



The Changing Times

Movement for Democratic Change

A Party of Excellence!

The Official Mouthpiece of the MDC

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MDC demands justice

HARARE - MDC supporters have not forgotten gory scenes of death and destruction that Zimbabwe witnessed in 2008 after Zanu-PF and its first secretary Robert Mugabe suffered a devastating electoral loss on March 29.

And last Friday in the streets of Zimbabwe's capital, Harare, thousands of MDC supporters recalled that dark chapter of Zimbabwean history, demanding that perpetrators of that mayhem be immediately brought to book.

A whopping 500 innocent MDC supporters lost their lives within a period of two months that followed March 29, 2008. Goons recruited and bankrolled by Zanu PF politicians, some now serving in the coalition government, systematically decimated whole families.

In one incident in Mashonaland East, marauding Zanu PF thugs abducted MDC supporters, killed them and burnt them. Women and children perished in that most bestial attack.

In other instances, gangs propped up by Zanu-PF leaders barricaded houses and then set them ablaze. Lives perished in broad daylight.

These atrocities were accompanied by the brutal uprooting of 200 000 Zimbabweans from their homes in different parts of the country.

Some sobriety returned after former South Africa President Thabo Mbeki struck a deal for President Tsvangirai, who had won elections in March 2008, to incorporate the loser Mugabe in a coalition government, but not before hundreds had died and the thousands others forced to seek refuge in and outside the country.



Thousands of MDC supporters march in central Harare last Friday demanding an end to impunity

Mbeki's deal ensured the signing of the power sharing deal was not going to be the end of the story. He demanded that the perpetrators of the chaos be exposed and punished.

The government faithfully appointed a troika of National Healing ministers, which has gathered evidence demonstrating Mugabe, his securocracy and Cabinet ministers in his party Zanu PF were privy to acts of atrocities that happened in 2008.

The MDC has also furnished the Attorney General Johannes Tomana with cases of violence perpetrated by Zanu PF to prosecute. But his response has been incredibly ambivalent.

Frustrated members of the MDC Harare Province Youth Assembly on Friday handed a petition to the Minister of Justice and Legal Affairs, Patrick Chinamasa and the co-Ministers of the Organ on National Healing and Reconciliation expressing anger and frustration at the escalating

State sponsored political violence and impunity.

The MDC youths marched from the party's headquarters in central Harare, Harvest House, to the offices of the National Healing Organ and later to the New Government complex where the offices of the Ministry of Justice are.

The petition demanded that those who perpetrated acts of violence, murder, rape and arson be brought to book by 15 April 2010. *To Page 2*

Roll of shame

Starting this week *The Changing Times* will be publishing names of perpetrators of political violence and their dastardly handiwork as reported to the Attorney General. These people continue to roam the country scot-free.

- **Mazikana Paul Herbert (MP Mbire)** He led a team of Zanu PF supporters that assaulted Wanzirai Magodo and destroyed his home. Mazikani also led the gang that killed Biggie Zhuwawo in April 2008 Titus Goho on June 12, 2008.
- **Joseph Chinotimba (losing candidate Buhera South in 2008 elections)** On 5 May 2008, Chinotimba raped an MDC member twice in Buhera. The name of the victim has been concealed in order to protect her. His car was used in the attack of Choukuse Nyoka Mubango on 18 May 2008. Choukuse later died.
- **Luke Mushore (MP Muzarabani North)** A group of Zanu PF youths aligned to Mushore destroyed MDC activists' homes. The youths were involved in the murder of Ratidzayi Dzenga on April 1, 2008.
- **Newten Kachepa (MP Mudzi North)** Kachepa led a group of Zanu PF supporters that murdered Temba Muronde on April 13 2008 and Kingswell Muteta on 25 July 2008 at Chimukoko village in Mudzi.
- **Bright Matonga (MP Mhondoro, Ngezi)** A group of Zanu PF youths using two vehicles belonging to Bright Matonga, murdered MDC activist, DadiRAYI Chipiro after setting her hut on fire, on 8 June 2008.

Zuma wants free and fair elections - Bennett

HARARE - MDC treasurer-general and deputy Agriculture minister-designate, Senator Roy Bennett last week met with South African President Jacob Zuma where the two agreed that it was important for Zimbabwe to have free and fair elections.

