



# The Changing Times

## Movement for Democratic Change

*A Party of Excellence!*

The Official Mouthpiece of the MDC

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# Elections May 2011 - President

CHITUNGWIZA – Zimbabwe should hold general elections by May 2011 but there is need to first put in place mechanisms for a free and fair election, President Morgan Tsvangirai has said.

Addressing more than 20 000 people at Chibuku Stadium in Chitungwiza on Sunday, President Tsvangirai said that in the Global Political Agreement (GPA) signed in September 2008 by the three main political parties, it had been agreed that after the formation of the inclusive government, Zimbabwe should hold a free and fair election within 18 to 24 months.

“But we do not want a violent election,” Tsvangirai said. “We want a free and fair election. This can be done by bringing in foreign observers including the guarantors, the African Union, SADC and a peacekeeping force before the elections are held,” he said.

Over 500 MDC supporters were murdered by Zanu PF supporters aided by State security agents in the run-up to the internationally

condemned June 2008 presidential run-off election.

President Tsvangirai said before the elections are held the country should have crafted a new people-driven Constitution.

“The Constitution-making process is a people’s project. The MPs as the people’s representatives have been given the task to go to the people and have their views heard. It is a fundamental duty to hear what the people are saying before we conduct a credible poll,” he said.

President Tsvangirai was speaking at the launch of the MDC “Real Change” rallies that will be addressed by the President and senior party leadership in all districts across the country.

“To have a real and legitimate government there is need to have a free and fair election. The inclusive government is a temporary arrangement and it is only after a free and fair plebiscite that real change will come to the people,” said President Tsvangirai. “Elections should be held next year so that a legitimate government can begin to deal with the issues affecting the people. Once we are through with the Constitution-making process, we should immediately go for elections. What we want are proper mechanisms

that will safeguard the people’s vote if we are to have a violent-free poll.”

On negotiations, President Tsvangirai said the MDC believed there should be finality to the talks.

“We are sick and tired that the talks are still on going. Our message is very simple – we have to finalise these talks about talks. People want real change in their lives and we cannot continue talking forever,” he said.

He said the MDC ministers had been shocked by the level of corruption that was taking place under the Zanu PF government.

“There was massive corruption,” said President Tsvangirai, who is also the Prime Minister, Head of Government and chairman of the Council of Ministers. “These people have been bleeding the government through blatant corruption. As a party, we have our own character, the MDC character and value systems that define who we are. We will not hesitate to weed out corrupt leaders because corruption is not part of the MDC character.”

The President spoke two days after the MDC national council adopted the *Real Change Code of Ethics*, a sacrosanct document which sets out a new value system by which all elected or deployed party officials should abide. The Code is part of the party’s thrust to usher in

a new governance system which makes it mandatory for elected officials to be accountable and to promote the people’s interest.

Speaking on indigenisation regulations which are under debate by Cabinet, the President said the MDC strongly believed in broad-based empowerment in the country but was against the empowerment that benefited only a few.

“We are against that. We are opposed to elitist empowerment,” President Tsvangirai said. “Why should only a few have access to resources in a sea of poverty in the name of empowerment?” he said to applause. “We want empowerment for everyone not indigenisation for a few people.”

Speaking at the same rally, MDC secretary general and Finance minister, Hon. Tendai Biti said the government was failing to pay civil servants decent salaries because of massive looting of diamonds at Chiadzwa in Marange, Manicaland province by Zanu PF apparatchiks who are also senior government officials.

“That corruption demon has spread to Chiadzwa and we are failing to pay civil servants because of looting in Chiadzwa,” Hon Biti said. “Nothing is coming to the government coffers. The country has kwashiorkor of money, the money that is coming from Chiadzwa should go to the people not a few individuals,” he said.

Hon. Biti said in its resolution on Friday, the MDC national council had resolved that all mining contracts in Chiadzwa were illegal and in the interest of transparency, all mining leases should be cancelled forthwith. He said the diamonds in Chiadzwa should benefit the country and the nearby community, not a few elites in Zanu PF.

