GOKWE – The body of MDC activist, Tavengwa Chokuda who was murdered last year by two Zanu PF youths including the son of Midlands governor and senior Zanu PF official, Jason Machaya is still at Gokwe hospital’s mortuary fifteen months after his death.

Chokuda was murdered by Farai Machaya, the son of the Midlands governor and senior Zanu PF official, Jason Machaya in the Gana area, 50km from Gokwe Centre, on March 2009 at Masakadza business centre.

Gana is also the Zanu PF Gokwe district coordinating committee chairperson.

He was 25 at the time of his murder.

The deceased’s father, Tavengwa Chokuda said there was no way the family could bury Moses until Machaya and his son and Gana families to sit down with my family and explain their motive for killing his son.

Tavengwa said he had approached Jason Machaya, his son and Gana to come out in the open and apologise to him. They refused.

“Instead Jason Machaya is denying that it was his son that murdered Moses but his friends,” the devastated father told The Changing Times.

On the fateful day that Moses was callously murdered, Machaya and Gana families were using a Zanu PF district coordinating committee vehicle.

The two murderers were later arrested and their case is before the courts. They remain out of remand prison.

They set to appear at the Gokwe magistrate’s court on 12 August.

However, the governor is trying to use his political muscle to block further police investigations into the brutal murder.

He claimed that the officer-in-charge of Gokwe police, Disco Mubaiwa had approached the Department of Social Welfare to have a pauper’s burial for Moses.

“The police officer has even threatened that he will forcefully take the body from the mortuary and bury him,” he said.

He said these threats were emanating from Jason Machaya who was putting unnecessary pressure on the police officers.

“I have told the police that I cannot proceed with the burial without getting a clear explanation from his murderers. I want the Machaya Gana families to sit down with my family in a traditional way and we discuss this issue properly,” the elder Chokuda told The Changing Times.

Moses is survived by a wife, Elizabeth and one-year old daughter, Tsitsi. He never got the chance to see his daughter as he died when Elizabeth was still pregnant.

Over 500 MDC supporters were killed by Zanu PF thugs aided by State security agents and funded by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe in 2008 after the defeat of Zanu PF by the MDC in the March 2008 harmonised elections.

Hundreds of Zanu PF supporters who murdered MDC activists across the country are being haunted by avenging spirits (ngozi) of the deceased.

Some have grown sugar cane on the sites where their loved ones have gone mad as the spirits of those they murdered continue to haunt them.

The report released this week, shows that in Mashonaland East, there are 3 658 people who are perpetrating political violence in the area.

The identified people are mostly Zanu PF supporters and State security agents.

The report covers the period March 2008 to May 2010.

The report also identified 11 248 perpetrators of violence across the country.

Closely following Mashonaland East is Manicaland with 1 677 perpetrators, followed by Mashonaland Central with 1 506, Mashonaland West with 1 451, Midlands 1 317, Masvingo 1 181, Harare, 1 355, Matabeleland South 21 and Matabeleland North 18.

In Mashonaland East, the main culprit has been identified as Lawrence Katiri. A few years ago he was imprisoned for nine years for raping a 13-year-old girl in Marondera.

Also named in the report is Aquilah Katsande, Mudzi West MP who funded Zanu PF youths in the area to unleash a campaign of death, terror and destruction. The report documents several murders, including a shocking case in which Zanu PF youths led by Peter Nyakuka brutally murdered an MDC activist, Gwirirai Mudzala on 7 August 2008.

The report also documents the military involvement in the violence campaign, and singles out army colonel, Morgan Muzikalizi who led Zanu PF youths to murder and rape MDC activists in Buhera district, Manicaland province. Among those he murdered are; Nyoka Chikuse of Buhera South, Emmanuel Nyagwawu, Buhera Central, Vimbaiotwa Chirumhanzu, Buhera North, and singles out army colonel, Morgan Muzikalizi who led Zanu PF youths to murder and rape MDC activists in Buhera district, Manicaland province. Among those he murdered are; Nyoka Chikuse of Buhera South, Emmanuel Nyangwawu, Buhera Central, Vimbaiotwa Chirumhanzu, Buhera North.

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MDC, delivering real change to the people of Zimbabwe

Roll of shame

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

Lawrence Katare, a Zanu PF supporter

Katare was arrested last week barred people who were perceived to be against the Kariba deal from attending Civicus meetings in Marondera, Mashonaland East province.

Tichunde Mapere, a Zanu PF supporter

Mapere is leading a team of Zanu PF supporters intimidating MDC supporters with the support of President Robert Mugabe. They are threatening people with unspecified actions if they participate in the Constitution-making process.

Other members of the same crew, Tendai Zvimbano, Balarirai Mutoroza and Takawira Kasuso.

