



The Real Change Times



Movement for Democratic Change

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Real change hero buried

...as thousands bid farewell to Professor Mukonoweshuro

The only tribute that the people of Zimbabwe can bestow the late Public Service Minister, Eliphas Mukonoweshuro is for the government to improve the working conditions of all public service employees, President Tsvangirai and Zimbabwe's Prime Minister has said.

Addressing thousands of mourners at the Warren Hills Cemetery in, Harare on Heroes' Day, President Tsvangirai described Professor Mukonoweshuro as a true hero of Zimbabwe.

"I am certain that the only true tribute we can pay him as a government is to ensure that we improve the working conditions for civil servants, an issue that I know troubled him until his death," President Tsvangirai said.

"So he is indeed a true hero of this land. He could have been a Cabinet Minister but like the true hero that he was, we bury him here alongside the great company of ordinary Zimbabweans who lie in the rich soils of Warren Hills Cemetery," he said.

Minister Mukonoweshuro died in South Africa last week after a short illness. He was 58.

He was the Secretary for Energy and Power Development in the Party.

Before his death, the minister was fighting hard for the removal of over 75 000 ghost workers from the government payroll in order to improve the salaries of government employees.

Most of the ghost workers are Zanu PF youth militia.

He was further fighting for accountability and transparency in the mining and processing of diamonds from Chiadzwa so that the money is handed to the Treasury and proceeds go to improving the welfare of state workers.

"There is no doubt in my mind that we are burying a national hero today.

"And it is so by no coincidence that today

is Heroes' Day; that important day when we salute and remember the gallant sons and daughters of this land who fought selflessly for this great country that we all love.

"We bury a fine gentleman in the loamy soils of this hill, Professor Mukonoweshuro, our distinguished Minister of Public Service and Member of Parliament for Gutu South," he said.

President Tsvangirai said Professor Mukonoweshuro made his mark as an academic of repute at the University of Zimbabwe where he spent many years sharpening the minds of future leaders as a lecturer.

"Many people passed through his hands and they bear testimony to his contribution in the building of this great nation. And I know some of his products at the University are now Cabinet ministers who are with us here today.

When Professor Mukonoweshuro joined politics, he became a chief advisor to President Tsvangirai on foreign and political relations and was one of the key negotiators in the first ever inter-party negotiations between the MDC and Zanu PF in 2006.

"As my chief advisor, he was no psychopath and he always gave his honest opinion and advice on key issues. Even if you disagreed with him, he was firm on his position and left you with no option but to follow his sound advice.

"So at a personal level, I have lost a trusted friend and colleague; a man with whom I shared moments of both sorrow and laughter," said President Tsvangirai.

The President said any other politician of similar academic background would have opted for an urban parliamentary seat; but it was his dedication to serve the people that he contested and won a rural constituency in Gutu.

"We mourn with the people of Gutu who have lost a dedicated representative. We grieve with the Mukonoweshuro family,

particularly the wife and child, who have lost a pillar of support," said President Tsvangirai.

He said the country had lost a fountain of wisdom and a dedicated patriot who cared so much for democracy to take root in this country.

"Yes, he was of one of the many people committed to completing the unfinished business of the liberation struggle and he sought to fight for true freedom and democracy in Zimbabwe. He was a real man among men.

"Mukono akanga ari mukono. Kwete mukono weshuro asi mukono wenyika," said President Tsvangirai.

"And yes, we bury him in the great company of patriots such as Tonderai Ndira; great fighters who lie here and whose only crime was that they demanded freedom and democracy in the country of their birth.

"They will miss him at the university and we will miss him in the party where his contribution speaks for itself. In May 2006, Professor Mukonoweshuro was a key architect in the development of a roadmap to a free and democratic Zimbabwe.

"In that roadmap, we envisaged peaceful democratic resistance, inter-party dialogue, a transitional authority, a new Constitution and free and fair elections," said President Tsvangirai.

He said as a result the inclusive government is a fruition of the ideas of this great man who five years ago predicted this inclusive transitional authority as the only way to bringing a legitimate and credible government in Zimbabwe.

Professor Mukonoweshuro was born on 22 June 1953 at Gutu Mission Hospital. He did his primary at Gutu primary school and went to Zimuto and Tekwane for his secondary education.