The ‘Real Change’ rally was also attended by several senior MDC officials and ministers who included vice president and deputy Prime Minister, Thokozani Khupe, national chairperson and Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Lovemore Moyo, treasurer general and deputy Agriculture minister-designate, Senator Roy Bennett and deputy secretary-general, Hon. Tapiwa Mashakada.

Also present was the deputy organising secretary, Senator Morgen Komichi, the national spokesperson and Information Communication Technology minister, Hon. Nelson Chamisa, Women Assembly chairperson and Public Works minister, Hon. Theresa Makone and the national Youth Assembly chairperson and deputy Youth minister, Hon. Thamsanqa Mahlangu.

# Thousands pay tribute to Amai Tsvangirai

HARARE - Thousands of Zimbabweans from all walks of life on Saturday turned up for a memorial service of Amai Susan Nyaradzo Tsvangirai, the late wife of MDC President Morgan Tsvangirai.

The thousands who attended the service paid tribute to her rich legacy following her untimely death in a tragic car crash on 6 March last year.

Her memorial was held under the theme “Celebrating a legacy of humility, courage, compassion and love.”

Soon after a church service held at the Methodist Church in Mabelreign in the morning, thousands of people assembled for a public ceremony at Glamis Stadium in Harare.

Speaker after speaker spoke in remembrance of the mother of our struggle, a woman of compassion and love, who stood tall in support of the struggle for a democratic Zimbabwe.

“One person can make a positive difference. For me, she was not only a wife, but a mother, a consultant, an advisor and a friend. She made a positive difference in my life,” MDC



The mammoth crowd at Amai Tsvangirai’s memorial service

President and Prime Minister and Head of government, Morgan Tsvangirai said.

He said the inclusive government formed in February 2009 was not an end in itself, but part of a journey towards achieving real change.

“I know that if she were here, she would continue to urge us on until we achieve a democratic Zimbabwe. She lived a life of courage. I had a good fortune that in the fight for democracy, we fought with the same spirit and vigour,” said President Tsvangirai.

President Tsvangirai said the Susan Nyaradzo Tsvangirai Foundation will be launched in May to carry forward with her vision of serving the people.

Addressing the gathering, MDC national chairperson and Speaker of Parliament, Hon. Lovemore Moyo said Mai Tsvangirai was a woman who possessed immense strength.

“She possessed immense strength and stood by all in times of need. I vividly recall when she stood by her husband

when he was facing trumped up treason charges and on 17 March 2007 when she would provide food in police cells and hospital to those including President Tsvangirai who had been assaulted by the police for holding a prayer meeting at Zimbabwe Grounds in Highfields,” said Hon. Moyo.

He said Mai Tsvangirai was a true democratic fighter and was there when the MDC was launched in 1999.

“Until her death on 6 March 2009, we shared the same dedication on seeing

Zimbabwe having democracy and freedom. We miss her and will not forget her. She will remain part of the legacy of the MDC,” said Hon. Moyo.

Lovemore Madhuku, the chairperson of the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) said she had known Mai Tsvangirai for a long time as a fighter for human rights and freedom in the Zimbabwe.

“For a long time we have been in the trenches for a better life. This is when I met Mai Tsvangirai. She was a great fighter who also stood by her husband,” said Madhuku.

Hon. Theresa Makone, the MDC Women Assembly chairperson and a family friend to the Tsvangirai family said Mai Tsvangirai was perfectionist and a friend to every woman in the MDC.

The service was also attended by the Tsvangirai and Mhundwa families, diplomats, civic society members, senior MDC and government officials. Even Zanu PF first secretary Robert Mugabe attended the memorial service, and saluted the brave woman.

MDC, delivering real change to the people of Zimbabwe



# Strange bedfellows

- *MDC young, vibrant, forward looking*
- *Zanu PF old boys and girls' club*

By Obert Gutu

Coalition governments are by their very nature, tenuous. The situation becomes even more delicate when unwilling political players are circumstantially compelled to enter into the same government.

This is somehow akin to a forced marriage. You will have to take leave of your senses first before you can believe that a forced marriage will be blissful, happy and longlasting. The MDC led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and Zanu PF are strange bedfellows.

