

# PRIME MINISTER

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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## SADC ups pressure

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) has upped pressure on the full implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) and called for the urgent deployment of monitors to work with Zimbabwe's political parties.

The GPA formed the basis for the transitional Government.

In a communiqué issued following debate on the Zimbabwe crisis at a full Summit in Luanda, Angola, last week, the regional bloc tightened screws on President Robert Mugabe and Zanu PF following their intransigence and refusal to abide by the GPA.

SADC called on Mugabe to fully implement the Agreement and to ensure the creation of an environment conducive for free and fair elections through the adoption of a clear road map with timelines and guidelines.

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

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

Prime Minister Tsvangirai (pictured right) told thousands of MDC supporters in Mutare at the weekend that SADC was unrelenting in its drive towards returning Zimbabwe to civilian democratic governance following years of dictatorial iron-fisted rule.

"The whole of SADC is not going back on Zimbabwe. SADC wants to see a new democratic constitution and a referendum before elections. Therefore, there will be no elections this year," Prime Minister Tsvangirai said.

"SADC has said elections in Zimbabwe must be held in line with regional electoral guidelines. The regional bloc's member states will send monitors to work with JOMIC to monitor the full implementation of the GPA. SADC also refused to endorse Zanu PF's request to remove (South African) President

Jacob Zuma from being Facilitator. The regional bloc commended President Zuma for the sterling work he is doing in Zimbabwe," the Premier said.

"All this means that the next election must be free, fair and legitimate," he added.

Mugabe has converted the military into a backbone as his party has fast lost legitimacy and support. The party has resorted to violence and intimidation of opponents including abductions, murders and wanton arrests of competitors on spurious charges.

That party has engaged in a spirited campaign to harass ministers, MPs and supporters of Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's MDC.

Zimbabweans in general have been under siege from a section of the military, the police, a partisan Attorney General and from Zanu PF militants for having ensured that Prime Minister Tsvangirai walloped Mugabe in 2008 elections.

Since then, Zimbabwe has seen the closure of democratic space with the military deploying dubious characters such as Brigadier Douglas Nyikayaramba to the rural areas to intimidate and harass villagers for having exercised their democratic right.

As the military increases its presence in the rural areas, Augustine Chihuri's police have engaged in a two-pronged approach to curtail the MDC.

The police have engaged in dedicated effort to arrest and detain without cause ministers and supporters of the MDC and civil society activists while refusing to arrest known militants from Zanu PF who have committed odious crimes.

The discredited Attorney General, Johannes Tomana, who himself is an outstanding issue, has applied the law selectively. The controversial Tomana has caused the arrest of civil society and MDC activists while refusing to prosecute known Zanu PF supporters

who have committed various crimes ranging from murder to corruption.

For instance, Tomana and Chihuri have not acted on Zanu PF militants who violently stormed parliament during the public hearing on the Human Rights Commission Bill.

These are just but some of the glaring weaknesses that SADC wants Zimbabwe to deal with.

SADC wants the full implementation of the GPA which includes de-politicising the military and the police, and professionalising the AG's office which has become a willing and active appendage of Zanu PF. To help democratise the key institutions ahead of elections, SADC reiterated the need to urgently send monitors to work with the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) and evaluate the progress of reforms.



## Parly to debate security sector

The re-alignment of the security sector has become fundamental and Parliament will be debating the critical motion during the coming session of the August house, Chief Whip Innocent Gonese has said.

The Fourth Session of the Seventh Parliament will be officially opened on Tuesday 6 September.

Gonese told the Newsletter that the re-alignment of the security sector motion raised by Mbizo MP Settlement Chikwinya will be "restored" on the order paper. He said security sector re-alignment had become critical and therefore the motion was important.

"As you know Parliament is a theatre of political activity and we urge our members to actively participate in the democratic re-alignment agenda," said Gonese.

"We shall be restoring the motion by Hon Chikwinya on security sector re-alignment

because we believe that it has now become an important issue of concern," he added.

Head of Government business, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has stated that the re-alignment of the security sector had become "fundamental" due to the interference by some individuals in the security establishment.

Prime Minister Tsvangirai told the Newsletter that some few misguided elements among the security establishment have taken a political position making unconstitutional statements that undermine the Global Political Agreement (GPA) which is the backbone for the transitional Government.

