



The Real Change Times

Movement for Democratic Change

A Party of Excellence!

The Official Mouthpiece of the MDC

Tuesday 27 July

MDC Information & Publicity Department, Harvest House, 44 Nelson Mandela Ave, Harare, Zimbabwe Issue 045: 2010

Zim/EU reengagement talks: The facts

- EU demands full implementation of GPA
- Pledges 120 million Euros to Zimbabwe
- Sets benchmarks for lifting restrictive measures
- Zanu PF delegates snub meetings

HARARE - The European Union has told a high-powered Zimbabwe delegation to fully implement the global political agreement before restoring full ties with the Western bloc.

Speaking exclusively to *The Real Change Times* on Monday after leading a high powered ministerial delegation on re-engagement with the European Union to Brussels, Hon. Elton Mangoma, who is also the new Energy and Power Development minister, said the EU was unequivocal in demanding that Zanu PF fulfils its end of the bargain in fully implementing the GPA which it voluntarily inked.

"During the meeting, it was clearly articulated that Zimbabwe should fully implement the GPA, uphold democracy, human rights and the rule of law," he said.

The GPA was signed by the three main political parties in September 2008. However, nearly two years after the signing of the pact, the MDC has expressed concern at the snail pace on its full implementation.

Outstanding issues in the GPA include the swearing in of MDC Treasurer-General, Senator Roy Bennett as deputy Agriculture minister, the unilateral appointment of the Attorney-General, Johannes Tomana and the re-appointment of Gideon Gono as the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor.

Although the EU acknowledged that they had been some progress made in the country since the formation of the inclusive government in February 2009, the bloc however felt that Zimbabwe had not done enough in the full implementation of the GPA and respecting the rule of law.

"The EU said it was worried by the lack of progress in Zimbabwe and it continues to receive hordes of letters from individuals and civil society groups protesting human rights violations in Zimbabwe citing the case of the harassment of WOZA members and recently, on the case of Mr. (Farai) Maguwu," Hon. Mangoma said.

Maguwu the director for Mutare-based Centre for Research and Development was jailed for more than a month last month after exposing rampant theft of diamonds and human rights abuses by State actors at Chiadzwa diamond fields.

Hon Mangoma said the EU had clearly stated that the restrictive measures would be progressively lifted to match progress on the ground.

Hon. Mangoma said the progress that was noted was on the economic achievements in Zimbabwe, the relative peace prevailing in the country and the



Hon Elton Mangoma

Constitution-making process, which is underway.

Minister Mangoma was accompanied by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Simbarashe Mumbengegwi; Priscilla Misihairambwi-Mushonga the Regional Integration and International Cooperation minister; and Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Patrick Chinamasa. The delegation met with members from the EU Council and European commissioners.

The EU members told the Zimbabwe delegation that Zanu PF politicians who had been placed on restrictive measures should write to the European Court appealing against the decision.

"The EU has come up with a provision that the persons and companies on the list can apply to the authorities of individual EU member states to get authorisation to access the frozen assets to pay for basic and other needs," Hon Mangoma said.

"They can request the council with supporting documentation justifying why the council decision to put them on the list should be reconsidered and they can also challenge the council decision to include them on the list before the General Court of the EU."

They also have the right to approach the EU personally and say why they should not be removed from the restrictive measures, Mangoma said. This, the Zimbabwean delegation was told, can be done at anytime.

During the meetings, the EU also made a pledge to disburse more than 120 million Euros to Zimbabwe. For accountability and transparency, the money would be disbursed through the multi donor trust fund, not the central bank.

However, the EU team was shocked by the lack of commitment to dialogue shown by certain officials from Zanu

PF, who regularly boycotted meetings. Mumbengegwi and the Foreign Affairs permanent secretary, Joey Bimha failed to attend several meetings, much to the chagrin of their MDC colleagues.

Because of this negative attitude from the Zanu PF camp, the Zimbabwe delegation was told to come up with a roadmap showing commitment in fully implementing the GPA and respecting human rights.

The roadmap should have clear signposts on what the country would like to achieve with indicative dates on implementation.

"The roadmaps with clear benchmarks are intended to reflect on the Zimbabwe side the effective implementation of the GPA and on the EU side the lifting of the current restrictions and the normalisation of the EU - Zimbabwe relations," said Hon. Mangoma.

"As clearly shown by Zanu PF's attitude during the visit to Brussels, the MDC is seriously concerned by the lack of commitment on the part of Zanu PF in fully implementing the GPA," Hon Mangoma said.

He said the MDC remained fully committed to the re-engagement negotiations with the international community despite attempts by other partners in the inclusive government to scuttle the dialogue.

"The MDC's view is that key to have these restrictive measures eased, or lifted, is for those in Zanu PF who are resisting progress to implement the commitments, to reform as they agreed to in the GPA," said Hon. Mangoma.