In 1973 he went to the University of Zimbabwe but was arrested for student activism. He was detained for 14 months at Kadoma Prison. On his release, Professor Mukonoweshuro left the country through Botswana for the United Kingdom.

In the UK, he studied for Bachelor and Master of Arts degrees before attaining a PhD in Political Science.

Tanzania, Zambia and Sierra Leone are some of the countries that he served as a research fellow. He later went to serve as a visiting professor at the Duke University, North Carolina, USA.

On his return to Zimbabwe, Professor Mukonoweshuro lectured at the UZ later becoming the Dean of Social Studies.

At one point, Minister Mukonoweshuro was detained by State security agents for "inciting student rebellion" against the Zanu PF regime.



A revolutionary: the late Prof Mukonoweshuro

Professor Mukonoweshuro remains the only person in the history of the UZ to attain a full professorship directly from being a lecturer.

Thousands of senior government officials, ministers, diplomats, senior politicians and business leaders were taught by Professor Mukonoweshuro at the UZ.

Professor Mukonoweshuro is married to Retsepile and has one son, Bradley Thuso.

Gukurahundi probe on

Parliamentarians are pushing for the establishment of a special committee to look into the 1980s mass killings that left over 20 000 people dead in Matebeleland and Midlands provinces.

This follows a motion on national healing, cohesion and respect of victims of pre and post independence political conflicts that was moved by Hon. Severino Tall Chambati, the MP for Hurungwe East in the House of Assembly last week.

"The people in Matebeleland have never asked for money for compensation. They have only demanded for time and opportunity to be heard.

"A time to meet face to face with the perpetrators of the Gukurahundi era saying, 'my friend I am sorry' and genuinely" Mbizo MP, Hon. Settlement Chikwinya said.

The legislator said the country could not afford to rubbish this moment and say it was a moment of madness when the person who was mad is still in office.

"Here is a person who says this was a moment of madness, but Mr. Madman you are still in office administering this country. This person can still be mad anytime," said Hon. Chikwinya.

"In the, NewsDay, one Cabinet minister (Samuel Sipepa Nkomo) came out actually highlighting or articulating his experience of the Gukurahundi era.

"If you can see a senior member of our community at the level of a Cabinet minister still being haunted by these moments, then the nation is not healed," he said.

As a party, the MDC has been calling for the establishment of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) over the mass killings that took place during the Gukurahundi period.

This week, the Speaker of the House of Parliament and MDC National Chairperson, Hon. Lovemore Moyo said he fully backed the issue of setting up a new special committee to deal with the massacres.

To Page 2



Hon. Severino Tall Chambati



Some of the mourners at the burial of Prof Mukonoweshuro

Together, united, winning, voting for real change!



True heroes should be honoured

President Morgan Tsvangirai said the Heroes and Defences Forces Days were important days in the year when we celebrate and remember the selfless dedication of our dead and living heroes and heroines in the long and tortuous history of our great nation.

He said the most known heroes of this country are those who waged the protracted liberation war that led to the independence of Zimbabwe from 1890 to 1980.

“They included men, women and the youth, some of whom lost life and limb so that our national aspiration for true freedom, independence and dignity could live again.

“Yet there were others before them. Mbuya Nehanda, Sekuru Kaguvu and Chaminuka are spiritual icons who will forever remain etched in our collective memory as the beginners of the long struggle to unshackle colonial rule.

“But it was the second Chimurenga that brought our independence when dedicated sons and daughters of this land among them Joshua Nkomo, Hebert Wiltshire Chitepo, Mayor Urimbo, Edgar Tekere, Ndabaningi Sithole, Sheba Tavarwisa, Vitalis Zvinavasha and many others took up the gun and waged a war that brought our hard-won independence,” he said.

He said many other heroes and heroines lie in the loamy soils of Zimbabwe, in disused mine shafts and in mass graves inside and outside the country.

“Their blood is testimony to the great sacrifices that the heroic people of Zimbabwe paid in their quest to attain freedom. There are others still living who are in government, including serving and retired officers in our venerable security institutions who fought selflessly so that this great country could enjoy the fruits of independence.

“But there are also millions of unsung heroes and heroines of our painful national story; the ordinary men and women in places such as Nkayi, Bubi, Mandidzudzure, Chimanmani, Muzarabani, Mukumbura, Mudzi and Nyamaropa who fought our war of liberation,” said President Tsvangirai.

