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Movement for Democratic Change

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The Official Mouthpiece of the MDC

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Act on violence

President Tsvangirai has challenged Zanu PF to walk the talk on violence and restrain its youths.

He told over 35 000 MDC supporters at Sakubva Stadium in Mutare on Sunday that Robert Mugabe must fulfill his pledge to stop violence.

On Saturday Mugabe told mourners at the burial of liberation war hero General Solomon Mujuru in Harare that he abhors political violence.

"Mugabe mentioned that violence against rival political parties should end but I want to urge him that he should not speak with a forked tongue," said President Tsvangirai.

"We know that this violence is being perpetrated by those in Zanu PF and we know that if Mugabe wants to stop it he can stop it," he said.

He said the MDC was not a violent party but victims of politically motivated violence.

"As the MDC we are saying no to violence. We want to maintain the moral high ground that we don't want violence and the country must maintain peace at all times," President Tsvangirai.

President Tsvangirai urged all MDC members who survived Zanu PF's violence to submit details of perpetrators to the party which details will be forwarded to the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) and the three principals.

"This violence should be eliminated," he said. On the just ended 31st SADC Summit

held in Luanda, Angola, President Tsvangirai said the SADC leaders are fully behind ending Zimbabwe's crisis that will see the country holding free, fair and credible elections.

President Tsvangirai attended the summit last week where the SADC leaders noted the progress made in the implementation of its decisions taken during the Extra Ordinary Summit in June, in Sandton, South Africa.

At the summit the regional leaders urged parties signatory to the Global Political Agreement (GPA) to remain committed to the implementation of the agreement and finalise the roadmap for resolving the outstanding issues.

"Four issues need to be resolved before we hold free and fair elections in the country. First we need a new people driven Constitution for Zimbabwe.

"We need a referendum on the Constitution that means there are no elections this year but in 2012. And, for anyone who is dreaming of elections this year, it remains a dream. Elections can only be held next year according to SADC.

"During the SADC summit, SADC leaders added that elections should be done according to the SADC guidelines and regulations," President Tsvangirai said.

"The third issue is that the SADC Troika has to appoint a team of officials to join the facilitation team and work with the JOMIC.

Turning to the economy, President Tsvangirai said the indigenisation policy was not a bad strategy but the MDC was against the way in which it

was being implemented which would see companies being looted by a few politicians from Zanu PF at the expense of millions of people who are supposed to benefit from the policy.

"Empowerment yes but not Zanu PF's patronage. Companies are closing and the people who are being punished are our children because of bad policies. You should not cut your nose to spite your face.

"As MDC we will never support the implementation in its current form because it means more unemployment and poverty," said President Tsvangirai.

He said since diamonds are being mined in Chiadzwa in Manicaland province, companies involved in processing diamonds should be based in Mutare not Harare.

"The diamonds are a national gift but our position is that companies involved in the processing of the mineral should be based in Mutare not Harare so that the people in the province are able to get employment and improve the outlook and standards of living for the people in this province," said President Tsvangirai.

Hon. Thokozani Khupe, the Vice President said Zimbabwe had plenty of resources and the people should not be living in poverty.

"Is this the Zimbabwe we want? The answer is No. So I urge you to vote in order to bring real change. This will bring food, jobs, better education and health to the people of Zimbabwe," she said.



The MDC secretary general and Finance minister, Hon. Tendai Biti said there was massive looting of the Chiadzwa diamonds by Zanu PF officials.

"The diamonds that were mined should have brought US\$3 billion but this was looted by Zanu PF. If we give the MDC unfettered access in government, we can achieve an 18 percent economic growth a year. Zimbabwe can develop a US\$400 billion economy because we have diamonds, platinum and gold," he said.

"But this is not possible if we have Zanu PF in government and a deficit of US\$700 million. Zanu PF is now roasting people. That is the footprints and DNA of Zanu PF," said Hon. Biti.

"But I urge you not to lose focus

because this is the last mile to real change though it is very difficult and painful," said Hon. Biti.

Youth Assembly chairperson, Costa Machingauta urged the youths to register to vote as this was the only way they could improve their lives.

"We will not get jobs if we continue to boycott voting," Machingauta said.

