

MDC will win any free and fair election

By Obert Gutu

It is beyond debate that the inclusive government in Zimbabwe has never functioned at optimum capacity since it was formed some fifteen (15) months ago. It is again not surprising that the inclusive government has been hamstrung by countless instances of mistrust, distrust, acrimony and in some cases, open hostility amongst the partners in this loveless marriage. That is as it should be because this coalition government is not what the majority of Zimbabweans voted for on March 29, 2008. On that historic day in the electoral history of our great nation, the majority of the people voted for real change. They rejected, thunderously, the politics of repression, thuggery, kleptocracy and tyranny. They made it abundantly clear, by the sheer numbers of their votes; particularly in the presidential election, that they wanted Morgan Tsvangirai to be their leader. The people did not vote for the installation of a mermaid government; a half-man half-fish kind of creature that is hardly capable of delivering any meaningful and tangible change for the better; in the lives of the toiling masses of Zimbabwe. Put simply; the people did not vote for a coalition government. This type of government was imposed on the people.

No amount of propaganda can wash away the fact that the MDC, under the leadership of Morgan Richard



Senator Obert Gutu

Tsvangirai, is the best supported and most popular political party in Zimbabwe at the moment. Prophets of doom and hired media hitmen have, of late, gone into overdrive predicting the imminent collapse of the MDC. These men and women, who are solely driven by their desire to hold onto the crumbs falling off the crumbling ZANU (PF) gravy train, have wasted no time in announcing a 'split' in the MDC. They have created artificial divisions amongst the movers and shakers within the MDC. They wish that their dreams will come true one day. These lost souls are obviously in a long dream and as they say in Shona... "hope dzeharahwa kuruta ichiyamwa." The MDC will never split again; much to the disappointment of these charlatans. The MDC is the people and the people are the MDC. Unlike ZANU (PF) where power is concentrated in the hands of one man, the MDC is a people's project.

Power is with the people and not with the leaders. This is the main reason why the MDC's popularity continues to grow by leaps and bounds. Zimbabweans see their ultimate salvation only coming through the MDC and certainly not through any other political party.


Some of us are convinced that the outstanding issues will never be resolved by the inclusive government. This is so because ZANU (PF) is consciously aware of the fact that it has hopelessly lost the support of the majority of the people. The former ruling party knows that it is destined for a humiliating and crushing electoral defeat at the hands of the MDC led by Morgan Tsvangirai. Naturally, ZANU (PF) appreciates that should all outstanding issues of the global political agreement (GPA) be implemented, the epitaph on the ZANU (PF) electoral tombstone would be ready for installation. We have recently heard ZANU (PF) announcing that they are ready for an election. They are not and they will never be. They know that thuggery, intimidation, violence and vote-rigging have a very short shelf-life. They know that as way back as the year 2000, they have only been hanging onto to power through violence and vote-rigging. They know that their sell-by date as a political party expired in 2000. They know that they are losers.

Although the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) recently gave

permission to five newspapers to start operating in Zimbabwe, we will observe, henceforth, a determined and capricious effort on the part of ZANU (PF) functionaries in the inclusive government; to frustrate and delay the actual implementation of the good work that has been done by the ZMC to date. Going forward, a lot of spanners will be thrown into the works of the ZMC. The presence of the notorious media hangman, one Tafataona Mahoso, as the chief executive of the ZMC, should certainly be cause for serious concern to all democrats who aspire to achieve media plurality. It would be folly to expect a media hangman to all of a sudden, morph into a democrat who will work tirelessly for the establishment of pluralism and diversity in the media architecture of Zimbabwe. Old habits die hard. The enemies of progress will work tirelessly to sabotage the smooth-running of the ZMC. The true test of the media reform agenda will be the licencing of independent radio and television stations. Zimbabwe is perhaps the only country within the SADC region that does not have community radio stations. Thirty years after independence, we still do not have a single independent television station. True to form, ZANU (PF) functionaries in the inclusive government rushed to 'grab' the space for an independent television station by establishing a so-called Channel Two. One month after going on air, Channel Two has dismally failed to attract any advertisers. I do

not see this new television channel attracting any advertising interest anytime soon. As long as ZANU (PF) continues to use its vice-like grip on the State-controlled media to propagate hate, lies and misinformation, ZBC radio and television will remain thoroughly unpopular. And this is the main reason why satellite television is so popular in supposedly ZANU (PF) strongholds such as Rushinga, Mt. Darwin and Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe!