He said these ordinary villagers played a pivotal part in the attainment of independence. He said they have received neither adequate compensation nor recognition over the years.

“They simply did it for the country and for future generations. They simply did it so that every Zimbabwean could taste the true essence of freedom and the return of collective national dignity. Yes, they did it for Zimbabwe and all of its people; regardless of race, colour, creed or political affiliation.”

He said this was a time to salute those who fought and continue to fight for democracy in the country in order to complete the unfinished business of our liberation struggle so that ordinary Zimbabweans can enjoy true freedom and prosperity.



President Tsvangirai further said it was never the original intention of true revolutionaries to privatise this day and make it a party event.

“It is demeaning to the great sons and daughters of this land; indeed an affront to their national contribution, to give the impression that their sacrifice should be the narrow and parochial possession of Zanu PF, the MDC, ZAPU or Mavambo.

“So this great day cannot be privatised by any political party. Even the selection of our heroes and heroines must not be the exclusive preserve of any political organisation.

“The MDC’s national council, the Zanu PF politburo or any organ of any party cannot bastardise a great national day such as this one to be a day of cheap rhetoric and sloganeering; a day of name-calling and politicking.

“Today is a day of sober reflection and deep introspection on whether we have achieved true independence and freedom,” he said.

If honourable MPs are assaulted in Parliament and if ordinary Zimbabweans are brutally assaulted or even killed for supporting a political party, we must think long and hard whether this can be the legacy of true national heroes. And true heroes transcend genre.

Because heroes are not just politicians. There are many Zimbabwean heroes in sport, business, in the social sector, in the arts and in various facets of our lives whose contribution needs national celebration.

So as we celebrate the sacrifice by our great heroes and heroines, let us also remember that this is a national day whose lustre and importance we can only erode by making it a partisan event and a day of cheap slogans and party T-shirts.

In the new Zimbabwe that I envision, Zimbabweans from all walks of life must unite on a day like this to celebrate the dead and living heroes who have battled to give this great country the dignity and the true freedom that it deserves.

This day must be a day for unity and confluence; a day when the whole nation unites in celebrating those who fought selflessly for the good of the country.

President Tsvangirai said in any country, the defence forces play an important role in safeguarding the country and its citizens.

All Zimbabweans salute the positive and heroic acts of our defence forces in bringing about our national independence.

It is true that most of the members of our defence forces, both retired and serving, played a key part in the liberation of this country.

But when they took up the gun, they did not do so to liberate members of one political party. They did so to bring freedom to every Zimbabwean regardless of race, colour or creed.

Furthermore, our defence forces have been deployed to several parts of the world on UN peacekeeping missions where they have done the nation proud.

The Defence Forces are national forces sworn to upholding the country’s constitution. They are supposed to be a non-partisan and disciplined force. They are a respected national institution that should serve and protect the people and the country regardless of the government and the political leadership of the day.

They should be at the epicentre of defending and protecting the people and not attacking and brutalising them. The past few years have seen the deployment of some members of the army into the villages to brutalise and attack innocent civilians on the basis of their political affiliation.

It is international best practice that the army should confine itself to the barracks and leave politics to the politicians.

People should come first



Hon Mwonozora

All political parties in the country must be subservient at all times to the people they serve and represent not to be oppressors for independence and democracy, Hon. Douglas Mwonozora, the MDC national spokesperson has said.

Hon. Mwonozora made the call at a public debate in Harare last week on “Violence, Sanctions, Security Sector Reform, Indigenisation and the Electoral Roadmap: Who is fooling who ahead of the SADC Summit?”

“In the sovereign Organogram there is God and his terrestrial administration at the top. Second are the people as a sovereign and independent entity and last we have the political actors,” said Hon. Mwonozora.

“A country is abnormal where certain political leaders and actors tend to usurp the sovereignty of the people. This is done usually by violence intimidation and other acts of political subterfuge. Zimbabwe is a country that is afflicted by this political abnormality,” Hon Mwonozora said.

He said the MDC’s position was that it would be imperative for Zimbabwean leaders to carry one vision to the SADC Summit to be held in Luanda, Angola as this position will make Zimbabwe work again.