The meeting between the two was held in Harare and was called by President Zuma, who appraised him on why Zanu PF secretary Robert Mugabe was refusing to swear him into government as the deputy minister.

Zuma also met with Attorney General Johannes Tomana, Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe Governor Gideon Gono, who the MDC wants fired and replaced by consensus candidates as the Global Political Agreement (GPA) prescribes.

President Zuma also met with Defence minister Emerson Mnangagwa and Security minister Sydney Sekeramayi, to discuss security sector reform and the dismantling of the Joint Operations

Command, which has continued to meet illegally despite the establishment of the National Security Council, the new security think-tank.

"The meeting went on very well and I am happy with the outcome," Senator Bennett said. "President Zuma felt it was important for the country to hold free and fair elections so that the people have a government of their choice.

"He also wanted to know why the GPA was not being fully implemented," said Senator Bennett.

President Zuma was in the country following a request by the MDC to intervene and unlock the logjam over the delay in resolving the outstanding issues in the GPA.

President Zuma also met with the three principals in the ruling coalition.

At the end of his mediation on Thursday, Zuma said substantial progress had

been made in resolving the outstanding issues, and asked the negotiators to meet starting March 25 before presenting a comprehensive progress report to Zuma on 31 March 2010.

Zuma will then report to the SADC Troika chairman, Armando Guebuzza of Mozambique.

The MDC is represented at the negotiations by the secretary-general, Hon. Tendai Biti and the deputy treasurer-general, Hon. Elton Mangoma.

MDC national spokesperson, Hon. Nelson Chamisa, who stood in for Biti who was out of the country on government business during the latest round of talks, said the party was optimistic following Zuma's visit.

"We believe the process will put in place measures to realise finality, closure and conclusion to the outstanding issues," Hon. Chamisa said.

New Zimbabwe Lecture Series

| Venue | Date | Time |
|---|------------|----------|
| Marondera Hotel-Marondera | • 26/03/10 | • 4pm |
| Cresta Jameson - Harare | • 29/03/10 | • 5:30pm |
| Topic: <i>Zimbabwe since 29 March 2008;</i> Celebrating the peoples' victory Speaker: President Morgan Tsvangirai | | |
| Moffat Hall - Sakubva, Mutare | • 31/03/10 | • 4pm |

Real Change Rallies

| Venue | Date | Time |
|--------------------------------|--------------|-----------|
| Dzivarasekwa, Chemhanza Ground | • 28/03/2010 | • 12 noon |

MDC, delivering real change to the people of Zimbabwe



Real change is coming

... This season of endless talks should end

By Luke Tamborinyoka

Next week on Monday, Zimbabwe commemorates March 29; a historic day when the people of this country overwhelmingly rejected despotism and made a clear and unequivocal statement to Robert Mugabe and Zanu PF that dictatorship, thuggery, murder and mayhem could no longer stand as impediments to the people's journey towards real change.



Luke Tamborinyoka

So sonorous was the people's verdict; so deafening was the din from the villages and the urban townships that the MDC and President Morgan Tsvangirai were the people's choice that the Zanu PF-stuffed election machinery failed to announce the results for five solid weeks.

The major lesson of 29 March is that dictatorships have temporary legs; that the people are not stupid and that nothing can stop an idea whose hour has come.

From Kazungula to Tamandayi, from Msampakaruma to Mandizudure, from Chirundu to Forbes Border post, the people of Zimbabwe made it clear they were tired of Zanu PF and Robert Mugabe.

The results of that historic election were alarming to a dictatorship used to taking the people for granted. The MDC trounced Zanu PF at the polling station at Thornhill airbase; the dictatorship lost at Tomlinson Depot; Mugabe was a distant third after the vote count at the army camp at Inkomo barracks where he dismally lost to President Morgan Tsvangirai and Simba Makoni.

The grand lie that the security forces, in particular the army, are Robert Mugabe's unquestioning disciples, was shattered on 29 March. The nation is therefore aware that what happened in the run-up to June 27 was the tragic handiwork of a sulking minority in the top security brass which does not in any way reflect the voting preference of the rank and file of the country's security establishment.

Zimbabweans will always cherish that historic day when the people reclaimed their sovereignty and overcame fear. The people's 29 March commemorations will come barely a month after the first birthday of the inclusive government, itself the culmination of a long and protracted season of blood, violence and SADC-brokered negotiations between the governing MDC and two other opposition parties.

