



The Changing Times

Movement for Democratic Change

A Party of Excellence!

The Official Mouthpiece of the MDC

Tuesday 18 May

MDC Information & Publicity Department, Harvest House, 44 Nelson Mandela Ave, Harare, Zimbabwe Issue 037: 2010

MDC acts on violence

Party calls for urgent SADC summit to resolve outstanding issues

The ruling MDC has acted swiftly to deal with violence in the party by expelling all the party youths implicated in the recent disturbances at Harvest House.

Addressing a press conference following a national council meeting at the party's headquarters in Harare on Sunday, President Morgan Tsvangirai said the MDC expresses its revulsion at all cases of violence in the party and anyone who engaged in violent activities would be expelled.

The President announced the expulsion from the party of Rhino Mashaya, Shakespear Mukoyi, Stephen Jahwi, Todini Todini and Francis Machimbizofa.

"The above youths shall not participate in any activities of the Party and that no member of the Party shall, within the context of Party activities, associate or entertain the above," the President told journalists.

He said the five youths had been fingered by a party-commissioned probe team which was set up following disturbances at Harvest House on the 12th and the 14th April 2010.

The expulsion follows recent disturbances at the party headquarters, where a party vehicle was seized and unknown people gained entry into the party headquarters through the back of the building. The President said the leadership would get to the bottom of the matter in order to allow the party to concentrate on its core business of delivering real change to the people of Zimbabwe.

President Tsvangirai said the MDC had been a victim of violence for the past 11 years and could not allow a situation where the Zanu PF culture of violence and impunity creeps into the party ranks.

The national council, the party's supreme decision-making body outside Congress, also took far-reaching decisions on the issues of the dialogue and the outstanding GPA matters, the diamond mines at Chiadzwa, the state of the economy, the working conditions of civil servants, the indigenisation regulations and the rule of law.

The national council urged the Principals to immediately take measures to implement and execute all the positions agreed by the negotiators, which include the issues of political and electoral reforms.

The national council called for the convening of an urgent SADC summit to resolve all the outstanding issues of provincial governors, national heroes, the swearing-on of Hon Roy Bennett, the issue of the RBZ governor Gideon Gono and Attorney-General Johannes Tomana, the review and reallocation of ministerial mandates, the chairing



President Morgan Tsvangirai addressing journalists in Harare on Sunday

of Cabinet, the unilateral alteration of ministerial mandates and the controversial Ministry of Information Permanent Secretary George Charamba who also doubles up as Mr Robert Mugabe's spokesperson.

"The party urges the immediate convening of a SADC Summit to resolve these matters, which SADC Summit should clearly discuss the roadmap to an election and the guarantees to the legitimacy of that election," reads part of the national council resolution.

On indigenisation, the council said the regulations should lead to the empowerment of the ordinary people of Zimbabwe and not the Zanu PF elite.

"The MDC believes in broad-based empowerment for the people and for this reason condemns the current proposed indigenization regulations on the basis that they are elitist, selective and a mere vehicle for further enrichment of the rich few, self aggrandizement, patronage, clientelism and further destruction of the economy," the council resolved.

"It is our firm view that the original indigenization and empowerment act should be repealed and be replaced by a new law that balances the overwhelming imperator of investment in the economy against the fundamental obligation of broad based empowerment. In any event, it is important to marry the indigenization programme with the experience of the land reform programme. It is important to conclude the land reform audit urgently so that lessons from the same are properly applied to any programme that seeks to address the plight of previously disadvantaged Zimbabweans."

The national council also noted with serious concern the re-emergence of violence in most parts of the country, with Zanu PF vigilantes and rogue war veterans promising more violence after the World Cup in South Africa in June. The party demanded that all parties in the inclusive government must respect Article 18 of the Global Political Agreement.

"The MDC is also concerned about the selective application of the law including the Attorney General's failure and reluctance to prosecute perpetrators of violence following the March 2008 elections in clear breach of Article 18.5 (c) and (j) of the GPA," the party said.