Hon. Mwonozora said the roadmap to the holding of the next elections needed to cover major reforms necessary for the holding of legitimate, free and fair elections. He said security sector realignment, the staffing at the Zimbabwe Election Commission and an end to state sponsored violence are necessary reforms if the nation is to hold credible elections.

“It is clear that Zanu PF disputes the existence of state sponsored violence in Zimbabwe. It may very well be that they don’t appreciate what state sponsored violence is. State sponsored violence is violence that takes place with the direct or indirect involvement of state agents. It is direct when the state agents themselves take the initiative to harass political opponents of their preferred party. This happened mostly in the 2008 presidential run-off election.

“It is indirect where the state agents aide and abate political offenders by providing them with logistical support or refusing to arrest the offenders or simply withhold their dockets. This form of violence is the most debilitating form of violence because it creates a group of special citizens outside the reach of the judicial system,” he said.

In 2008, more than 500 MDC supporters were murdered

The public discussion which was meant to find areas of agreement was frustrated after Zanu PF’s representative, Chris Mutsvangwa deviated from the topic and threw spanners labelling the people of Zimbabwe “shallow” for ditching Zanu PF.

Hon. Mwonozora acknowledged the work done by the liberation heroes in fighting for Zimbabwe but emphasised that every generation has its own struggles which arise due to a number of misconceptions.

“Every generation has a fair share of fighting to do. The liberation fighters fought to remove the Smith regime, ours is to remove oppression of any

sort, be it white oppression or black oppression. The liberation fighters were fighting to negate the forces of imperialist oppression but when it comes to independence, there are forces that fight black oppression and seek to negate the oppressive system, these forces are negating the forces that cease to be relevant at that point in time,” he said.

Hon. Mwonozora said the MDC was a party that was formed to fully liberate the people of Zimbabwe.

“The MDC was formed as an answer to the following: I can rape you because I liberated you; I can kill you because I liberated you; I can interfere with your freedom of choice because I liberated you; I can torture you because I liberated you; I can decimate a whole ethnic grouping because I liberated you. The MDC was formed as an answer to those statements,” he said.

Hon Mwonozora said that Zanu PF should not privatise the war of liberation because everyone took part in it. He said Zanu PF should stop diverting the attention of Zimbabweans from the important work of the day by pursuing party agendas at the expense of the country’s collective agenda.

“This political patronage has to stop. We cannot hold this country at ransom because of an ill - advised, selfish leadership in Zanu PF. When you are fighting in the nationalist struggle, the preoccupation is to remove the imperialist domination, and to remove the oppressor, at that time there is very little emphasis or regard on the quality of the replacement.

“After independence, a nation has to embark on a democratic struggle. This is a struggle that comes as a result of the realisation that a black government can be as oppressive as a white government and that this oppression can be as debilitating as white oppression if not worse,” said Hon. Mwonozora.

Gukurahundi probe on

From page 1

“This issue really touches my heart, and MPs who move this motion will have my full support. We want proper investigations on Gukurahundi, we want to know who killed people during this period and why the people were killed.

“The results of this committee will be made public unlike previous investigations where results are still not known up to now,” he said.

In 1984, the Simplicius Chihambakwe Commission of Inquiry was tasked to investigate the Gukurahundi atrocities, but its findings were never made public after Zanu PF blocked them.

Hon. Chikwinya said Zanu PF continued to fail in showing any political will as the people of Zimbabwe pursued for an environment where they can live peacefully without harming each other.

“(Robert) Mugabe was calling for people to shun violence at the New Zim Steel formerly Zisco Steel in Redcliff.

“There is no political will in Zimbabwe especially from the part of Zanu PF. As I speak right now the (MDC) district youth chairperson for Mbare (Ayaya Kassim) has been defaced by political youths identified to be from Zanu PF.

“They poured hot cooking oil on his face and he is currently being treated. You can see that all the political violence which has happened in Mbare is being led by Chipangano, there is no political will on the part of Zanu PF to achieve national healing,” said Hon. Chikwinya.

Kassim was left seriously injured after his face was scalded with hot cooking oil and is admitted in hospital.

Hon Chikwinya said at the New Zim Steel official opening, Mugabe had spoken against any form of violence.