Several senior MDC officials attended the rally. They include; the National Chairperson, and Speaker of Parliament Hon Lovemore Moyo, his deputy, Senator Morgen Komichi, Hon Tapiwa Mashakada, Hon Elton Mangoma, Hon Douglas Mwonzora, Hon Theresa Makone members of the National Executive, Ministers, MPs, Mayors and National Council members.



Gaddafi goes: Who's next?

As rebel fighters reached Green Square in the heart of Tripoli in the early hours on Monday, speculations ran high that dictator Muammar Gaddafi had fled the capital.

Crowds took to the streets of Tripoli to celebrate the regime's impending fall.

"We're finally free to speak, after 41 years. We were prevented from saying what we believed, or any sort of freedom whatsoever," an Al Jazeera reporter quoted a Libyan citizen in the square saying.

Rebels have returned the plaza, renamed Green Square under Gaddafi's regime, to its original name, Martyr's Square, the reporter said.

Gaddafi's forces collapsed "dramatically" in a few hours as rebels advanced more than 32 kilometers to Tripoli by Sunday night.

But there were still pockets in the city under Gaddafi forces' control, including Tripoli Hotel, where members of the foreign media are held.

"I warn you, there are still pockets of resistance in and around Tripoli. The fight is not over yet.

"God willing, in a few hours our victory will be complete," senior Libyan rebel official Mahmoud Jibril said in a speech on the opposition television station al-Ahrar, Al Jazeera reports.



Muammar Gaddafi

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MDC connects with the people in Mutare

All workers in Zimbabwe have been urged to fight for their rights at the workplace as they are an important cog in social dialogue and must not be apologetic when advancing their rights.

The call was made by President Tsvangirai at the national congress of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) held in Bulawayo last week.

The fundamental challenge for the labour movement is that the State must create an environment for freedom of association, freedom of movement, and other freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution. Therefore the fight for workers' rights must not be left to politicians alone.

"You are an important cog in the social dialogue and therefore take your rightful place confidently and fight for your rights.

"Do not therefore delegate your responsibilities - that of championing change at the workplace and in the governance of your country- to politicians," President Tsvangirai said.

"You must not be apologetic in fighting for your rights because if you do so, you may lose the gains that you may have gained as workers due to bad laws that inhibit the enjoyment of the profits reaped at the workplace.

"Due to the economic difficulties, there have been calls to create labour market flexibility. I have no problems with this policy as long as such a policy is based on social dialogue and social contract so that everyone makes the sacrifices required and not just the workers," said President Tsvangirai.

He said labour is the only class that remains consistent and not subject to the vagaries of political weather. "But perhaps the important question is whether we have not, as the ZCTU, reached a stage of demobilisation in the face of all these national challenges?"

"So you must be issue-oriented rather than position-oriented. The country is facing many challenges that are of interest and concern to the workers and they should

rise up to the occasion," he said.

President Tsvangirai said as the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe, he was unhappy with government's failure to decisively address the working conditions of the government's patriotic work-force - the civil servants.

"Because of my background as a trade unionist, I am certainly not happy to be part of a government that fails to adequately pay its workers even though the issue of ghost workers and non-transparent sales of our diamonds have led to our failure to remunerate them to their satisfaction.

"But my frustrations must be measured in the context of the nature and limitations of a coalition government where there are no shared values, no shared principles and no shared vision," he said.

However, he said the frustrations must not blind the country from the little progress that has been registered to date including the return of food on our shelves, the re-opening of health and education facilities and the return of a semblance of dignity.

"A semblance of dignity since the trying times when we all had a constant and common meal of chakata for our breakfast, lunch and dinner," said President Tsvangirai.

"I am a trade unionist to the core and I share everyone's concerns that we have largely failed to revive industry and to create jobs for the over 80 percent unemployed people in this country," he said.

President Tsvangirai served as the ZCTU secretary-general in the 1980s and 1990s.

"I have traversed the country's provinces and visited many factories and industries, particularly those industries that made life tick in some of our major cities and towns. Textile industries, mines and major conglomerates have basically died with disastrous consequences to the workers and the towns where those industries are located.

