President Morgan Tsvangirai, who is also the Zimbabwe Prime Minister has lamented the abuse of young people by politicians in perpetrating violence.

President Tsvangirai said this while addressing the Junior Parliamentarians in Harare during the June 16 Day of the African Child Commemorations.

He said: “We have seen the culture of using the youth in political violence. Some are using their wealth, most of it ill gotten, to negatively influence young people into committing heinous crimes.”

This must stop if we want our society to live peacefully and to fully promote children’s rights, I call upon the Juvenile MPs to be vocal against the use of the youth to promote violence.”

He was making reference to Zanu PF’s abuse of young children aged between 13 and 18 to commit insurer and assault.

In many areas, victims of political violence have confessed that they were being assaulted by very young boys who were not of voting age with the protection of known Zanu PF thugs.

In Mhare, the youth have been grouped to form a terror gang, Chishanganwa, led by Jim Kunaka and funded by Amos Mudzi and 2008 losing parliamentary aspirant, Tendai Savanziva.

President Tsvangirai expressed the Government’s commitment to fully respect the rights of children, including the right to a decent education, primary health care, shelter and basic needs. He undertook to ensure that these rights are expressed in the new constitution which is currently being drafted.

“Some children grew up orphaned because their parents died during the liberation struggle, some lost their parents during Gukurahundi and indeed, during the troubled 2008 polls. We have many young people who lost life and limb during these political disturbances. They deserve to be looked after.

“This calls for a change in attitude especially among politicians. We must foster a culture of tolerance that allows people to be free to choose which football team or political party to support,” said President Tsvangirai.

He urged people to treat children with love and tenderness, knowing that every word spoken and heard by little children builds their character.

President Tsvangirai said the Inclusive Government has tried to focus more on issues that cut across the political divide, issues that are national rather than personal to drive the nation forward.

“As our torchbearers, we urge you to devote your energy towards creating a better Zimbabwe that provides jobs to all our young people, a Zimbabwe with a thriving economy, with functional health and educational institutions and where people’s creativity is rewarded. People need a progressive nation that is committed to democratic values, the rule of law, security of persons and respect for human rights guaranteed in our Constitutions,” President Tsvangirai said, adding that people should have a soft spot for children living with disability as they have the same rights as all children and possess the same potential as their able-bodied counterparts.

“Our duty is to provide equal opportunities for all children irrespective of physical or mental condition. The Day of the African Child calls us to reflect on how much we, as Government, have invested towards the development of our children. Indeed, the question is: Have we done enough?” he said.

However, it is said to note that many children have been kidnapped and their body parts collected for ritual purposes. Some are using their wealth, most of it ill gotten, to negatively influence young people into committing heinous crimes.

Children in Africa, Zimbabwe included, are affected by many different types of abuse, including sexual exploitation and sexual violence, early marriage, exploitation of children for labor and sex, and child soldiers.

Meanwhile, thousands of MDC youths gathered at various centers on Saturday to reveal their desire to retain the right to protest, respect, promote and fulfill.

In Harare, the commemorations were held at the Harare Gardens amidst strong signs the police were less than three hundred young people in the gardens. However, the youth of Harare spoke against such guided freedom with over a thousand youth turning up for the celebration.

Hon Nelson Chamisa, the MDC National Organising Secretary who was the guest speaker said he was proud that the youth remembered to honour and commemorate the Day of the African Child and said the youth were the vanguards of any struggle in the country.

“The liberation struggle was begun by the youth but hijacked by the old ones. We did not turn it to fight the army or the police, we formed it to replace Zanu PF and to reform this country. Soldiers, police officers, EIOs and other security agents in general should take their place because we are not changing the number plate, we are not going to change the rear view mirror of the vehicle, we are changing the engine.

“We are celebrating this year under the theme, ‘Children’s Day: Change, promoting and fulfilling the rights of children’ and in Zimbabwe, we have categories of disabilities – by brain, means and inflicted by Zanu PF,” he said.

The MDC NEC puts hammer down

The MDC NEC met on Friday to deliberate on the recent SADC Launda Summit, to receive recommendations of the inquiry into the disturbances that rocked the Party last year and to discuss political developments in the country.

The National Executive noted with concern contemptuous utterances made by some Zanu PF elements within the military and takes these threats of violence seriously as they are meant to subvert the democratic processes in Zimbabwe and undermine the will of the people.

