing the policies and programmes set out in this Plan to ensure that the country achieves sustainable growth and transformation," he said.

He added that only by putting aside our differences and uniting for the good of all will Zimbabweans overcome the implementation challenges ahead.

"It is critical that we maintain unity of purpose, have a shared vision with a high sense of accountability and transparency in the way we do business in Government and in the private sector," said President Tsvangirai.

The Medium Term Plan is based on the need for policy stability, which is key in addressing structural and institu-

tional bottlenecks within the economy, said Hon Tapiwa Mashakada, the MDC Deputy Secretary General and Economic Planning and Investment Promotion Minister.

Hon. Mashakada said the thrust of the MTP was on macro-economic stabilisation and recovery. Government launched the MTP last week that will run from 2011 to 2015.

"We need to stick to policy and not be swayed by populism," said Hon. Mashakada.

"All our people should take ownership of the policy measures and programmes contained in this Plan and the ensuing implementation, monitoring and evaluation process, to ensure that we meet the goals and objectives set out.

"The ministry will use this document to guide the economy, direct investment into priority areas and set the economic development trajectory of the country," he said.

Hon. Mashakada said approximately US\$9.2 billion is required to finance the MTP in order to meet growth and development targets during the Plan period.

"It is important to note that most of the inflows are anticipated to come through our own saving and investment efforts, Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) credit lines and Public Private Partnerships (PPPs).

The plan is a follow up to the Short Term Economic Recovery Plan of 2009.

Zanu PF goon to hang for murder of MDC activist

In a rare case involving a Zanu PF murderer, Norman Sibanda became the first party hooligan to be tried, convicted and sentenced to death for a fatal attack on an MDC supporter in Zimbabwe.

Previous murderers and assailants were either left untouched, pardoned and even encouraged by their party to hit, maim and even kill MDC supporters at will.

Sibanda of Tohwe Village in Nkayi will rue the day he struck Enzo Maphosa (44) with a log and fractured his skull in the name of Zanu PF.

He began the long wait for his day at the hangman's noose on Thursday last week.

Maphosa battled for life for 29 days in the Intensive Care Unit of Bulawayo's Mpilo Hospital following the June 7 2003 attack.

Bulawayo High Court judge Lawrence Kamocha, on circuit in Hwange, told Sibanda before sentencing on Thursday.

"This was an unprovoked, politically-motivated attack. I have found no extenuating circumstances and I have no choice but to impose the ultimate penalty."

Prosecutor Palmer Siphon Khumalo of the Attorney General's Office told the court how Sibanda confronted Maphosa who was walking with a friend, Never Khabo, over his political affiliation.

Sibanda told Maphosa "He wanted to kill him because he was a supporter of the MDC," said the prosecutor. Maphosa and Khabo, the court heard, walked

away and continued on their journey.

Sibanda then rushed to a nearby homestead where he armed himself with a wooden hoe handle and ran after the duo.

"When he caught up with them, he struck Maphosa on the head several times with the hoe handle.

"He left the victim lying on the ground, pleading for his life," Khumalo told the court.

Maphosa was rushed to Mpilo Hospital, and was taken to the Intensive Care Unit where he hung onto life for 29 days, finally succumbing on July 6.

A post mortem report listed the cause of injury as a "skull fracture caused by a head injury as result of an assault"

Thousands of MDC members have been murdered by known Zanu PF supporters across the country but most of them are roaming free.

Some of the notable murderers to benefit from Robert Mugabe's amnesty include Biggie Chitoro and Elias Masenda of Mberengwa who caused untold suffering to ordinary villagers in 2000 in the name of Zanu PF.

Chitoro's murderous campaign followed a violent anti-opposition drive in Mberengwa which was carried out on a large scale. A hit list was compiled by Zanu PF supporters and war veterans in the area and used to systematically target MDC supporters and those whose allegiance was unclear.

Biggie Chitoro headed a war veterans base located at Texas Ranch Farm in Mberengwa that doubled as the war veteran's torture centre.

