



# The Real Change Times

## Movement for Democratic Change

*A Party of Excellence!*

*The Official Mouthpiece of the MDC*

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# Stop the violence: President

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 Junior 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 murder 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 Mbare, the youth have been grouped to form a terror gang, Chipangano, led by Jim Kunaka and funded by Amos Midzi and 2008 losing parliamentary aspirant, Tendai Savanhu.

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 energies 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 Constitution," 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 sad to note that many children have been kidnapped and their body parts collected for ritual purposes.

Children in Africa, Zimbabwe included, are affected by many different types of abuse, including economic and sexual exploitation, gender discrimination in education and access to health and their involvement in armed conflict.

Other factors affecting African children include migration, early marriage, differences between urban and rural areas, child-headed households, street children and poverty.

Meanwhile, thousands of MDC youths gathered at various centers on Saturday to commemorate the Day of the African Child under the theme: "The rights of children with disabilities: The duty to protect, respect, promote and fulfill."

In Harare, the commemorations were held at the Harare Gardens amid a strict police warning to have 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 commemoration.

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. He 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. They did their duty to liberate the people, now is our time to democratize our country," Hon Chamisa said to wild applause from the vibrant youth who turned up at Harare Gardens.

The youth who sang freedom songs and marched in line with their songs, showed that they are adamant to see real change in Zimbabwe and want a new beginning.

"When we formed this Party in 1999, we did not form it to fight the army or the police, we formed it to replace Zanu PF and to reform this country. Soldiers, police officers, CIOs 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 of protecting, respecting, promoting and fulfilling the rights of children with disabilities. But in Zimbabwe, we have categories of disabilities – by natural means and inflicted by Zanu PF," he said.



Since the formation of the MDC, many people have been maimed, disfigured and murdered in the cause of democratizing the country.

Hon Chamisa said the journey has been treacherous, with MDC members being incarcerated, injured and scarred while others have passed on.

"We cannot have no go areas in a free and democratic country. A human being

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# MDC NEC puts hammer down



The MDC National Executive met on Friday to deliberate on the recent SADC Luanda 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 received any meaningful revenue inflow from the mining and sale of the country's diamonds.

The Executive noted that Zanu PF is trying to derail the agreed reforms in the Global Political Agreement (GPA) including the Constitution making process so 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 reiterates 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 election. The MDC is, therefore, saying that the minimum conditions as set out by the AU as well as SADC, which the party

reiterated in the Conditions for a Sustainable Election in Zimbabwe (CoSEZ), should prevail before elections are held.

The National Executive applauded the SADC resolutions that reforms must be implemented within the next 12 months, and noted that elections should be held after the implementation of key reforms contained in the GPA.

Further, the Party noted the worrisome lack of transparency in the mining of diamonds and the remission of revenue to the State by mining companies, notably Anjin.

The MDC fears that most of this revenue is being channelled towards sponsoring Zanu PF violence ahead of the next elections. The Party reiterated that diamond revenue must be channelled to Treasury to effectively complement efforts by government towards improving the welfare of the people.

The MDC is seriously concerned with the illegal massive recruitment of soldiers and police officers which not only strains the fiscus but has raised fears in the people

of the post election state – sponsored violence of 2008.

The Party lauded the recent decision of the Judge President of the High Court that Mugabe can be sued over his violation of the GPA when he unilaterally appointed the provincial governors without consultation with the Prime Minister. The party hopes that this matter will be concluded as a matter of urgency.

Further, the National Executive received a report on the findings of the Commission of Inquiry that was set up after Congress to investigate the violence that bedeviled some provinces during the run up to the Party's congress last year.

The Party noted that Zanu PF and state agents directly and indirectly fanned and promoted violence in the MDC in a bid to create chaos within the party. The Executive resolved that all MDC members and officials who were implicated in violence should be brought before the National Disciplinary Committee without regard to their status within the party.

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*The people's struggle for real change: Let's finish it!!*



# Zanu PF complicity, lies and Gukurahundi compensation

By Kumbirai Muchemwa

Another one of those shameful lawyers in the ever thinning ranks of Zanu PF was recently trying his level best to dissuade 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 sidestep 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 Zanu PF has not apologised for the mass killings? The second issue is that he should have told the nation of his involvement or lack of it in the genocide. After all, he was the Minister of State Security from 1982 to 1988.