The MDC is, however, quite clear that these sentiments do not reflect the thinking of the professional men and women in the security sector.

The Executive is seriously concerned with the massive illegal recruitment of soldiers and police officers as this causes a serious strain on the fiscus as Treasury has not raised fears in the people.

The Party reiterated that the next elections will be held under conditions that make free and fair elections impossible. The Party is calling for a speedy conclusion of the Constitution making process.

The MDC reiterated that by the time Zimbabwe goes for elections, security sector, media and Electoral reforms, including the staffing of ZEC should have been concluded.

These will ensure a level playing field for all those who wish to contest in the elections. The MDC is, therefore, saying that the minimum conditions as set out by the AZ as well as SADC, which the party

The Real Change Times
Move for Democratic Change
A Party of Democratic Change!

Stop the violence: President

The people’s struggle for real change: Let’s finish it!!
Another one of those shameless lawmakers in the ever thinning ranks of Zanu PF was 1982 to 1997. The question is: Why is he being dissuaded students from pursuing a legal career. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa is an absolute disgrace to the legal profession. Who in their right mind can look up to him as a role model in the legal field given his appalling performance in Parliament when he was trying to sideopt the issue of compensation of victims of the Gukurahundi massacres? His comments that victims of Gukurahundi could not be compensated because the War Victims Compensation Act does not cover the period of 1981 to 1987 in its definition of war conveniently hide the culpability of Zanu PF in the current situation. Emmerson should have provided context in answering the question put to him. The first and most significant issue is that the deaths in Matabeleland are unacknowledged by Emmerson and his boss Robert Mugabe. 

How does he even begin to talk about compensation when he can’t even begin to talk about the issue of Gukurahundi? The first and most significant issue is that the deaths in Matabeleland are unacknowledged by Emmerson and his boss Robert Mugabe. The second issue is that he should have told the nation of his involvement or lack of involvement in the genocide. After all, he was the Minister of State Security from 1982 to 1987 in its definition of war conveniently hide the culpability of Zanu PF.

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Youths bringing real change

Day of the African Child commemorations in pictures...
MDC ready to deliver real change

Marivungo - The MDC is committed to bring about social, economic and political reforms after decades of looting and mismanagement of state resources by the Zanu PF.

The MDC provincial leaders who addressed a meeting at the weekend said the MDC’s record in the inclusive government is clear in the minds of the electorate. They said the Zanu PF war veterans because some of us are also war veterans.

The MDC provincial chairperson, Hon. Harrison Mudzuruni, said: “We are getting closer to our dream, we are watching out our steps so let us watch our steps and not fall.”

Hon. Marima who is also the local legislator said: “Let us remain united because we are close to the goal. The biblical Promised Land is now beckoning so let us watch our steps and keep on going. We have only tasted a glimpse of the new Zimbabwe experiences in the GNU. We want elections like yesterday but conditions for sustainable a sustainable election must be put in place, as much as soldiers have to remain at the barracks.”

The MDC provincial chairperson, Mr. Winstaff Sititemere said while Zanu PF was using war veterans and traditional leaders to disrupt the MDC, it was not crystal clear that the former ruling party was targeting the GNU.

“With this issue has to be solved once and for all. Article 14 of the GPA is very clear on the issue of traditional leaders. It is clear that traditional leaders must exercise their duties in an objective manner. Although we are no longer in the GNU we must have to concentrate on winning power,” Sititemere said.

We are not worried about the so-called war veterans because some of us are also war veterans. There is clear evidence that the MDC stands for a better future for the people of this country. We have enough proof to convince the electorate - the now functional, better transport facilities and groceries on the shelves. Zanu PF now is showing its true colours while we are talking of real economic empowerment, food on the table and better health delivery services,” said Sititemere.

Addressing the same gathering, MDC provincial deputy secretary Hon. Heya Shoko, provincial organising secretary Hon. Earnest Mudaravhandu, Youth Assembly national secretary for mines and mining development Sally Chipanya and MDC youth chairperson Hon. Muschek Marava castigated Mugabe for clinging to power despite being a political liability to the country. They said all Party supporters must turn up in numbers to vote out the octogenarian leader.

On Sunday, Hon. Marima also addressed over 300 MDC supporters at Pavilion Stadium in Masvingo where he lambasted Zanu PF for rampant looting of state resources.

