



# Gwezere granted bail, remains jailed

HARARE - The MDC transport manager, Pascal Gwezere who is facing trumped-up charges of stealing weapons from Pomona Army Barracks, was on Friday granted US\$500 bail but will remain in custody after the State invoked the draconian Section 121 subsection (3) of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act.

High Court judge, Justice Charles Hungwe had granted Gwezere bail saying the evidence produced by the State was insufficient to refuse him bail.

"The State has failed to give a substantive reason to show that the accused person is most likely going to abscond," Justice Hungwe said. "In fact, the submissions made by the investigating officer - Chief Superintendent Charles Ngwishiri - show that the applicant (Gwezere) is unlikely to abscond."

However, after the judgement, the State, led by Tawanda Zvakare, invoked Section 121 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act, suspending Gwezere's bail.

Gwezere is facing charges of teaming up with a woman only identified as Gertrude and stealing 21 firearms from Pomona Army Barracks in Borrowdale, Harare last month.

The State is notorious for invoking the Section against MDC members who would have been granted bail at the courts.

MDC spokesperson Hon. Nelson Chamisa said the MDC was concerned with the continued application of draconian and colonial pieces of the law against MDC and civil society members by the Attorney General's office.

"We note with concern the politicisation of the so-called cases against MDC members," Hon. Chamisa said. "Ever since the illegal raid on the MDC guest house in Chisipite, Zanu PF has been frustrated at its failure to come up with a standing charge against Gwezere as a pretext of arresting the MDC leadership.

"The MDC is aware of the concoction of 'evidence' and witnesses in this laughable plot to link the party with the theft of arms at Pomona Barracks. We derive comfort in that like all previous attempts to frame the MDC and its leadership, the latest stunt will again collapse like a deck of cards," said Hon. Chamisa.

## 2 Bindura councillors jailed

BINDURA - Six MDC activists, including two councillors from Bindura in Mashonaland Central province were on Friday sentenced to six months in prison by a Bindura magistrate on contrived assault charges.

Two Bindura Town councillors, Rickson Kaseke and Norbert Dhokotera and four activists, Tongai Jack who is the Bindura North district chairman, Amiri Njawara, youth chairman, Tererai Tsvakwi and Daniel Koroni were

convicted on false allegations that they assaulted a Zanu PF official, Wellington Chitehwe, in February this year.

They all denied the charges.

The latest arrests brings to 21 the number of MDC activists who have been convicted by the same Magistrate Chakanyuka in Bindura.

The magistrate is a known ally of Zanu PF's relentless guardian and Mashonaland Central governor, Martin Dinha.

## MDC activist sentenced to 36 months

MUTASA - MDC activist Farai Muyambwa has been jailed for 36 months by Mutare Magistrate Billiard Musakwa on fake charges of public violence.

Twelve months were suspended for five years on condition that he does not commit a similar offense in that period.

Muyambwa was facing charges of assault together with Mutasa Central MP, Hon. Trevor Saruwaka and five others whose charges were dropped on 19 July.

Muyambwa is the only one whose charges were not dropped in this case amid allegations Zanu PF was desperate to secure just one conviction in its crusade to get MDC activists jailed.

Hon. Saruwaka has castigated the persecution of Muyambwa as an attempt by Zanu-PF to see at least one MDC supporter convicted in trumped up cases.

Hon Saruwaka said of the six witnesses, four exonerated Muyambwa and only two said they saw him at the scene, seated in long grass, at a distance, drinking beer.

"Two war veterans implicated Muyambwa in this case, Austin Gwazai said Muyambwa was drinking beer giving commands, whilst Shylet Shombeni said Muyambwa led a group of thirty youths to her house and was merely issuing orders.

"It is totally absurd that even the Magistrate found these testimonies concrete enough to sentence Farai to thirty six months in prison," said Hon Saruwaka.

Muyambwa was previously abducted and left for dead at Penhalonga Police Station but the police had not done anything about his case. Hon Saruwaka was arrested at the police station while looking for him.

"What pains me the most is Muyambwa was abducted on 8 May and I found him on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2008, his dreadlocks were pulled out from his head, he was tortured, he was bleeding and left for dead at Penhalonga Police Station, and these officers put him in jail for being beaten," Hon. Saruwaka said. "Now he is in jail for assaulting people, when it was him that was assaulted."