Three separate and related events in the 1990s show the lies in Emmerson's statements. In two cases before the country's courts, the Government of Zimbabwe agreed to compensate

families of Fraser Gibson Sibanda (HC3243-92) and Tryagain Ndlovu for their disappearance during the difficult period in Matabeleland. Mr Sibanda who was in his 60s was arrested by the police during a Sunday morning church service in November 1985 and subsequently disappeared from police detention, presumably killed whilst in the hands of the State.

At the 52<sup>nd</sup> session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights the government subsequently acceded to the UN for its complicity in the disappearance and death of Mr Sibanda and others.

The government told the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances that it had "decided to compensate all families with missing relatives, regardless of whether there were court proceedings concerning the circumstances of the disappearance." This was in January 1996. Sixteen years later, we have a Minister in Parliament telling the nation a different story.

In 1997, the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe together with the Legal Resources Foundation released a report which provided an insight into the extent of atrocities that had been committed in Matabeleland.

Emmerson and his boss decided to ignore the recommendations, which if they had been followed would have saved the country from this embarrassing situation in which we find ourselves today.

One of their recommendations was

the amendment of the same legal instrument that Emmerson is talking about in Parliament today. It is necessary here to quote the report verbatim:

"That the Government should amend sections 2(1) and 4 (a) of the War Victims Compensation Act [Chapter 11:16] by the deletion (in section 2 under the definition of "the war") of "the 29<sup>th</sup> of February 1980" and the substitution thereof by "the 27<sup>th</sup> December 1987"; the deletion (in section 4) of "1<sup>st</sup> March 1980" and the substitution thereof by "1<sup>st</sup> March 1998".

That the Government should amend War Victims Compensation Act to extend the types of compensation that can be claimed by victims.

None of these recommendations have been implemented.

Zanu PF is generally known not to lose an opportunity when it suits them and they duly proceeded in the wholesale looting of the War Victims Compensation Fund.

In the context of human rights violations today, the same report referred to above shows great foresight with the following recommendation.

"It is important that those who were directly responsible for human rights violations be removed from positions which may enable them to violate human rights again in the future."

If only Emmerson would have not been representing the Ministry of Defence in



Parliament today; unrepentant soldiers would not be making treasonous statements about civilian matters.

In fact, if the recommendation had been taken to heart, Robert Mugabe would be sitting in the warm sunshine somewhere far away and sending smses to Enos Nkala about the relative sizes of their cows' backsides.

Robert needs to publicly and honestly acknowledge the history of abuse, torture, murder and mayhem in Matabeleland as a starting point.

Affected families need to be able to get death certificates for their husbands and fathers who were murdered by the State, that way the living can then obtain their

own birth certificates and passports.

There is an urgent need for the truth to be told so that those who worked under instruction from the State can have an opportunity to release their mental burdens and seek appropriate psychological therapy.

If anything, it is the State that must provide continuing mental therapy to these people.

The people of Zimbabwe have an inalienable, undeniable and unquestionable right to know the truth. That way any future atrocities will be prevented. Now is the time for the culture of impunity to be stopped.

## Voters' corner

"Voter registration shall be conducted on a continuous basis so as to keep the voters rolls up-to-date." (Zimbabwe Electoral Act, Part 4 Section 17A Subsection (1))

The Election Resource Centre (ERC) embarked on an exercise to assess the accessibility and continuance of voter registration in Harare. This was done through visits to some of the registration centres in Harare namely, Mt. Pleasant, Kuwadzana, Mabvuku-Tafara, Hatfield and Highfield. Such an exercise was necessitated by increasing reports of administrative hindrances against those attempting to register and the apparent closure of some registration centres.

This, compounded by the lack of voter information on the continuous nature of voter registration in Zimbabwe as legally provided, has prompted the ERC to make an evidence-based assessment and or give recommendations to the need for electoral authorities to adhere to the legal requirements allowing potential voters to apply for registration or inspect the voter's register on a continuous basis.

The findings of the quick assessment point to a very disturbing pattern in the voter registration process, especially given that some political actors have insisted on holding elections in 2012. The ERC team noted some irregularities in the manner in which the registration centres are conducting their day to day activities.