“What is disturbing is that while the

head of Zanu PF is softening up and preaching the message of non-violence, the body is stiff, hard and ejaculating violence on the other hand,” he said.

Hon. Chikwinya said because of Zanu PF’s grandstanding, Zimbabwe had not yet healed and there was need to create a process where the people are given a platform to air their views.

He called for a review of the annual budget of the Organ on National Healing and Reconciliation which received less than US\$4 million this year.

“This means that it is less than one trip of Mugabe to the UN in a month. Mugabe spends US\$4 million for him to travel with 60 people to New York to attend a Gender Youth Conference which money amounting to more than the budget for the organ of national healing.

Hon. Willard Chimbetete, Nyanga North MP said Zanu PF should practice what they preach.

In 1984, the Simplicius Chihambakwe Commission of Inquiry was tasked to investigate the Gukurahundi atrocities, but its findings were never made public after Zanu PF blocked them.

“They should change the way they do things so that everyone will live in peace and harmony. National healing should be found in rural areas as well to encourage proper representation,” Hon. Chimbetete said.

He said one Mr Nyamutowa, a Copac member was evicted from his Stockdale farm in Nyanga North by a group of Zanu PF members led by one Bande who were jealousy of the potato yield Nyamutowa had produced.

Women must do it: Khupe

Hon. Thokozani Khupe, the MDC Vice President and Deputy Prime Minister has bemoaned the huge deficit in women's representation in decision making bodies especially in the Executive and Legislative arms of government.

Addressing delegates at the Women in Politics Support Unit, WIPSU, re-launch of the 50/50 representation in Harare last week under the banner; '2015: 50/50 Yes we must!', Hon. Khupe said a number of years have passed since the adoption of various protocols to ensure gender equality but not much has been done for women to enjoy fully their rights and freedoms.

"It is more than 30 years since CEDAW, it is more than 15 years since the signing of the Beijing Declaration and it is more than 14 years since the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development was adopted.

"It is more than 10 years since the MDG's were adopted but with all these tools and instruments, it is clear that women still do not have the full enjoyment of their rights and freedoms," said Hon. Khupe.

"It is clear that there is a huge deficit in women's representation in decision making bodies especially in the Executive and the Legislature where policies are made, laws are crafted and budgets are passed."

Hon. Khupe said women as workers, organisers, managers, advisors and nation builders adding that they ought to be respected and given their rightful posts. She said the constitution must make provisions for women's representation.

"We have learnt that as long as a country does not have any constitutional provision dealing with women's representation, it is almost impossible to achieve the numbers which are being called for, that is 50 percent representation of women in national parliaments," she said.

Zimbabwe currently has 16 percent



Hon Khupe

representation of women in the House of Assembly and 24 percent in the Senate. However, notable increases to national representation have been noted in South Africa, Mozambique and Tanzania in the SADC region.

Hon. Khupe said political parties remained the real gate keepers to the advancement of women in politics.

"It is at the political party level that the principle of equality must be put into practice. While some political parties have quotas for women in Parliament, they do not apply these to their internal political structures," she said.

Hon. Theresa Makone, the MDC Women's Assembly chairperson said there was need to conduct a survey to find out the challenges being faced by women.

"With the re-launch of the 50/50 campaigns we recommend WIPSU to facilitate a national study to inquire on the challenges being experienced by women in politics, strategies for women's increased participation in politics and strategies to ensure the achievement of the 50 percent representation of women," she said.

Hon. Makone said the issue of political violence during and after elections had been a major drawback to women's participation in politics.

In the run up to the sham 2008 presidential run - off, women were major victims of political violence with some being raped and hundreds murdered.

In 2008, Abigail Chiroto, the wife to Harare's Deputy Mayor, Emmanuel Chiroto was murdered by Zanu PF hooligans because they could not locate her husband.

Other women like Thabitha Marume were killed for their strong fighting spirit for a democratic and free Zimbabwe.

Similar concerns were raised at a separate workshop organised by the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), on gender and elections where women highlighted major concerns on the use of violence to suppress the female voice.

The ZESN workshop was attended by all political parties and civic organisations working on gender related issues, women agreed that quota systems and mechanisms for archiving intra - party democracies needed to be set up.

Hon. Makone said; "There is need to have more documentation and publication support for women's experiences in participation in politics so that women do not disappear in the history of Zimbabwe."