“Gaths Mine has closed down due to nepotism corruption and greed fanned by Zanu PF fat cats. It is on record that Zanu PF zealously guarded the giant mine to a halt because of poor management policies, theft and rampant looting. It is an MDC government that is capable of resurrecting the sleeping giant so that people can get employment. Zanu PF is exhausted because it is bogged down and do not have sound economic policies ever since it embarked on the disastrous, fast land reform programme that reduced Zimbabwe to a basket case,” said Hon. Marima.

Speaking at the same venue, provincial secretary Hon. Tongai Matutu called for teamwork among party supporters saying the MDC stands for a better future for the people of this country. We have enough proof to convince the electorate - the now functional, better transport facilities and groceries on the shelves. Zanu PF now is showing its true colours while we are talking of real economic empowerment, food on the table and better health delivery services,” said Sititemere.

State resources due to the same reason – evidence that Mugabe’s party is an epitome of misery and poverty in the country. Zanu PF is doomed and finished. We will continue to draw inspiration from God because we are a God fearing party,” said Hon. Matutu.

Provincial spokesperson, Hon. Harrison Mudzuruni was elaborate in castingigate Zanu PF. He said: “Zanu PF is spreading cheap propaganda about empowerment. To them, empowerment means enriching a few Zanu PF morons like Obert Mpofu, Philip Chiyangwa and Ignatius Chombo. Mugabe and his ilk are corrupt – we don’t care whether it is Mujuru, Mnangagwa or Kaukhuwere because they are all the same.”

In Gutu South Constituency, Hon. Jefferson Chirando who is also a member of the national executive addressed at least 600 party supporters at Maungwa Business Centre on Saturday.

Meanwhile, Real Change Musician Patson Pattison Marimoga rallied supporters at Boora Business Centre when he belted out songs from his first and second albums entitled Mira panzvimbo. The song Vechidziva proved to be popular with the crowd. Marimoga hails from Bikita West Constituency.

MDC Youth member assaulted in Mbare

An MDC youth member, Decent Runito (22) was yesterday assaulted by a gang of Zanu PF youths led by one Chirundu in Chitungwiza.

The Zanu PF hooligans ganged up against Runito who was going for a VID test around 11am and took him to a hospital in the suburbs where he was assaulted by the hooligans for supporting MDC.

A former branch chairperson for Majababki, Raitairo is a well known MDC activist in the area. He reported the matter to Mberengwa Police Station before he passed out. He was only assisted after the hooligans were arrested. The police are on the lookout for the MDC members who got a tip-off from Mberengwa residents.

Runito has since been hospitalised.

Zanu PF thugs faces the music

Two Zanu PF thugs, Nosty Chadzamira and Watson Moyo who were last month sentenced to 2 years and 10 months in prison respectively, for political violence have been slapped with a further 9 months each for assaulting two MDC members by a Kadoma magistrate.

Their three accomplishments, Stephen Sikini, Noah Shindara, and Tafuna Hove were jailed to 11 months each after they were found guilty of political violence.

Chadzamira and Moyo attacked two MDC women, Pledgeses Chada and Kadzai Neverthi who were attending a party leadership training programme at Nyimo Growth Point in Sanyati.

During the trial, the court heard that Chadzamira and Moyo visited the two women activists and assaulted them severely after they failed to reveal their husbands’ whereabouts when the Markedets and iron bars were used in the attack leading to the hospitalisation of the victims at a local hospital.

The three armed themselves with an iron bar on the forehead for attacking a party programme. Another MDC activist, Amos Zhou was axed at the back. The two suffered deep injuries and were rushed to a hospital in Harare. The accused who have a habit of terrorizing well-known MDC activists also went on to attack Josiah Bumba using a grey pick-up truck which was being driven by Chadzamira. They then assaulted him only to release him after he fell unconscious near a Zanu PF base named Nyabanga.

Jomic intervened and assisted in the arrest of Chadzamira and his co-accused who were on the run.

MDC Sanyati chairperson, Luckmore Chinda welcomed the conviction and any such activities like terrorising.

“Jail terms given to Chadzamira and his accomplice are a lesson to Zanu PF members who behave like thugs and claim they can take the law into their own hands. Signals has been sent to all violence perpetrators and the message to the community is that no one is above the law and violence does not pay,” said Chida.