Roll of shame

The Real Change Times continues naming and shaming people who are disrupting the people-driven Constitution Outreach program.

Aqualinah Katsande, Mudzi West MP and notorious Zanu PF apologist, **Lawrence Katsiru** last week on Monday barred police from arresting Zanu PF youths who had assaulted a participant during a Constitution-making outreach meeting in Chikomba West, Mashonaland East province.

Katsiru and Katsande are members of the Constitution Parliamentary Select Committee (Copac) in Mashonaland East province.

Zanu PF youths turned rowdy during a public meeting at Chiwashira business centre on Monday and attacked Anthony Matodza who had just made a contribution.

A report was made at Featherstone police station. However, when the police came to arrest the culprits, Katsiru and Katsande stopped them claiming Zanu PF supporters are immune to arrest.

Saineti Manyika, a village head in Kaziro, Madziva, Shamva North Mashonaland Central province led Zanu PF supporters last week on Monday to disrupt a Constitution Parliamentary Select Committee (Copac) in the area.

During the commotion, the MDC Women Assembly's chairperson for the province, Martha Muronzi was assaulted by the rowdy Zanu PF youths.

The Zanu PF youths were complaining that Muronzi had submitted a written proposal during the meeting and yet the Copac team had not told them they could also do the same.

The Zanu PF youths also said that they should be the only ones who should be allowed to make contributions during the meeting.

Bennett acquittal appeal hearing

HARARE - Zimbabwe's Supreme Court is on Wednesday expected to hear an appeal against the acquittal of Senator Roy Bennett on trumped-up charges of terrorism.

Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku is expected to preside over the appeal, lodged by Attorney General Johannes Tomana, which seeks to overturn the acquittal of Senator Bennett in May.

The hearing will be held in the Chief Justice's chambers. Chris Mutangadura will appear for the State while defense counsel Beatrice

Mtsetwa will represent Bennett. Both lawyers confirmed the hearing will be held in the judge's chambers.

High Court judge Justice Chinembiri Bhunu acquitted Senator Bennett in May after he ruled that the State's prosecution team, led by Tomana, had failed to establish a prima facie case against the former Chimanimani Member of Parliament. The AG applied for leave in the High Court to appeal to the Supreme Court, which leave was granted, culminating in the Wednesday appeal hearing. Tomana argued that the judge had misdirected himself when he acquitted Bennett.

Senator Bennett, who had been on trial since last October on charges of insurgency, banditry, terrorism and sabotage, was arrested in February 2009 while MDC colleagues were being sworn-in as ministers in the inclusive coalition.

The state's case - that Bennett planned to fund a 2006 plot to blow up a major communications link and assassinate key government officials - hinged on e-mails that prosecutors say link him to the crime. But, in the High Court hearing the prosecution suffered a setback when

its chief witness, ex-policeman and arms dealer Peter Hirschmann disowned the e-mails and denied Bennett was involved, resulting in the acquittal. Mutangadura said Justice Bhunu's finding that the emails found on Hirschmann's laptop were inadmissible in court because they were apparently doctored by military intelligence was "outrageous." He went on to state that his arguments had high prospects of success on appeal. But Bennett said he was convinced the Supreme Court will uphold his acquittal.

Together, united, winning, ready for real change!



Zanu PF must stop privatising national hero selection

By Sandra Mutsimba

Respect for national institutions and events and the participation in these national programs and events is core to the question of non-partisan respect for the country's national heroes.

It is an issue recognised by all the parties in the ruling coalition and is enshrined in Article VIII Section 8.1 of the Global Political Agreement (GPA).

Since 1980, Zanu PF has monopolised the selection process and accorded hero status only to its party members in Zimbabwe. The criterion being used to accord hero status in Zimbabwe is questionable. This process has been shrouded in secrecy with party structures and not government institutions solely determining who can benefit from this now thoroughly discredited status.

Many of the so-called liberation heroes have a chequered history of violence and murder, demonstrating the opposite of the ideals of the liberation struggle that Zanu PF so relentlessly harp on. Zanu PF has declared itself heroes of this country and expects Zimbabweans to blindly honour them upon their death. My foot! Unimaginable! Yet this is the sorry case in Zimbabwe today.

What has happened to former Zanu PF leaders, widows of the late so-called heroes and other former freedom fighters? They have been reduced to destitutes, their livelihoods totally destroyed. Because of cronyism so rampant in that dying party, they have been forced to blindly follow Zanu PF policies hook, line and sinker, and in that vein, destroying their individual credibility in the eyes of Zimbabweans.

The war veterans who murdered Patrick Nabanyama in Bulawayo, because of the partisan selection procedure set out by Zanu PF, have been accorded national hero status.

The partisan decision making process used by Zanu PF is based on the



The Heroes' Acre in Harare

discredited and backward notion of 'one - party state' that the party advocated for in the early 1980s and only fell through after vehement opposition from Edgar Tekere - the former Zanu PF -secretary general.