Colleen Lowe Morna, the central executive officer for Gender Links said the governance cluster of the Southern Africa Gender Protocol Alliance has called on SADC governments to redouble their efforts to attain the target of gender parity in decision making by 2015.

"In a communiqué at the re-launching the 50/50 campaign following a meeting in Harare, Zimbabwe, NGO representatives from nine countries noted that with only four years to go, and on average representation of

women in parliament of 25 percent, the region is only half way where it needs to be with many countries having only one more election to go," she said.

The re-launch of the 50/50 campaign comes as there is a backwards slide for women politicians in recent SADC elections, both at national and local government levels. Results of elections held in South Africa in May 2011 show that representation of women in local government is down to 38 percent from 40 percent in 2006. National elections in Botswana and Namibia in 2009 displayed the same downward trend. Women's representation in Botswana declined from 11.1 percent to 7.9 percent while Namibia fell from 30.8 percent to 24.4 percent.

The prognosis is not good for other upcoming SADC elections before the 2015 SADC Protocol targets of parity at decision-making levels. Many countries have already missed the mark. This

calls for a reintroduction of the 50/50 campaign to draw attention to women's representation ahead of the SADC Protocol 2015 deadline.

The regional governance cluster meeting brought together national governance cluster focal points of the Alliance. The cluster used the opportunity to review the action plan and introduce a robust 50/50 campaign as one of the priority areas.

Meanwhile, Hon. Makone and two chairpersons from Zanu PF and Welshman Ncube's formation have signed a peace pledge.

The pledge is a commitment to work with their political parties to protect women from political violence and facilitate access to justice for women affected by political violence; and committing to a peaceful, free and fair election to women in Zimbabwe.



Hon Theresa Makone and other women leaders sign the peace pledge

Malema not a SADC youth chairperson



Solomon Madzore

The MDC Youth Assembly has described as regrettable statements attributed to Julius Malema, the South Africa's ANC Youth League president.

In a statement released by the Assembly, the youth chairperson Solomon Madzore said: "Recent statements attributed to one Julius Malema, the ANC Youth League President about the MDC are not only unfortunate but regrettable. We respect the ANC and the institution of the ANC Youth League.

"As the MDC Youth Assembly we are not going to lose a penny of sleep over statements by a man who does not understand the difference between politics and comedy."

He said the MDC is a pro-poor party, that was formed by the workers, students, farmers, peasants, residents, the disabled, unemployed among others as an alternative to the former liberation party, Zanu PF which was gradually behaving the same way as the former white colonisers.

"The MDC is busy and working hard on service delivery, good governance, human rights, economic empowerment and development for our people. Since the formation of the inclusive government, we have reopened hospitals, schools and brought sanity to the social and economic welfare of our people.

"The MDC does not concern itself on anything that does not bring education, good health, energy, empowerment, jobs and other services to the people.

"Our mandate comes from the people of Zimbabwe and not from some ill-disciplined and misguided young man with an insatiable and voracious craving for media attention.

Mr Madzore said Malema's utterances on Zimbabwe, the MDC and Botswana exhibited a shocking level of a clear lack of understanding of international law and relations.

"Although the MDC Youth Assembly may not be drawn into managing the personal affairs of people, the situation compels us on humanitarian grounds,

to advise Mr Malema to take more seriously the education courses on "leadership and communication" he was ordered to attend by the ANC Disciplinary Committee in May 2010.

"We feel sorry for Malema for uttering such misguided statements when on 3 May 2010, he received a bull, 20 cows and gifts all worth around R100 000 from a sunset party, Zanu PF for wearing their regalia and declaring that he was a Zanu PF supporter."

Mr Madzore said, the Youth Assembly will not be deterred from fighting for real change in Zimbabwe by misguided elements who had no appreciation of the changing times in Zimbabwe.

"Malema should be reminded that his dying party, Zanu PF is known for committing gruesome acts of violence with impunity and corruption just to mention a few.

"It is our hope that Mr Malema will desist from attacking progressive and pro-poor institutions such as the MDC which is working very hard to deliver the people of Zimbabwe from Zanu PF's evil deeds."

The MDC Youth Assembly however wishes the ANCYL chairperson well in the fraud charges that he is being investigated on. As we have pointed earlier on the MDC Youth Assembly is against any form of corruption and violence.