Whilst the MDC is a young, vibrant and forward-looking political party, Zanu PF is basically an old boys and old girls club that remains perpetually locked in the mantra of communist-style dogmatism where the cultivation and nurturing of individual personality cults is the order of the day. For this reason, it is impossible to imagine the existence of Zanu PF as a unified party beyond the natural life of its present leader. Zanu PF has perfected the "art" of totalitarianism. In this moribund party, the supreme leader is the party and the party is the supreme leader.

The inclusive government in Zimbabwe was formed in February 2009; a little over one year ago. The formation of this government was, in fact, the culmination of the failure by Zanu PF to accept defeat at the harmonised elections that were held on March 29, 2008.

For the record, let me acknowledge the fact that Morgan Richard Tsvangirai won the presidential elections that were held on March 29, 2008. No amount of propaganda by Zanu PF and its rabid crew of latter-day apologists can successfully wash away that fact. This fact is, indeed, cast in stone. Because Zanu PF literally bludgeoned the voting population into submission through the primitive use of thuggery and violence during the electoral farce held on June 27, 2008, the whole civilised world, including our very own brothers and sisters in SADC, flatly refused to accept the legitimacy of the joke that took place in Zimbabwe on that fateful day.

Because Morgan Tsvangirai and the MDC have always been guided by the need to put the interests of

Zimbabweans first before their own interests, they reluctantly agreed to enter into an inclusive government with a person who had clearly and emphatically lost the mandate of the people to govern. To some of us, the mere idea of accommodating an electoral loser into government was an act of abomination. But because our leaders in the MDC were motivated by the need to take Zimbabwe away from the abyss of becoming a failed state, we were convinced that in life, one may have to make very difficult and painful decisions for the common good of everyone. At any rate, this is the essence of patriotism and nationalism.

It is, therefore, important for readers to understand the background behind the formation of the inclusive government in February 2009. This was a forced marriage and as such, we should not be surprised when the forced marriage goes through regular periods of turbulence. That is the way it is and sadly, that is the way it shall remain until the people of Zimbabwe are afforded a free and fair opportunity to decide who should be their leader. Put alternatively, it will be folly to expect the inclusive government to function smoothly.

More than twelve months after the formation of the inclusive government, the global political agreement is yet to be fully complied with. For instance, we still have a Zanu PF controlled print and electronic media that continues to churn out hate messages against Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and senior members of his party, day in, day out.

Hardly a day passes without the Herald newspaper and the ZBC radio stations and ZTV carrying out some denigrating hate messages against Morgan Tsvangirai, Tendai Biti and several other leading MDC members. Instead of helping to cultivate a culture of tolerance, the Zanu PF controlled media outlets are loaded with anger, hate, ridicule, contempt and malice.

Whilst during the day Zanu PF functionaries talk of national healing and nation building, they Nicodemously spread messages of hate and intolerance. They preach the "gospel" of violence and thuggery. They will talk of so-called "sanctions" until their voices are hoarse.



Senator Obert Gutu

What they dismally fail to appreciate is the fact that the people of Zimbabwe are not stupid. On the surface Zimbabweans might appear docile and disinterested but you can only take them for granted at your own peril. The people of Zimbabwe know exactly what they want and whom they want to govern them.

The people of Zimbabwe, from the Zambezi to the Limpopo and from the majestic Eastern Highlands to the mighty Hwange National Park in the west, have repeatedly rejected totalitarianism and tyranny. They will continue to reject the moribund party called Zanu PF, a party that is still locked in the nationalistic rhetoric of the 1960s and 1970s; a party that has hopelessly failed to mutate and thus, adapt to the modern principles of politics where the concepts of democracy, the rule of law and good governance reign supreme.

The Zanu PF controlled media, of late, has been awash with numerous reports about the so-called "illegal" sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by Britain and her allies.

A not so clever Zanu PF apologist recently wrote an article in the Zanu PF controlled Sunday Mail, wherein he unintelligently linked the collapse of the Shabanie-Mashava Mines (SMM) to the so-called "illegal" sanctions. How the so-called sanctions could have influenced Zanu PF to loot Mutumwa Mawere's mining empire clearly

boggles the mind! How asset-stripping and downright thievery and looting can be sugar-coated as "black economic empowerment" again beats me. How someone can possibly see a link between the looting of Mawere's assets and so-called "illegal" sanctions can only be explained by a rocket scientist; I believe.