The decision making process is based on Zanu PF structures (cells, wards and districts coordinating committees through to provinces and the central committee up to the politburo) who weigh eligibility on party activism and not contribution to national development.

As a result of this skewed decision making, since independence Zimbabwean heroes are associated with the archaic Zanu PF. And strict compliance and cheerleading is of paramount importance. The party has been quick to strip hero status to formerly 'gallant' sons who would have fallen foul with the former liberation party. Why was neither Ndabaningi Sithole nor Patrick Komba awarded hero status when they contributed incalculably to the liberation movement and later on to the democratization of the country of their birth?

Why are they not heroes? Could this mean that for one to be accorded national hero status, one needs to be a card carrying Zanu PF member? Whoever said Mbuya Nehanda or Sekuru Kaguvi had a Zanu PF membership card? No. These were Zimbabweans fighting universal freedom and democracy, as was the case with Tonderai Ndira and Lookout Masuku. They did not need a Zanu PF party card, for what is it worth, other than protection against unwarranted violence after all?

At the funeral of Lookout 'Mafela' Khalisabantu Vumindaba Masuku, on 12 April 1986, at the Lady Stanley cemetery, Dr Joshua Nkomo said: "He is not being buried at the Heroes' acre. But they can't take away his status as a hero. You don't give a man the status of a hero. All you can do is recognise it. It is his. Yes, he can be forgotten temporarily by the state. But the young people who do research will one day unveil what Lookout has done."

Dr Nkomo's summation says it all. Once this process is subjected to party decision making process, as is the case on the selection of national heroes, then the whole credibility of the process is lost. Zanu PF may rant and rave and try to monopolise this important national event as is usual during this time of the year, but to what end? Do Zimbabweans ever notice this event anymore? No, not at all. That is why Joshua Nkomo's son can stand up today to tell the nation that his father did not wish to be buried at the National Heroes' Acre.

What the inclusive government needs to do is clearly define what a hero is. Set out an all-inclusive process for according hero status on Zimbabweans regardless of whether they participated in the liberation struggle or not. We cannot use participation in the liberation war as the only basis for achieving hero status, otherwise what shall happen when all freedom fighters are past their time on earth. Do we then close the Heroes Acre?

Since the formation of the MDC, the party has lost more than 10 000 cadres in the struggle for democracy; these are as much Zimbabwean heroes as any other before them. These men and women have been murdered by the so called Zanu PF heroes. Joseph Chinotimba has been gloating that he died for this country and must have already identified and engraved his spot at the National Heroes acre, yet we all know what he was up to in Buhera in June 2008.

If the existing selection process allows Zanu PF structures to exclusively plan, organise and run the heroes event, that would be a breach of both the spirit and letter of the GPA, as it goes against the grain of the notion of nation rebuilding as purported by the national healing process currently being propelled by the parties in the inclusive government. There is merit in the MDC's yester year position in refusing to participate in such partisan events until they begin to imbibe the notion of inclusivity. MDC heroes must be eligible for selection with ease. For starters, the core-ministers of home affairs should be made responsible for this year's event.

Songs such as 'Zimbabwe yakawuya neropa', cannot continue to be abused and be used to intimidate Zimbabweans and mobilise others to kill fellow citizens as was the case with Talent Mabika and Chiminya in 2000 or Beta Chokururama, Sheperd Jani and Tonderai Ndira in 2008.

In any case, who said only politicians qualify to be national heroes? Gallant sons and daughters in sports, music, arts and business have equally lifted the national flag high by their achievements in their various disciplines.

Do they need a Zanu PF card first so that they qualify to be heroes or heroines in the country of their birth?

Sandra Mutsimba is an information officer in the Department of Information and Publicity in the MDC. She can be contacted at sandrmuts@yahoo.com

Letters to the Editor

MDC is a people's project

Dear editor

I write this letter to comment about the good work you have done so far in the turnaround of our nation.

The cabinet reshuffle, its very nature and implementation, was not wrong. At a school the head shuffles his/her teachers any time when need arise and this is good. But now because it is a political party especially MDC, they are now saying its tribalism and power struggle within the party. This is wrong.

Zanu PF is the mother of tribalism. They initiated the Gukurahundi - genocide in 1982. And Zanu PF thinks that the people of Matabeleland feel rejected just because Mahlangu- a strong youth leader in the MDC, whose energy and leadership was being sucked by the vampire Kasukuwere, was redeployed to the party. I think the Herald and Zanu PF should stop this divide and rule tactic and let Zimbabweans be.

We are one nation, one people with a common goal, and the MDC does not look at the colour, face or anything of that nature - it is the leadership of the people.

Mr President, we will continue to support you. We want you as our leader.

From what we have seen in government already, though there is a lot of negative energy coming through from the opposition Zanu PF, we now have evidence of your leadership, that you represent the people's needs.