"Kadoma, Chegutu, Bulawayo and other major cities and towns risk complete de-industrialisation if we do not play our part to resuscitate industry and create employment. I have noted that the problems are the same," he said.

The President said therefore there was need for a massive recapitalisation and reconstruction programme to create employment and revive our dead factories and industries.

"So we are all certain about the challenges we face but our major problem is our toxic and poisonous politics. Because how do you convince banks and investors to pour money into this economy when you are threatening businesses with an ill-timed and ill-thought out indigenisation law? How do you convince investors to put their money in your country and create employment when there is no policy consistency or policy predictability?"

"When one half of government is arresting and brutalising the other? When there is so much violence that even Honourable Members of Parliament are beaten up in the august House and nothing happens to the perpetrators?"

"So I am very much aware of the challenges facing the country, the workers, the students, the housewives, business and ordinary Zimbabweans in the villages, in urban areas, on the farms and on the mines.

"These are problems that can only be solved when we finish the political processes currently being shepherded by SADC to ensure a free and fair election in this country. It is only a free and fair election that can yield a legitimate government that can be able to address the concerns coming from the various sectors, workers included.

"So we must all support the need for a roadmap to a legitimate election so that we can have a credible and legitimate government that can truly respect our rights, save the economy and our jobs," he said.



Defy Chombo: residents

Kwekwe residents have taken Ignatius Chombo, the Minister of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development to court to bar him from ordering the re-instatement of the city's former director of finance.

The former finance director, Albert Zingwe was found guilty of defrauding US\$200 000 from the council in December last year. He was reported to the police, arrested and the fraud case is before the courts.

However, Chombo is fighting hard to force the council to re-instate Zingwe despite overwhelming evidence that he is a fraudster. In Zanu PF, Zingwe is the Kwekwe district secretary for legal affairs.

Last week, Kwekwe residents filed papers at the High Court seeking the courts' intervention in barring the re-instatement of Zingwe.

The residents are arguing that Zingwe is not a suitable candidate to occupy a public office as he was implicated in stealing ratepayers' money and has a case pending before the courts over the issue.

The residents are complaining with Chombo's interference in the running of the Kwekwe City Council and what the courts to bar him from unnecessary meddling.

Zingwe dismissal was endorsed by the Local Government Board. In a letter, dated 5 August, Chombo ordered the immediate reinstatement of the embattled director.

"I have been advised that Kwekwe City Council suspended and dismissed Albert Zingwe on December 21 and appointed Morris Mutema, the Internal

Audit manager to take charge of the department on an acting capacity. I also noted that council decision was endorsed by the Local Government Board.

"The appointment of an Internal Auditor to act in that capacity at the same time being the watchdog of the Finance Department may not be in the best interest of good governance, as he is the principal of checks and balances of financial control systems.

"I am therefore compelled to exercise the powers vested in me and direct that the City Treasurer be reinstated with immediate effect, until I conduct an enquiry of the state of affairs at council and that the internal audit manager should return to his substantive post.

Council is urged to expeditiously come up with modalities of his come back and resumption of duty," said Chombo.

However, the residents are protesting against this move and have applied to the High Court to reverse Chombo's decision.

Meanwhile, Chombo has directed the cash strapped Gweru City Council to pump out US\$23 000 as payment for the investigation team he appointed to investigate the council.

In a letter to the city council, Chombo wrote; "Herewith find the fees to members of the Board of Inquiry in terms of section 311(8) of the Urban Council's Act Chapter 29:15, Mr. F.Chikovo (chairperson) US\$ 7 000, C. Chuma US\$ 4 000, E. Pise US\$ 4 000, D Dzvuke US\$ 4 000, L.Gopozah US\$ 4 000. Please effect payment."

However, the Gweru City Mayor, Tedious Chimombe said council could

not afford to pay such exorbitant fees at a time when most of the councils are financially unstable.

"We are unable to pay the US\$23 000 as directed by Chombo. It is unfortunate that he directs us to pay such ridiculous amounts at a time when we are failing to pay our own city employees," the mayor said.

The city council said it was shocked by Chombo's directive as it had made previous payments to the team as directed by a letter received by council from the secretary of the Investigating team on behalf of the Secretary for Local Government, Rural and Urban Development dated May 26.