A section of the military has been blamed for instituting heinous crimes against defenseless Zimbabweans, with some misguided senior military personnel threatening to usurp civilian rule even after elections. Said Prime Minister Tsvangirai: "The past few years have seen the deployment of some members of the

army into the villages to brutalise and attack innocent civilians on the basis of their political affiliation. It is international best practice that the army should confine itself to the barracks and leave politics to politicians. As leaders, we have no reason to be fighting our national institutions if they are performing their national duty. But we naturally take umbrage at the militarisation of our politics and the politicisation of the military."

Debate on Hon. Chikwinya's motion was suspended to the 4<sup>th</sup> Session of Parliament.

Another motion that will be restored on Parliament's Order Paper is the one on Transitional justice and national healing.

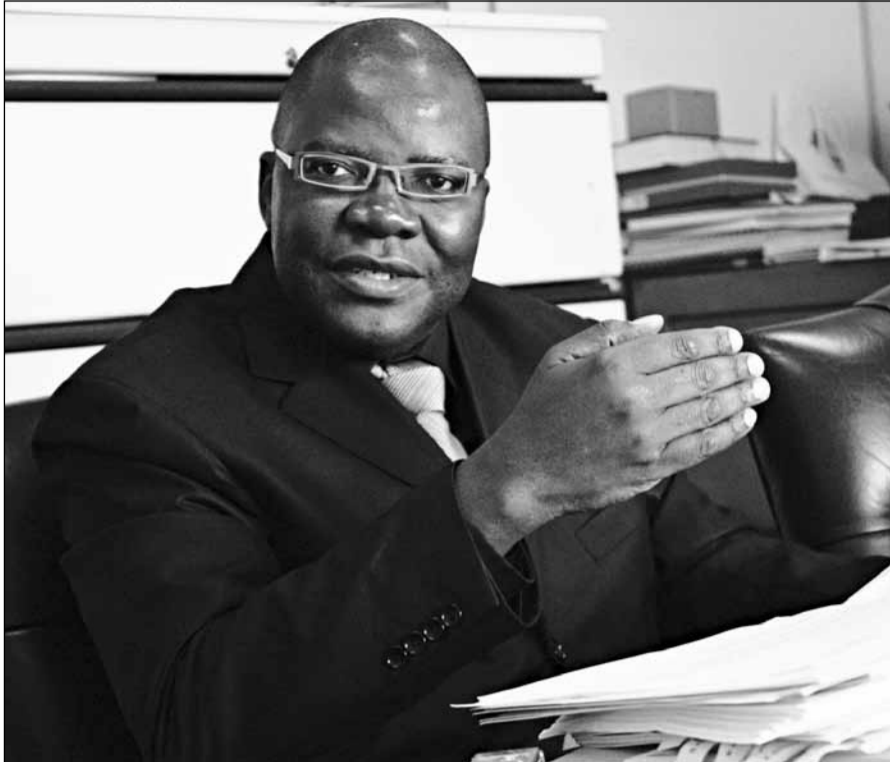
Gonese said the amendments to the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) will also be restored on the Order Paper. Amendments to POSA failed in the Senate after Justice and Legal Affairs Minister, Patrick Chinamasa said the issue was being handled by negotiators in

the GPA. Some of the bills expected during the next Session of Parliament include the Human Rights Commission Bill and the Electoral Laws Amendment Bill both of which are coming for Second Reading.

Gonese said: "Public hearings on the Human rights Commission Bill were conducted and although there were disruptions to some of the meetings, the committee on Justice, Legal, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs received contributions which will be presented in the committee's report. The same committee will conduct public hearings on the Electoral Amendment Bill and will present its report to Parliament after that."

True to their violent nature, Zanu PF militants disrupted public hearings on the Human Rights Commission Bill. The militants besieged Parliament building and disturbed public hearings on the Bill and attacked MPs and passers-by outside Parliament.

# Price hikes fuel inflation



Food price hikes have fuelled annual inflation to 3.3 percent in July, Finance Minister Tendai Biti (pictured left) has said.

Addressing journalists in Harare on Tuesday, Biti said inflation, which was contained below 3% during the second quarter of 2011, is gaining momentum, rising to 3.3% by July 2011, against 2.9% recorded in the months of May and June 2011.