We appreciate the urgency with which you handled the food crisis in the country, now we have food. We have access to medication. Our children are going to school, we can afford to buy clothes for the family, we are happy. Indeed Morgan is more. Indeed, MDC has leadership of excellence. Indeed, we have heard you speak, and we have seen you act.

MDC for leadership. Feel it, it is here-for GOOD!!

Aaron Shoko
Waterfalls.

Viva MDC viva!

Dear Editor

The economic impact of the MDC joining government has been tremendous. The shop shelves are full of food of all sorts, at an affordable price.

Hyperinflation has been tamed, Zimbabwe has witnessed a price stability that has never been seen before since independence. The health and education sector have been revived, load shedding of electricity is now predictable, industrial utilization has improved, service delivery in urban areas is normalizing, the list of achievements is endless.

However, our Zanu PF brothers and sisters are yet to experience the wave of change. They keep on singing about the tired leadership of Mugabe and his cronies, taking advantage of the food Morgan Tsvangirai and his real change team has brought onto their table. Their gyrating dances, emanating for a well fed stomach, and dressed in clothes that, with their Mugabe could have torn with their dances had Morgan Tsvangirai made sure we have good

quality clothes, and not the 'zhing zhongs' we were getting used to.

To the MDC leadership, we are together in mind, united by the same spirit. We won before, we are winning now, and we will indeed win again. Together to the end for sure.

We are feeling your presence.

Hazviperi Mafarachisi
Bindura

We are in the Real change Times indeed!

Dear Editor

It is an honor to write to your paper, the Real change Times. It is in response to the change of name that prompted me to write this letter. Thank you for realizing that though times are changing, we are in the real change times indeed.

Have you seen how many cars are on the road? Have you seen how big people are becoming? Have you noticed how clean and smart our towns and suburbs

are slowly becoming? I have and I am sure a number of people have.

Have you noticed how people are celebrating? People are head over heels in love with the MDC. You are the best leadership we have had since independence. We can not lose you. Come elections, we want to destroy these thugs. Zanu PF itself should just retire. It is an old, tired party with old, tired leaders. They need divine intervention.

I have heard some asking, how do they survive when the good ones die, by the way, even God grieves the death of a sinner. He also wants good people. So pray for them that they are delivered.

Viva MDC, the times for real change are nigh.

Musa M.
Bikita



MDC Constitution principles

PREAMBLE

- The Preamble must acknowledge the supremacy of God, and recognise our diversity.
- It must acknowledge our heroic resistance to slavery, colonialism, racism and domination. It must exalt the brave men and women who sacrificed their lives during the Chimurenga/Imfazwe national liberation struggle and those who have fought to complete the ideals of the liberation struggle.

FOUNDING PRINCIPLES OF THE CONSTITUTION

- Authority of the people; human rights; national unity, peace and stability; democratic principles; rule of law; good governance.

CITIZENSHIP

- The Constitution of Zimbabwe should allow for dual citizenship at the very minimum.
- Citizenship can be attained through residence or marriage.

BILL OF RIGHTS

- The MDC believes in a Constitution with a strong and expanded Bill of Rights. These include the Right to life; Freedom from slavery and forced labour; Right to personal security; Right to personal liberty; Freedom from torture and inhuman or degrading treatment; Freedom from discrimination; Freedom of the press and media; Freedom of speech and expression; Right to language and cultural life; Freedom of assembly and association; equality before the law; fairness in civil proceedings; Right to information; Right to just administrative action; Rights of children that abolish all forms of child labour; Rights of women; Right to property; Right to health care, food, water and social security; Right to education; Right to privacy; Political rights; Worker's rights; Right to a clean environment.
- **Provisions in the Bill of Rights can only be amended through a referendum.**

WOMEN AND GENDER ISSUES

- The Constitution must provide for a Gender Commission whose purpose is to champion political and socio-economic equality between women and men ensuring 50% gender balance and a fair representation of marginalised groups on all constitutional and other governmental bodies.

- All laws, customs and cultures that infringe on the rights of women are must be prohibited.
- Women have the right to affirmative action for the purposes of redressing the imbalances created by history, tradition or custom.

YOUTH

- Anyone between the ages of sixteen (16) and thirty-five (35) must be recognised as a youth.
- The Constitution must provide for an independent, non-partisan and apolitical Youth Council of Zimbabwe appointed by Parliament through interviews.
- There should be a quota system for the youth in Constitutional Commissions. Youth service should not be compulsory.

THE DISABLED

- The State and society must recognise the right of persons with physical, mental or other disabilities to be treated with respect for their dignity as human beings.

MEDIA

- The Media Commission must enhance democracy by promoting and upholding freedom of expression and the unfettered free exchange and availability of information, opinions, and views. The MDC believes in a plural media environment with many media players.