Below is a summary of the findings;

**Closed registration centres** - Some registration centres like Hatfield are

apparently closed for the registration with the officials unsatisfactorily giving reasons to the effect that the process of registering voters is yet to commence.

**Limited time for registration** - There are inconsistencies in the provision of voter registration services with most registration centres allocating an average of 4 hours for the process of registering voters.

This usually results in frustrating potential registrants as they often are forced to wait for long hours because the registration officials prioritize the registration related to birth certificates, national I.D.s and death certificates. Consequently, the voter registration exercise is treated as a peripheral issue in the centres so far visited.

**Registration by coercion** - There is an emerging pattern of vote buying fashioned through the sprouting of housing co-operatives whereupon those responsible for allocating the pieces of land, who also happen to be known leaders of certain political parties would demand the intended beneficiaries to be registered voters first before being allocated the residential stands. Such coercion apparently exposes potential voters to manipulation by certain functionaries of political parties as well as potentially threatening the individuals' freedom of choice and association.

**Partisan Registration** - The assessment also established that access to registration services is at times administered in a partisan manner with suspected supporters of some political parties and young people intending to register facing frustrating hurdles during their attempts to register as voters.

**Inaccessible Registration Centres** - Some centres are not located in easily accessible locations and as such, discourages potential registrants from enjoying their constitutional

right as voters. For example, the registration centre in Mabvuku is obscurely located at a village known as Chizhanje, an area with poor road linkages worsened by lack of clear information highlighting the availability of voter registration services at the centre.

**Unsuitably situated registration centres** - The registration centre at Kuwadzana sub-office is inappropriately situated in juxtaposition with a Zanu PF office. Potential registrants prominently see a Zanu PF inscription on the building before realizing the existence of a registration centre. Such a location potentially discourages and inculcates fear on would-be registrants.

The malpractices noted above are instructive of some of the challenges faced by potential registrants nationwide. Realizing the insistence on having elections in the short term, it is imperative for the registration process to be easily accessible and less costly to all would be registrants.

The election management body, ZEC and the supporting Registrar of voters are mandated at ensuring unhindered access to registration to all potential voters. The ERC recommends that the election management bodies must take the following actions to ameliorate the emerging challenges whose effect might result in disenfranchisement of a significant number of new voters;

• Reinforce the legal requirement for continuous registration of voters at all the designated registration centres.

• Uphold a non-partisan approach to registration of voters.

• ZEC must embark on a continuous voter information campaign to support the legally provided continuous registration of voters.

• Ensure that registration centres are situated at acceptably neutral places.

It therefore, remains incumbent on the electoral authorities and policy makers to ensure that all eligible Zimbabweans are afforded the opportunity to become registered voters and enabled to do that freely.

For more information e-mail [information@erc.co.zw](mailto:information@erc.co.zw) / [erczimbabwe@gmail.com](mailto:erczimbabwe@gmail.com) (Website: [www.erc.co.zw](http://www.erc.co.zw))



## Bail denied again!

Spencer Nyararai, a State witness in the murder trial of 29 MDC members has been accused of rehearsing and fabricating evidence to falsely implicate the accused.

This was said by the lead defence counsel, Beatrice Mtetwa during the cross examination of Nyararai at the High Court today.

This statement was made after Nyararai gave several conflicting evidence and claimed that he saw some of the accused people at the scene of crime.

Nyararai had told Justice Chinembiri Bhunu that he had identified Lazarus Maengahama, Yvonne Musarurwa and Rebecca Mafukeni at the scene of crime last year wearing MDC t-shirts but gave conflicting statements on their hairstyles when they were arrested and appeared in court for initial remand.

He claimed Musarurwa and Mafukeni had short hair but on the initial remand at the Harare Magistrates' Courts less than a week later they had long hair.

Most of the evidence he gave in court was also divergent with the statements that he gave to the police last year and other State witnesses who have taken the stand before him.

In court he said the accused were singing and chanting MDC songs and slogans but this is omitted in his police statement.

"The evidence in court is materially different from the evidence he first gave to the police because he has rehearsed. The police statements do not include the chanting and singing in front of Munyarari Bar because it did not happen," said Mtetwa.

Nyararai also stunned the court that stones used to attack the police officer, Inspector Petros Mutedza were thrown to the front of the bar from residential houses at the back of the bar.