Similarly, month on month inflation for July was 0.3%, implying an increase by 0.1% from the June levels of 0.2%.

“The high July inflation was mainly on account of food price increases and to some extent, some non-food items, particularly detergents and hotel accommodation and catering services, whose inflation rates were at 3.56% and 3.13% respectively,” said Biti.

Products in the food basket, which recorded price increases from the previous month, were mealie-meal by 22c, white sugar (5c), salt (3c), onions (20c), and beef (10c). Non food products, which recorded price increases, were bath soap, washing bars and powder, gas as well as hotel accommodation and catering services.

“These are worrisome developments, which if not addressed will reverse the gains made on overall macro-

economic stabilization,” the Finance Minister said. On the other hand, the cost of transport, education, rentals and utilities remained constant.

Biti said Government will continue to “closely monitor overall price developments also focusing on the impact of duty reinstatement on selected imported basic commodities effected in the 2011 Mid-Year Fiscal Policy Review Statement of July 26, 2011”. These include rice, maize, maize meal, flour, cooking oil and salt.

Treasury reinstated duty on some basic and other food commodities in an effort to enhance the capacity, productivity, viability and competitiveness of local producers, translating into a win-win situation for both producers and consumers in the Mid Term budget statement.

“I am therefore urging local producers to reciprocate Government support by refraining from unethical, speculative and rent seeking activities, but rather take advantage of such dispensations to improve productivity,” said Minister Biti.

“Government will not hesitate to take appropriate action in protection of the general consumers where such positive dispensations to local producers are abused,” he added.

## Fight for your rights-PM

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has urged workers not to delegate the fight for their rights to politicians and to instead push for democratic space in which they can enjoy their privileges enshrined in the Constitution.

While the Premier is “personally not happy with the state of our economy especially with regards to our failure to create jobs”, he said the lack of improvement of workers conditions was a direct result of “our toxic and poisonous politics”.

“I am equally unhappy with our failure to decisively address the working conditions of the Government’s patriotic work-force: the civil servants. Because of my background as a trade unionist, I am certainly not happy to be part of a Government that fails to adequately pay its workers even though the issue of ghost workers and non-transparent sales of our diamonds have led to our failure to remunerate them to their satisfaction,” Prime Minister Tsvangirai told the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) Congress last Friday.

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

The lack of a shared vision in the transitional Government has been highlighted by the announcement of dubious policies that are not consistent with economic development by junior ministers from Zanu PF.

Youth and Indigenisation Minister Savior Kasukuwere who has pre-occupied himself with making futile attempts to seize other people’s businesses and properties, leads the Zanu PF zealots bent on destroying the gains that the Prime Minister has brought since he formed the transitional Government.

The Premier told the ZCTU Congress that he has traversed the country’s provinces and visited many factories and industries, particularly those industries that made life tick in some of our major cities and towns.

Textile industries, mines and major conglomerates have basically died with disastrous consequences to the workers and the towns where those industries are located.

Kadoma, Chegutu, Bulawayo and other major cities and towns risk complete de-industrialisation if Government does not play its part to resuscitate industry and create employment.

Prime Minister Tsvangirai said such conditions make it pertinent that workers take up their role in championing the opening up of democratic space in which business can flourish. The workers are the only ones who can guarantee a constant check

on politics and politicians to ensure continued commitment to the values of the liberation struggle and the collective struggle for true democracy and freedom in Zimbabwe. “You must not be apologetic in fighting for your rights because

if you do so, you may lose the gains that you may have gained as workers due to bad laws that inhibit the enjoyment of the profits reaped at the workplace. You are an important cog in the social dialogue and therefore take your

rightful place confidently and fight for your rights. Do not therefore delegate your responsibility- that of championing change at the workplace and in the governance of your country - to politicians,” according to the Prime Minister.

## ‘Stop bastardizing heroes’

The privatisation of the heroes’ day commemorations is demeaning to the great sons and daughters of Zimbabwe and an affront to their national contribution, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has said.

Speaking following the burial of the people’s hero, Rtd General Solomon Tapfumanei Mujuru who died in a suspicious fire at his Beatrice Farm, the Prime Minister said attempting to confine the sacrifice by genuine war veterans of Rtd General Mujuru’s caliber to Zanu PF is mortifying the cause by the gallant fighters.