WAR VETERANS

- War veterans should not belong to a political party or be used by any political party to further its interests.
- The Ministry of Defence should have a department to deal with matters of War Veterans.

LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

- The Land Reform is not reversible but has not produced a perfect outcome and therefore there must be a rationalization done by a **Land Commission** through a land audit and a rational form of redistribution.
- The State has a right to acquire land for the public good subject to immediate, just and fair compensation and the unfettered right to approach the Courts in the event of a dispute.
- All natural resources belong to the State but the right to private property must be guaranteed. Communities living adjacent to natural resources should benefit from the use of the same.

EMPOWERMENT

- The MDC believes in broad-based empowerment for the people of Zimbabwe. Empowerment regulations should therefore balance between growing the economy so that more jobs are created, foreign direct investment flows in and capacity is increased.
- Resources such as land and minerals as means of production and empowerment tools must be administered and distributed in a transparent manner which empowers all the people of Zimbabwe.

LABOUR

- The State must endeavour to secure full employment; just, equitable and satisfactory conditions of work, particularly with respect to adequate remuneration, equitable opportunity for promotion, safety at work, maternity leave and rest, leisure, limitation of working hours, periodic holidays with pay and remuneration for public holidays.
- The Constitution must recognise the rights of employers and employees to engage in collective bargaining and, where necessary, to engage in appropriate collective job action to enforce their rights. The Constitution must recognise international labour standards and international labour laws should be incorporated into domestic laws.

RELIGION

- Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, which includes freedom of thought, opinion, religion or belief; freedom to change their thought, opinion, religion or belief; and freedom to practise and propagate and give expression to their thought, opinion, religion or belief, whether in public or in private and whether alone or together with others.

SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT

- The Constitution must uphold the fundamental principle of devolution of power to provinces.
- The tiers of government in Zimbabwe should be:
 - a. National government,
 - b. Provincial government headed by an elected Provincial Governor, and
- local authorities- urban councils to represent and manage the affairs of people in urban areas; and rural councils- to represent and manage the affairs of people in rural areas within the districts into which the provinces are divided.

ARMS OF THE STATE

- Executive powers of the State should reside in the President, the Prime Minister and the Cabinet.
- The President should be elected directly by the people. The President appoints a Prime Minister from the Party commanding a majority in Parliament. The Constitution must allow for **ONE** Vice President.
- No person holding the office of President and Prime Minister should do so for more than two five year terms.
- Parliament may impeach and remove the President from office by at least two-thirds of the full membership of both Houses at a joint sitting.
- With leave from the High Court or Supreme Court after a person has left office as President or Prime Minister, civil or criminal proceedings may be instituted against that person.
- The election of a President must take place not more than ninety days before the expiry of the normal life of a Parliament; If the President dies, resigns or is removed from office, the Vice President assumes office as Acting President for not more than ninety days before a President is elected.

INDEPENDENT COMMISSIONS

- These institutions are independent, and subject only to the Constitution and the law; they must be impartial and must exercise their powers and perform their functions without fear, favour or prejudice.
- Constitutional Commissions to be established are: **Media Commission; Independent Electoral Commission; Human Rights Commission; Anti-Corruption Commission; Land Commission; Truth and Justice Commission; Gender Commission.**

PUBLIC FINANCE

- Must be managed in a transparent manner and Parliament must have oversight over the same.
- The office of the Auditor-General must be an independent office set up in terms of the Constitution.
- There must be an independent financial Public Protector to oversee government finances and to receive reports about the handling of funds.
- All receipts into the State and all expenditures must be put in the

Consolidated Revenue Fund which is controlled and governed by Parliamentary approval and oversight.

- There must be an independent Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe whose sole mandate is the determination of monetary policy and inflation targeting as defined by Treasury.
- The Governor to the RBZ must be a technocrat and financial expert appointed by Parliament purely on financial competence, expertise and experience.

ORGANS OF THE STATE

- Appointment of persons to these bodies must be done by the President with the advice from the Prime Minister with the approval of Parliament and must be based on their experience in administration, professional qualifications, general suitability for appointment and experience. These persons must be apolitical, impartial and non-partisan.
- **The Defence Forces of Zimbabwe** - The primary function of the Defence Forces is to defend and protect Zimbabwe, its people, its Constitution, its national security and interests and its territorial integrity. The Defence Forces cannot be used to further political party interests.
- **The Public Service** is responsible for the administration of the country. The Secretary to the President, Prime Minister and Cabinet and Permanent Secretaries must be appointed by the President with the advice of the Prime Minister and the Public Service Commission and with the approval of Parliament.
- **The Prison Service** is responsible for - the administration of prisons in Zimbabwe and the protection of society from criminals through the incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders and their re-integration into society.
- **The Police Service** is responsible for - detecting, preventing and investigating crime; preserving internal security; maintaining public order; protecting and securing the inhabitants of Zimbabwe and their property; and upholding and enforcing the Constitution and the law without fear or favour. The Police Force cannot be used to further political party interests.
- **The Judicial Service**- the MDC believes that there should be an independent Judicial Service Commission responsible for the appointment of Judges following public interviews by Parliament.