The National Council condemned the slow rate by which Constitutional Commissions were delivering their mandates, particularly the Zimbabwe Media Commission which is yet to pluralise Zimbabwe's media sector three months after it started work.

The party also restated its commitment to seeing an improvement in the working conditions of all workers, especially civil servants.

"The MDC is a social democratic party born from the struggle of the working people of Zimbabwe. To this extent, the MDC strives to uphold and improve the living conditions of workers including the paying of reasonable and equitable wages. The right to a basic wage being a fundamental right," reads part of the resolution, adding that revenue for salaries could be created through the transparent and professional handling of proceeds from the Chiadzwa diamond fields.

"The MDC is also aware of thousands of ghost workers and Zanu PF militia on the civil service wage roll. It is important that the civil service audit be concluded as a matter of urgency. In this regard, we find it unacceptable that the Public Service Commission continues to stall the same by refusing to supply critical information to auditors."

The National Council expressed unhappiness with profligate government

expenditure in particular millions of dollars spent through travel and subsistence allowances as well as huge amounts being spent on acquisition of non-productive capital, in particular motor vehicles.

Roll of shame

The Changing Times continues this week to publish 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.

Tendai Savanhu

The losing Zanu PF parliamentary candidate in Mbare, Harare. Savanhu organised the notorious Chipangano militia that assaulted MDC supporters in Mbare and surrounding areas. Savanhu was personally involved in the assault of a group of MDC women who had been abducted from their homes during the night of June 21 2008.

Olivia Muchena

Mutoko South MP and Cabinet minister. Muchena sponsored Zanu PF militia in attacking MDC supporters in Mutoko and Mudzi districts. The militia were also involved in looting property and livestock of MDC members. On May 1 2008, she was personally involved in the destruction of Revai Kativhu's homestead in Mutoko South.

Flora Bhuka

Gokwe - Nembudziya MP and Cabinet minister. She is the feared perpetrator and organiser of violence in Gokwe. Many MDC supporters who were assaulted in Gokwe described her as "very dangerous and ruthless."

MDC activist's body spends year in mortuary

GOKWE - The body of MDC activist, Moses Chokuda who was murdered last year by two Zanu PF youths who included the son of Midlands governor and senior Zanu PF official, Jason Machaya is still at Gokwe hospital's mortuary.

Chokuda was murdered by Farai Machaya, the son of the Midlands governor and Isaac Gana on 22 March 2009 at Masakadza business centre, 50km from Gokwe Centre.

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

The deceased's father, Tavengwa Chokuda said there was no way the family could bury Moses until his murderers had apologised and explained their motive for killing his son.

On the fateful day, Machaya and Gana abducted Chokuda using a Zanu PF district coordinating committee vehicle.

The two murderers were later arrested and their case is before the courts but they are out of remand prison on bail.

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

The elder Chokuda said the police were also forcing him to bury his son but he said he would not do so until his demands are met.

"I have told the police that I could not proceed with the burial without getting a clear explanation from his murderers," the elder Chokuda told The Changing Times on Sunday.

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



Johannes Tomana must resign

By Luke Tamborinyoka

After a grueling 16 months of persecution, 109 court appearances and a shameful waste of taxpayers' money, controversial Attorney-General, Johannes Tomana, last week dismally failed to secure the conviction of Hon Roy Bennett.



Luke Tamborinyoka

It was simply an encyclopedic display of gross incompetence which must warrant his instant resignation as the State's chief legal officer.

It was a case that Tomana took up himself against sound advice from Hon Bennett's lawyers that the AG could not demean himself and his office by appearing personally to prosecute.

But it appears Tomana did not want to miss his chance to showcase his incompetence to the world. And he

gladly took up this doomed mission that would lead to his ultimate disgrace.

As if that is not enough, the incompetent Attorney-General has taken up further political instructions to appeal against the Judge's ruling despite the fact that his appeal won't stand a snowball's chance in Hell.