"As council we have paid about US\$9000 already to the team for accommodation, fuel, and subsistence allowances. We have already pumped out a lot of money at the expense of service delivery and welfare of our workers and residents," said Chimombe.

The team which conducted investigations between 29 May and 4 June has not availed the results of the investigations to the city fathers despite the directive that they be paid again.

Chombo has been on a collision course with most urban town councils most of which are led by the MDC. He has instructed the MDC led council to reinstate fired former chamber secretary Richard Masinire.

Masinire was fired from council in March this year after an investigative team that comprised of a provincial magistrate, a senior lawyer in Gweru, three councillors and an official from the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) found him guilty of corruption.

Hon. Makone now a regional commissioner

Hon. Theresa Makone, the MDC national Women's Assembly chairperson has been appointed the regional commissioner for Southern Africa at the Women's Academy of Africa held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

The executive will work for one year and one of its major objectives is to craft a new constitution for the Academy.

Hon. Makone said the idea of establishing a women's academy was pushed through, in 2009 in Ghana's Accra by representatives from 12 African countries and implementation only began this year in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

Hon Makone was elected the regional commissioner for Southern Africa, with Elizabeth Tamajong representing Central Africa, Jemimah Anita De-Soso representing West Africa and Aisha Nebasirye representing East Africa, with a representative for North Africa yet to be appointed.

The Academy was set up as recognition on the role played by women in political processes and the need to improve on their representation in leadership of political parties, governments, regional and international organisations.

Hon Makone said, she was highly honoured to be part of this initiative, as she was going to continue advocating for the promotion of gender equity at all levels in society.

"Equality does not mean that women and men will become the same but that women's and men's rights, responsibilities and opportunities will not depend on whether they are born male or female," she said.

Hon Makone said the MDC is a social democratic party that values the role played by the MDC. She said the Party was committed to seeing a different Zimbabwe where all people live in dignity, security, freedom and democracy, prosperity and hope.

She said, as the regional commissioner, her role would be to recruit as many individuals and organisations that subscribed to the ideals of social democrats.

"We formed this academy because we realise that women in Africa face the same challenges. It is now my role to recruit as many individuals and cooperates to join the academy so that we empower our women to stand up for what they truly believe."



Hon. Theresa Makone

"We are creating networks with other international bodies to enhance women's participation at all levels. We seek to inculcate the natural acceptance by all male members of society that women are individuals who should be accorded equal opportunities at home and at work," said Hon Makone.

Her first port of call will be embassies, where she expects to get information on political, business and social formations who pursue the broad based empowerment of all women.

Hon Makone said, the academy will meet in November to put the draft constitution on the table as well as to bring forth names of individuals and organisations wishing to join the academy.

She urged all women to register and be affiliate members of the academy as lasting outcomes and unions are expected to spring from this academy.

The interim executive members are: Nyeleti Mondlane, the chairperson; Lindy Wafula of Mozambique as the secretary general; Asha Abdallah Juma, treasurer and Florence Shagwa as the information coordinator; with Theresa Muchovo, Rosemary Agyapong and Tankiso Morule as committee members.

Countries represented included: Ghana, Mozambique, Namibia, Kenya, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda and Cameroon.



Mutare is the best-run city

President Tsvangirai on Sunday congratulated the MDC led Mutare City Council for being the best city in Zimbabwe and handed a trophies to the city Mayor Brian James and his deputy George Jerison at Sakubva Stadium.

The President Tsvangirai praised Mayor James and his councillors for working hard in improving service delivery to the residents and the business community.

"I commend you for your dedication and hard work. You deserve to be proud of your achievements. May your future efforts be equally successful and rewarding? Thank you for your significant contribution to the council's success," said President Tsvangirai.

He said the honour of being voted the best city in the country showed the city's administrative talent and hard work in ensuring that service was improved.

"This is a significant accomplishment that undoubtedly required the dedication and cooperation of the whole team. He

expressed his heartfelt appreciation over the councillors' devotion to their position and we hope that other local councils will emulate them," said President Tsvangirai.