Whilst the inclusive government has scored some modicum of success; particularly in eliminating hyperinflation by the adoption of the multi-currency system, there is still a lot to be achieved before some of us can give it a definite thumbs-up. For instance, over 85% of the population still live on less than US\$2 a day meaning that the majority of the people of Zimbabwe live in abject poverty.

There is an all-pervading liquidity crunch where it is a virtual nightmare for the average person to have US\$10 in his/her pocket. The majority of the people live from hand to mouth.

Delivery of basic services such as water and electricity remains erratic and unacceptable. Civil servants' salaries, including the salaries of legislators, are still pathetically low.

Corruption remains endemic and it is literally threatening to tear the inclusive government apart. Perhaps more importantly, the failure to fully comply with all the provisions of the GPA is the biggest letdown of the inclusive government. I hold no brief for Roy Bennett but in all fairness, I honestly wonder why he still hasn't been sworn in as a deputy minister of agriculture more than twelve months after the formation of the inclusive government. For God's sake; the man has not been convicted by any competent court of law. And so why hasn't Roy Bennett been sworn in as a deputy minister?

In all civilised communities, everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty by a lawful and competent court of law. If the contracting parties to the inclusive government cannot even trust one another, how do they hope to have the rest of the world trust them? Isn't it said that charity begins at home?

One of the biggest deliverables of the inclusive government should be

the making of a new, people-driven constitution. Already, the constitution-making process is running about seven months or so behind schedule.

It would appear that there are some people within the inclusive government who would like the constitution-making process to take forever. We know that some folks are veteran electoral losers and the last thing they would want to have is an early election.

But then it is such selfish and myopic interests that will spell doom and gloom for the inclusive government. Surely, if the inclusive government fails to deliver a new people-driven constitution to the people of Zimbabwe, it would have dismally failed the litmus test for its success.

Going forward, we should see a more focused and concerted effort to drive the agenda of constitution-making. This start-stop kind of laid back approach to constitution making will spell disaster for the country. The constitution should be the bedrock of any democratic dispensation in Zimbabwe. An autocratic and undemocratic constitution will ensure that Zimbabwe shall remain mired in political conflict and socio-economic misery.

It is also important for the inclusive government to realise that they are a transitional arrangement. It would be dangerous for members of the inclusive government to lose focus and think that we have now reached the biblical land of Canaan.

The journey to a truly democratic and progressive nation state of Zimbabwe is still long and arduous. Whilst some of us have clearly developed signs of weariness and fatigue, the majority of the people should never lose focus regarding where exactly we are going.

The inclusive government is some form of difficult pregnancy that needs to be carefully cared for and managed to ensure that the baby is not aborted. But, at the end of the day, Zimbabwe should be governed by someone who wins the people's mandate during free and fair elections. Anything short of this will be a mockery of democracy, good governance and the rule of law.

• Obert Gutu is Senator for Chisipite 

## Letters to the Editor

### UN must run polls

Dear Editor,

We need elections that are run by the United Nations including their security not just peace monitors. Monitors can be from anywhere, SADC or AU. We know Zanu PF thugs can kill in the presence of monitors.

We need all Zimbabweans in and outside the country to vote just like they did in the 1980 elections. The army, which is an extension of Zanu PF must be confined to the barracks. All SADC rules and guidelines must apply in the holding of elections.

Nico Shato

Harare

### Lets have free and fair poll

Dear Editor,

I admire the change that the MDC is trying to bring to our country. The Zanu PF government had killed a generation. We have been robbed of a future, a future to invest and a future to harvest from our country.

Those of us in the Diaspora, have now become dependants on other countries putting a strain to their resources, being afraid of returning to our home because of fear of persecution and torture.

When it comes to voting season, which we are approaching in 2011, Zanu PF should be stopped from using State machinery such as the media and army in arm twisting the outcome of the results.

