The MDC policy conference held from 17 to 19 May at the Jubilee Centre in Bulawayo. It was attended by a strong crowd of over 30,000 people.

The conference was held under the theme: "Towards Real Transformation" and was attended by the national standing committee, National Executive, National Council and all Provincial Executive committee members.

The conference saw delegates deliberating and scrutinising the party’s Agenda for Real Transformation (ART) policy document, which outlines how the MDC will govern when it wins the next elections.

The successful, colourful and well-attended conference was graced by delegates from all the provinces and the national leadership.

Addressing the capacity crowd, President Tsvangirai said the MDC was very confident of winning the elections, which he predicted will be held before 30 October.

There are things that need to be done. We need to have reforms before elections," he said.

The President promised to overhaul the governing regime created by Zanu PF and its leader Robert Mugabe and ensure a free society after winning the upcoming general elections.

President Tsvangirai assured the people that the next MDC government would ensure that the lives of the people were improved and that the rule of law is upheld.

"The governance culture must change from a centralised one man rule impunity, violence, discriminatory, unequal- that society is gone and it's gone for ever," he said.

"The state in Zimbabwe has behaved in an aggressive and predatory manner towards its citizens. That has to stop. People must not be afraid of their leaders. I think a good leader must be loved, not feared."

"The greatest security you can provide for yourself are your own people. The greatest security is when a leader is confident that he is loved by his own people."

President Tsvangirai said as the next President of Zimbabwe, he will personally oversee the plight of the country’s workers as the MDC was not “anti-labour.” He said that under Zanu PF, some trade unions were-COFALPF and the MDC would ensure that workers received their dues so that the people of Zimbabwe will “not fear their soldiers and policemen.”

"We will need justice in this country as well as national healing. The goal of security under Zanu PF was to perpetuate their rule against domestic resistance and seek to undermine the freedom of political choices," said the president.

He said in the next MDC government, there will be a need to free those who committed atrocities and to tell the truth and the truth will set them free adding that the new Constitution and new MDC policy, "will restore dignity to the people."

On Zanu PF indigenisation and empowerment policy, President Tsvangirai castigated the policy saying it was elitist and lacked transparency in the distribution of wealth in the country.

“We will create empowerment laws for the majority of the people of Zimbabwe. We cannot do a small c Breaking the existing wealth so we have to create a bigger cake," said President Tsvangirai.

"Every Zimbabwean must be able to point out that they benefitted from this or that programme," he said.

It was obvious that with the high numbers that attended Sunday’s rally that the people of Zimbabwe are going to vote for the MDC an overwhelming numbers. Their faith in democracy and a better Zimbabwe is still intact in the MDC.

President Tsvangirai was accompanied by his wife, Mrs Elizabeth Tsvangirai, members of the national standing committee, national executive, national council, ministers, MPs and councillors.

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