Prime Minister Tsvangirai said the late army general, whose war and leadership credentials speak for themselves, was in a class of his own.

“It is very rare for someone to be regarded as hero by the people. You do not need a Zanu PF politburo to confer hero status on you. It is the people who bestow that recognition. People thronged the heroes acre to bury Mujuru like never before showing that the struggle for people’s freedom is not a private affair and neither is it a political party affair,” said Prime Minister Tsvangirai.

Prime Minister Tsvangirai said privatising the selection of candidates for hero status was “bastardising” the sacrifices by the people.

“It is demeaning to the great sons and daughters of this land; indeed an affront to their national contribution, to give the impression that their sacrifice should be the narrow and parochial possession of Zanu PF, the MDC, ZAPU or Mavambo. So this great day cannot be privatised by any political party.

The MDC’s national council, the Zanu PF politburo or any organ of any party cannot bastardise a great national day such as this one to be a day of cheap rhetoric and sloganeering; a day of name-calling and politicking,” the Prime Minister said.

The Premier challenged his partner in Government President Robert Mugabe to now focus on the future and not “drive the nation while looking backwards”.

“But we must now move Zimbabwe forward. The fight for democracy was a passing phase we can no longer survive on that alone. How are you able to satisfy the people’s aspirations moving forward,” said Prime Minister Tsvangirai.

Zanu PF has remained adamant that the consideration for hero status must be based on war credentials as chronicled by the ageing party. In its quest for the privatisation of the recognition of Zimbabwe’s heroes, the fast decaying fractured political party has bestowed hero status on questionable characters while ignoring deserving candidates from various other disciplines.

“But there are also millions of unsung heroes and heroines of our painful national story; the ordinary men and women in places such as Nkayi, Bubi, Mandizudzure, Chimanimani, Muzarabani, Mukumbura, Mudzi and Nyamaropa who fought our war of liberation. These were ordinary villagers who played a pivotal part in the attainment of independence,” Prime Minister Tsvangirai said.

“They have received neither adequate compensation nor recognition over the years. They simply did it for the country and for future generations.

They simply did it so that every Zimbabwean could taste the true essence of freedom and the return of collective national dignity. Yes, they did it for Zimbabwe and all of its people; regardless of race, colour, creed or political affiliation,” he added.

## No to company seizures

Zimbabweans should be capacitated to participate in economic affairs but should not be turned into illegal property-grabbers, the Premier has said.

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, a proponent for human rights and people’s empowerment, told a capacity crowd at Sakubva stadium in Mutare on Sunday that there is nothing wrong with empowering people and in sharing wealth but “what is wrong is grabbing what some other people are building”.

The Prime Minister’s message comes in the wake of Indigenisation and Power Development Minister, Savior Kasukuwere’s attempts to Nicodemously sanction the seizure of companies. Kasukuwere’s indigenisation policy, put on hold following the Prime Minister’s vehement opposition to the policy, has been blamed for the demise of business.

“I have been around the country and have noticed that companies are closing making our children redundant as a result of a policy

that is ill-timed and is intended to destroy the goose that is laying the egg,” said Prime Minister Tsvangirai.

“We say no to empowerment that is based on Zanu PF patronage. We want our people to participate in the economy and therefore let us create facilities for our people to become active participants. This plan to seize companies and properties is not empowerment.

The indigenisation policy has also led to investor flight at a time

when Zimbabwe needs a fresh injection of capital.

“Who will invest in a country where the government is threatening to take over business? We do not subscribe to the Zanu PF approach to empowerment.

“We do not subscribe to the principle of disenfranchising other people through statutory instruments that are ill-advised because this will cause more unemployment and poverty,” the Premier said.

# Fare thee well, General Mujuru

By Luke Tamborinyoka

The white Mazda 323 left a trail of black soot in its wake as it meandered up the vlei from Shamva into Bindura, the capital of Mashonaland Central province.

My two companions and I kept our thoughts to ourselves as we pondered over our safety in this volatile province where everything and anyone not directly associated with Zanu PF was considered an “enemy”.

We were still counting our fortunes that so far, we had survived overzealous party *apparatchiks* who mounted “roadblocks” and vetted every visitor into Mashonaland Central.