Numerous reports of torture by means of burning victims with plastics were reported as well as severe beatings. Chitoro was responsible for the death of MDC supporter Fainos Kufazvinei Zhou. Fainos had nominated the now late Mfandaizwa Hove, MDC candidate for Mberengwa West.

According to Mavis Tapera, Zhou's widow: "Fainos and his brother were abducted from their home at Danga in Masaga village on Sunday, 4 June 2000 with two others after being tortured with sticks, fists and open hands. They were forced to swim in the Mundi River before being tortured with sticks, whips, fists and boots.

"Afterwards, they were forced to march to Texas Ranch. They were interrogated and tortured with sticks, iron bars and booted feet for four days, the last three by Biggie Chitoro, at Texas Farm. They were released on Wednesday but Fainos was unable to walk upon his release. The victims managed to reach the home of Mfandaizwa (and the late Byron) Hove, where Fainos died two days later on 9 June. The ZRP took his body for a post-mortem."

Chitoro was arrested for the murder of Zhou on June 29 and remanded in custody. He spent 13 months in remand prison. Chitoro was charged with public violence, assault, kidnapping, property destruction and theft, however these charges were dropped in accordance with the presidential amnesty.

In 2009, self-proclaimed war veteran and Zanu PF supporter, Lovemore Manenji of Rusape in Manicaland province was sentenced to 32 years in prison for raping two MDC supporters in the run-up to the 2008 sham presidential run-off election.

Manenji, 56, who is a Bishop of Mabasa Avapostori Church, was found guilty of five counts of rape and sentenced to 32 years in prison by Rusape regional magistrate, Hosea Mujaya.

During the trial, Manenji said he was Zanu PF base commander at Ruura in Rusape and was using the name "Untouchable". The Zanu PF thug, armed with a machete and packets of condoms, attacked two married MDC supporters in their homes during a week-long rape spree.

Both complainants' husbands were well-known MDC supporters who had fled their homes as they were being targeted for attacks by Zanu PF militia.

Magistrate Mujaya said it was wrong for Manenji to use forced sex as a weapon to intimidate those that did not support Zanu PF and its leader Robert Mugabe.

"You remind one of the animalist behaviour, which is most common among four legged animals; the stronger male chases away the male and takes the females," said Magistrate Mujaya during sentencing.

New rigging plan exposed

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The party has roped in Brigadier-General Douglas Nyikayaramba into the campaign. Nyikayaramba, the commander of the army's Mutare-based 3 Brigade, openly told Zanu PF politburo member Didymus Mutasa that the army had taken over the party's electoral campaign.

"We cannot afford cannot afford to leave the campaign exclusively to politicians who are weak and divided," Nyikayaramba told a meeting of traditional chiefs. "We are facing a serious challenge and Zanu PF must never be allowed to die at the hands of the MDC."

While Zimbabwe eagerly awaits the deployment of SADC's tri-national monitoring team to work with JOMIC, the military has put its plans in high gear to beat the region's effort at subjecting the elections to greater scrutiny.

Their plan has been buoyed by the fact that only three SADC officials are billed to jet into Zimbabwe. Their small number would mean that they would be over-stretched to adequately cover the whole country at once.

According to Kuchekwa, Zanu PF could easily "light flares" in some urban areas to keep the SADC monitors tied up on side-shows away from the real "campaign".

Zanu PF hardliners have, since 2008, worked as an informal opposition to the transitional government, disrupting the civilian authority of which Zanu PF committed itself to be part.

With the help of the military and influential sections of the police, the criminal justice system and other security services, the hardliners have flatly refused to recognise the new Constitutional order and sought to subvert the state at every turn.

From the lessons of 2008 when the military stepped in at the last minute to save Mugabe's political future, the hardliners are working hard ahead of any election to avoid SADC intervention. The next election shall be a product of international relations so they want a perfect a rigging regimen to give Zanu PF a veer of legitimacy.

The hardliners want to replace Zanu PF's civilian politicians with military officers in areas, deemed to be emerg-

ing MDC strongholds. The strategy risks collapsing Zanu PF as the party's old guard maintain that rural constituencies remain their safety nets.