You can fool some people some of the time but you can never fool all the people all the time. Zimbabweans have rejected ZANU (PF). Given another opportunity, they will once again reject this party that is still locked up in history and that seems to believe that "matakadya kare achanyaradza mwana." People know that their true enemy is not Roy Bennett or any other white person simply because he/she is white. People are now above the politics of tribalism and racism. Hate-mongering as practised by the ZANU (PF) mercenary media hitmen can only achieve one result and that is the consolidation of the people's support for the MDC led by President Morgan Tsvangirai. Real change is within touching distance. We shall never compromise, retreat nor surrender. History is on the side of the people. Together to the end!

Obert Gutu is the Senator for Chisipite. 

Letters to the Editor

Oppah Muchinguri please be honest

It is my fervent hope and desire in the spirit of honesty, intergrity and respect for our people that this letter finds space in your paper. Whilst I acknowledge that finger pointing and blame game has fallen short of being a solution to our economic, social and political problems, it is only when the truth is brought to the fore that a meaningful solution is implored to respond to a problem.

I read with disgust and disappointment an article that appeared in the Herald on Monday 19 April 2010 titled "JOMIC bemoans political violence". The article quoted Oppah Muchinguri who is a member of Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee condemning violence in some parts of the country and alleges attacks on ZANU PF supporters by MDC functionaries in Mashonaland Central province.

I hail Muchinguri for coming out in public condemning violence; however her appeal proved counter productive as she harbored perpetrators of violence and mislead the nation opting to misrepresent facts.

To set the record straight, it is true that JOMIC has been receiving numerous letters complaining threats of violence and other

breaches to the Global Political Agreement (GPA) countrywide specifically Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East. It is disturbing to note that, despite visits made by the JOMIC secretariat to the area in question, which was done in the presence of all the representatives of parties to the GPA namely Zanu PF, MDC and Mutambara's party of which Ms Muchinguri is privy of all the incidents that occurred in areas visited by JOMIC namely:- Muzarabani, Uzumba, Maramba Pfungwe, Mudzi, Mutoko and Buhera North. Surprisingly Muchinguri opted to misled the public with inaccurate and false information as reported in the article which appeared which appeared in the Herald on 19 April 2010.

I can reliably confirm that the complains received by JOMIC of threats to violence, violence and burning of homes were being perpetrated by well known ZANU PF activists sponsored by known legislators of the party. The victims in all the cases are known MDC activists. It is therefore, mischievous, dishonesty, misleading and inconsiderate on the part of Muchinguri to blame victims as perpetrators.

Lovemore Kadenge
Political Liaison Officer (MDC)
Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC)

Mahoso must go!

I am very disappointed by the new media commission for seeking the services of a person who has been

denied by the populace, a person who has subjected many journalists to untold misery. Tafataona Mahoso should never set his foot in the Zimbabwe Media Commission, he has outlived his tenure and is not even worthy to be a consultant. Let this man rest at his home instead of being on the driving seat of journalism. It is about time that precedence is set for all to follow that unprofessional people should not take up positions in a commission or any work that requires political impartiality. Just as Tomana and Gono must go, Mahoso must rest his case. We want a free media, free from political manipulation. We want a free media so that the airwaves are open, more stations introduced, more newspapers introduced. We want jobs in the media industry and this can only happen when the likes of Mahoso keep away from anything to do with the media.

Journalism student
Mutare

Justice shall prevail

The chaos that broke out at the national healing conference at the Harare International Conference Center in Harare is a clear signal of Zanu PF's efforts to scuttle even further peace in the country. Zanu PF is bent on violence and they know if justice is to take place, they will be found wanting. It goes without mention that Zanu PF's character continues to be exposed at a time when the nation needs to move forward. Maybe I am missing something, but is it that the Zanu PF supporters do not want change?

Even their leaders are slowly losing control of these demon possessed followers. One way or the other, these women, men, boys and girls should know justice will catch up with them.

Justice for all
Harare

Vive le independent Prosecuting Authority

I agree that we need an independent prosecuting authority because the impunity we have been exposed to at the hands of Zanu PF and its puppet Tomana is outrageous. We have had a lot of grievous crimes being swept under the carpet because they expose Tomana's pay masters. We have had a lot of persecution of innocent citizens of this country because they do not subscribe to Zanu PF's ideology. Right now our nation suffers because of the innocent blood that fell over the years. Our nation is headed for doom unless these past wrongs are corrected, and given the present scenario, nothing will be corrected unless an independent prosecuting authority is instituted. Besides, more are better than one.