Throughout the journey, we had used our own ingenuity to sweet-talk our way past Zanu PF youths who manned these roadblocks and it was by some stroke of luck that finally, we were in Bindura.

The year was 2001 and I was still living my other life as a journalist.

***“But the race to succeed Gezi had become so hot that Zanu PF activists had murdered the MDC candidate’s brother, Matthew Pfebve, at their rural home in Mt Darwin in a tragic case of mistaken identity”***

To date, I am still not sure what would have been had these youths discovered that we were reporters from **The Daily News**, then considered an “unpatriotic” publication.

By then, brave journalism was really a hard-hat area.

But still we made it into Bindura in one piece.

There were three of us, senior political reporter Sandra Nyaira (now with a foreign-based radio station), Aaron Ufumeli (now chief photographer for Alpha Media Holdings) and myself, then a political reporter.

We were making our way into volatile Bindura to cover a by-election following the tragic death of Border Gezi, the MP for the area who was also the Zanu PF national commissar.

That by-election had generated great interest amongst all and sundry, not least because of the violence in the area, but because of the impending electoral battle between Elliot Manyika (Zanu PF) and Elliot Pfebve (MDC).

We in the media had dubbed this by-election: **“The Battle of the Elliots”**

But the race to succeed Gezi had become so hot that Zanu PF activists had murdered the MDC candidate’s brother, Matthew Pfebve, at their rural home in Mt Darwin in a tragic case of mistaken identity.

As the three of us made our way into Bindura, we were very much aware of the blistering political temperature in the area.

The fact that we were reporters from the troublesome **Daily News** appeared to worsen our predicament.

So we pitched up at a restaurant and found fellow journalists from the public media in the company of senior Zanu PF officials and an unfamiliar lady, then the chief spook at the local Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) offices in Bindura.

Our colleagues pretended they did not even know us. It appeared it was even dangerous to speak to us.

General Mujuru passed by, greeted us and took us to his apartment in Bindura town.



As we partook to whisky which he had given us, he personally took to the stove and began preparing *sadza* for us.

It was an unforgettable three hours that we spent in this apartment, which he said the Vice President did not know about. (Amai Mujuru was still an ordinary MP for Mt Darwin).

A few months before, we had covered a story in which the good General had barred Joseph Chinotimba and his team from campaigning for the Zanu PF candidate in Chikomba.

***“Vanokuuraya vanhu veZanu ava”***

We asked him why and his answer was simple.

“These guys believe in violence. They are going around preaching violence and beating up people in the country. I cannot have those guys beating up people in my own home area. Over my dead body,” he said in his trademark stammer.

*“Ndakamuudza Chinotimba kuti ndikakuona kuChikomba ndinokurova magadziko.”* (I told Chinotimba that if I ever see you in Chikomba, I will beat up your bum).

Twenty-one years after independence, the good General was still a soldier.

*Magadziko* was war diction and I chuckled to myself that the good General’s lingo was still largely plucked from that chapter of our painful national story. Maybe it was because this language represented a phase and an era that defined him and his character.

He spoke about political violence and the succession intrigue that continues to dog Zanu PF to this day.

He spoke about his daughters and how he loved them. In fact, so he told us, when one of his son-

in-laws turned up with a herd of cattle to pay his lobola, he had told him to give the *mombes* to his grandson, the son-in-law’s own son.

He spoke about the public media and their irresponsible journalism.

I was on my second glass of whisky when he said to me: *“Ta Ta Tamborinyoka. Wava paglass rechipiri. Ndosaka dzimwe nguva muchizotinyepera mumapepa menyu umu muchiti rally yeMDC yanga iine vanhu 10 000 ivo vari 50.”* (You are now on your second glass! That is why sometimes in your paper you say 10 000 people turned up at MDC rally when the actual figure is a mere 50)

Nyaira and Ufumeli laughed. It was then that Ufumeli thought of taking a picture of the good General for our library.

*“Siyana nazvo munin’ina. Handidi zvekubuda mumanevaper ini,”* he said.

It is not too often that you meet a decorated soldier and still feel at ease, but General Mujuru was hewn from a unique stone.

We were to meet years later, this time in my new life of politics. I had just come out of prison on trumped up charges of terrorism when he told me to leave politics and go back to journalism.

*“Vanokuuraya vanhu veZanu ava,”* he said, with a detached spirit as if he was not a senior member of the party’s Politburo.