Mutare is located in the mountains of the Eastern Highlands on the border with Mozambique, along the Beira Road corridor, making it the main gateway to the Indian Ocean.

Residents have expressed their gratitude towards the services being rendered by the city council.

In an interview with one resident Takemore Dzikiti said; "Mutare city council is doing a good job in improving on service delivery. Those who know how our city looked two years ago can agree with me that it was an eyesore. Anywhere you go today, whether in the high density suburbs or low density, we now have a good sight and better service from the city."



City of Mutare

Communique: SADC Summit

The 31st Summit of Heads of State and Government of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) was held in Luanda, Republic of Angola from August 17 to 18, 2011.

Summit was officially opened by the SADC Chairperson, His Excellency Dr. Hifikepunye Pohamba, President of the Republic of Namibia. Summit elected His Excellency Eng. José Eduardo dos Santos, the President of the Republic of Angola and His Excellency Armando Emilio Guebuza, President of the Republic of Mozambique as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of SADC, respectively.

Summit also elected His Excellency President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma, President of the Republic of South Africa and His Excellency Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, respectively.

His Excellency President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of the Republic of Angola and host of the 31st Summit welcomed the SADC Heads of State and Government and all the delegates to the Republic of Angola.

His Excellency outlined the achievements recorded by the Region and urged Member States to elevate SADC to a new level of regional integration with a special focus on infrastructure development to accelerate investment and trade in the region.

In his address to the opening session of the Summit, the Outgoing Chairperson, His Excellency President Hifikepunye Pohamba of the Republic of Namibia thanked Member States for the support rendered to him during his tenure of office.

He indicated that significant strides have been made in all the key areas of the SADC Programme of Action particularly consolidation of the Free Trade Area, Infrastructure Development, Food Security, combating HIV and AIDS and Gender and Development.

In accepting the SADC Chairpersonship, His Excellency President Jose Eduardo dos Santos thanked the Outgoing Chairperson for the progress achieved during his tenure of office and expressed Angola's commitment to play its part during its Chairpersonship.

Summit also received a statement from the Chairperson of the African Union Commission, His Excellency, Mr Jean Ping. He commended the SADC Region for its key strategic initiatives in its integration agenda and its commitment to continental integration as reflected in the launching of the negotiations for the Tripartite Free Trade area between COMESA-EAC-SADC.

The Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr. Tomaz Augusto Salomao delivered a statement highlighting progress made in the implementation of programmes in the main areas of regional integration in SADC. The Executive Secretary also referred to the institutional reforms aimed at enhancing capacity and efficiency of the Secretariat.

Summit also received the Report from the Outgoing Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation, the President of the Republic of Zambia His Excellency Mr. Rupiah Bwezani Banda. Summit noted that the region continued to be characterised by democracy peace and security. The Report highlighted the following:

- On Lesotho, Summit commended the Christian Council of Lesotho as Mediator and the SADC Facilitation Team for successful completion of the Political mediation process in the Kingdom of Lesotho and the stakeholders for their commitment to the completion of the dialogue process.

- On Madagascar, Summit reaffirmed its commitment to supporting the mediation process in Madagascar. Summit mandated the Organ Troika assisted by the Mediator on Madagascar

to engage the Stakeholders to fully implement the roadmap as amended by the decision taken by the Summit in June 2011 as a matter of urgency, with a view to find a lasting solution in Madagascar.

On Zimbabwe:

Summit took note of progress in the implementation of its decisions taken during the Extra Ordinary Summit in June, 2011. Summit urged the parties to remain committed to the implementation of the Agreement and finalise the Roadmap for resolving outstanding issues.

Summit re-affirmed its decision of the Sandton Extra-Ordinary Summit and urged the Troika of the Organ to appoint a team of officials to join the facilitation team and work with the JOMIC to ensure monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the GPA.

The Troika shall develop the terms of reference, time frames and provide regular progress reports. Summit will review progress on the implementation of GPA and take appropriate action.

Summit wished the DRC, Kingdom of Lesotho and the Republic of Zambia peaceful, free and fair elections to be held during the 2011/12 calendar and urged all stakeholders to adhere to the SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections. Summit also noted progress made by DRC, Lesotho and Zambia in preparation for the national elections to take place before the next Summit.

