



FROM THE OFFICE *of* SOUTH AFRICAN PROVINCE

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****MDC SA DRAFT WORKING DOCUMENT**

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BACKGROUND

Political activity and involvement of Zimbabweans based in South Africa with a serious motive to have defined and real change in Zimbabwe dates back to October 1997 with the formation of the Consultative Council of Zimbabwe in Johannesburg whose objective was to consult broadly no regard for race, gender, colour or creed, with all Zimbabweans in Zimbabwe and abroad, together to find a tangible way to turn around the ever deteriorating situation in Zimbabwe with the possibility of having a mass movement that will be national in nature. After the National Working People's Convention in February 1999 where the ZCTU and other civic organisations the leadership of CCZ in South Africa – as stated in their constitution – was dissolved to mobilise for the MDC after the party's launch in Harare on 11 September 1999 in preparation for the elections in March 2000.

Even though South Africa had been involved in the writing of the first MDC constitution at Adelaide Acres in 1999 through A. Moyo and N. Dube, and the two had tried to speak for Zimbabweans based outside Zimbabwe, the final constitution did not include external formations. South Africa, Britain, USA etc were given the status of Districts but reporting straight to head office. Since then the South African structure has occupied a strategic position for the MDC although it has always been fighting for recognition, an area in which very little ground has been covered. There were three executive committees before the Mtambara formation left the party sighting differences with view of being or not being part of the Senate.

With the main MDC forging ahead, in South Africa an interim structure was formed headed by Judge Ncube whose mandate was to prepare for elections for a new Executive. At this stage, the constitution had taken care of external structures and recognised each structure outside Zimbabwe as a Province. On 2 June 2007, an election was held in Bloemfontein producing a structure that has since crippled the Province and its visibility in South Africa.

THE MAYFAIR DECLARATION

This document is as a result of the Mayfair Declaration where concerned MDC SA members in consultation with the nine Districts put up a Provincial Committee led by Austin Moyo which is to pick up the pieces and bring back the Mother body's trust that there indeed are capable and dedicated cadres in South Africa and save the Province from being written off as a failure!

The document seeks to provide a guide that will put MDC SA on the map both through activities in South Africa directed by the National Council as well as in Zimbabwe in terms of resources and otherwise.

THE VISION OF MDC SA

MDC SA's vision is prompted by the strategic positioning of our host country in reference to Zimbabwe as well as the number of Zimbabweans based in South Africa:

Our primary vision is to liberate Zimbabwe.

Our secondary vision is to sustain the party at home both in Human and Financial resources.

THE MISSION OF MDC SA

Our Mission is driven by the needs of the MDC in Zimbabwe as well as again our strategic positioning of our host country.

Our mission is to keep MDC not just visible in South Africa but also to put pressure on the host government for a palatable solution to the Zimbabwe Crisis.

To mobilise Zimbabweans and resources with the view of advancing the MDC struggle both here and at home.

To form broad alliances with progressive organisations in South Africa and Africa through the Embassies based here.

MDC SA's RESPONSIBILITY

Our primary responsibility will be to have relevance to Harvest House and MDC general at home. As outlined in our manifesto: *"The nation cannot watch and follow patiently as it is led further and further from its goals."* We will have a positive tangible impact on the politics of Zimbabwe capitalising on our strategic geographical positioning where we are only separated by one boarder from Zimbabwe and home is only a few hours away! The country that hosts us has true democratic values and this will boost our plans to maintain party visibility in South Africa.

We will mobilise as many Zimbabweans in South Africa as possible both for political support and fundraising. Given the number of Zimbabweans bases here which now could be around 4 million, this mounts up a perfect stage for monthly fundraising donations – even if it is just R1 or R5 each per month. *(See also the Mobilisation strategy below).*

Each department in the structure including the Secretariats are busy working on their programs of action that will also form part of the completed working document which will be our blue print.

We will arrange ourselves into a credible structure and form broad alliances with all progressive organisations in South Africa. This will also help us to publicise ourselves both locally and internationally. In constant liaison with Harvest House, we will push the MDC agenda in South Africa to make sure that all organisations in South Africa are clear about issues. Daily internal press releases from home will become a crucial part for the success of this mission.

Another enhancement will be for each provincial department to liaise directly with their relevant department at home and through regular meetings, we will be able to run a professional office linking through to satellite offices based in the other eight districts. The head office will be located in Johannesburg and each district will have a satellite office manned on a daily basis to ensure synergy and information dissemination.