Disgruntled Zanu PF politicians privately argue that the military involvement would ultimately see the demise of the party as it may be impossible to dislodge the MDC, whose support base currently stands at three to one nationwide. "Many of the 2008 Zanu PF candidates have been told to stand down for a new breed with liberation war credentials, particularly in what the party calls the battle ground and swing constituencies," said one of the Zanu PF legislators. "I have already given up."

To test the strategy, army colonel Charles Muresherwa is already on the ground in Chimanimani working in Mhakwe and Chikwakwa wards. Last week Muresherwa gave MDC supporters a deadline by which they should renounce their membership of the party or face unspecified consequences, according to villagers force-marched to his meetings.

Several homesteads of MDC supporters in Cashel Valley have already been razed and two beasts belonging to the local MDC district chairperson were seized and slaughtered by Zanu PF youths allegedly at Muresherwa's command after the people refused to sign the so called anti-sanctions petition.

Members of his unit are moving around checking on the political allegiance of the peasants. "If you say you support MDC, they write your name down and promise to get rid of all MDC supporters in the area after 15 July. All the lists of MDC's supporters have been handed over to local headmen and chiefs by Muresherwa," said Stephen Mhlanga, the MDC councillor for ward 19.

Mhlanga said hundreds of MDC supporters have already "defected" to Zanu PF and are expected to be paraded at a meeting called by Muresherwa on July 15 at Ndangana business centre in Chikwakwa.

"He has organised political rallies where he says soldiers will address the villagers. All the local headmen and chiefs have been instructed to mobilise their subjects to attend," said Mhlanga.

Muresherwa has set up "campaign"

bases at Nyambeya primary school, Wengezi and Nhedziwa in Mutambara where Zanu PF youths are already camped.

In Masvingo, Brigadier-General David Manyika's 4 Brigade have embarked on a series of military exercises, displays and through a derisive choral prowess with songs in praise of Robert Mugabe and Zanu PF in central Masvingo.

They are not mincing their words: they are drumming up support for Zanu PF and denouncing the MDC. The Masvingo campaign, buttressed by Jabulani Sibanda rural intimidation antics, is targeting the youths.

Many in their late teens who have been woven into the Zanu PF structures are normally feted with opaque beer, cigarettes and other mind-forming substances, like dagga.

Urban constituencies remain Zanu PF's nemesis. Muchena is said to have proposed that the party fields as candidates those who below the age of 30 particularly in Harare to woo the youth vote. Further, he plans to push for a quota system in the Zanu PF politburo to bring in more members below the age of 40.

In rural Mashonaland, Zanu PF is using a mixture of tactics, including religion, to rebuild its tattered structures. Regular church services at Nhowe Shopping Centre, have seen party activists Sheppard Kaserere and Sheppard Zenda hiring sympathetic lay preachers to target suspected MDC, urging them to defect to Zanu PF "in the name of God".

Several parishes with worshippers drawn from surrounding villages are often threatened to believe the preachers possess divine powers to flush out "unrepentant" MDC supporters among the crowd.

"It would be in the best interest of your personal security to voluntarily repent and join Zanu (PF) before the prophet here present fishes you out," Kaserere warned shoppers.

"All MDC supporters come forward and confess your political 'sins' and swear loyalty to President Robert Mugabe and Zanu PF. Failure to do so now would attract regrettable consequences."

Civil servants deserve decent salaries: MDC

The MDC strongly supports calls for Zimbabwe to pay its public sector workers a decent salary commensurate with the cost of living and their desire for enhanced welfare, says Hon Douglas Mwonozora, the party spokesperson.

"Our philosophy for a living wage is anchored on our background with its strong bias towards the poor. Our party was formed on two pillars: the trade union movement and the constitutional movement. Zanu PF today can not claim to be interested in workers issues by claiming that the Finance Ministry is refusing to increase salaries in the public sector," he said.

"We believe it is possible to meet this critical need through a clear remittance of diamond revenues to Treasury; accruals from an instant removal of 75 000 ghost workers from the state's payroll; earnings from millions of dollars in police coffers earned through fines; a drastic cut-back of the run-away government foreign travel expenses; and revenue from all mining concessions which have yet to be deposited in the government account.