Rather than Hon Bennett, it must be Tomana himself who must now come under the spotlight. Even a freshman in law school would have seen from the onset that the State was never going to succeed; especially after their so-called key witness, Peter Michael Hitschmann, ended up vouching for the defence. Our "competent" AG called up several witnesses, who the judge later described as being of "amazing ignorance."

As Justice Chinembiri Bhunu said in his judgment, the State cannot take a dive in the centre circle and expect the referee to award a penalty. And in this case, Tomana took a shameful dive in his own half and expected the referee not only to award him a penalty, but also to give Hon Bennett a red card! But justice had other ideas.

The Attorney-General must simply hide his head in shame. He has dismally failed his national duty by pursuing a political fight which has since cost him his reputation.

We in the MDC have always said that Tomana has prostituted his professionalism by sacrificing his reputation on the altar of political expediency. An Attorney-General who

makes a public confession that he supports a political party is never fit for office and his dismal performance in this case vindicates those of us who have always seen this case as "persecution by prosecution."

Now Tomana has been hoist by his own petard.

We believe Hon Bennett must immediately take up his national duty to which the party deployed him. Zanu PF cannot have a hand in MDC deployments to government.

Forget the shrill, shameful propaganda from relevance-seekers such as Jonathan Moyo. Bennett is a patriotic Zimbabwean who has distinguished himself in serving his country. It is not criminal for him to have served in the British South Africa Police at one point in his life. Even Zanu PF stalwarts such as Phillip Chiyangwa did, just as Olivia Muchena, now a Cabinet minister, was a member of the late Bishop Abel Muzorewa's UANC.

Hon Bennett was born on 16 February 1957 in Rusape.

His father was a farmer and in 1958 the family moved from Rusape to Karoi. His childhood was one of bare feet and consisted of roaming the farm with his friends, hunting with a catapult and fishing in the rivers and dams.

He did his primary education in Karoi from 1962 to 1969 and his secondary studies at Ellis Robins High School in Harare from 1970 to 1973.



Hon. Roy Bennett

In 1993 he purchased Chimanimani Estate in the Chimanimani area from the Lonrho Wattle Company where he entered into growing coffee and also continued cattle ranching. Bennett was nominated as the Tobacco Grower of the Year for Karoi North area in 1988, and was awarded the National Coffee Grower of the Year award in 1996.

He was Chairman of the Chimanimani Farmers Association and he was the Manicaland representative on the Agricultural Labour Board, and he sat on the Board of the Zimbabwe Coffee Mill as Chairman and later became a trustee of the Chimanimani Country Club. He also formed and chaired the Chimanimani Development Association and was the chairman of Mvurachena Primary School in Chipinge.


Senator Bennett, a fluent and eloquent Shona speaker, played polo and

captained the Mashonaland side for several years and also played in the national team for four years.

He remains a patriotic Zimbabwean whose only crime is that he is white and he is MDC.

Now that justice has put an end to Pachedu's protracted persecution, we await his immediate swearing-in as deputy minister of Agriculture.

Meanwhile, the nation awaits with eagerness the immediate resignation of a Zanu PF functionary masquerading as the Attorney-General of Zimbabwe.

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Letters to the Editor

The persecution of Bennett is a desperate Zanu PF survival attempt

Dear Editor

The continued persecution of Roy Bennett by the Attorney-General has proved that Zanu PF especially people like Emmerson Mnangagwa and Patrick Chinamasa will go to any lengths to stop the tide of change that is rocking Zimbabwe.

The two including their leader, Robert Mugabe know that Bennett is a very popular man.

They know even in their rhetoric castigating Bennett, that no-one will accept their hogwash.

The courts have shown that Bennett is not guilty.

However, Zanu PF is trying by all means to frustrate Bennett but

no amount of persecution will bar real change coming to Zimbabwe.