On consolidation democracy in the region, Summit noted that the Republic of Seychelles held elections from 19 – 21 May 2011 and congratulated H.E. James Michel for his re-election and Parti Lepep for winning the presidential elections. Summit congratulated the people of the Republic of Seychelles for exercising their rightful practice in a peaceful and exemplary manner.

Summit reviewed the socio-economic situation in the region and noted improvements in the macro-economic performance indicators, such as growth in real average Gross Domestic Product which stood at 4.9 per cent compared to 2.4 per cent in 2009, investments which improved from 22 per cent of the GDP 2009 to 24.9 of GDP in 2010 as well as a decline in inflation from 12.4 per cent in 2009 to 7.5 per cent in 2010.

Summit, however, noted that the region should remain alert to the risks posed by financial and economic volatilities in the developed economies. Summit mandated the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to deepen the debate on how to protect the SADC economies from external shocks and to restructure the regional economies in order to combat poverty.

Summit reviewed the status of implementation of the infrastructure programme for the region, especially power projects, regional corridors and Information and Communication Technology, which include the Kazungula Bridge, the Chirundu One Stop Border Post, the Zimbabwe-Zambia-Botswana-Namibia Interconnector and the EASSy Projects. Summit underscored the role of infrastructure in regional integration and urged the speedy conclusion of Infrastructure Master Plan.

On Gender and Development, Summit noted the progress made by Member States in ensuring equal representation of women in political and decision-making positions.

Summit urged Member States to develop innovative strategies towards the achievement of the gender parity goal.

Summit noted progress made on the regional food security situation in particular, in cereal and non-cereal and

livestock production. Summit urged Member States to intensify measures to increase production, diversify and promote income generating opportunities in order to improve access to food in line with the Dar es Salaam Declaration on Agriculture and Food Security of 2004.

Summit noted progress made in the implementation of the Maseru Declaration on combating HIV and AIDS of 2003, in particular in the key focus areas of prevention, treatment, care and support. The region has recorded a significant decline in new infections since 2009. Summit urged Member States to continue to provide human and financial resources at both national and regional levels to sustain these positive trends.

Summit noted progress made in consolidating the SADC Free Trade Area and commended Seychelles for having taken steps to join the FTA. Summit directed the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to expedite work leading to agreement and common understanding on the roadmap for the SADC Customs Union.

Summit took note and underscored the importance and relevance of the COMESA-EAC-SADC Tripartite Grand Free Trade Area Negotiations launched in June 2011 and urged Member States to consult, adequately prepare and accelerate the negotiations. Summit underscored the importance of infrastructure development in the regional integration agenda.

Summit directed the Ministerial Task Force on Regional Economic Integration to engage in strategic discussions within the context of the review of the Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan to identify priorities and reorient the SADC integration agenda accordingly, with a view to enhancing developmental integration.

Summit noted that the next negotiations on the 17th Conference of Parties of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC COP 17) and the 7th Meeting of Parties to the Kyoto Protocol will take place from 28 November to 9 December 2011 in Durban, South Africa.

Summit underscored the importance of the multilateral dialogue in addressing challenges posed by climate change. Summit urged SADC Member States to support the African common position. Summit pledged its support to South Africa in hosting the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change COP 17.

Summit took note of the progress report presented by the Committee of Ministers of Justice/Attorneys General on the Tribunal and other legal issues, and directed the Committee to remain seized with the task and report back to the next Ordinary Summit.

Summit noted with deep concern the evolving famine situation in Somalia caused by internal strife and drought conditions in the Horn of Africa and noted that this has resulted in a severe humanitarian disaster affecting over 12 million people, including 1.5 million internally displaced people requiring food, water, medical, clothing and shelter supplies and provisions.

Summit adopted a declaration expressing solidarity with the People and Government of Somalia and pledged to provide urgent humanitarian assistance.

Summit expressed its appreciation to the Government and people of the Republic of Angola for the warm hospitality extended to all delegates and facilities provided.

His Excellency President Jose Eduardo dos Santos officially closed the Summit. The 32nd Ordinary Summit of Heads of State and Government will be held in Mozambique in 2012.