Hon Saruwaka said these arrests were out of sync with the national healing programme that government had embarked upon.

"Muyambwa is a victim, MDC activists are victims and after being attacked, they get arrested, prosecuted and jailed, what for?" he asked. "For being attacked? The national healing process needs to be explained. There is need for clarity," he said.

# Officials humbled by massive rural support

GUTU - A record crowd of about 3000 MDC supporters gathered at Chin'ai business centre, ward 15 in Gutu East constituency on Sunday, where Masvingo provincial leaders said they were humbled by the overwhelming support.

The key speakers were provincial chairman, Wilstaf Stemere, Masvingo Mayor Alderman Femias Chakabuda, Bikita West MP Heya Shoko, Senator for Gutu Empire Kufachikati Makamure and local legislator Ransome Makamure who all expressed gratitude to the bumper crowd which attended the rally. The provincial leaders told the gathering, one of the biggest in the province so far this year, about the path the MDC has walked. Speaker after speaker spoke glowingly about the rising MDC support in the rural areas.

Alderman Chakabuda said: "This gathering makes us proud and I am happy the MDC has finally gained ground in the rural areas. These areas were previously out of bounds for the MDC."

Hon. Makamure hailed the people in his constituency for the overwhelming support they reflected to the party. "We are elated by this gathering. It is brilliant and let me assure you the MDC will work flat out to reward you for your unrivalled support," he said.



# We will not give up - Mahlangu

BULAWAYO - MDC MP for Nkulumane and Deputy Minister of Youth and Development has called on the people of Zimbabwe to remain united towards the true cause of bringing real democracy to Zimbabwe despite the many difficulties that the MDC leadership and activists continue to endure at the hands of Zanu PF.

Speaking during victory celebrations held at the Nketa Community Hall, Hon. Mahlangu urged Zimbabweans to participate in the drafting of a new people-driven Constitution.

"Matters of governance and administration continue to frustrate our nation," Hon. Mahlangu said. "We are saying as your leadership this is the first time that the people of Zimbabwe are being consulted in drawing the constitution. Therefore we urge you all to be involved through out this process so that we may all have the order we want."

Ha added that a new constitution will pave way for fresh, free and fair internationally supervised elections.

"Zimbabwe cannot survive under a unity government forever, therefore it is proper that we come up with a new constitution, a new constitution for the people and by the people that will lead us to harmonized elections," Hon. Mahlangu said.

"We continue to celebrate our victory as a party because we won the 29 March elections with the people's confidence that MDC is able to bring real change to this country."

Hon. Mahlangu told the people of Nketa that Mugabe had been given 30 days to implement and resolve all the outstanding issues in the global political agreement, GPA, making special mention of the swearing in of Senator Roy Bennett as deputy Minister of Agriculture and the appointment of five MDC governors.

"By 30 days we expect that all outstanding issues should be resolved," Hon. Mahlangu said. "We are not scared of bringing democracy to Zimbabwe no matter what we have to go through and we continue to celebrate the 29 March elections. MDC is a party of excellence and it will continue to work together with the electorate. Zanu PF has no respect for the people, that is why it is refusing to resolve the outstanding issues.

"We have been patient while militia abducts and tortures our members, while we are arrested on trumped up charges, while progress is denied but we will not give up on the people," said Hon. Mahlangu, who has been singled out for vindictive treatment in the courts.

Addressing the same gathering, Nketa MP Hon. Seiso Moyo said that a constitution was a very important document that would help deliver real change to Zimbabwe. He highlighted

that there was a lot of suffering amongst children mainly because child rights were not being upheld.

"Child headed families are on the increase in our society today and somebody has to care for their future," Hon. Moyo said. "As your leadership we are saying children need to go to school, need proper accommodation and health care. Again it is the right time to take a stand and put the children first by drawing a constitution."

The celebrations were attended by Minister of State in the Prime Ministers office, Gordon Moyo, Magwegwe MP, Hon. Felix Mafa, Bulawayo Central MP, Hon. Dorcas Sibanda and the provincial leadership.

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