We need to rebuild a lost country, which lost a lot than it gained since independence in 1980 through a free and fair election.

Kudzai Moyo

Gaborone

### Women a vital force in society

Dear Editor,

Thank you for giving me an opportunity to write in your newsletter. One thing I applaud the MDC for is its drive towards the promotion of women empowerment.

I am a young woman who hopes to one day be able to stand up and contribute to national development. I want to be

a part of a society that recognizes and support women ingenuity.

I believe that women are a force to reckon with in society. We form the base of the family and society. We have to be celebrated in fashion and men should support us for they know, a woman makes the society the warm place that it is.

Miriam

Mabvuku, Harare

### Honour women

Dear Editor,


Women should stop being treated as second class citizens. It is about time that we as men realize how important women are to our livelihoods.

How can the human race be replenished if there are no women? How can our society experience diversity without women? Even those who speak say behind every successful man is a woman.

It is because they pull us when we rush and they push us when we slag. They advise us forward and still take care of the family.

How they juggle that, I don't know, but I know they are amazing. They should be recognized for who they are, what they are capable of and not judged by history and repressive cultural norms which demean the value of women. I want an empowered woman.

Justice Mukono

Murehwa 

# MDC marks International Women's Day

HARARE - The MDC congratulates the women of Zimbabwe on the occasion of International Women's day, a day set aside to celebrate the important role played by women worldwide

This year's international theme was *Equal rights, equal opportunities: Progress for all.*

The MDC Women's Assembly held their celebrations on Sunday at Africa Unity Square in Harare under the theme *Celebrating women as agents of real change.*

The MDC pays tribute to rural women; who toil every day against heavy odds to keep intact our national dignity. The rural woman is at the epicentre of our national struggles, the repository and true embodiment of our national quest for a new Zimbabwe and a new beginning.

Addressing women from all walks of life gathered to celebrate their rights, MDC Women's Assembly chairperson and Minister of Public Works, Theresa Makone called upon women to participate fully in

the constitution making process for economic empowerment.

"Women should participate in broad based economic empowerment and that can only be attained if our voices are heard in the new constitution," Hon Makone said.

Delivering a key note address, MDC vice president and deputy Prime Minister Hon. Thokozani Khupe said that it was disappointing to see Zimbabwe lagging behind on the issues of equal representation of women in leadership positions and decision

making, yet were signatories to the SADC Declaration on Gender.

"Zimbabwe is a signatory to the SADC Declaration on Gender, but where are we as Zimbabweans? For the past 30 years we have not achieved much in decision making or leadership positions, we are not there.

"We want women from all works of life to represent us in Parliament. We want women who are going to be debating on practical issues, and those women are among you not the so called women of quality that men dream of," she said.

She also said there was need for women to move away from the "at least syndrome" that has seen the downfall of most women.

"The 'at least syndrome' is killing us, lets run away from the 'at least syndrome.' We want equal representation and equal opportunities. We want 50 percent not at least 20 percent opportunities and representation" Hon. Khupe said.

Also present at the celebrations were representatives from women organisations, civic society, churches, students and business women.



Members of the MDC Women's Assembly hold their celebrations on Sunday at Africa Unity Square in Harare



Vice President Hon. Thokozani Khupe and the MDC Womens Assembly leadership mark International Womens Day



MDC Vice President and deputy Prime Minister Thokozani Khupe addresses the gathering at Africa Unity Square



Prime Minister Tsvangirai and his son Edwin plant an exotic palm tree at his Strathaven home in memory of the late Amai Susan Tsvangirai

# Zanu PF officials grab commercial land

HWANGE – Some Zanu PF members in Hwange, Matebeleland North province, are attempting to illegally seize commercial land in the town meant for a shopping mall.

The Zanu PF officials are instead attempting to build a truckers' parking bay.

The chairman of the MDC-led Hwange Local Board, Councillor Cosmos Kabloma Ndlovu, who leads the

board which is dominated by 12 MDC councilors, is not a happy man because the developers connived with Chief Hwange (aka Wilson Mathutu) so that they could construct a parking bay for long distance haulage trucks in the middle of Hwange town.