***“Though he later became the MP for Chikomba, the lesson he left for the Nyikayarambas of this world is that you must remove the people’s uniform if you want to participate in politics”***

As his casket was lowered at the national shrine, I mused over that ironic comment, especially amid the speculation that he was murdered.

The major question on everyone’s lips was how a hardened soldier who had survived sophisticated artillery in the war could die a simple death associated with a candle and matches.

Followers of politics will remember how he charged towards Margaret Dongo, then an independent MP in the House some years ago, when the latter had referred to Zanu PF MPs as “Mugabe’s wives” because of their fear of him.

But because Zanu PF insiders say he is the only man who could confront the President, there is little wonder about his anger at the accusation of being lily-livered.

His death will not rob him of his tag as the hero of heroes. He had his own frailties-and they were many-but the thousands from all political colours who turned up to bury him are a testimony to the kaleidoscopic and cosmopolitan nature of his politics.

He retired as army general at his prime and the lesson he leaves us is that it is possible to leave office and enjoy other pursuits.

Though he later became the MP for Chikomba, the lesson he left for the Nyikayarambas of this world is that you must remove the people’s uniform if you want to participate in politics.

Go well, General.

*Hamba kahle.*

*Fambai zvakana Mwendamberi.*

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# Pushing for delivery

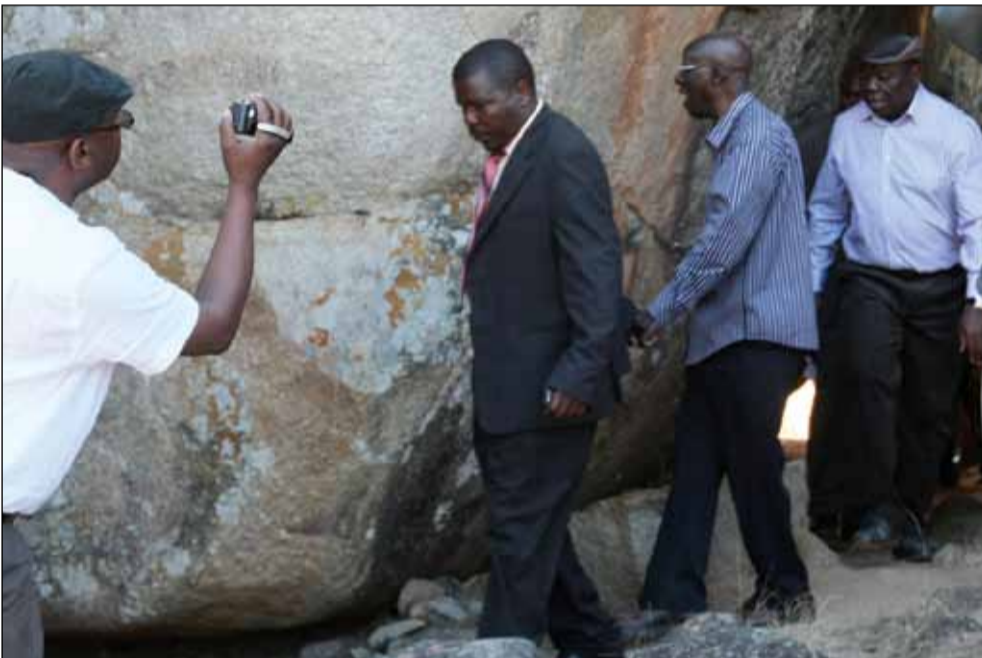
Following the formation of the transitional Government, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has made sure that there is movement on stalled projects and has ensured the initiation of other critical projects. The Newsletter captured some of the projects that the Prime Minister toured in his endeavour to ensure real delivery to the people of Zimbabwe.



Bulawayo mayor, Thaba Moyo, leads Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai on tour of Ncema water works



Mtshabezi main pump house under construction



Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and Water Resources Minister, Sam Sipepa Nkomo, emerge from a "cave" enroute to Mtshabezi dam wall



Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai being shown the pipeline map by Water Resources ministry officials



The Premier views Mtshabezi dam



A chat with a 100-year old friend in Kadoma



PM Tsvangirai addresses cotton growers in Gokwe



This granny could not contain her joy at the sight of Prime Minister Tsvangirai in Bulawayo