"As part of our non-negotiable contribution to a stable and prosperous Zimbabwe, the MDC calls on the government to effect these measures as a matter of extreme urgency to alleviate the plight of genuine civil servants. The public sector has emerged a major victim of Zanu PF's political insincerity and dirty games for more than three decades. The situation can not be left to deteriorate any further. The MDC shall move with utmost speed to ensure that the above measures are implemented to ensure public sector stability and uninterrupted service delivery."

Should Zanu PF continue to dabble in politics over human lives by blocking our proposals to raise money from within the state sector we reserve the right to invoke other contingency measures to make a respectable salary package for our civil servants a living reality.

As a significant player and an indispensable state actor charged with the management and administration of the national purse in Zimbabwe, we feel duty bound to respond with sensitivity to calls for help from all sectors of our society, in particular public service workers, the poor and the vulnerable.

The MDC remains committed to bringing a new, prosperous and democratic Zimbabwe because it has an indelible covenant and contract with the people.

Masvingo peace rally...



Thousands conquered the chilly weather to attend the MDC real change peace rally in Masvingo on Sunday.



CIO exposed

The Central Intelligence Organisation has been abused by Zanu PF to consolidate the fortunes of the losing party and to coerce the people to abandon the quest for a new and democratic Zimbabwe.

The MDC has been calling for security sector alignment to ensure the smooth operations of the military, the intelligence service and the police force, a sector that has been used as an extension of Zanu PF's security department.

Over the years, the CIO has not been used to protect national security and to safeguard Zimbabweans. Along with the military and the police it is used by Robert Mugabe and Zanu PF to hold on to power, using brute force and intimidation.

Experts say the CIO is the most powerful arm of Zanu PF's security apparatus, the "brains behind the regime."

A latest report leaked to the media has exposed over 480 CIO operatives who were and still are involved in incidences of violence, murder, intimidation and threats to known and perceived MDC members and supporters.

Named in the list is the Director General of the CIO, Happton Bonyongwe, who is a retired Brigadier in the Zimbabwe National Army.

He reports directly to Robert Mugabe as the organisation is administered through Mugabe's office and is not covered by any legislative framework. Under his watch the CIO direct most of the abductions, torture and murder of opposition activists.

Meanwhile, the MDC tabled its demands for security sector reforms during the ongoing talks for an electoral roadmap for the country demanding among other things the regulation of the operations of the organisation.

During the talks, Zanu PF threw the ball in its court saying it did not know how

to regulate the CIO and therefore the party has to come up with a draft bill to guide the discussion on CIO operations.

The MDC has since completed the drafting of a bill that seeks to regulate the operations of the CIO and to ensure that the institution is accountable to parliament and to the people.

"We have got a draft bill already which in our own opinion should regulate the operations of the intelligence," said Hon. Tendai Biti, the MDC Secretary General and chief negotiator in the Global Political Agreement.

"There is nothing new about what we are doing; we have used precedence from South Africa and other countries with a regulatory framework. The issue is not about regulating their operations and say, you should follow this one and tap this phone that's not the issue. The issue is that the institution definitely must be accountable to parliament that's all we are saying."

Depending on how it will be received by the Global Political Agreement (GPA) parties, the bill should be presented before parliament and enacted into law if all goes well.

The party has raised concern on the selective application of the law by some Zanu PF elements in the top echelons of the CIO, police and army to break the political spirit of MDC activists and supporters.

In 2008, more than 500 MDC activists were murdered in cold blood by known Zanu PF youth militia with the assistance of the state security organs.

There has been an upsurge in state-sponsored violence in recent months to intimidate and cow MDC supporters into submission to Zanu PF dictatorial tendencies and failed policies that have seen the near demise of Zimbabwe.

MDC official languishes in prison

Oliver Mukombwe, the MDC Bindura district treasurer, granted a US\$20 bail by a Bindura magistrate, was forced to remain in custody last week after the State denied him freedom.

Prosecutor Clement Kuwanda invoked the draconian Section 121 of the Criminal Evidence and Procedure Act (CPEA) to suspend the bail.