Mukonoweshuro burial on Monday



Above: Hon Murisi Zwizwai and Hon Paul Madzore lead the procession in song and dance.

Below: Professor Mukonoweshuro's son, Bradley, Mrs Mukonoweshuro and the Prime Minister at Warren Hills Cemetery on Monday

Arrest Zanu PF thugs



Ayaya Kassim

The MDC Youth Assembly has called for the arrest of Zanu PF terror group, Chipangano members in Mbare following a sustained streak of violence on known and perceived MDC supporters in Mbare.

The calls come amidst a new wave of attack on MDC members in the suburb.

On Tuesday, seven MDC supporters were assaulted by the thugs for allegedly not attending

the Defence Forces' Day celebration at National Sports Stadium held on Tuesday.

Two of them, David Rakabopa and Robert Bizure were hospitalised while the rest, Taurai Maravanyika, Takura Gadzikwa, Mrs Gadzikwa, Zodwa Gwanzura and Shupikai Magora were arrested and detained at Stodart Police station after they went to report the case to the police.

Last week in the same area, Ayaya Kassim, an MDC Youth Assembly chairperson for Ward 11 in Mbare, was hospitalised after some known Zanu PF youths in the area poured hot cooking oil in his face.

The unpleasant incident took place at a house in 4th Street Avenue in Mbare where Kassim had visited a fellow MDC colleague.

Zanu PF mobsters who had hot cooking oil followed him into the house and poured the oil onto his face.

He received serious burns and was admitted at a Harare hospital.

"I had come from Mbare Musika market with two of my colleagues when I thought of visiting a friend's place to while up time in the afternoon," Kassim

who was writhing in pain said while narrating his ordeal from his hospital bed this week.

"Three Zanu PF youths that I know stormed my friend's place and started interrogating him about my whereabouts.

"They eventually spotted me and started beating me up. They then poured hot cooking oil onto my face as I attempted to flee from the mob," he said.

Kassim said the group ran after him for a while before they gave up.

The MDC national youth spokesperson, Clifford Hlatshwayo condemned the attack and urged tolerance among supporters of different political persuasions.

"We are greatly concerned by the inhuman and rowdy behaviour being displayed by Zanu PF supporters. It only shows that Zanu PF is a terrorist party which is fond of causing bloodshed and it is clear," he said

The matter was reported at Stodart Police Station but no arrests have been made yet.

MDC emerging stronger in Manicaland



Chairperson Magarangoma addressing supporters in Buhera West

Following the successful holding of the MDC's 3rd National Congress, the MDC Manicaland province has emerged stronger and is on a mission of promoting healing and unity in the province ahead of the next free and fair elections, the provincial chairperson, Julius Magarangoma has said.

Addressing hundreds of party supporters at a provincial rally held last Sunday at Jagers Business Centre in Buhera West, Chairperson Magarangoma encouraged the people to remain united as this was the only way that could bring development to Zimbabwe.

"You should put your differences away and look at the bigger picture, which is the country holding free and fair elections. These elections will deliver real change to the people," he said.

He dismissed statements made by those in Zanu PF and the state media that there would be elections this year as falsehoods.

"There are no elections this year. There are a lot of outstanding issues within the Global Political Agreement, which have to be settled first before any elections can be conducted," he said.

He said a number of factors had to be considered before the holding of elections and these included the finalisation of the Constitution while there was need for new media and electoral reforms and the respect for the rule of law.

He added that the roadmap to an

election had three fundamental areas of disagreement where the MDC was not willing to compromise.

"The re-staffing of ZEC to make it truly independent can not be compromised. An end to state - sponsored violence can not be compromised and the need for security sector re-alignment can not be compromised. Until these are fulfilled, we can not go for an election unless we are declaring war on the people of Zimbabwe," he said.

Manicaland Women's Assembly chairperson and Mutare Senator, Keresensia Chabuka said the people of Zimbabwe should expect real change soon.

"The long night is soon going to be over. Dawn is approaching and we should not lose our vision, focus and hope. We should have foresight and direction, as we journey in this wilderness into a new Zimbabwe," she said.

She encouraged the supporters gathered especially the women and youths to register to vote in the next elections as this was the only way to better their lives.