This resulted in the intervention of the trial judge who said the court would see how this is possible during the in loco inspection to be done next Tuesday.

"He will show us how it is possible during inspection in loco," said Justice Bhunu. The inspection, which was supposed to take place on Thursday 21 June, has been postponed in order to put the necessary security arrangements in place.

Nyararai also said some of the evidence brought to court had been tampered with after a police radio he picked up lying beside the deceased police officer had been fiddled

with while it was in police custody. The police officer said when he picked up the police radio it was in two pieces but when it was presented in court, it was in three pieces.

More shocking in Nyararai's statement is that Victor Magutarima, another police officer who gave evidence last week said he was the one who took the broken radio into his custody after it was handed over to him by a young boy at the shopping centre.

The trial will resume on Monday 25 June with the defence lawyers making application for leave to apply for bail at the Supreme Court.

The application follows the refusal by Justice Bhunu to give the accused bail on Tuesday saying they had not shown any special circumstances to be granted bail.

### MDC NEC meets

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Serious cases of infiltration by state agents were noted and mechanisms have been put in place to flush out such elements.

The party does not condone violence; instead it looks forward to efforts to bring perpetrators to book. The MDC therefore, urges the upright men and women within the police force to resist being abused by Zanu PF.

The Executive is worried by the continued denial of bail for the 29 MDC activists who are in remand prison on false charges of murdering a policeman in Glen View in May last year since their indictment for trial in February 2012. The MDC views their continued incarceration as persecution not prosecution and call for their immediate release as there is no evidence that they committed the offence.

The MDC will not renege the fight for democracy and real change. The people of Zimbabwe await a new Zimbabwe and a new beginning where all people live in dignity, freedom and democracy, security, prosperity and hope.

# Youths bringing real change

From Page 1

seeks life, freedom and joy and that's what the MDC was formed to ensure. We know that we have lost the likes of Tichaona Chiminya, Tonderai Ndira, Learnmore Jongwe, Joshua Bakacheza, Beta Chokururama, Tonderai Machiridza and of late, Cephas Magura along the way.

These and hundreds if not thousands others are not with us this day due to political violence. So, June 16 is not just a commemoration of what happened in South Africa, but a commemoration of what happened in this country in June," he said.

"The youth should lead starting now because great leaders are born out of leading as young people. We need to have a strong and energetic leadership to avoid the kind of recession we are experiencing now," Hon Chamisa said.

Hon Chamisa added that MDC policies do not support plunder and self-enrichment of a few people with positions of authority.

"We have a New Zimbabwe blue print which will spell out how each industry will be recapitalised to ensure that every Zimbabwean benefits off the country's resources. Children should go to school, youth should be able to get jobs, women should play their economic role and the people should have access to real, affordable and available health facilities.

At the commemorations, the Youth Assembly Vice Chairperson, Costa Machingauta said the youth should continue oiling the fight for democracy.

"The youth should bring change to the country because the coming of change is determined by the youth. We want to ensure that the youth take up leadership positions now so that their energy and vibe is felt in the transition of this country," said Mr. Machingauta.

"It is our rights as children and youth to have an education but that right has been attacked by a ruthless regime that has destroyed the efforts of the youth in the society. That is what we want to end as soon as possible.

"Our leader, Solomon Madzore is in prison, placed there by Zanu PF but that will not stop the wind of change from sweeping across the country," he said.

The commemorations were organised by the Harare Province Youth Assembly.

The Harare Province Youth Chairperson, Shakespeare Mukoyi, said the youth should exhibit their energy in order to achieve democracy in the country.

"Our lives in this country are miserable. Since 2000, the people of Zimbabwe have always voted for MDC and President Tsvangirai but the tyrant and dictatorship has refused this people's victory each time.

"This has to stop. The next elections will be watershed and we will not accept another stolen election. We are fighting together to the end," Mukoyi beckoned.

Provincial Chairperson, Hon Paul Madzore said he was proud to lead a

province with a vibrant youth and urged them to unite against any forms of violence on the young people.

In Bulawayo, about a thousand youth attended a similar programme which was held at Stanley Square in Makokoba.

Hon Mwonozora, the MDC Spokesperson said the youth should register to vote if Zimbabweans and the MDC are to claim an outright election victory.