Somandla Ndlovu
Mpopoma

Traffic police officers very corrupt

Dear Sir
It is an open secret that policemen on our roads these days are out to make their money by asking for bribes from motorists what can be done to stop this rot.

Concerned Driver
Via e-mail

Congratulations to Dr. Tsvangirai

The professors get their degrees from observing what the ordinary person does. Ultimate wisdom is a reflection from peers. Although wisdom can be acquired through academics, the difference is that the truly wise know how to find more wisdom but the simple do not realise when their wisdom expires.

But Dr Morgan Tsvangirai is rare. He has wisdom packed in his conscience. The award of this prestigious doctorate is recognition by his peers of his good leadership qualities. It is an incentive to rise not just above the common journal frame of blind belief and conformance but aspire for the frontal wisdom to discover self and others, to have the courage to confront the good and the bad, the palatable and unpalatable.

May God's mercy, peace and love be increasingly granted to him.

Regards
Farai Mbira
Via Email



Organs of the State

The MDC continues to publish its Constitution principles ahead of the Constitution-making process. These views are guided by the party's social democratic values. This week, we publish the party's views on the founding principles of the Constitution.

1.1 Public Service

1.1.1 There is a Public Service of Zimbabwe, which is responsible for the administration of the country.

1.1.2 The Public Service consists of persons employed by the State other than-

- (a) members of the Defence Forces, the Police Service or the Prison Service;
- (b) judges;
- (c) members of Commissions established by this Constitution; and
- (d) anyone else whose office or post is stated, by the Constitution or an Act of Parliament passed with affirmative votes from at least two-thirds of the full membership of each or both Houses at their final vote on the Bill, not to form part of the Public Service.

1.2 Organisation and administration of Public Service

1.2.1 An Act of Parliament must provide for the organisation, administration and discipline of the Public Service, including the appointment of persons to posts or grades in the service, their removal from office or reduction in grade, their punishment for misconduct and the fixing of their conditions of service.

1.3 Public Service Commission

1.3.1 There is a Public Service Commission consisting of a chairperson and six other members.

1.3.2 Persons appointed to the Public Service Commission must be chosen for their ability and experience in administration, their professional qualifications in related fields and their general suitability for appointment, and the chairperson must have held a senior post or grade in the Public Service for one or more periods amounting to at least five years.

1.3.3 The chairperson and other members of the Commission will be appointed by the President after nomination by Parliament;

- (a) participation by independent bodies and the public in submitting nominations to the Parliamentary Public Appointments Committee; and
- (b) secure tenure for fixed terms for members of the Commission, requiring fair and impartial procedures before their removal, and term limits on reappointments and

(c) the remuneration of members of the Commission.

1.4 Functions of Public Service Commission

1.4.1 The Public Service Commission has the functions that are conferred or imposed on it by this Constitution or an Act of Parliament, including;

- (a) appointing persons to hold posts or grades in the Public Service;
- (b) fixing and regulating conditions of service of members of the Public Service;

- (c) exercising control and disciplinary powers over members of the Public Service;
- (d) ensuring the general well-being and administration of the Public Service and its maintenance in a high state of impartiality and efficiency; and
- (e) making regulations for any of the purposes set out in this subsection.

1.5 Permanent Secretaries

1.5.1 The Secretary to the President, the Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Secretary to the Cabinet and Permanent Secretaries of Ministries must be appointed by the President on the advice of the Public Service Commission and with the approval of the Senate.

1.5.2 Before appointing a person to a post referred to above, the President must consult the Prime Minister.

1.5.3 An Act of Parliament may provide for the removal from office of the Secretary to the President, the Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Secretary to the Cabinet and Permanent Secretaries of Ministries.

1.6 Ambassadors and other principal representatives of Zimbabwe abroad

1.6.1 The President, with the approval of the Senate, may appoint persons to hold the office of ambassador or other principal representative of Zimbabwe in other countries or accredited to international organisations.

1.6.2 The President may at any time remove a person from the post of ambassador or principal representative of Zimbabwe.

1.6.3 In appointing or removing a person as ambassador or principal representative of Zimbabwe, the President must act on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Public Service Commission.

1.6.4 An Act of Parliament may require the appointment of diplomatic staff, in addition to ambassadors and principal representatives, to be approved by the Senate.



Local Government Forum

MDC- led Kwekwe council strives to improve serviceas former Zanu PF mayor refuses to vacate council house

KWEKWE – Despite rampant asset stripping by former Zanu PF Kwekwe City councillors, the now MDC - led council is working hard to restore the city to its former status of glory, Shadreck Tobaiwa, the city's mayor has said.