The rally was attended by several senior MDC provincial officials who included Manicaland province national representative, Hon. Mathias Mlambo, the provincial Youth Assembly chairperson, Dennis Simango, MPs and local councillors.

Urgent medical treatment ordered

Harare Magistrate, Shane Kubonera on Wednesday ordered prison officers to let private doctors examine urgently seven MDC activists detained at the Harare Remand and Chikurubi Maximum prisons.

For more than two months the prison officials have been denying the incarcerated MDC activists access to doctors despite a court ruling ordering that they be treated.

The seven activists are part of 24 MDC members who were arrested and severely tortured while in police custody on false charges of murdering a police officer in Glen View in May.

The other 17 were granted bail last month. The police officer was murdered by unknown revellers at a night club.

However, Magistrate Shane Kubonera on Wednesday ruled that the seven in remand prison should receive urgent treatment.

Among those in urgent need of medical attention are; Councillor Tungamirai Madzokera of Ward 32 in Glen View, Yvonne Musarurwa, and Rebecca Mafukeni.

Councillor Madzokera's left hand is in a plaster after it was fractured in police custody and is in need of constant medical attention; Musarurwa and

Mafukeni have visible wounds from police torture and the wounds need attention.

However, the prison officials have been denying them access to doctors and the activists were only receiving pain killers.

The defence lawyers have accused the Attorney General's Office and the police of using "guerrilla tactics" in arresting and prosecuting the 24 activists who were at one time denied access to legal representation.

Meanwhile, the State on Wednesday failed to submit for the third time medical affidavits showing that the 24 activists were heavily assaulted while in police custody.

The state failed to produce the affidavits claiming that state prosecutor handling the case Edmore Nyazamba was ill.

Last month a bail hearing for some of the activists was postponed three times after Nyazamba again failed to appear at the High Court. Magistrate Kubonera gave 17 August as the last day for the state to submit the medical affidavits in court.

The 24 activists were further remanded to 19 August.

Those still in custody are; Clr Madzokera, Mafukeni, Musarurwa, brothers Stanford and Lazarus Maengahama, Lloyd Chitanda, and Phineas Nhatarikwa.

Those that were granted bail at the High Court last month are; Last Maengahama, a National Executive Committee member, Councillor Oddrey Sydney Chirombe of Ward 33, Budiriro, Cynthia Manjoro, Lloyd Chitanda, Stanford Mangwiro, Tendai Chinyama, Jefias Moyo, Abina Rutsito, Gabriel Shumba, Stephen Takaedzwa, Linda Madyamhanje, Tafadzwa Billiard, Simon Mudimu, Dube Zwelibanzi, Simon Mapanzure, Augustine Tengenyika and Gapara Nyamadzawo.



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.

Case referred to Supreme Court

The court case of MDC Harare province chairperson and Glen View South MP, Hon. Paul Madzore in which he is facing artificial charges of assaulting a police officer in 2006 has been referred to the Supreme Court.

Harare magistrate, Shelly Zvenyika ruled in favour of Hon. Madzore who made an application that his case be referred to the Supreme Court as the application was not "frivolous and vexatious."

Magistrate Zvenyika granted his application on the grounds that further remand had been refused on that matter in 2006.

Through his lawyer Mr Alec Muchadehama, Madzore made the application to have his matter referred to the Supreme Court arguing that his right to a trial within a reasonable time had been violated.

State prosecutor Sikhangele Mahlamvana had opposed the application arguing that Madzore had delayed his own trial since he was not reachable so he could not be served with summons.

The State is alleging that on December 14, 2006 at about 2 AM, a team of detectives were on patrol in Glen View.

When they got to Makomva Shopping Centre they saw a vehicle parked with its boot partially open.

The complainant, Everisto Maponga, who is a member of the Criminal Investigation Department, asked one of the occupants to come out of the vehicle and Hon. Madzore's aide, Onwell Kadembo complied, it is alleged.

Maponga and Detective Constable Chipadza produced their identity cards and asked Kadembo to identify himself.

Kadembo, it is alleged, went back to the vehicle and brought Madzore's particulars instead.

When Maponga was talking to Kadembo, the State says Hon. Madzore got out of the driver's seat, charged towards the policeman and punched him on the chest forcing him to stagger backwards.



Hon Paul Madzore