The inclusive government is a direct offspring of the people's expression on 29 March and it is clear that our participation in this government has largely brought respite to the people of Zimbabwe and rescued them from

still have a partisan and overtly biased public media, trigger-happy policemen continue to shoot striking workers, spanners have been thrown into important processes such as Constitutional and media reforms. In short, exclusivity and unilateralism still haunt Zanu PF which is finding it hard to acknowledge and appreciate the people's verdict as expressed on 29 March.

One year on, and faced with the prospect of a poor harvest and a hungry nation, the inclusive government has no time to waste discussing how to implement a signed agreement. The three parties in the inclusive government have better issues to discuss: the concerns and welfare of the civil servants, the massive corruption at Chiadzwa, the state of our education and health delivery systems, the state of our roads and lack of significant investment and optimum production in the industries.

As a party, we want finality and closure to this perennial season of dialogue. We have dialogued for almost three years since that historic SADC summit in Tanzania on 29 March 2007. Zimbabweans simply want implementation of the GPA. Zimbabweans want real change. They want hope, dignity, freedom, security and prosperity.

The politics of procrastination by those who want to fight change should not stand in the way of what the people want and deserve. This nation cannot be held to ransom by political pick-pockets who stole the people's vote on 27 June 2008.

Zimbabweans are tired of endless talks. They want this inclusive government to focus on bread and butter issues. They want to write their own Constitution after which they will elect a government through a free and fair election.

They do not want another wasted year to stand in the way of real change in their lives.

As the people celebrate their astounding war-cry against Africa's most entrenched dictatorship on 29 March, they are very much aware that they have not yet arrived to their chosen destination; a new Zimbabwe and a new beginning.

As MDC, we have time on our side. We have the people on our side. And we have history on our side.

Real change is coming.

Editor's Note:

Luke Tamborinyoka is the Director of Information and Publicity in the MDC. He can be contacted at mhoful@yahoo.co.uk.

almost three decades of unmitigated misgovernance and corruption.

Since 13 February 2009, following the decision by the MDC national council on 30 January 2009 to form the inclusive government, food is now back on the shelves, the economy is on the upturn and inflation has been tamed. Guarded confidence in the economy is beginning to creep back, albeit threatened by those among us who have a perennial mission to extinguish the people's hope and optimism.

We in the MDC are proud of our positive impact and the hope that we have given to the people of Zimbabwe that it is possible to deliver real change. We have shown that it is possible to believe again in a government that can serve the people.

As a party, we know that the inclusive government would have fared better if it were working with a single common purpose of serving the people.

The tragedy is that the old brooms that have failed to sweep for decades do not want the new brooms to clean up the sordid mess. We have a few sulking individuals who do not want the inclusive government to work and are plotting day and night to blow away the flickering flame of national hope.

It is no wonder therefore that valuable time has been misspent on the wrong issues over the past year. We have wasted much of the past year haggling over issues that we have already agreed upon simply because Zanu PF is so stubborn it is now balking at implementing what it signed on 15 September 2008.

These are the people who want to strangle this one-year old baby whose birth brought joy to the whole political village called Zimbabwe.

Strategic national institutions are still arrested by the repressive politics of yesterday. It is no wonder you

three months before elections and three months after the elections.

The task of the force will be there to ensure peace and also to ensure transference of leadership to the winner. Without that Zanu PF will continue using violence against the people of Zimbabwe.

Hardlife Mudzingwa

Peace-keeping force please

Dear Editor,

I believe the issue of political violence in Zimbabwe can not be addressed by having a new Constitution.

Zanu PF views the Constitution as a mere paper governing people through its paragraphs.

There is need to engage an international peace keeping force

Passport scam

Dear Editor,

Millions of Zimbabweans applied for their passports renewal in Diaspora including me in Canberra more than a year ago.

However, that money is nowhere to be seen and we have not received the renewed passports.

Can MDC please help us and investigate for us where the money went.

MDC demands justice

From Page 1

"The MDC Harare province Youth assembly demands that: 'the office of the AG (Attorney-General) disabuses itself from being prostituted by the regime of Zanu PF and start to actively pursue the murderers of Tonderai Ndira, Tabitha Marume, Tonderai Machiridza, Gift Tandare, Better Chokururama, Godfrey Kazani and many others,'" part of the petition reads.