Vongai Gwanzura, a Zanu PF supporter

Gwanzura is threatening MDC supporters in Ward 10 Gorman North if they stick to their guns against the Kariba deal.

He has also made threats that Zanu PF will unleash violence after the soccer World Cup is being played in South Africa.

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Mugabe’s lessons from Mzansi

By Luke Tamborinyoka

Politics is very much like the game of football. In politics, just like in football, passion and victory are the major ingredients to success. In both endeavours, one cannot succeed if they are not passionate in this perpetual battle for victory, the watchword for both politics and football.

Modern-day politics and sports, especially football, are greatly intertwined. Politicians abuse the game of football to engender a feeling of unity and to unleash a feel-good factor in the country. Rallying the nation around a successful football team helps to imbue a sense of trust, faith and support for the incumbent political leadership and politicians feel betrayed if football teams fail and cause disenchantment in the country.

In Africa, football is an important diversion from the daily demands of the people. A national team that performs dismally is a betrayal of politics because it brings the nation back to its usual demands of bread and butter. Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan and his government have withdrawn the Super Eagles from international football tournaments following their disastrous performance at the World Cup in South Africa. It is not so much his government’s faith and belief in the national team, but it is much about the Super Eagles’ failure to engender a feel-good factor in the country which is dangerous for politicians.

German Chancellor Angela Merkel is revelling in the success of the forthcoming election of the German national team. The forthcoming elections in her country have coincided with the success of the national team and her presence at the match when the Germans walloped Diego Maradona’s highly fancied Argentina was enough testimony of how she wants her campaign to ride on the back of the football team’s success.

There is a fundamental political lesson from the World Cup, especially for octogenarian politicians like our very own Robert Mugabe. Like a football team, a young political team with passion, agility and flair is likely to deliver real change.

Robert Mugabe and the geriatrics in Zanu PF who are lost in this modern cyber-age must derive their lessons from the World Cup in South Africa where those teams that failed to harness young talent dismally failed to deliver. Keeping faith in geriatrics is no longer in vogue, whether in football or in politics.

Teams that took along with them football geriatrics such as Nwanko Kanu (Nigeria), Rigobert Song (Cameroon), and Gattuso (Italy) were just out of place against nimble-footed youngsters fielded by those teams that believe in change. France, Cameroon and Nigeria are the epitome of the doomed failure of those who resist change; those who fail to adjust to the modern game; those who fail to recognise that the time for the youth is now.

The young German national team continues to impress at the World Cup. They have embraced change. They have brought a fantastic brand of attacking football and their young talent - with so much hunger and passion - has become an amazing spectacle in Mzansi.

Like football, politics must morph. This is the digital age and all endeavours, whether politics or sport, must begin to ring in the changes and bring in young, fresh talent. Mugabe’s penchant to stick to his dead wood means that he has failed to evolve, probably because it is him who must go first so that we get a new Zimbabwe and a new beginning. It is only when dealing with a geriatric leadership that the likes of Rotina Mavhunga can convince a whole Cabinet that pure diesel can ooz out of a rock.

The irony of those football teams that stuck to the old guard in this World Cup is that all of them met with their 29 March. They lost. They were thoroughly defeated and humiliated; a fate Morgan Tsvangirai delivered to Robert Mugabe on this fateful day of 29 March 2008 when Zimbabweans rejected old politics. The 29th of March is symbolic of the defeat of the old guard and old ideas, the Waterloo of stone age teams and archaic thinking, the defeat of those who believe that geriatrics can deliver real change; those that believe that an 86-year-old leader like Robert Mugabe can bring in fresh ideas to improve the lives of the people.

This is the age of Facebook, Twitter and the i-pad. It’s the era of the social media. Geriatrics must go home and earn their respect by safeguarding our values and customs, telling folktales at the fireside to bemused grandchildren under a winter moon-light.

Please step aside and let the world move on!

Luke Tamborinyoka is the Director for Information and Publicity in the MDC. He can be contacted at mhofa@ yahoo.co.uk.
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 those heroes of our nation who sacrificed their lives during the Chimurenga/Mfumkwaye 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. Those 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 or punishment; Freedom from discrimination; Freedom of the press and media; Freedom of speech and expression; Right to language and cultural life; Freedom of assembly; the association; equality before the law; fairness in criminal proceedings; Right to information; Right to judicial protection; 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; Workers’ rights; Right to a clean environment.

Provisions in the Bill of Rights can only be amended through a referendum.

WOMEN AND BIRTHRIGHT 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 inflict 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 a referendum.

There should be a quota system for the appointment of 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 dignity 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
Wag 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 constitutional amendment 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 resources.