Local Government Forum

Rusape Town poised for real change

RUSAPE – The MDC-led Rusape Town Council has embarked on an anti-corruption drive that will go a long way in boosting the town's coffers and improve service delivery.

Speaking to the *Real Change Times* on Tuesday, Rusape Town Council, chairperson and Ward 5 Councillor Kidwell Gomana, said when the council assumed office in 2008, corruption was rampant in the previous Zanu PF-led council.

This forced the new MDC-led council to fire the town secretary, the town engineer, the internal audit clerk and the finance director as they were implicated in serious theft of council resources.

"After we fired the town clerk, the finance director and suspending the entire finance department, we were able to put proper systems in place and money became available for council projects," said Clr Gomana.

According to the chairperson, the then finance department had not been following the council financial systems, taking money without following correct procedures, prompting the councillors to investigate the employees, which led to their dismissal.

"When we came into office we made our own investigations, which

revealed that the finance department was not following proper financial procedures, awarding themselves astronomical salaries without council approval and fraudulently withdrawing council money from the banks," said Clr Gomana.

Rusape in Manicaland province is located along the Harare - Mutare highway and is easily accessible by road and railway.

However, Clr Gomana said the bringing in of a new transparent and efficient council in Rusape was being hampered by the Local Government, Rural and Urban Development minister, Ignatius Chombo, who was interfering in the day to day operations of the council.

Through the district administrator (DA), Cosmas Chiringa, a civil servant who is also Zanu PF's secretary for Manicaland Province, Chombo has been seconding Zanu PF apologists to position of the town secretary. The previous town secretary Albert Njubo was fired for corruption.

"We were surprised to see a letter from Chombo directing us to appoint one Museka as the acting town secretary. Museka is the deputy DA who is not only unqualified but does not hold any 'O' Level certificate," said the council chairperson.

Recently Chombo appointed a five man delegation to investigate alleged corruption taking place in Rusape Town Council. The investigation team led by Erica Jones claimed they had

received a letter signed by two unnamed residents complaining about poor service delivery by the town council.

"The investigating team did not have any clear terms of reference and they claimed a letter was written and signed by two unnamed residents complaining that there was poor service delivery yet we have more than 75 000 residents who are happy about our service delivery," said Clr Gomana.

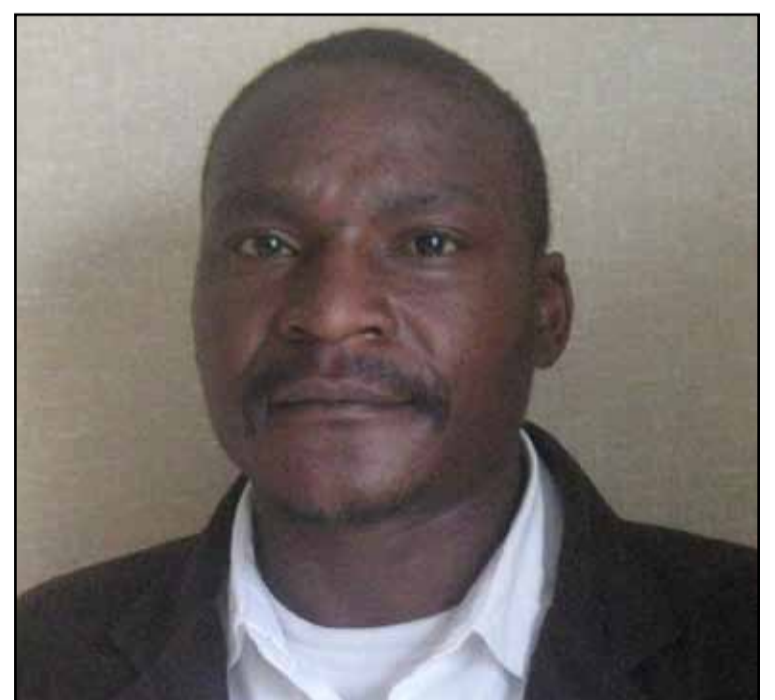
The town has a population of more than 75 000 residents and 10 MDC councillors, including the three special interest councillors appointed by Chombo.

The special interest councillors are from Zanu PF and were defeated by the MDC councillors in the March 2008 harmonised elections.

During its term in office, the council has managed to buy a grass cutting tractor and two generators in case of power cuts.

The council has also purchased a public address system for entertainment at the council beer hall in Vengere, a water pump, repaired all the street lights, bought a refuse collection tractor and repaired the other two tractors that had broken down.