The MDC youths also demanded that the AG moves swiftly and prosecute hooligans masquerading as Zanu PF youths who continue to issue threats at the Prime Minister and Head of Government, President Tsvangirai, who is also the undisputed winner of the last election held in the country, the youths said.

"The Organ on National Healing begin in earnest to undertake its Constitutional responsibility of undertaking programmes that include issues of transitional justice to promote national healing and reconciliation," the petition reads.

Addressing the youths later outside Harvest House, Harare province Youth Assembly chairperson, Costa Machingauta said the MDC youths were ready to protect the party and President Tsvangirai against any threats.

"We are willing to pay for this struggle with the ultimate price," said Machingauta.

He said more than a year after the formation of the inclusive government; nothing was being done to bring the perpetrators of violence to book.

"We remind the authorities that time will not let us forget but only justice is what we are waiting for and our patience is waning and we want the State to take full responsibility in the likely event that people turn against each other to correct the effects of the madness that engulfed the nation as Robert Mugabe clung to power against the people of Zimbabwe," said Machingauta.

Meanwhile, Machingauta and Robert Manyengavana were on Saturday detained for five hours at Harare Central Police Station.

The police officers at the Law and Order section wanted to know why they had given a petition to the AG.. The officers said they were working on orders from the top.

The two were later released but the police said the two would be called for further investigations.

Zanu PF Cabinet ministers have launched a vigorous campaign to discredit calls to bring all those implicated in the 2008 chaos to justice. They have embarked on useless and unwarranted calls for forgiveness.

Zanu-PF wants Zimbabweans to forget and move forward as if the lives of the more than 500 people who died in 2008 don't matter.

Just last week Zanu PF MPs, in a shocking act of arrogance, walked out of Parliament after MDC chief whip Innocent Gonese called for the appointment of a parliamentary select committee to investigate the political violence that took place after the March 29, 2008 harmonised elections and report its findings to Parliament.

Hon. Gonese said it was clear that after the March 2009 elections, that the violence did not just happen but was well orchestrated.

"There was a hidden hand somewhere and this emerged quite clearly with the use of vehicles that were used in the violence," Hon Gonese told Parliament.

"Most vehicles like the Mahindra and the CAM, we all know who had access to such vehicles. It is important that we have clear investigations to unravel what happened. So I think this motion should be supported by not only 100 percent but 150 or 1 000 percent," he said.

In his address, Hon. Gonese said a total of 2 401 homes belonging to MDC supporters were destroyed across the country while livestock and property were looted with the worst affected provinces being Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central and Manicaland.

"The perpetrators of this violence in some instances are known but they have not been arrested because our law enforcement agencies, in many instances, are being partisan and they are not doing their work in an impartial way," he said.

Hon. Gonese said Zimbabwe should get back to a situation where the culture of impunity did not exist.

Zaka Central MP Hon. Harrison Mudzuri, said it was important to help the victims of violence through counseling.

"At least that creates room for reconciliation, that is one advantage for this motion," he told the House of Assembly.

Nyanga North MP, Hon. Douglas Mwonzora said State security agents should never, ever again be used in campaigning for political parties.

"This involvement of the army, the CIO and the police in party politics is a double edged sword that may turn against the initiators," he warned. "The place of the army is in the barracks or in the front defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Zimbabwe. The army is not there to change governments or to keep governments," he said.

The MDC is demanding justice for the deceased and the living. The MDC says Zimbabwe must not wait until another tragedy explodes and now was the perfect moment to reign on impunity by hauling the Zanu PF criminal gang before the courts.

Letters to the Editor

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Can MDC please help us and investigate for us where the money went.

We were charged exorbitant fees for a normal passport and yet we don't get the passports.

If you enquire with passport office in Harare you are told they haven't received the money yet.

I am convinced the money was and continues to be used to finance Zanu PF's dwindling machinery through the Registrar General, Tobaiwa Mudede.

Assam Makari

Canberra

Good job President

Dear Editor,

I just want to say thank you to the MDC and President Morgan Tsvangirai for a good job and for being good listeners.

Continue with the struggle don't leave us behind we should go together.