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 and accountable 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 rights and rest, holidays. Limitation of working hours, periodic holidays with pay and remuneration increments.

The Constitution must recognise the rights of employers and employers 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 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

to Page 4
MDC Constitution principles

- 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 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 a 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 holding the office of Prime Minister, civil or criminal proceedings may be instituted against that person.
  - The election of a President must take place not more than thirty days before the expiry of the term of the outgoing President.
  - If the President dies, resigns or is removed from office by impeachment, the Vice President assumes office as Acting President for not more than thirty 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 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**
  - The State must utilise a transparent manner and Parliament must have oversight over the handling of public funds.
  - The office of the Auditor-General must be an independent office set up in terms of the Constitution.
  - There must be an independent fiscal policy for the Public Election, to oversee government finances and to ensure fiscal stability and sound management of public 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 objective is the determination of monetary policy and the inflations rate as defined by Treasury.
  - The Constitution 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 the people; its Constitution, its national security and interests and its territorial integrity. The Defence Forces cannot be used for extra-parliamentary purposes.
  - The Service Commission is responsible for the administration of the Service Commission. 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 crimes through the incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders and their reintegration into society.
  - The Police Service is responsible for detecting, preventing and investigating crime; preserving internal security; maintaining public order; protecting and securing the borders 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 and discipline of following public officials by Parliament.

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**Chief Charumbira orders destruction of MDC supporters’ homes**

MASVINGO – Chief Fortune Charumbira has illegally destroyed MDC supporters’ homes. The locals have not been brought to book.

**Muchakata police refuse to arrest Zanu PF arsonists**

MASVINGO – Police at Muchakata are refusing to act against Zanu PF thugs who torched MDC supporters’ homes in June during the ongoing MDC supporters in June 2008, claiming the cases were now out dated.

Aekson Mawire, whose relative Deloria Chigweru’s house was torched by Zanu PF thugs in the lead-in to the sham June 2008 run-off vote in the Renco area of Masvingo South, made a police report to Muchakata police post. But the police details manning the post opend told him the case was no longer relevant and that the dockets were missing.

“I went to Muchakata police post last week to make a follow up on the arson issue but to my utter amazement the police officers at the post were deeply reluctant to discuss the matter and when I confronted them The Changing Times. “As a result I was directed from one office to another but it was evident the police were not keen to process the matter.”

He said the Zanu PF culprits behind the incident were well known and police was complicit in facilitating that they walk away scot-free. Mawire said the Zanu PF thugs even had the temerity to boast at the local business centre that they would not be arrested.

“The people who carried out the nasty plot are Liasis Chagweda, Kasian Chagweda and Kwangwere Chagweda. It is painful to note that the police have flatly refused to arrest these known Zanu PF thugs. This is a clear indication of selective application of the law,” added Mawire.

More than 500 MDC supporters were murdered by Zanu PF militia since the elections. Demand for weapons of war.

“Relieving us in our individual freedoms of association and political affiliation, having familiarised with respect to the Constitution, the Electoral Act and acting on free will and without any undue influence, on the 21st of April we resolved to defect from Mutambara’s party to the MDC that is led by President Morgan Tsvangirai. We fully pledge to further the interests, policies and upheal principles of the MDC’s Constitution,” read part of the letter, which was signed by nine councillors.


This brings to 18 the number of the Mudzuri led party members defecting to the MDC party after four councillors defected earlier this year to Nicedu and nine others from Tsholosho North defected last year.

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**Arm’s police raid MDC district chairman’s home**

UZUMBA – Armed police raided the home of MDC district chairman for Marumbi Phangwes, Chenzuwa Chimhuu the last Sunday, ostensibly on the hunt for weapons of war.

They left empty-handed.

One of the four armed men identified himself as Thabani Mlilo. He said he was from the notorious Police Special Protection Unit (PSU) stationed at Mutawatwa Police station.

The armed men forced Chimhuu and his family to walk around the house but nothing was found.

After two hours of digging and interrogation, the officers left.

Chimhuu said the raid by the police officers was simply to intimidate him amid the ongoing public hearings on a new Constitution.

“They are not happy that I was very instrumental in forcing MDC supporters to attend the Constitution-making process that is taking place in this area soon,” he said.

Early this year, the MDC guesthouse in Highlands, Harare was raided by armed heavily police officers who again claimed that they were looking for arms of war.

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**9 councillors ditch Mutambara, defect to MDC**

HWANGE: Nine councillors from Kuusal Rural District in Matebelaland North province who were voted into office on Arthur Mutambara’s party ticket have defected to the party from the join the ruling MDC.

In a letter addressed to the MDC Matebeleland South provincial leadership written on Friday 25 June 2010, the councilors said their actions were based on free will and there were no undue influences.

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