MDC SA has not been successful to date because it had been controlled by people who had self interests, who do not understand the party and do not have the nation at heart. MDC is a broad movement formed from the involvement of broad civic organisations nationally in Zimbabwe. The tribal card has no place in MDC. This is the ethos of the movement that we belong to and it is what has made us successful even when playing in an uneven ground full of intimidation, killing, raping and sabotage! MDC has a way of pruning non-progressive people like a flooded river throwing away dead wood at each turn. MDC SA will not be held back. Change in Zimbabwe is long over due and we cannot wait another day.

Our Secretariats will be immediately put into programs that will see them understudy South African Provincial Department Directors and Provincial MEC's that fall within their assigned portfolios. This will prepare them for provincial posts at home in a new Zimbabwe but more importantly act as ambassadors within SA Government departments to spread and clarify our gospel.

We will design a training program and workshops to empower our youth and women. Also many women have come with children to South Africa and are not so blessed to have much to live by. We will have programs to look after these children to provide welfare.

FUND RAISING

As a starting point, we will collect and have a database of all Zimbabweans based in South Africa. This is explained in more detail in the fundraising blueprint that will form part of the final working document.

For the purposes of the draft, some civic organisations already have good databases, our own districts and branches have their own databases. It will be through these that the campaign will start accompanied by radio and TV advertising with willing partners to induce voluntary SMSs into our database collecting software.

We have already acquired Bulk SMS software from one local company and we are busy negotiating with them to have a partnership in the campaign. Once the initial database to start the operation will be in the system, a bulk SMS will be sent to ALL in the system and various methods have been thought through to allow new people to join and existing people to participate in a Premier SMS activity that will result in indirect donations to the party. The software does not allow for double entry of cellphone numbers.

An office has already been identified in Braamfontein and will be most suited for all our campaigns and all Provincial administration will be done here. We will work hard to build a working relationship with the regional office and the TG. This will ensure that fundraising activities from other sources are not duplicated.

The Provincial Treasury is approaching information libraries to get names of organisations that assist in various other ways including blankets, food and shelter as we are faced with the huge challenge of refugees coming on a daily basis into South Africa from home. As a responsible party we need to be seen working with NGOs to assist the displaced.

Also the Provincial Executive is working on a yearly calendar that will run until December 2008 which will outline our programme of action in the SA Province. This will be ready as soon as this draft is complete and will be made available even to the TG at the regional office.

Some of the displaced people come with young children that end up attending crèches here. We are busy approaching food outlets to assist with food to be sent to identified crèches that have children from Zimbabwe.

Soon, before the end of this draft communication will be sent home to get permission to create MDC corporate merchandise that will be sold from the office to individuals. The specs will be contained in the proposal document.

Zimbabwean music is doing well in Zimbabwe but it is suffering a lot of piracy. The only way Zimbabwean musicians can make genuine money is through staging music shows which can also incorporate our beautiful crafts. This can be viable fundraising for the Provincial structure if done regularly. The fundraising committee has been tasked to work of a proposal to this regard and this will be tabled on the first week of August 2008. This proposal will also include staging of football matches of Zimbabwean teams with local teams. The themes will be determined by the fundraising committee and will fit in with the said calendar.

We are busy identifying a place where strictly Zimbabwean food can be served by unemployed women and youth in our structures as a way of both empowerment and fundraising. Other women and youth empowerment and fundraising projects are being identified and will be included in the final working document.

There are many Zimbabweans in business here as well as South Africans that would be interested to interact with MDC leadership on a social basis through gala dinners. These are being planned and will be fitted into the calendar once finalised with leadership at home. This platform can also be used to discuss MDC policies in turn.

MOBILIZATION STRATEGY

An office becomes a very important asset as a centre for communication when it comes to mobilising. No one can successfully mobilise from the bush with no fixed aboard. All Districts will be revisited as some were not fully fledged when we went to Bloomfontein. They will be encouraged to have effective branches and the branches must have working cells in the form of flat and street committees.

The organising department is working on activities on the ground like sports and social gatherings that will ensure effective mobilisation. The full plan will be unveiled in the first week of August by the organising department and will form part of this working document.

Organising in liaison with the Secretary for Immigration and Asylum will communicate with Home Affairs so that there will be an agreement to have our people attend demonstrations and rallies on a needs basis.

Demonstrations and rallies will be done more often so as to present a platform where Zimbabweans in South Africa can be briefed on current issues and changes taking place at home and here as well as maintain visibility of MDC in South Africa.

Membership cards are needed both for mobilisation and fundraising purposes as well as to have a system to identify people when negotiating with local authorities. New cards will need to be issued in liaison with head or regional office. These will have to be monitored closely and accuracy must prevail.

END

** Please note that this is a draft as well as an initial guide to operations. It however does not include all departments and secretariats. The document still needs to be worked on and all departments will be included by the second week in August 2008.
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