Tafadzwa Munyaradzi

Harare

MDC Constitutional principles on Labour

- 1.1 The State must adopt reasonable policies and measures to provide everyone with an opportunity to work in a freely chosen activity, in order to secure a decent living for themselves and their families.
- 1.2 The State must endeavour to secure:
 - (i) adequate remuneration;
 - (ii) equitable opportunity for promotion;
 - (iii) safety at work;
 - (iv) maternity leave; and
 - (v) rest, leisure, limitation of working hours, periodic holidays with pay and remuneration for public holidays;
 - (c) the removal of restrictions that unnecessarily inhibit or prevent people from working and otherwise engaging in gainful economic activities;
 - (d) vocational guidance and the development of vocational and training programmes, including those for persons with disabilities;
 - (e) the implementation of measures such as family care that enable women to enjoy a real opportunity to work; and
 - (f) the rights of employers and employees to engage in collective bargaining and, where necessary, to engage in appropriate collective job action to enforce their rights.
- 1.3 The Constitution must recognise international labour standards and international labour laws should be incorporated into domestic laws.
- 1.4 All workers private or public should be covered under one legislation.

Local Government Forum

MDC-led Marondera Town Council gets down to serious business

MARONDERA – The MDC-led Marondera Town Council is working tirelessly to reclaim the dignity of the town that had been seriously affected by mismanagement and political meddling by the then elected Zanu PF councillors and senior officials, the mayor for the town, Councillor Farai Nyandoro has said.

Speaking in an interview with The Changing Times in Marondera this week, Clr Nyandoro said when his team got into office, it found that most of the council property and equipment had been run down, stripped and looted by Zanu PF appointed councillors, officials and the Zimbabwe National Water Authority (Zinwa) employees.

This situation made providing better service delivery in the town by the councillors, a nightmare.

“When we went into office in 2008, council operations were literally grounded with almost non-existent water supplies, roads in a bad state, no refuse collection and council workers not reporting to work as the then Zanu PF officials and Zinwa were busy stripping and looting council property,” he said.

Clr Nyandoro said when Zinwa was given the task to supply water supplies in urban areas in 2006; it took over the main source of water supply in Marondera, Wenimbe Dam with adequate water supply and reticulation plants in good working condition.

“But as we speak there is no single pump available at the dam as it was looted”.

Other two dams that also supply water to the town, Rufaro and Nyakambiri have their pumps missing, with only one pump functioning at Rufaro Dam.

However, Clr Nyandoro said this sorry state of affairs did not deter the MDC councillors as they immediately rolled up their sleeves and got down to revive the dying town of Marondera, situated 80km east of Harare along the Harare – Mutare highway.

“This week we will be installing two new pumps at Rufaro and Nyakambiri dams that will better water supplies and bring to an end the era of water rationing as long as we have electricity supplies,” he said.

Before the councillors were sworn into office in 2008, the then Marondera mayor, Ralph Chimankire from Zanu clandestinely recruited 130 employees into council although the local authority had no money to pay them

The bloated staff, which came to 500 made it impossible for the town to pay council employees salaries.

“We have since carried out a human resources audit and we have discovered that we need to reposition our manpower in accordance with the approved staff establishment of the council,” said Clr Nyandoro.

Marondera is a town that received its status in 1974 and has 10 residential areas with Dombotombo, a high density location, being the oldest.

It has 11 000 homes and an estimated population of 100 000. It is the provincial capital for Mashonaland East province.

The council is also in the process of demolishing Rusike hostels in Dombotombo.

“The hostels have become a health hazard as they are old and can collapse anytime. They used to house over 500 families but only 30 families remain and we are in the process of finding alternative accommodation for them in order for the demolishing to start,” said Clr Nyandoro.

“We are also grateful over the US\$2, 9 million that we received from the government through Finance Minister Tendai Biti as it will go a long way in sewer and water reticulation and installing more reservoirs for this expanding town,” he said.

The town is also resurfacing all roads after it received tar for the project from the Zimbabwe National Road Authority (Zinara) and managed to restore 50 percent of all street lighting.

The town has also managed to bring back on the road three refuse trucks, two ambulances and two fire tankers that had been stripped of their parts by corrupt workers and the then Zanu PF councillors.

The town also manages five primary and secondary schools and two clinics in Nyameni and Dombotombo.

However, Clr Nyandoro said the operations of the town were also being seriously affected by the non-payment of rates by the residents.

“The residents are in a difficult position as most of them are unemployed after their companies, which were mostly agricultural, closed following the introduction of the chaotic land reform programme,” he said.