The actions by Zanu PF really show that the opposition party is now aware that change is coming to Zimbabwe and what Zanu PF is doing are the kicks of a dying horse.

Also in all fairness, the actions of Johannes Tomana should be investigated as he is using his powers at the AG to harass individuals whom he perceives to be threats to the fading Zanu PF.

Rutendo Nyamayaro

Bulawayo

Harare councillors should be saluted for a job well done in fighting corruption

Dear Editor

The councillors running the Harare City Council should be congratulated for

their unwavering stance that they took in unearthing corruption by senior Zanu PF officials in looting council land.

Zanu PF has shown that it is a party that has deep rooted corruption running in its nerves and this has only been unearthed after the MDC council come into office.

Reports that Ignatius Chombo and Phillip Chiyangwa have amassed wealth through illegal deals which have cost the ratepayers, is surely an issue that should be dealt with accordingly.

The police should show that they are not partisan to any political party, organisation or individual and carry out further proper investigations against these two corrupt Zanu PF officials.

I would like to urge other local council authorities especially those run by the MDC, which are in the majority to carry their own investigations into what was happening when Zanu PF used to run these councils.

The Harare council report has openly shown that Zanu PF officials are corrupt to the bone and should be dealt with decisively.

Ephraim Karima

Harare

MPs should push for the immediate start of the Constitution-making process

Dear Editor

Can the MDC especially its MPs please push for the Constitution-making process to begin in earnest?

We have been waiting with baited breath for this process to begin since January but up to now nothing tangible has happened.

We are still waiting though with hope that this process will guarantee us a new Constitution.

We know that a new Constitution will

see us enjoying the real fruits of our independence.

We will have new media reforms, the police will not use force as at the present moment to bar peaceful demonstrations.

As a result I think the MPs should come out in the open and call for the expediting of the Constitution-making process before next year's elections.

Selma Magaya

Chitungwiza



Founding principles of the Constitution

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.

Founding principles are those values that citizens commit themselves to their adherence. They are both the soul and the spine of the constitution and they reflect the manner in which the people desire to be governed.

1.1 Authority of the people

1.1.1 The legal and political authority of the State derives from the people of

Zimbabwe through universal and equal adult suffrage, an open multiparty system of democratic government and regular, transparent, free and fair elections and must be exercised in accordance with this Constitution solely to serve and protect the people's interests.

1.1.2 Everyone who exercises State power does so on trust for the people of Zimbabwe and must exercise that power within the bounds of lawful authority and in accordance with his or her responsibilities to the people.

1.2 Human Rights

1.2.1 The state must uphold, promote

and defend the human rights of the people of Zimbabwe as the basis of its relationship to the people.

1.3 National unity, peace and stability

1.3.1 All organs and agencies of the State and Government, including local government, and all the people of Zimbabwe, must promote national unity, peace and stability.

1.3.2 The State and Government must make every effort to integrate all the peoples of Zimbabwe while recognising their ethnic, religious, political and cultural diversity; and

(b) to promote a culture of co-operation, understanding, appreciation and tolerance of and respect for the customs, traditions and beliefs of others.

1.4 Democratic principles

1.4.1 The State is based on democratic principles which empower and encourage the active and equal participation of all citizens at all levels of government.

1.4.2 Subject to this Constitution, all the people of Zimbabwe should have access to leadership positions at all levels of government.

1.4.3 Institutions of Government should be broad-based and national in character.

1.4.4 The policies of the State must be guided by the principle of devolution of governmental functions and responsibilities, and the provision of the necessary resources, to the people at appropriate levels.

1.5 Rule of law

1.5.1 All organs and agencies of the State and Government, including local government, and all persons must observe and uphold this Constitution and the rule of law, and no institution or person stands above the law.

Local Government Forum

MDC-led Masvingo council braces to deliver real change

MASVINGO - The city of Masvingo has been facing a hectic and challenging schedule this year in its battle to improve and provide better living conditions for the residents, Masvingo mayor, Alderman Femius Chakabuda has said.