"You should all register to vote because the future of this country is going to be determined by the participation of the youth. The likes of Tongogara participated in the liberation struggle at a young age. He died at the age of forty.

"This is our trial. This is what we will be judged with. Did we bring democracy during the reign of a Zanu PF dictatorship?" Hon Mwonozora said, challenging the youth to take up their position to fight for real change.

He said during the Copac outreach programme, people spoke on the need for devolution in the country.

"Devolution of power is necessary in the country. Bulawayo spoke strongly on this desire so that each region is able to develop sound policies that address their plight without interference or diversion to other projects regarded as priority by the central government when the people of that region feel the suspended issue is their major priority. We need the youth to support their views in the constitution," he said. The constitution making process has

been stalled by Zanu PF's insistence on seeing 225 new issues that were not raised by the people during the outreach included in the constitution.

Promise Mkwanzani, the National Youth Assembly Secretary General urged the youth to register so that they vote out Mugabe and his Zanu PF party.

In Chitungwiza, the commemoration was postponed twice after the police withdrew their approval letters citing various reasons.

The commemoration was meant to take place on 9 June but was cancelled by the police and failed to take off Saturday again due to another programme held by the Heal Zimbabwe Trust on the same day. However, the Chitungwiza Youth Assembly said they were given the green light to hold these commemorations next week.

Mashoko Matonhodze, the Provincial Youth Chairperson for Chitungwiza said he hopes the event will be allowed to go ahead next week.

In Shamva, a scheduled rally was cancelled after Zanu PF thugs besieged the venue of the rally.

According to Isaac Mupinyuri, the Provincial Spokesperson, when they got to Shamva gold mine to prepare for the rally, they were met with the violent thugs and managed to escape and the rally had to be abandoned.

In Bindura, over 500 MDC supporters attended a rally at Chipadze stadium. The Provincial Chairperson, Mr

Godfrey Chimombe urged the people to support the new constitution as long as it carried their views.

"You must support the constitution as long as it carries your views. You came out during the outreach and aired your views, those same views are now contained in the draft document. As long as these views are represented in this document, I urge you to support it. This is our first step towards real change and true democracy," he said.

The Youth Chairperson for the province, Tonderai Samhu on the other hand, urged youths to defend parents who are being abused by Zanu PF thugs. He said, as the MDC celebrates the Day of the African Child, the youth should be aware of their strength in bringing about change in the community.

"We are the vanguard of democracy. What ever we set out to do, we must know that we have the responsibility of protecting our parents from further assaults by Zanu PF," he said.

Ivory Matanhire, the Mayoress for Bindura, bemoaned the imposition of construction companies by Zimbabwe National Roads Authority (ZINARA) without going through tender like Heingate and Twalumbwa with the latter already having swindled the Council millions of dollars without any service delivered.

## Day of the African Child commemorations in pictures...



# MDC ready to deliver real change

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

The MDC provincial leaders who addressed three rallies at the weekend said the MDC's record in the inclusive government clearly indicates the Party's ability to bring about political, social and economic sanity in a country plunged into abyss by a few greedy Zanu PF fat cats led by ageing dictator, Robert Mugabe.

The rallies were held at Maungwa Business Centre in Gutu South Constituency, Boora Business Centre, Bikita East and at Pavilion Stadium in Mashava, Masvingo West over the weekend.

MDC national representative for Masvingo Province, Hon. Edmore Marima told about 400 supporters at Boora Business Centre, Ward 17 in Bikita East Constituency that the MDC was determined to end an era of political and economic mismanagement brought by Zanu PF.

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 a sustainable election must be put in place, as much as soldiers have to remain at the barracks."

The MDC provincial chairperson, Mr Wistaff Sitemere said while Zanu PF was using war veterans and traditional leaders to discredit the MDC, it was crystal clear that the former ruling party would not win the crucial plebiscite.

"We definitely have to engage traditional leaders because 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 getting closer to our dream, we have to concentrate on winning power. 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 clinics are now functional, better transport facilities and groceries on the shelves. Zanu PF is focusing on trivia while we are talking of real economic empowerment, food on the table and



better health delivery services," said Sitemere.