The mayor said the council had however, come with an incentive of slashing 20 percent from all arrears of the residents.

“We hope with this incentive, the residents will be able to pay as some of the arrears date back to February 2009 when the multi-currency system was introduced.



Marondera mayor Councillor Farai Nyandoro

Marondera Town has 12 councillors, all from the MDC. However, one of the councillors, James Mulhwa of Ward 10, died last year from injuries he sustained after he was abducted and assaulted by Zanu PF supporters during the run-up to the discredited June 2008 presidential run-off.

The other councillor, Portifa Makayimi of Ward 12, never set foot into the council's chambers as he was abducted by armed State security agents in the Central Business District on 12 May 2008.

Since that day, the whereabouts of Makayimi are unknown.

Local Government minister, Ignatius Chombo also attempted to swear-in three “special interest councillors” from Zanu PF who had lost in the March 2008 elections but his attempts were resisted by the councillors.

Chombo has been trying to force losing Zanu PF councillors back into council

through the backdoor by appointing them “special interest councillors” but the move has been rejected in most urban councils especially in Bulawayo and Chegutu where they have taken Chombo to court over the appointments.

The High Court has since said the appointments are illegal.

Aided by Chombo the former mayor, Chimankire also illegally took a council vehicle and is holding to 15 residential stands that he acquired fraudulently.

“We are consulting with our lawyers to make sure that the stands and the vehicle are returned to council,” said Clr Nyandoro.

Also in a bid for the council to be commercially viable, the council has managed to run productively two of its commercial farms Gumbeze, which has 750 hectares and Labour farm, with 900 hectares.

“However, operations at the Labour Farm have been stopped after a Zanu PF functionary known as Million started disrupting operations at the farm. But at Gumbeze, we have started cattle ranching and at the moment we have a herd of 130 cattle,” said Clr Nyandoro.

Clr Nyandoro, who is a member of the MDC's Mashonaland East provincial executive, also called on the private sector to come and do business in Marondera through the Public, Private Partnership (PPP).

“We have enough land for expansion for both residential and commercial purposes. The time to apply for business is less than two weeks and the payment plan is also flexible. During the first year of construction of a commercial building, one is entitled to free water supplies,” said Clr Nyandoro.

Khupe gives Plumtree Hospital shot in the arm

BULAWAYO - Deputy Prime Minister Hon Thokozani Khupe donated sanitary wear to Plumtree Hospital last weekend.

In her continuous efforts to restore dignity to the girl child and women, Hon. Khupe has been going around the country donating sanitary wear to hospitals and prisons in a Phase One exercise following an assessment tour of the institutions in the country.

The DPM in her assessment report observed that there remained many challenges in hospitals in the country.

There was dire need for the replacement of machinery and hospital equipment, detergents, linen and accommodation for medical practitioners.

"There is urgent need for government intervention to recapitalise all hospitals in the country in order to enhance smooth operations as well as to maintain a balanced staff ratio," Hon Khupe said.

Plumtree Hospital officials appealed to the DPM for new policy to assist old institutions.

"Our hospitals should be good, as good as hotels in order to give hope of better health to the patients," Hon Khupe said. "Financial problems remain sticky in the country but the situation should be improved. I want to promise you that my office will work hard and make sure that hospitals are rehabilitated."

She pledged her assistance through her office to better the hospital, that is situated close to the Botswana border. Hon Khupe said the hospital needed major rehabilitation because it was situated along a visitor's highway.

DPM Khupe commended efforts and commitment by Dr Gilbert Moyo, the only doctor at the hospital. The hospital, according to the Provincial Medical



Hon. Khupe hands over a donation to Plumtree Hospital staff

Doctor, Gordon Bango, needs at least three doctors to operate efficiently.

Commenting on the appalling state of hospital machinery, shortages of manpower, drugs and accommodation, the DPM said the country was rich in resources and it was only fair that it empowered its communities.

"A resource mobilisation team is already in place because we want to know where our resources are going when our hospitals and schools are in a dilapidated state. We want to harness our resources for rehabilitation and general upkeep of all people in Zimbabwe."

On the same day the DPM, who is also MP for Makokoba constituency, donated food hampers to the orphans and elderly people in her constituency. About 200 orphaned families received the hampers.