Speaking to *The Changing Times* at the Kwekwe civic centre on Monday, Mayor Tobaiwa said the looting and corruption by the Zanu PF councillors before the current councillors moved in was so serious that it had affected completion of some projects.

“Our internal investigations have shown that five tractors belonging to the council were illegally auctioned by the former Zanu PF mayor Stanford Bonyongwe and the council did not benefit even a cent from that auction,” said Mayor Tobaiwa.

“To make matters worse, we do not even have an asset register of some of our properties and where those properties are,” he said.

“However, despite these hurdles, we aim to improve the quality of life for all Kwekwe residents through the provision of health, safe and clean water, road maintenance and education,” said Clr Tobaiwa.



Kwekwe mayor, Shepherd Tobaiwa

He said his council had also managed to acquire two new ambulances in addition to repairing the grounded one.

“When we moved into office, we had no ambulance operating and this

had resulted in critically ill patients failing to get to hospital on time, which is a great development,” said Mayor Tobaiwa.

The council had also purchased a new tractor and a truck for more efficiency

in refuse collection and other service delivery errands.

The mayor also said the United Nations had chipped in by refurbishing clinics in all suburbs and restocking them with drugs.

The council also received road tar from the Zimbabwe National Road Authority (Zinara), which has embarked on rehabilitating all the roads and filling up potholes.

The Kwekwe City council is run by 13 councillors who are all from the ruling MDC.

To cut council costs, the mayor is using a pool car which he shares with the town clerk and other senior officials in carrying out official duties.

He said the council was also constructing an easily accessible bus terminus in the city centre after a realisation that undesignated drop off points in the city centre were on the increase and causing dangers to the public, especially school children.

“We need to put to an end to vehicles dropping off the passengers at Sally Mugabe Primary School. Amaveni bus terminus was deserted by both the passengers and buses as they preferred the city centre for dropping and picking up passengers,” he said.

Kwekwe has a population of nearly 400 000 people and is centrally located

along the Harare – Bulawayo highway.

It is also surrounded by several mines and the farming areas such as Gokwe, which is well-known for growing cotton.

It is also close to the giant Zimbabwe Iron and Steel Company (Zisco) in Redcliff.

However, the mayor said despite these lucrative business opportunities surrounding the city, business growth in the town was slowly coming to life following the formation of the inclusive government.

“Giant companies like Zisco had scaled down operations due to the failure of the then Zanu PF government in running the economy.

“This had resulted in the retrenchment of thousands of workers,” Mayor Tobaiwa said.

What is also worrying the city council is that the former mayor, Bonyongwe is defying an order to vacate the mayoral mansion despite being served with three letters to vacate the house.

According to council resolutions, one has to leave a council house three months after leaving office. But it's now over two years since the current Kwekwe council was sworn into office.

Zimbabweans urged to make their own Constitution

HARARE-The MDC leadership addressed thousands of party supporters across the country at "Real Change" rallies where a passionate call was made for people to participate in the forthcoming Constitution-making process, which is expected to kick-off on 15 June.

During the rallies, the MDC leadership also called for the immediate swearing-in of MDC Treasurer-General, Senator Roy Bennett as the deputy Agriculture minister.

Addressing over 2 000 people in Pumula, Bulawayo on Saturday, Vice-President Thokozani Khupe said the drafting of a people-driven Constitution was part of the MDC roadmap that was mooted in 2006.

"As a result it is vital for each and every one of you to take part in this process as a people-driven Constitution will bring immense benefits to the country and the people of Zimbabwe," she said.

However, she said although the drafting of a new Constitution was in the Global Political Agreement (GPA), Zanu PF was dragging its feet as the party was not comfortable in the people having their democratic rights.

Hon. Khupe also warned the people of Bulawayo to be wary of new political parties that were mushrooming in the country such as Zapu and MDC99. "These parties are a creation of Zanu PF, which is trying to sow divisions among the people," she said.

Also present at the rally was the Youth Assembly chairperson and Nkulumane MP, Hon. Thamsanqa



Part of the bumper crowd that attended the Kuwadzana rally

Mahlangu, Lobengula MP, Hon. Samuel Sipepa Nkomo, Pumula MP, Hon. Albert Mhlanga and the Bulawayo provincial leadership.

On Sunday, Hon Nkomo addressed another rally in Bulawayo's Luveve suburb that was attended by at least 3 000 people.