Kuwanda alleged that Mukombwe undermined the authority of the police when he made a statement in a public place on 2 July 2011 along Church road in Chipadze Township, Bindura, Mashonaland Central province directed at Nemiah Caleb Muzinda, a police constable stating that; "Makajaidzwa naMugabe. Munofunga kuti chipurisa chinoshamisa here? Zvenyu zvokupinda nechizanu PF hazvina basa saka ini ndinoda kukuuraya".

The prosecutor translated this to mean; "You have been spoiled by Mugabe. You think the police work is special? Your joining of the force through Zanu PF partisanship is useless, so I want to kill you."

The intransigent invocation of Section 121 of the CPEA suspends the bail order for seven days pending the filing of an appeal by the State in the High Court.

The ZLHR said it was perturbed by the malicious and obdurate actions of the State in continuing to unnecessarily infringe upon the fundamental right to liberty of accused persons by bringing up Section 121 of the CPEA.

This is despite the fact that the constitutionality of Section 121 of the CPEA is being challenged in numerous cases which are yet to be heard by the Supreme Court of Zimbabwe.

"ZLHR is concerned at the frequent

abuse of this draconian piece of legislation, which is used to the prejudice of suspects as prosecutors are clearly usurping the powers of the judiciary who in this case had safeguarded the fundamental right to liberty of Mukombwe.

"We remain concerned about the increased number of cases in which Section 121 of the CPEA has been arbitrarily and unjustifiably invoked, particularly against members of the MDC and other genuine human rights defenders in Zimbabwe," it said.

Meanwhile, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) reports that political violence is on the rise in five of Zimbabwe's ten provinces as tensions rise with Zanu PF stepping up campaigns in a bid to press for fresh general elections, which Robert Mugabe wants to be held this year.

ZPP which tracks and documents cases of political violence and rights violation in the country said the political environment remained tense, with increased harassment and intimidation of Zanu PF opponents.

"There was a slight increase in cases of politically motivated human rights violations to 994 as compared to the 977 witnessed during the month of April," ZPP said in a report.

The ZPP report said cases of politically motivated violence remained high and the political atmosphere was volatile in the Midlands, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, and Masvingo provinces.

Political violence rose in 2008 after Mugabe lost to President Tsvangirai in a first round of voting when Zanu PF supporters, war veterans, youth militia and some army personnel targeted MDC supporters countrywide to reverse the veteran leader's defeat.

Up to 500 MDC supporters were murdered during this period.

ZPP said Zanu PF supporters were behind the cases of political violence.

Midlands remained the most volatile region with 201 incidents having been recorded during the month. Political tensions have remained very high in Mberengwa District where the highest number of harassments and intimidations were recorded.

In a sign of deep-seated political intolerance that still pervades Zimbabwe, an MDC activist was badly assaulted by Zanu PF in Gokwe Nembudziya for wearing a party t-shirt "in a so called Zanu PF territory and the t-shirt was torn to pieces".

The rights group also said military presence in the province had continued with serving members of the army reportedly spearheading Zanu PF campaigns especially in Kwekwe and Gokwe North and South.

Manicaland recorded a big rise in cases of politically motivated violations in May. There were 200 cases, up from 136 incidents witnessed in April where the majority of the victims fingered as war veterans, Zanu PF youths and traditional leaders.

Arson attacks were recorded and were continuing despite interventions by the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) in the eastern Chimanimani district.

"The military involvement in mainstream politics has been a major cause for concern. The serving and retired soldiers are reportedly spearheading Zanu PF campaigns ahead of the proposed elections," ZPP said.

My daughter is innocent: Mai Manjoro



SW Radio Africa journalist Lance Guma spoke to Anna Manjoro, who talked about her daughter Cynthia Fungai Manjoro, one of 24 people arrested by police in a politicized witch hunt of MDC members following the death of a policeman in Glen View. Mai Manjoro who broke down during the interview says her asthmatic daughter was nowhere near the scene of the crime and has a 2 year old child she needs to look after.