A similar donation was made to the less privileged in Entumbane by a local supermarket through efforts made by MDC Councillor Prince Dube and residents to assist the needy in their community.

Twelve families benefited from Clr. Dube's efforts to assist the less privileged in his ward.

MDC councillors and MPs in Bulawayo have been working very closely with residents in efforts to help the people that they represent. Databases have been compiled as a way to keep an update on the people and their day to day challenges as individuals living in the constituencies.

In Thorngrove Hon Khupe made a donation of grocery hampers to the less privileged, orphaned and child headed families.

"Its governments obligation to adopt the less privileged and to assist them but we aware that the economic situation has not gone back on its feet," Hon Khupe said. "The economy does not permit government to do so. We are as your leadership trying individually to set examples for government to adopt this tradition of ploughing back to the communities."

She added that individual assistance was limited because the communities have unemployed, orphaned, child headed, HIV positive, elderly and poverty stricken family heads.

"We are also busy trying to revive policies of welfare. It is my vision that everyone in this country is well fed and well kept at all times," Hon Khupe said.

MDC mourns Sam Mtukudzi



President Tsvangirai consoles a grieving Oliver Mtukudzi

HARARE - The MDC last week joined the people of Zimbabwe in mourning Sam Mtukudzi, the only son of prominent music icon Oliver Mtukudzi.

In a statement released by the party last week, the MDC said Sam like his father; Sam was a talented musician with a great future as an artist.

Sam and his friend, Owen Chimhare, died in a car accident last week.

"He was a beacon of hope, a source of inspiration and an idol to his generation. Zimbabwe's arts industry is poorer without Sam, who has been untimely plucked at a time he was beginning to make

his mark in a tough industry where his father carved fame and respect.

"We in the MDC would want to assure the Mtukudzi family that the loss is not theirs alone; that Zimbabwe has been robbed of great talent and that our thoughts and prayers are with them in this hour of grief," the party said in the statement.

As Oliver Mtukudzi sang; "Rufu ndimadzongonyedze (Death is a spoiler)." The Mtukudzi family has been robbed by this great spoiler. The nation has suffered a great loss.

The arts industry has been dealt a severe blow while his generation has lost one so young and one so talented. The saxophone will blow no more as its chief skills man lies motionless in the soft requiem of death.

'Let your voices be heard'

HARARE - MDC vice president and Deputy Prime Minister Thokozani Khupe has urged Zimbabweans to participate in the constitution making process.

Addressing thousands of people during a Real Change rally at Mabelreign shops in Harare West constituency, Hon. Khupe said the new constitution will enable free and fair elections.

"The hour is now, you have the power, outreach teams are coming, let your voices be heard. Zimbabweans go in your numbers and be part of the process so that we level the playing field that will make free and fair elections possible," she said.

Hon Khupe also said the government was working on systems of

setting up a resource mobilisation committee that will oversee the use of Zimbabwe's resources.

"We cannot afford to go hungry when we have resources that can enable civil servants to be paid enough money for their upkeep. We are working on systems of setting up a Resource Mobilisation Committee to see were the diamonds are going and were all the gold is going," Hon Khupe said.

Hon Khupe told the gathering that although the inclusive government has brought change, people should not be content with that little change because the MDC has potential to deliver real change.

Speaking at the same occasion, minister of Labour and Social Welfare Hon Paurina Mpariwa encouraged women to

fully participate in the Constitution-making process so that there is 50-50 representation in the decision making matrix.

Also present at the rally was MDC Organising Secretary Hon Mudzuri, Deputy Secretary General Hon Tapiwa Mashakada, national and provincial leadership.

In Manicaland, speaking to 6 000 people gathered at Resi Camp in Makoni North on Friday Hon. Prosper Mutseyami said the inclusive government has enabled the people to write a constitution and they should not miss this opportunity.

He added that the MDC proposed constitution promoted children's rights.

"We also want old age pension," he said. "Everyone who reaches 65 years regardless of whether they have worked before, should straight away be registered on government pensioners. We want independent media commissions, land commissions, anti corruption commissions and electoral commissions."

"The President should come from the people through an election, as well as House of Assembly members. Senators will be appointed through proportional representation in Parliament," said Hon Mutseyami

Addressing about 5 000 people gathered at Nedziwa Grounds in Makoni South on Sunday, Hon Pishai Muchauraya echoed the same sentiments and emphasised the need for people to full engage in the consultative meetings.