"We used to have 20 meter sewage rods but now we have been able to buy 800m rods. Because of this we no longer have any sewage problems that were dogging the town for some time. Not only have we managed the sewer systems, we



Rusape Town Council, chairperson and Ward 5 Councillor Kidwell Gomana

have also patched the potholes that had become a menace in our town," added Clr Gomana.

The council has since engaged the international organization, UNICEF to help out in rehabilitating its water and sewer system in the town.

The programme aims to strengthen the capacity of Rusape Town Council to provide access to potable water and

environmental sanitation for the 75 000 people through improved water treatment plants facilities and restoration of sewer and water networks.

It will also improve the capacity of water technicians by training them on basic processes of water treatment, monitoring and maintenance practices for water systems.

Widow recounts husband's brutal murder

GOKWE – A distraught widow has spoken of how militant Zanu PF thugs brutally murdered her husband, a well-known MDC activist, while she watched.

Isaka Zindere, born 6 August 1968 passed on on 18 August 2008 of injuries sustained from assault by known Zanu PF youth in Gokwe Gumunyu, ward 19.

Speaking to *The Real Change Times* on the sidelines of the unveiling of the tombstone of Zindere, Sara Tarwirei (30) the widow, said her husband sustained grave injuries after he was brutally assaulted in June. He failed to get urgent medical attention, and died. The Heal Zimbabwe trust bankrolled the memorial service held last Saturday, including the unveiling of a tombstone.

Tarwirei told *The Real Change Times* that in the run up to the June presidential run-off, her husband, then 40, was coming from the Zion men's convention in Defe Dopota, in Gokwe. He unfortunately boarded a bus full of Zanu PF thugs who had been looking for him.

"One of his relative was in the bus, and little did my husband know that he was part of the thugs who had been looking for him. They disembarked at Nyatipanzi, where a Zanu PF base was. They took him to the village head's place, where he was to surrender," said a tearful Tarwirei.

"He was forced to surrender and renounce his MDC membership at the village head Mkungu's place. However they were not satisfied by this as they asked why he had not followed their order to surrender before the March elections.

"They came to our house that very night and ordered me to come out. They said I should lie down, but my daughter cried and they ordered me back in the house. They dragged my husband out of our house and they beat him up," said a shaken Sara.



Sara Tarwirei

Though the beatings took place two years ago, Sara said they are still as vivid.

"From then on he was ill and we were denied any access to medication by our Zanu PF neighbours. My husband was very strong willed, and all he wanted was to survive for the sake of his children. Unfortunately, the injuries sustained were too grave and he did not survive."

The murderers include Wame Wame, Canaan Mwakasha, George Muchanya Munetsi, one Khumbulani, and another one only known as Bingo among others.

She said it was difficult to take care of the children now that her husband is gone.

"Even the cotton we are producing is not doing much, as we are being given US\$0.30 per kilogram. I have four children and it is very difficult to look after them," she said.

They have four children, Genius (10), Chriswell (8), Rodwell (5) and Sostina (3.)

Speaking at the memorial service, MDC Secretary General Hon Tendai Biti said true national healing could only take place if truth telling is part of the process.

"We have so much pain endured at the hands of Zanu PF," Hon Biti said. "We need to let all of that come out; otherwise this nation will know no peace. We need a national healing process that will allow for the truth to

come out so that justice takes place. There can never be healing without truth, justice and compensation," he said.

He said that survivors needed to be compensated if true reconciliation was to take place.

"For our livestock that was looted, we need compensation. For the wounds inflicted on our bodies, we need compensation. Though we may not raise our beloved who died, we still need the families to be taken care of so that their lives can improve, we need compensation, and the government should ensure this," Hon Biti said.

He urged Gokwe residents to fully participate in public hearings on a new Constitution.

"As MDC, we believe in devolution of power, with a provincial government so that development takes place. I noticed you had a good harvest of cotton here, but the road is pathetic. Thirty years after independence and you do not have a reliable transport network. We can not have someone in Harare deciding that there should be a road here, it is a government in Midlands that should be able to take care of these needs," he said.

The Heal Zimbabwe Trust, which was instituted to undertake public memorialisation and victims of violence capacity building projects, also unveiled six other tombstones in Gokwe last week to heroes of real change who perished in the run up to the sham June 27 presidential elections.

ZINASU appeals to govt to help students

HARARE – The Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) has called on the inclusive government to intervene and help suffering students in tertiary institutions to shore up a collapsing education sector.

Speaking in an exclusive interview with *The Real Change Times*, ZINASU president Obert Masaraure said around 60 percent of students had dropped out of tertiary institutions due to exorbitant fees.

"Most of these students are humble sons and daughters of civil servants who earn an average of \$150 per month and are expected to pay on average \$600 per semester, which is going towards lecturers' salaries and tuition," said Masaraure.

The students' union appealed to the inclusive government to revert to the loan and grant system which was previously used. Masaraure said the cadre scheme was selective and oppressive since all beneficiaries were expected to work in the public sector after completion of their studies.