Speaking to *The Changing Times* on Sunday, the mayor said the city had this year rolled out several development projects across the city that would go a long way in improving service delivery.

Among these projects is the improvement of water and sanitation, construction of more health facilities and paving more land for residential and business stands.

"Our sewer network needs serious attention. At the moment, we are changing our water pipes to suit the increase in the volume of sewer flow.

"The Dikwindi primary school sewer system is now overloaded and we are working on rehabilitating it. We also need an additional trunk main sewer from Runyararo West to Muccheke high density suburb to reduce pressure on the existing sewer system.

"We are also working on another trunk main sewer to service at Rhodene," he said.

However, Alderman Chakabuda said these projects were being hampered by several issues including financial constraints.

"We are in desperate need of funds to immediately resolve these matters," he said, although he was reluctant to reveal how much the city was seeking in order to complete these projects.

The task is daunting but we will make sure that the residents of

Masvingo have better living conditions, he said.

However, Alderman Chakabuda urged the residents to pay their rates in time and frequently.

"The residents have been failing to pay their rates due to the economy that is still recovering but I would like to urge them to be proactive and pay their rates as this is the only way we can improve service delivery," he said.

Masvingo is the oldest city in Zimbabwe with a population of just below a million residents.

It is a well located city which has great potential of attracting investors in various sectors including farming, tourism and mining.

It is also strategically located as a gateway to other neighbouring countries such as South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique.

Last year, Masvingo City Council and the city of Kitwe in neighbouring Zambia signed a twinning agreement that has resulted in the two local authorities exchanging ideas on good urban governance, increase in trade and unlock business opportunities.

Also last year, Alderman Chakabuda managed to twin the town with the German city of Kernen.

After the twinning, the Masvingo town council managed to source funds from Kernen for the upliftment of various projects in the city.

Alderman Chakabuda said his council was also constructing a new maternity wing at Runyararo clinic in order to reduce congestion at Mazorodze maternity home in Muccheke.

He said the residents were also eager to see the maternity facility being extended to Rujeko high density suburb but however, lack of funding was blocking progress.



Masvingo Mayor Alderman Femius Chakabuda

He said due to the increase in the number of residents, there was also an urgent need to construct at least two additional council primary schools and one secondary school before the end of the year.

"We need at least three additional schools before the end of the year and we have found support from well wishers to carry out this project. Therefore, we are likely to meet our target on this project.

However, he bemoaned the state of most council roads in Masvingo particularly in high density areas.

"The roads are in an atrocious state - particularly in the high density suburbs.

Our road making equipment is down but we are repairing it so that the state of roads is improved," he said.

The MDC is in charge of running the affairs of Masvingo Town with nine out of 10 councillors. Only one councillor is from the opposition Zanu PF.

Alderman Chakabuda is also the councillor for Ward 5 in Muccheke.

In an effort to maintain cleanliness in the city, the council will soon buy additional refuse collection trucks to complement the available vehicles.

Speaking about the city's preparedness in hosting guests who will be on

their way to South Africa for the 2010 Soccer World Cup tournament, the mayor said the city is now ready to accommodate international guests.

"We really have a daunting task ahead but we are working flat out to improve service delivery, health and accommodation facilities in the city.

"We have one of the best hotel accommodation facilities in the country and I would like to urge those passing through the town on their way to South Africa to stop by and sample Masvingo's hospitality," he said.

President Tsvangirai gets Human Rights Award

MDC President and Zimbabwe Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has been awarded the Harriman democracy and human rights award from the National Democratic Institute (NDI) in recognition of his work in promoting the rule of law and democratic reform in Zimbabwe.

President Tsvangirai received a standing ovation when he was introduced to the audience by NDI chair Madeleine

Albright, who told the story of a man working to overcome many obstacles.