Meanwhile, speaking during a youth rally in Bulawayo at the MDC offices, Hon. Thamsanqa Mahlangu said the party was prioritising the empowerment of young people in Zimbabwe and not just Zanu PF youths.

Hon. Mahlangu also expressed his disappointment on the delay in finalising of talks which is impacting negatively on issues of development.

Council repossesses 20ha seized by Chombo

HARARE - The Harare City Council has resolved to repossess nearly 20 hectares of council land in the prime area of Borrowdale from Zanu PF's Ignatius Chombo because it was fraudulently acquired.

Chombo who is also the Minister of Local Government, Urban and Rural Development, acquired the land for nearly US\$2 400.

The land was further demarcated by Chombo into 3,8 and two-acre plots and were this week being sold by the Zanu PF official for US\$120 000 and US\$90 000 respectively.

"Recommendations on Stand 61 Helensvale: Council should repossess Stand 61 Helensvale because (a) it was acquired irregularly (b) there was conflict of interest on the part of beneficiary I.M.C Chombo. (c) Stand 61 Helensvale should revert to its Town Planning Scheme purposes and remain an open space for recreational purposes," the council resolved.

Banket councillors in fresh bail application

CHINHOYI - The defence lawyers for two MDC Banket councillors who are in remand prison facing false murder charges will this week make a fresh bail application at the High Court.

The two councillors, Fani Tembo, Emmanuel Chinanzvana are jointly charged with Givemore Hodzi. They were arrested in January and are facing spurious charges that they murdered a Zanu PF special interest councillor, Lancelot Zvironge.

They first applied for bail last month at the High Court but the State requested time to conclude investigations and was given two weeks.

The two councillors were also part of over 40 MDC and civic society activists including then two year-old Nigel Mutemagawu who were abducted and tortured between October and December 2008 only to be released in February last year.

Gutu South MP acquitted



Hon. Edmore Maramwidze

HARARE - The MP for Gutu South in Masvingo, Hon. Edmore Maramwidze who was facing trumped-up charges of abusing government subsidized agricultural inputs, has been acquitted.

Hon. Maramwidze was acquitted last week at the Harare Magistrates' Courts after the court found that

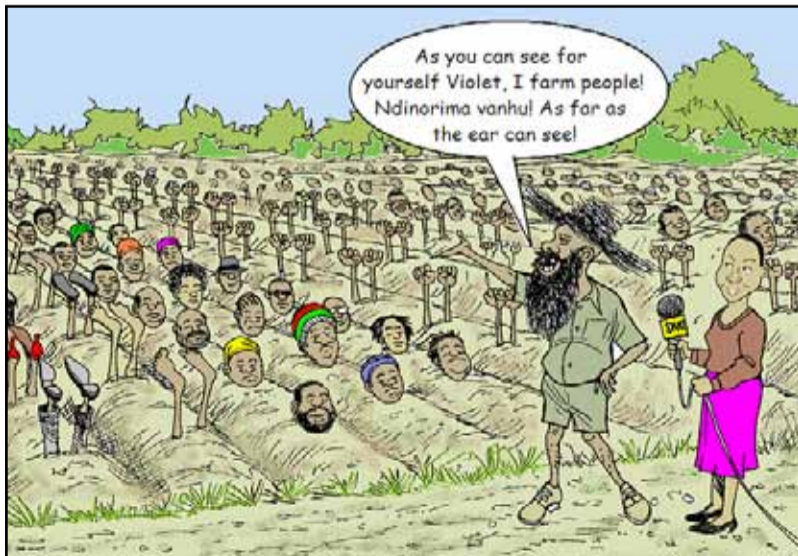
there was no evidence of the abuse of the inputs.

Through his lawyer, Douglas Mwonzora of Mwonzora and Associates, Hon. Maramwidze argued the State had failed to prove a case against him.

Harare magistrate, Kudakwashe Jarabini concurred with the defence, saying: "Having analysed the evidence adduced at this stage, the court has arrived at the decision that there is no evidence at this stage proving the essential elements of the case."

"The court should not speculate on evidence, accused is hereby discharged at the close of State case."

According to the evidence of one of the key witnesses, army major, Ronald Mapuranga, Hon. Maramwidze had not made any misrepresentation in order to acquire the agricultural inputs.



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