Lance Guma: Good evening Zimbabwe and thank you for joining us on Question Time. Last week we spoke to the Secretary General of the MDC Youth Assembly Promise Mkwanzanji in relation to the murder of a police inspector in Glen View last month and the subsequent arrest and charging of 24 MDC members. As a follow-up to that interview I speak to Mai Manjoro, that's Anna Manjoro I believe, who is the mother to one of those arrested, Cynthia Fungai Manjoro. Mai Manjoro thank you for joining us on the programme.

Anna Manjoro: Thank you for having me.

Guma: OK opening remarks, would you maybe like to just summarise the problem you faced in this issue in terms of what happened to your daughter in this case.

Manjoro: Actually I learnt about it on Wednesday, when my daughter, my youngest daughter informed me that Stephen and Cynthia had been taken by the police and she couldn't really tell what the reason was because I understand when they were taken, they were just going for questioning. They were told they would be questioned and sent back home but when Monday evening passed; Tuesday evening passed she had no choice except to let me know that this is what has happened.

Stephen and Cynthia were arrested at the police station. On further inquiry of what had happened I was told that Cynthia's car had been seen in Glen View, so I had to do further checks to find out what had hap-

pened. Then I was told Cynthia had gone to church, then a friend of hers was the one who had her car because the car is registered in the name of her brother which is Stephen Manjoro. Cynthia doesn't have a driver's license at the moment so each time she goes around she has to have a licensed driver.

When she got the car she only drove it once under the instruction of the brother, that is on the day it arrived. Thereafter it has been the brother driving it and on the day in question the brother was never with the car. Cynthia was at church and she only got the car in the evening when the

come as yet.

Guma: I'm sure its infuriating, yesterday we spoke to the lawyer representing these people, Charles Kwaramba and he was telling us 19 out of the 20 who are being accused were nowhere near the scene of the crime so a lot of families are facing a similar situation to yours.

Manjoro: That's what's happening and it would have been nice if somebody was there then you would say ah well she has to face the music but in this case, considering she was with her friend where she spent the whole afternoon and let me emphasise here something that people might

if they could only, I'm begging them to please, let my child come home. She has got a child, she has got a job which she has to satisfy and that's where her livelihood comes from. So that's my only plea but at least if she could be tried coming from home. Everything else they can do and investigate.

Guma: I suppose the big difficulty with this case and a lot of people are pointing this out is the fact that it's now a politicized case where those who are perceived to support the MDC or who work for the MDC are being targeted. Do you think this is the biggest problem?

Manjoro: Ah actually I wouldn't say because I haven't noticed my child being an activist as they are saying, I wouldn't know but the fact here remains that I'm more concerned in having my child come home than anything else.

Guma: In this case have you been able to pressure anyone, talk to ministers, people to help? In terms of when you have situation like this and you want people to help you, do something about this, so that maybe if there are people who are listening in, what sort of pressure do you want?

Manjoro: I would like a situation where we say the truth and nothing but the truth and stop picking even people who were not at the crime scene. So I would like those who are able to exert influence, anyone who can assist in this matter, and have the matter expedited so that people can be tried while coming from their homes. Anyone who can assist in this matter, me personally I would be very, very grateful because I am most concerned about my child. She is an asthmatic, if she has an attack there the outcome would be very, very detrimental and I don't think that I would be able to survive. I'm really, really worried about my child.

Guma: At this juncture when is the next hearing?

Manjoro: They were remanded to the 1st of July and in the meantime our best hope, I'm saying our best hope considering that Cynthia is not the only one and the relatives of those who are in the same predicament as Cynthia are also hoping that the bail hearing will be a positive outcome so that at least we have our children back home.

Guma: And have you had the chance to meet the other families of those who are in a similar situation to you and if so what are they saying.

Manjoro: Unfortunately I haven't had a chance to meet anyone because I'm at work and I was on leave just last month, that's May so right now I can't see myself taking leave at this moment except being on a few days, one day, two days and which is not enough for one to meet anybody and talk about it but I want to thank them the lawyers because they have been keeping us, me personally informed because I really phone and Mr Kwaramba, Mr Mtisi and Mandewere have been very, very helpful.

They do their best to keep me informed and try to calm us, saying just be calm, things will be okay which is a consolation to know that there are some people out there who are working tirelessly to ensure that these people are at least released on bail, at least.