"As a union we demand that the current cadetship scheme be repealed because it is selective and is awarded to those assumed to be of good behavior. The moment you are seen participating in any student movement or fighting for students' rights you are not covered by the scheme," Masaraure said.

Since the formation of the inclusive government, 47 students have been suspended while three have been expelled after taking part in student demonstrations against the exorbitant tuition fees.

"Genuine student leaders continue to be victimized whenever we fight for our rights. We are worried that the principals to the inclusive government when they meet do not discuss issues affecting students. The issue of vice chancellors and principals is cause for concern because they are appointed by Mugabe and are partisan in their duties," said the student leader.

Also of concern is the continued harassment of female students where they have fallen prey to the male lecturers who are demanding sexual



ZINASU president Obert Masaraure

favors in exchange of granting pass marks in their respective subjects.

The student leader indicated that there are more cases of sexual harassment at the tertiary institutions that are being swept under the carpet. He appealed to the responsible authorities to intervene.

The Zinasu president bemoaned the lack of computers and literature in most of the tertiary institutions, citing teachers training colleges as the most affected.

"It is shocking that most institutions do not have computers and yet they have computer education as part of their modules. For example Magamba Training centre in Mutare and Madziva teachers college in Shamva are expected to teach computer lessons when they finish their training yet there are no computers there. Teachers colleges which were transformed into universities are still to get university literature," he said.

Students across the country have also been facing accommodation problems with some resorting to uninhabitable sanctuaries. Halls of residents at the University of Zimbabwe meant to accommodate at least 5692 students were closed in July 2007 and remain closed. Midlands State university has an enrollment of 13 000 students and yet their available accommodation can only cater for 4000 students. The National University of Science and Technology, NUST, accommodates less than 10 percent of its total enrolment, Masaraure complained.

'Violence is a sign of weakness'

HEADLANDS - Violence is a manifestation of failure, an MDC leader told a cheering throng here Sunday. "We have travelled a journey of

unsurpassed persecution, intimidation and suffering at the hands of Zanu PF," MDC secretary general Hon Tendai Biti said.

"Violence is sign of weakness, a manifestation of failure. When you have not failed, you sell your ideas and people will follow you if they subscribe to your ideals, like what you have done with the people's party, the MDC,"

He said that the diamonds in Marange should have benefited the people of Manicaland but alas, the gems were being creamed off by Zanu PF fat cats.

is no compensation from those who committed the atrocious crimes," he said.



Hon Biti slammed Zanu PF's use of violence as a political survival strategy, and said it showed the worsening bankruptcy in that party. Speaking at a councilor's celebration party in Nemairi village in Headlands, Manicaland, the MDC Secretary General said the party wanted real change for the people, adding that a few bus stops would ensure this happens.

"God has a plan for us, plans to prosper and not to harm us, so we should not look back," Hon Biti said.

He said that the first bus stop was the new constitution. He urged supporters to participate in the writing of the new constitution as the draft charter will provide a framework for good governance.

"The new constitution is our first bus stop to a new Zimbabwe. You the people should decide what you want to see happening in this country not a few individuals with selfish motives benefiting from the nation's resources," said Hon Biti.

"You have diamonds here, but you do not even have a tarred road. The schools do not depict a province rich in diamonds. I always tell people that if a person who died in 1960 were to live again, he would not get lost in Harare, because nothing except street names has changed," he said.

He said that the Zanu PF government sidelined the majority on development plans. Hon Biti said many provinces were underdeveloped, yet only one area was expanding.

"Development is only taking place in Zvimba area and yet the nation is suffering. We can not have one area benefiting at the expense of other regions. We want to see real change now," he said.

National healing was a necessary exercise, said the MDC sg.

"We need to highlight our concerns. We need our wounds to heal. We need a platform to speak out the truth of what happened. No healing can take place if the issues are not talked about. If there is no admission of guilt from the perpetrators, we cannot talk about true national healing if there

He said the third bus stop was an election which would ensure the people of Zimbabwe have a real government.

"We want elections, but these elections should have independent observers to ensure there is no repetition of 2008," Hon Biti said.

Speaking at the same function, Makoni North MP and MDC deputy treasurer general Hon Elton Mangoma said the MDC was bringing a different kind of leadership to the people of Zimbabwe.

"We are committed to the cause of the people of Zimbabwe because we are together, we are united and we win in any situation. We are ready for real change," Hon Mangoma said.

He added that the MDC leadership was there to serve the people and will continuously visit them to hear of their concern and also to update them on the goings on.

"We are here for you. We will never leave or forsake you. You have all lost a lot and suffered greatly at the hands of Zanu PF for the sake of a new Zimbabwe. That is what we are all fighting for," he said.

Those who have names of perpetrators of violence during the Constitution Outreach programme 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.