Addressing the same gathering, MDC provincial deputy secretary Hon. Heya Shoko, provincial organising secretary Hon. Earnest Mudavanhu, Youth Assembly national secretary for mines and mining development Solly Chipfumo and Zaka senator Hon. Mischeck 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 Mashava 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 zealots grounded the giant mine to a halt because of poor management policies, theft and rampant looting. It is an MDC government that is capable of resuscitating 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 unity among party supporters saying the MDC brand must be protected. He said the MDC family is bigger than self-centred individuals.

"The MDC family is bigger than individuals. It is bigger than Matutu, Shoko, Marima and Maridza (Selina, the deputy mayor). We have no room for selfish and greedy people in the MDC. We have learnt that Zanu PF plundered

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 Mudzuri was elaborate in castigating 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 Kasukuwere because they are all the same."

In Gutu South Constituency, Hon. Jeffryson Chitanda 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 Murimoga thrilled party supporters at Boora Business Centre when he belted out songs from his album entitled Mira panzvimbo. The song Vechidiki proved to be popular with the crowd. Murimoga hails from Bikita West Constituency.

## MDC Youth member assaulted in Mbare



An MDC youth member, Decent Rutsito (22) was yesterday assaulted by a gang of Zanu PF youths led by one Chiraundi in Mbare.

The Zanu PF hooligans ganged up against Rutsito, who was going for a VID test around 11am and took him to a room at Njere flats in the suburb where they heavily assaulted him with fan belts for supporting MDC.

A former branch chairperson for Majubheki, Rutsito is a well known MDC activist in the area. He reported the matter to Mbare Police Station before he passed out. He was only assisted after the intervention of fellow MDC members who got a tip-off from Mbare residents.

Rutsito has since been hospitalised.

## Ndogarira vana vangu: Women say

Women have said as mothers, they are pained each time they struggle to raise a child only for the shameless regime to murder them in cold blood.

Harare Province Women's Assembly chairperson, Mrs Ronia Bunjira said this while addressing the youth during the Day of the African Child Commemorations at Harare Gardens over the weekend.



## Kunonga keeps bootlicking

Excommunicated Anglican bishop Nolbert Kunonga continued with his Zanu PF praise-singing over the weekend describing its indigenization policy as 'an act of God'.

Kunonga was speaking to a few parishners and hundreds of school children from Anglican schools who were forced to attend this year's Bernard Mizeki commemorations in Marondera.

"The land reform and the indigenization programmes are not election gimmicks but matters of life, which seek to liberate the previously downtrodden," said Kunonga.

Weeks before the event, Kunonga wrote to all heads of Anglican boarding schools instructing them to send schoolchildren to the event or risk unspecified action. Anglican boarding schools in the Diocese of Harare include St Johns in Murewa, Bernard Mizeki College in Marondera, St Annes in Wedza and Langham in Mashonaland Central province.

Kunonga's behaviour is synonymous with that of a politician rather than a priest. Since his excommunication from the mainstream Anglican Church, the Church of the Province of Central Africa (CPCA) over five years ago, the so-called bishop has been persecuting his rivals, chasing them away from church properties and churches. Most



of these churches are now being rented out as private schools, pre-schools and any such activities like sewing.

When the matter was brought before the courts, it was directed that the two factions share the use of the properties but Kunonga has defied the court order with the support of the police and Zanu PF.

Last weekend, he held his commemorations at Bernard Mizeki Shrine where the martyr disappeared in 1896. CPCA members are barred from visiting the palace in defiance of the court order and will remember the saint at a gathering to be held at Marondera showground this weekend.

CPCA members have been persecuted and accused of supporting the MDC.

## Zanu PF thugs face 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 accomplices, Stephen Sikini, Noah Sibanda, and Tafara Hove were jailed to 11 months each after they were found guilty of political violence.

Chadzamira and Moyo attacked two MDC women, Plaxedes Chadiwa and Kudzanai Nyadzawo after they attended 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. Machetes and iron bars were used in the attack leading to the hospitalization of the victims at a local hospital.

The accomplices, Sibanda, Sikini and Hove led by one Chadzamira, a war veteran visited Reuben Banda who is MDC Sanyati District youth

chairperson and attacked him with an iron bar on the forehead for attending 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 abduct Josiah Shumba 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 Chida welcomed the conviction and sentence of the hooligans.

"Jail terms given to Chadzamira and his accomplices are a lesson to Zanu PF members who behave like thugs and claim they can take the law into their own hands. A signal 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.



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.