Guma: Are you able to try things like approaching like the Home Affairs ministers and other people with influence, is this something you could try.

Manjoro: If I get access to them I wouldn't mind because you are not carrying a child for nine months, seeing her grow and you bring her up to the best of your ability, you are watching her she is blooming like a flower and all of a sudden that flower is kind of cut off from your life, from your eyes.

It's really, I don't know, the feeling you can't express it, you can't express it because it really pains you. This is the time where I was watching Cynthia blooming like a rose, the rose bud which was now trying to bloom and stretching out and all of a sudden this comes. Fine we say in life you get trying times and I want to believe that this is just a trying time and God will deliver us out of this.

Guma: Now what I'm going to do Mai Manjoro, part of this interview, I'm going

to get in touch with the co-Home Affairs minister and play this interview to them so in the next few minutes I just want you to say what you want to say to them because I'm going to try and make them listen to this interview, so if you could just address them, I'll play the interview to them.

Manjoro: I just wish as parents, they understand the situation I am in. I want my child home. I want my child home, please, Cynthia was not in Glen View and all I'm just asking is for my child to be home, please bring my child home. I'm begging them to bring my child home.
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More confusion on sale of diamonds

There is confusion as to whether India has banned the import of diamonds from the Chiadzwa diamond mines following two conflicting statements from the same council in that country.

The regional chairperson for the Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council (GJEPC), Mr Chandrakant Sanghvi said India took a decision to impose a ban on Zimbabwe's rough diamonds after the global community and various organisation received reports of human rights violations in Zimbabwe.

"It was decided unanimously that if all the countries are ready, then only would we import Zimbabwe diamonds here (India). The talks that the Zimbabwe diamonds had with the World Diamond Council and others, still faces opposition from the European countries and the USA. Since there is no full support, India has decided that Zimbabwe diamonds will not be imported here," he said.

However, the GJEPC's vice chairperson, Mr Sanjay Kothari said the blood stains on Zimbabwe's diamonds have started thinning spurring one of the world's largest gem and jewellery markets to push for imports of the stone.

"We want rough diamonds," said, vice chairman of India's Gem and Jewellery Export Promotion Council, adding that a \$170 million shipment of Zimbabwe diamonds stranded in Dubai for several months was freed up a few days ago, and that it will reach India soon.

The council helps source diamonds from overseas and acts as a lobby group for the industry. News that the shipment has been cleared comes about two weeks after the president of the Kimberley Process -- a group set up to check the sale of "blood diamonds" -- said at the end of June that it endorses a decision to allow exports from two mining operations in Zimbabwe's Marange field with immediate effect.

The two operations are Marange Resources, and Mbada Diamonds.

However, 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.

Civil society groups slammed the decision to allow the exports by Mbada Diamonds and Marange Resources, saying that the move does not address the issue of continuing violence in the mining area.

Meanwhile, Governments, NGOs and leaders of the diamond industry met recently in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, as part of the Kimberley Process, a group tasked with keeping "conflict diamonds" from entering the market. At the top of the agenda was the need to review the situation in the troubled Marange fields in Eastern Zimbabwe.

Human rights abuses have taken place against artisanal miners there, smuggling is said to be widespread and profits are not accruing to the national treasury. Because of these problems, the Kimberley Process continues to struggle with the question of authorizing exports of Marange stones, which have largely been restricted for a year and a half.

The DRC currently heads the Kimberley Process. At the conclusion of the meeting in Kinshasa, the DRC issued a notice stating that exports from Marange could resume with some monitoring. However, the United States is deeply disappointed with the decision, which was not achieved with the full consensus of the group.

The Kimberley Process can only work when producing and consuming countries collaborate.

4 more MDC members granted, 8 still in remand prison

Four more MDC members including Councillor Oddrey Sydney Chirombe who are facing false charges of killing a police officer were last week granted bail at the High Court.

They are part of the 24 MDC members who were arrested on charges of murdering a police officer in Glen View in May. The police officer was murdered by unknown revellers at a nightclub.