“The essence of free government is that when one set of policies is not working, an alternative can be considered,” Madeleine Albright said. “But when democracy has been subverted, presenting that alternative requires courage, persistence and faith. Fortunately, Mr. Tsvangirai possesses each of these qualities. His character is steady and strong.”

President Tsvangirai has remained resolute in the face of various challenges posed by the opposition Zanu PF including trumped up charges of treason, arrests, and beatings of him and MDC supporters.

The award is given by the National Democratic Institute (NDI) “to individuals and organisations that have demonstrated a sustained commitment to democracy and human rights.”

The NDI said President Tsvangirai was being rewarded for “his tireless efforts to restore democracy, human rights and the rule of law in Zimbabwe”.

In his acceptance speech, President Tsvangirai said the people of Zimbabwe needed real change in order for their lives to improve.

“As prime minister, I’m aware that the people of Zimbabwe

demand the delivery of better services, and more profound reforms at a faster rate. And the reengagement of the international community will assist us in this process.”

This is the second international award that president Tsvangirai has won in less than two years, with a near miss of the Nobel peace prize which was won by US President, Barack Obama late last year.

Bindura mayor arrested

...as Chombo continues to stifle MDC-run councils

Bindura – Bindura Mayor, Daniso Wakatama and two councillors were on Friday arrested and imprisoned on trumped-up charges of criminal abuse of office.

Mayor Wakatama and Cllrs Christopher Mazembe and Rindai Muchemwa appeared before Bindura Magistrate Feresi Chakanyuka facing trumped-up charges that they flouted tender procedures in the purchasing of council vehicles and a tractor.

However, their lawyer, Ernest Jena said the Bindura municipality was supposed to be the complainant not the State and as a result they had no case to answer.

The MDC views the arrests of the councillors as an attempt to intimidate and harass them after they unearthed corruption within the council when Zanu PF councillors were still in office.

Last month, mayor Wakatama revealed that provincial governor and Zanu PF stalwart Martin Dinha had bought a council house for a scandalous amount equivalent to US\$48 cents.

Meanwhile, the MDC has strongly condemned the continued machinations by Zanu PF’s Ignatius Chombo who is unnecessarily interfering in the operations of democratically-run local councils to further the interests of his party which was overwhelmingly rejected by voters in March 2008.

“Chombo is meddling in the affairs of MDC led councils by imposing losing Zanu PF councillors through the back door as “special interest councillors”, the party said in a terse statement last week.

“He has also set up dubious commissions of inquiry in several local authorities to cover up the blatant abuse of council property and the looting of municipal land by senior council and



Bindura Mayor, Daniso Wakatama

Zanu PF officials, including himself,” the MDC said.

Chombo, with the assistance of a partisan public media and police, has tried to block several investigations in Harare, Kwekwe, Chinhoyi and Chegutu that are being carried out by the councils on senior Zanu PF officials who corruptly acquired council land.

“Chombo is blocking these investigations when he is also being investigated for illegally acquiring council land in Harare. At least 10 Harare councillors have been summoned for a hearing on spurious charges by a commission set up by Chombo when it is the minister himself who is supposed to be in the dock to answer to allegations of looting council land,” the MDC said.

Chombo was fingered by a Harare City council probe team report which revealed how he had fraudulently and illegally acquired premier land in Harare by abusing his position as the minister of Local Government.

MDC applauds a united students’ leadership

HARARE - The MDC has commended the two Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) factions for setting aside their differences and forming one united students’ union earlier this month.

In a statement issued out by the party, the MDC applauded the unification as a positive move that would build a stronger national students’ body and bring positive change in the students’ fight for academic and democratic freedoms.

“The MDC acknowledges and salutes the concerted efforts by the students to prioritise the interests of students ahead of petty and personal interests. We laud the current crop of the students’ leadership in realising that there is no value in ruinous divisions; that bickering and petty squabbles are not in the interests of the ordinary student who is worried about the high fees and the declining learning conditions in our colleges” said the MDC.