Hon. Nkomo who is also the Water Resources Development and Management minister, assured the people that water shortages in Bulawayo would soon be a thing of the past as work on the Zambezi Water Project would resume this week.

"Zanu PF was trying to use the Zambezi Water Project for personal gains but this did not work and the people did not benefit. However, this project is now a

national project that will directly benefit the people," he said.

Elsewhere across the country, Hon. Nelson Chamisa, the national spokesperson was at Chinyayi business centre, Gutu East in Masvingo province on Saturday.

Again Hon. Chamisa urged the people to take the Constitution-making process seriously.

"Ignore the intimidation attempts by Zanu PF and come out in your large numbers to participate in the writing of a people-driven Constitution as this will empower you," he said.

He was accompanied by Masvingo provincial secretary and Masvingo Urban MP, Hon. Tongai Matutu.

On Sunday, Hon. Chamisa also addressed a well attended rally in his constituency, Kuwadzana East in Harare.

He called for the immediate swearing-in of Senator Bennett as deputy Agriculture minister.

"Senator Bennett was acquitted on trumped-up charges that he was facing, but Zanu PF is stalling his appointment as it is personal because of the colour of his skin. He should be sworn-in immediately in order to assist Zanu PF's Joseph Made who has failed in resuscitating the agriculture sector," he said.

He also said the appointments of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor and the Attorney-General were still outstanding issues.

"The government is also failing to pay civil servants decent salaries as Zanu PF is not giving contracts in a clear way resulting in the looting of diamonds at Chiadzwa," he said.

However, he said since the formation of the inclusive government, there had been some significant electoral and media reforms.

Addressing the same rally, Chisipite Senator, Hon. Obert Gutu said it was important for the people to participate in the Constitution-making process.

"In the new Constitution, you should call for independent human rights and anti-corruption commissions. The judiciary should be independent," he said.

The Kuwadzana rally was attended by several legislators and senior party

officials who included the deputy organising secretary, Senator Morgen Komichi, Mufakose MP, Hon. Paurina Mpariwa, Chikomo Senator and Harare provincial chairperson, Hon. Morgan Femai and the MDC welfare secretary, Kerry Kay.

Citizens should have access to clean water-President Tsvangirai

BULAWAYO – President Morgan Tsvangirai has said every individual has a right to clean water and all SADC countries have an obligation to ensure that its citizens have access to it.

President Tsvangirai, who is also Zimbabwe's Prime Minister, said this while officially opening the SADC Sectoral Committee for Ministers of Water Meeting that was held in Bulawayo last week.

He said while access to clean water was a basic right, it was sad to note that some SADC countries were not yet in full compliance with this right.

"Challenges in water supply in many of our SADC states are largely due to limited investment in this sector. The water sector requires massive investments to develop, maintain and upgrade the necessary infrastructure for the development of our water sources," he said.

The meeting was attended by 14 SADC ministers who are in charge of water affairs and was held under the theme; "Communicating regional water challenges for a dynamic takeoff to meet the Millennium Development Goals".

Speaking at the same meeting, Water Development and Resources minister, Hon. Samuel Sipepa Nkomo, said the SADC water sector development efforts should be intertwined to other international water development initiatives.

"Some Millennium Development Goals are strongly dependent on water provision. The Millennium Development Goal Number 1, which is to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger, requires that all citizens in any given country have access to water for primary purposes" he said.

Lone MDC councillor battles to deliver real change in Umguza

NYAMANDLOVU - Councillor Mxolisi Ndlovu is proudly the only MDC councillor out of 19 Councillors in Umguza District, Nyamandlovu in Matabeleland North province.

The 45 year old ward 4 councillor has been working hard in the area flanked by 12 Zanu PF councillors and six from the Arthur Mutambara led political formation.

Speaking to *The Changing Times*, Clr Ndlovu said it was difficult for proper decisions that benefit the people to be made because he is outnumbered in decision making as most decisions are based on voter approval.

"The most challenging part about being the only MDC councillor is that most council decisions are influenced by Zanu PF as they are the majority in council. These decisions have over time benefited Zanu PF members and not the people" said the concerned councillor.

Being the only councillor has made Clr Ndlovu more determined to deliver real change in his ward. He has managed to resuscitate a council beer garden and grinding mill that had been lying idle for more than two years.

Like most of the councils Matabeleland North has not been spared of imposed special councillors from Zanu PF who have been spearheading partisan distribution of food aid in Umguza.