Luanda, Republic of Angola

August 18, 2011



MDC helps 20 needy families

Hon. Paurina Mpariwa, the Minister of Labour and Social Welfare has come to the aid of over 20 families that were left homeless after a fire swept through Matau area in Hurungwe.

The affected families could not contain their joy when Hon. Mpariwa arrived with the aid.

The fire recently swept through Matau communal lands, some 20 kilometres outside Magunje growth point leaving the villagers with nothing but burnt shells of houses and a barren landscape.

The majority of the victims of the blaze were women who were at home when the fire broke out.

One of the victims of the inferno, Daniel Manangazire, 31, narrated how the fire swept through his homestead and left him and his sibling with no food.

Manangazire said that he sustained minor burns while trying to douse the fire that was fast approaching his homestead.

"The fire started some 500 metres from my house when Tedious Mangwai's wife was burning maize stocks at her garden. On the day there was a lot of wind and in no time the fire started spreading to other parts of the area," Manangazire said.

He said that the fire caught onto his thatched kitchen and spread to his tobacco barn which fortunately was empty.

"Everything that was in the kitchen was burnt to ash. We were left with no food because it was all stored in there," he said.

Manangazire said that fellow villagers who were spared this unfortunate fate took it upon themselves to take him and his siblings in as they now had nowhere to sleep and no clothes to wear.

Bessy Mugwagwa, 31, from the Murumbika village recounted how the fire swept through her homestead leaving nothing in sight.



Hon Mpariwa hands over a blanket to one of the affected victims

"I noticed the fire when it was near the borehole and went to assist others who were trying to put it out," she told the Daily News

When the fire started approaching her house she ran forward but there was little that she could do to stop it.

Mugwagwa nearly wept when she spoke of how her only daughter who is in Grade 7 got burnt on the hand while running away from the fire.

"When it got to my homestead it caught on to a tree. When the wind blew in the direction of the homestead it spread to the house and goats' pen.

"Luckily, no one was in the house. But when raging flames got close to my daughter she was burnt on her hand whilst escaping the blaze," Mugwagwa said.

Mugwagwa said that she was worried about replacing all identity documents belonging to her husband, herself and their daughter that were lost in the fire.

"My biggest worry is how I am going

to get a birth certificate for my daughter who will be starting her secondary school soon."

Birth, death and identity documents are acquired from Karoi which is a distance away for the poor villagers of the area.

"Though we may not fully recover our belongings it is encouraging to note that our government cares for us," Mugwagwa said.

Other villagers lamented the destruction caused by the fire saying that though their houses were not burnt, their gardens were engulfed in the flames as the fire spread across the area.

Peter Rukwede said that his garden, which had become his reliable source of livelihood, was scotched to tinder by the blaze.

The gardens supplied vegetables to most families while surplus was sold on the roadside to passers-by.

"I had a very lucrative vegetable patch that had succulent tomatoes, green vegetables and other produce...all that was destroyed now I have to start all over again because of the fire," Rukwede said.

Minister Mpariwa warned the villagers on the dangers of burning forests when they wanted to clear land.

She said that as evidenced by the damage that occurred, villagers should know the dangers associated with starting fires that they cannot control not only destroys property but forests animals and their gardens that are the sources of their livelihood.

"Last year a similar fire occurred in this same area and this should not become a trend in Hurungwe...People must be taught about fire control as it is very important," she said.

Mpariwa also pledged to help the victims of the fire saying that it is her ministry's mandate to see that vulnerable people are well taken care of.

She said that she would not leave people to live in abject poverty as it is a fundamental human right to have food, shelter and clothing.

Mpariwa went on to distribute blankets, maize meal and other food stuffs to assist the families get by and promised to return and assess progress made in the area.

Magistrate refers case up

A Harare magistrate, Shane Kubonera has ruled that the lives of 24 MDC members who were arrested in May on false charges of murdering a police officer are at stake and referred their application to the Supreme Court.

The 24 members raised complaints on their initial remand in court that they had been severely assaulted while in police custody prompting the magistrate to order the state to carry out investigations on the complaints.

However, for over two months now the Attorney General's Office has failed to bring affidavits of the investigations to court. Magistrate Kubonera today ruled that the complaints made by the MDC members were justified and their lives were at stake.