“What surprised me is that the truckers were moved from Cinderella (no 1 North Colliery) where they were accused of luring young girls into prostitution and brought closer to town,” he said.

“What moral values are they purporting to practice? After all that land belongs to Hwange local board and not Chief Hwange.”

The developers, including one Learnmore Moyo, a nephew to Freddie Moyo, managing director at Hwange colliery and his in-laws, Mrs. Six Neube who is Zanu PF Women's League member, did not apply for the piece of land and neither does Chief Hwange have the right to give people land which belongs to the local authority.

# MDC MP helps disadvantaged children

BULAWAYO – Bulawayo East MP and MDC national deputy spokesperson, Hon. Tabitha Khumalo has undertaken to assist a local school, Lockview, which is in her constituency.

The school offers education mainly to children from poor backgrounds and those from child-headed families.

The children, aged between 6 and 13, last week received food hampers, stationery packs, clothes, toys and free medical check ups from Hon. Khumalo worth thousands of dollars.

According to the MP, the donation was made possible through the assistance from the Matebeleland AIDS Council (MAC), the Ladies Guild of Scotland church and the business community.

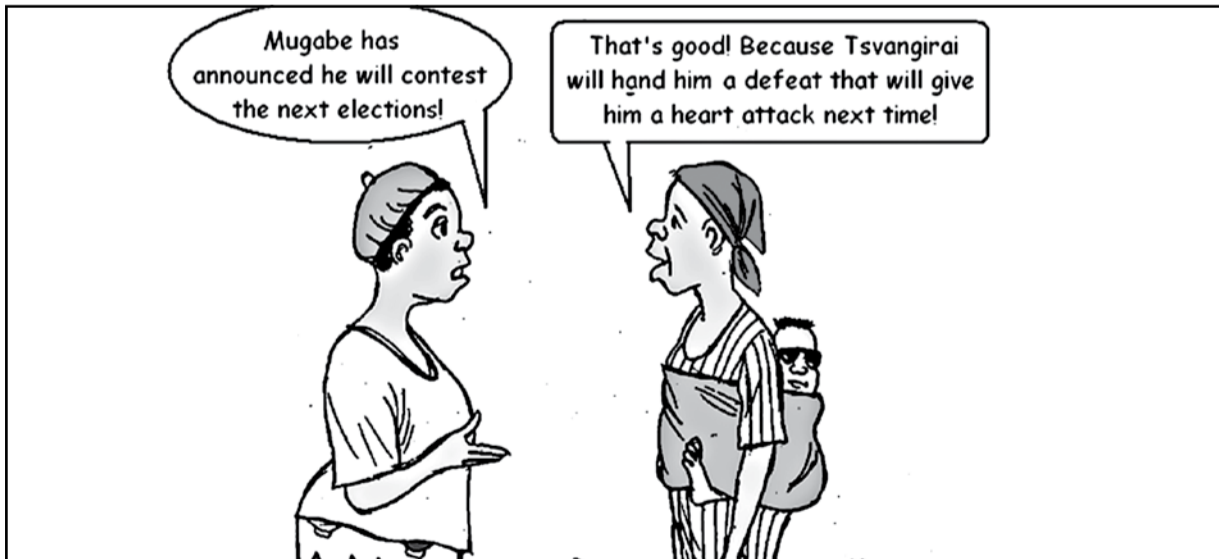
“Children need to have a sense of belonging,” the MP said. “Most of them come from child headed families and they do not know how it feels to have a toy, to play and receive new clothes. As their MP together with their teachers we wanted to make them feel young, loved, belonging and to make them act the child.”

Hon. Khumalo has also started a feeding scheme at the school during lunch break. The MP managed to source vegetables, mealie-meal, cooking oil, dried fish and sugar beans.

“I would to thank the Bulawayo East community for coming in handy and responding positively to community issues,” said Hon. Khumalo. “These children that we are assisting have very little for themselves. We have established a feeding scheme that will help the children eat healthily and to give them energy for their studies.”



