



Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU)

DATE: 18 AUGUST 2010

Invitation to ZAPU National Congress 27th – 29th August 2010, Bulawayo

Zimbabwean opposition and the first party to fight for democracy and liberation in Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) is on the 27th-29th August holding its first full National Congress since terminating the 1987 Unity Accord. The Congress will be held in Bulawayo, Zimbabwe under the theme ***Democracy and Freedom through Devolution of Power.***

With fresh elections in Zimbabwe imminent, the failing ZANU-MDCs coalition panicking, our congress is of great interest and a major event in shaping the direction of Zimbabwean politics.

Having realised that the Unity Accord was not being adhered to by ZANU-PF, concerned ZAPU members demanded in 2008 that ZAPU terminate the 1987 Unity Accord. By this time, all efforts to influence partners in government to act responsibly, peacefully and embrace democratic values had failed.

In 2008, consultation began and on the 16th May 2009 a special congress to address the way forward for ZAPU was held. It was overwhelmingly resolved at this special congress that the 1987 Unity Accord with ZANU be terminated with immediate effect and that ZAPU structures throughout the country and internationally be resuscitated.

ZAPU has revived 14 provincial structures (10 in Zimbabwe and 4 in the Diaspora) with massive support from all regions of Zimbabweans. Despite all the criticism and attack on our supporters and members, ZAPU has remained resolute in pursuing political objectives by peaceful means.

Believing in freedom of expression and associated media freedoms, ZAPU Communications & Marketing department now invites the press, broadcasters and media organisations and practitioners to witness and give coverage this important and news worthy event.

Accreditation and related media information will shortly be available on our websites www.zapu.org and www.zapueurope.org

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BACKGROUND

ZAPU was founded in 1961 under the leadership of the late former Zimbabwe Vice President Dr Joshua Nkomo to spearhead the liberation of Zimbabwe from colonial rule. ZAPU signed the Lancaster house Agreement that delivered independence for Zimbabwe as part of the Patriotic Front.

ZAPU was part of the Unity Government at Independence in 1980 but were dismissed in an operation that was later to transform into a North Korean trained 5th Brigade massacre of ZAPU members and supporters from 1982 -1987.

ZAPU leaders were persecuted with current Interim Chairman Dr Dumiso Dabengwa, the late Lookout Masuku and others detained without charge for almost 5 years. The atrocities ended in 1987 when ZAPU signed a unity accord with ZANU to stop the massacre of innocent Zimbabweans by the North Korean trained 5th Brigade's operation Gukurahundi.

On the 16th of May 2009, ZAPU resolved to terminate the unity accord and is now the opposition party in Zimbabwe with an important constituency.