"Apart from the already existing 12 Zanu PF councillors, Zanu PF continues



Clr. Mxolisi Ndlovu

to empower its structures at the expense of the people by imposing four people from its structures as special councillors appointed by the Local Government Minister," said Clr Ndlovu.

Meanwhile Councillor Ndlovu has managed to persuade four councillors from the Mutambara led party to defect from their party and join the MDC. The four are Ward 1 Councillor Blessing Mangunda, Ward 3 Councillor Bonile Hadebe, Ward 6 Councillor Siphon Ngwenya and Ward 7 Councillor Themba Mpfu.

Komichi to appear in court next Monday

BINDURA-MDC Deputy Organising Secretary Senator Morgen Komichi will appear before a Bindura Magistrate Chakanyuka next week on Monday on allegations of insulting Mugabe at a rally held in Bindura in January, this year.

Allegations leveled against Sen. Komichi are that, he sang a song at a rally that demeaned the head of state.

"You sang a song, *Chimurume chaGire chandifungisa Dhongi ranguru rakafa kare kare*, (Gire's husband reminds me of my dead donkey) and we find this song insinuating," the Bindura CID Senior detective Chitsa told Hon Komichi.

The MDC views this as an expansion in the persecution and prosecution of its leadership in a bid to decimate the party. Known Zanu PF activist in the province are known assailants,

terrorizing MDC supporters on a daily basis and these have not been prosecuted.

A point to note is Chief Kasekete of Muzarabani North who is stripping village heads of their positions and awarding them to known Zanu PF supporters and war veterans, most of whom tortured, maimed, and even murdered MDC supporters in the run up to the sham 2008 June elections.

Most known assailants in the Mashonaland provinces have been left to roam free and yet MDC members are arrested, prosecuted and persecuted on flimsy charges such as singing a song at a rally. This selective application of the law continues to stifle progress in the inclusive government.

Hon Komichi appeared before the Bindura magistrate two weeks ago and was given free bail.

President says Zanu PF stalling implementation of GPA

HARARE - President Morgan Tsvangirai has said the actions of Zanu PF in recent weeks have shown that the opposition party never intended to implement much of what it signed in the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in 2008.

President Tsvangirai who is also Zimbabwe's Prime Minister made this statement while addressing delegates at the Southern Africa Liaison Office in Pretoria, South Africa last week.

"It is now abundantly clear that Zanu PF never intended to implement much of what they signed up to. Fortunately for us and the people of Zimbabwe; the world - and most importantly, the SADC region - is watching. The GPA was brokered and guaranteed by SADC. And SADC has proved that they are determined to see it respected and implemented," he said.

President Tsvangirai said he appreciated that the people of Zimbabwe and the SADC region shared his frustrations at the slow pace of reforms since the formation of the inclusive government in Zimbabwe.

"Being a partner in this marriage of convenience has been a painful experience but a strategic necessity that will enable us to reach our destination albeit uncomfortably. We do not necessarily share the same vision and values with our colleagues in the inclusive government," he said.

"Democracy is about respecting the will of the people. Many of us may have hoped - but few of us really believed - that the transition to democracy would happen overnight in Zimbabwe," he said.

President Tsvangirai told the delegates that in the last elections in March 2008, the people of Zimbabwe had expressed a clear and unequivocal will for real change in Zimbabwe.

"What they got was short of what they wished for; but at least the process of change has started. The challenge is now to keep that change coming, to keep it peaceful and free of further violence, and to make it irreversible," he said.

He emphasized that the formation of the inclusive government had allowed Zimbabwe the opportunity to halt and begin to reverse Zimbabwe's terrifying acceleration towards a failed state.

"But we are not out of the woods yet. On a daily basis and at any given turn we face dogged resistance to change from one of the partners in this government," he said.

President Tsvangirai said there was a section of the bureaucracy that continued to resist any changes to the status quo and a security establishment leadership that no longer feels safe in the unfolding new political dispensation.

"Whether it is resistance to implement agreed democratic reforms; or the looting and misuse of State funds and resources; or the lack of respect for the rule of law and the Constitution; or simply the ruthless determination to retain or usurp power at all costs and by whatever means - all of this shows how fragile this marriage is, and how fragile the transition process is in Zimbabwe," said President Tsvangirai.

The MDC as a people's project, values your opinions. Are there Zanu PF torture camps near you? Are you being victimised because you are an MDC supporter? Do you know any perpetrators of violence? If your answer is YES to any of the above please email the details to mdcnewsbrief@gmail.com or call on (04) 770708 Please also feel free to send news, alerts or letters expressing your views and comments to MDC Information and Publicity Department