The members granted bail today are; Jefias Moyo, Abina Rutsito and Tendai Chinyama. Councillor Chirombe, Rutsito and Moyo were granted a US\$100 bail each while Chinyama was given a US\$300 bail by Justice Felistus Chatukuta.

Moyo and Rutsito are MDC employees. A week before, 12 other MDC members including Last Maengahama, a member of the MDC National Executive Council were granted bail.

However, eight more MDC members still in remand prison. They are; Councillor Tungamirai Madzokere of Ward 32 Glen View, Rebecca Mafukeni, Yvonne Musarurwa, Cynthia Manjoro, Edson Maengahama, Lazarus Maengahama, Lloyd Chitanda, Stenford Mangwiro and Phineas Nhatarikwa.

Mafukeni, Musarurwa and Manjoro are detained at Chikurubi Maximum Prison where already serving inmates facing lengthy sentences are held.

Meanwhile, Stefan Takaedzwa, 33, who is among those who were arrested in May but granted bail last week said his arrest was nothing but politically motivated.

"For a start, I am not even a Glen View resident and this year alone I have not set foot in

the suburb so I am shocked when I was picked up by plain clothes officers and taken to Harare Central Police Station where I was told that I was involved in the murder of a police officer," Takaedzwa said on Monday.

Takaedzwa is a committee member of Harare province.

While in custody he was severely assaulted before he was brought to court after five days custody.

"However, the arrest has not dampened my spirits but now I am even more committed to fight for real change in Zimbabwe," Takaedzwa said.

Hon Orbet Gutu, the Harare province spokesperson said the police had taken a deliberate decision to unlawfully detain MDC activists.

"The partisan Zimbabwe Republic Police, has, of late, taken a deliberate decision to ruthlessly & unlawfully clamp down on the activities of MDC activists in Harare province. In the past few months, we have witnessed the arrest of several MDC activists on trumped-up and politically motivated criminal charges.

"The ZRP is now being as a Mafia organization that unconventionally abducts and detains MDC activists, including senior party officials. ZanuPF realises that this is the end game for the former moribund ruling party and as such, they have decided to use the ZRP as their attack dog to harass, intimidate, abduct and detain MDC activists.

"One day, very, very soon, the chickens will come home to roost," Senator Gutu said.

friend dropped her back home. Actually he picked her from a friend in Avondale where she spent the afternoon.

On further checks to find out who had the car I was told that he had the car and Cynthia was not there. So when I attended the court hearing, the first remand court hearing on the 3rd it was mentioned that Cynthia was being held as bait so that this guy would turn himself in so that she could be freed. That's what has been said so far and we have had two hearings, that is one for the 17th which was a remand again to the 1st of July and we are now waiting for a bail hearing which we don't know the out-

not know, Cynthia has got a two year old child and she had that child the whole afternoon in Avondale where she spent the day with her friend Lynette and her mother and she only got home in the evening with her child.

For her to be accused of being in Glen View and being in Avondale at the same time it really boggles my mind. So as a mother you don't know how to think and how to behave in such a situation where your child is labelled something else which you would have never ever dreamt of. It's really disturbing.

Guma: When you are visiting her at the cells, what is she saying in terms of how are they being treated?

Manjoro: Well they are saying they are okay but they say okay in the sense that you are in an environment where you have no choice of being there because if one had a choice they wouldn't want to be there and me personally, I wouldn't want my child to be there. My wish is if only they could grant them bail then try them having them coming from their respective homes it would be more respectable.

That's my wish and I'm pleading that at least they should grant them bail and I'm not saying I condone bad things happening but let the people who did the thing be the people who face the music rather than having somebody who was out there who didn't know anything about it to be accused of something that she would have not done. It's so painful and I don't know, I don't know, I'm really at pains to believe this is what my child is going through.

Guma: On Tuesday, Kwaramba the lawyer was telling us they've challenged the state to particularize and to state the role played by each of the suspects in this case but the state has not done so. I suppose this is the sort of thing you want to be told in terms of what your child is being accused of.

Manjoro: Yah that's the thing because they are just saying all of them participated. So the participation, in my case I am saying if it is the case of the car I wouldn't mind them keeping the car but



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.