Hon. Tabitha Khumalo hands over donations to children in her constituency



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# Ex-military goon threatens teachers

MUTARE – An armed retired army soldier is moving around the Manicaland province terrorizing teachers and disrupting meetings of the School Developmental Committees (SDCs).

The ex-serviceman, identified only as Mapuranga, is leading a team of Zanu PF supporters that is forcing teachers to remain on strike even though civil servants called off the strike two weeks ago.

Reports received by The Changing Times show that in some cases, Mapuranga masqueraded as a district education officer (DEO) in order to gain entry into closed school meetings with the intention of interrupting the meeting and intimidating those gathered.

On Friday last week, he interrupted an SDC meeting held at Zimunya Primary school in Mutare South, where he presented himself as a DEO before displaying his AK47 rifle and victimising the SDC members and teachers who were present at that meeting.

In a similar incident, Mapuranga and his team also visited Karwiri Primary School also in Mutare South and interrupted an SDC meeting before beating up teachers and SDC members who were present at the meeting.

He also discourages people from participating in the forthcoming Constitution-making process and for people to denounce their membership to MDC. The MDC is in control of most of the parliamentary constituencies in the province.

Fears are rising that such kind of intimidation will make people reluctant to voice their opinions in public meetings as the country moves into the public outreach phase of a Constitution-making process.

Over the past three weeks, Mapuranga has threatened nurses with death at Chitora United Methodist Clinic in Mutare South before looting some medical drugs and equipment that had been donated by a senior MDC official Robert Saunyama.

# Bennett's lawyer urges judge to throw out charges

HARARE – Defence lawyers in the High Court trial of MDC treasurer-general and deputy Agriculture minister-designate, Senator Roy Bennett has called on the trial judge, Justice Chinembiri Bhunu to throw out all charges saying the State case was weak.

In her submissions on Monday after the cross examination of all State witnesses, Senator Bennett's lawyer, Beatrice Mtetwa said charges brought against him should be dropped.

“There is no evidence that the accused committed any offence,” Ms Mtetwa said. “The entire case is based on fiction. Whatever evidence led by the State does not show that a crime was committed. It is a miscarriage of justice to place the accused on his defence. All charges against him must be dropped.”

The trial resumes on Thursday when the Attorney-General and Zanu PF activist, Johannes Tomana is expected to present his submissions.

Senator Bennett is being charged under the oppressive Public Order and Security Act, (Posa) for buying arms of war in 2006 allegedly to carry out acts of insurgency, sabotage, banditry and terrorism.

If convicted he faces a life sentence in jail.

# MP acquitted

HARARE - Masvingo West MP, Hon. Tachiona Mharadza who was being falsely implicated in abusing the government subsidised inputs scheme, has been acquitted a Harare Magistrate, due to lack of incriminating evidence.

Provincial magistrate, Munamato Mutevedzi, last Friday cleared Hon. Mharadza of the charges against him at the close of the State case.

“There was no misrepresentation done by the accused as pointed out by the first witness Major Ronald Mapuranga,” he said.

Magistrate Mutevedzi said other witness who testified in court had not visited the MP's farm hence their evidence was based on speculation.

“The State case does not disclose any element of fraud, therefore, the accused person is discharged, found not guilty and acquitted,” he said.

The ruling followed an application for discharge by defence lawyer and MP, Hon. Douglas Mwonzora of Mwonzora and Associates.

Hon. Mwonzora had argued that the State witness Brigadier Douglas Nyikayaramba testified that he addressed MPs on the conditions surrounding the issue of inputs in question.

However, it turned out that Nyikayaramba only addressed the Zanu PF caucus of which Hon. Mharadza is not a member.

Hon. Mwonzora said the prosecution's main witness Mapuranga, to whom the MP was supposed to have made the misrepresentation, categorically denied that Hon. Mharadza made any such misrepresentations to him.

“Simply Major Mapuranga's evidence does not prove any misrepresentation by the accused, which is a key element of fraud. The case is a typical example of the complete waste of the court's time. The elements of fraud were not shown,” said the defence lawyer.

There has been a spirited attempt by the Attorney-General's office through the AG, Johannes Tomana to arrest MDC MPs, officials and members on trumped-up charges.