The complainants had said that their individual rights had been infringed upon as they were assaulted while in police custody and denied access to lawyers.

Magistrate Kubonera further referred the matter to the Supreme Court saying he had no jurisdiction over the matter as it was a constitutional issue.

"After a careful look at the application, the court has found that their constitutional violations are at risk. The court has no jurisdiction over the application (as it was a constitutional issue)," Magistrate Kubonera said while referring the matter to the Supreme Court.

Of the 24 members, seven remain in remand prison while the other 17 were granted bail in July. Those in remand are; Councillor Tungamirai Madzokera of Ward 32, Glen View, Rebecca Mafukeni, Musarurwa, Manjoro, brothers Stanley and Lazarus Maengahama, Stanford Mangwi, and Phineas Nhatarikwa.

They were remanded to 7 September

Court frees MDC activists

Nine MDC activists were on Friday acquitted at the Kadoma Magistrate's Courts on trumped up charges of inciting violence and destroying a house of Zanu PF official and Sanyati MP Fungai Chaderopa last March.

The nine activists are; Luckmore Chida, the Sanyati district chairperson, Peter Magamure, Wozhere Nyathi, Victor Edziwa, Makombe Learnmore, Mind Munyaka, Bedenia Mushava and Morgen Chifa.

The nine were on a US\$60 bail each after spending a week at Kadoma Prison.

The district chairperson Chida said before their acquittal, Chaderopa had made several attempts persuading them to sign affidavits so that the charges were withdrawn but they refused.

"We denied the move taken by Chaderopa because we knew we were innocent and we that the courts would prove us innocent," said Chida.

Fungai Chaderopa is one of the MPs from Zanu PF who are intimidating, threatening and inciting violence against MDC supporters in Sanyati.

She is using a Mazda BT.50 vehicle in silver colour which is driven by her two sons Kinnard and Wilson Chaderopa and the P.A Hilton Ndawana.

for their routine remand hearing. However, the defence lawyers said they would file a notice for refusal of further remand if the state failed to set a trial date on 7 September.

Prosecutor Edmore Nyazamba apologised to the court for failing to provide medical affidavits of the accused by 17 August as per the court's ruling.

Those in remand prison are yet to receive medical treatment from private doctors despite a court ruling ordering that they should receive treatment.

Meanwhile, the trial of six human rights activists including Munyaradzi Gwisai, the coordinator for International Socialist Organisation (ISO) was postponed on Monday after no magistrate was found to handle the matter.

Last month when the trial started, Harare magistrate, Morgen Nemadire recused himself from the case saying he personally knew one of the accused.

The six were part of a group of 45 activists arrested on 19 February when police raided an academic meeting in Harare at which the video of the Egyptian uprising was being shown.

The other 39 activists were freed after a magistrate dismissed the charges against them in March. They had spent more than two weeks in remand prison.

However, Gwisai, Hopewell Gumbo, Antonater Choto, Welcome Zimuto, Eddson Chakuma and Tatenda Mombeyara are the charges. The state alleged that this group was either directly linked to the illegal gathering or were speakers at the meeting.

The trial was postponed to 24 August when the state hopes to find a magistrate to handle the case.



Costa Machingauta the MDC National Vice Chairperson was on Monday morning summoned to a police post in Glen View on allegations of assault. He spent the whole day at the post before he was allowed to go home. Machingauta was seriously inconvenienced as he had no idea why he had been summoned by the police.

Gaddafi goes

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Libya's rebels have arrested Gaddafi's eldest son Mohammed and have captured his heir son Saif al-Islam, National Transitional Council head Mustapha Abd El Jalil told Al Jazeera television Sunday night.

The military unit in charge of protecting Gaddafi and the capital Tripoli had surrendered, a senior rebel official told the Associated Press.

Amid such reports and no whereabouts of Gaddafi's family, the Libyan leader is rumored to have fled.

Tripoli airport was under rebel forces control and it was unlikely Gaddafi could have fled from there, yet rebels' senior officials didn't believe that Gaddafi is in Tripoli, Mahmoud Shamam of the NTC said.



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