The MDC also urged the new ZINASU body to continue working in harmony and to fight for a conducive learning environment that would also help in improving the quality of education at tertiary institutions.

“Students are the nation’s future, their rights and interests can only be championed by a united leadership,” the MDC said.

In its statement, the MDC pledged to continue working with a united students’ movement, which it said had always been a key ally in the struggle to deliver real change to the people of Zimbabwe.

Zimbabweans urged to participate in Constitution-making process

The MDC Real Change rallies were held across the country with the party leadership urging thousands of people who turned up for the events to participate fully in the Constitution-making process.

Addressing over 4 000 people at Maboleni business centre in Vungu in Midlands South on Saturday, the MDC vice president, Hon. Thokozani Khupe said the Constitution-making process was the only way that would bring real democracy to Zimbabwe.

“It is therefore important that every one of you here should fully understand that this process is important in bringing real democracy to Zimbabwe.

“As the MDC, we celebrate this Constitution-making process as it has been part of our road map since 2006. We have been advocating for a people-driven Constitution, which carries the aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe,” she said.

Mkoba MP, Hon. Amos Chibaya and Gweru Urban MP, Hon. Rodrick Rutsvara also attended the rally.

On Sunday, Hon. Khupe was at Shamba secondary school, Shurugwi South where she addressed more than 5 000 people and urged them to make their own Constitution.

The rally was also addressed by Joshua Tongogara, a brother to the late nationalist, Josaya Tongogara.

Tongogara, who is the MDC Shurugwi South chairman, said he left Zanu PF in 2000 to join the MDC because it was a party that was fighting for people’s rights and dignity.

“The liberation struggle was about bringing democracy in Zimbabwe but this is no longer what Zanu PF is advocating for. This is why I decided to leave the party and join the MDC because it is fighting for real change in the country,” he said.

Addressing thousands of villagers at Nhakiwa business centre in Uzumba on Sunday, MDC secretary-general, Hon. Tendai Biti urged Zimbabweans to make their own Constitution.

He said the MDC believes in dual citizenship, an expanded Bill of Rights including the right to life, limited terms of office for the President and Independent Commissions as priorities in the new Constitution.

He said it was important for Zimbabwe to have an Independent Prosecuting Authority.

“In 2008, people were murdered, assaulted, had their houses burnt, but nothing has been done and no one has been prosecuted. If we had an Independent Prosecuting Authority, the perpetrators would have been arrested and prosecuted.

“We have suffered because we do not have an independent prosecuting authority,” he said.

He said there was also need for a devolved unitary state with strong provincial councils led by an elected provincial premier.

He further stated that the Constitution must clearly define children’s rights for the protection of children. He said children were being raped and abused.

Speaking at the same rally, Hon. Elias Mudzuri, the national organising secretary said the MDC does not condone violence and that if there were any grievances, people should solve them amicably. He urged the people to make use of the police who are supposed to arrest perpetrators of violence.

“Do not be deterred by violent people. Let us remain resolute and fight to get into the new Zimbabwe. Let us encourage everyone to participate in the Constitution-making process,” he said.

The MDC national chairman, Hon. Lovemore Moyo addressed another rally at Solusi in Matobo South, said the MDC was still committed to bringing real change to the people of Zimbabwe.

However, he urged the people not to be diverted by Zanu PF’s agenda of trying to sow divisions within the MDC.

“Zanu PF knows that the MDC is gaining control by the day while it is a party that is fading as people no longer have faith in that party. As a result Zanu PF is trying to use diversionary tactics in the MDC in order to weaken it. So be very careful of these dirty attempts,” he said.

Coming soon

The Voice of Real Change

The MDC’s daily audio service where you phone to hear daily news round-ups, President Tsvangirai’s message, up-coming party events and the party’s position on key issues in the Constitution-making process.

It’s NEW!! It’s EXCITING!! Dial up and be informed.
The real news is just a phone call away

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