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32 years for Zanu PF rapist

RUSAPE - A self-proclaimed war veteran and Zanu PF supporter, Lovemore Manenji from Rusape in Manicaland province has been sentenced to 32 years in prison for raping two MDC supporters in the run-up to the 2008 sham Presidential run-off election.

Manenji, who is also a Bishop of Mabasa Avapostori Church, was found guilty of five counts of rape and sentenced to 32 years in prison by Rusape regional magistrate, Hosea Mujaya.

During the trial, Manenji revealed that he was a Zanu PF base commander at Ruura in Rusape and was using the name "Untouchable".

The Zanu PF thug, armed with a machete and packets of condoms, attacked two married MDC supporters in their homes during a week-long rape spree.

Both complainants' husbands were well-known MDC supporters whose husbands had fled their homes as they were being targeted for attacks by Zanu PF militia.

Magistrate Mujaya said it was wrong for Manenji to use forced sex as a weapon to intimidate those that did not support Zanu PF and its leader Robert Mugabe.

"You remind one of the animalist behaviour, which is most common among four legged animals; the stronger male chases away the male and takes the females," said Magistrate Mujaya during sentencing.

"You behaved like a perfect bully. You were aware that the complainants were married women. They could

not protect themselves against you. Their husbands fled from their homes fleeing from you," he said.

One of the rape survivors recounted how she was raped in the presence of her small children while she slept in her village hut.

Magistrate Mujaya tested Manenji's logic when he asked him how brutalising the women would cause them to vote for Zanu PF's Mugabe.

The lengthy jail term for Manenji comes as pressure group AIDS Free World has published a 64-page report "Electing to Rape: Sexual Terror in Mugabe's Zimbabwe," based on extensive interviews with 72 survivors and witnesses, and documents 380 rapes committed by 241 perpetrators across Zimbabwe's ten provinces.

Zanu PF supporters who carried out the attacks, including members of the "youth militia" and former soldiers in Zimbabwe's war of liberation known as "war veterans," identified themselves to their victims. All the women targeted were supporters of the MDC, says the report.

"The evidence is incontrovertible: Mugabe believes he can sanction rape without fear of consequences. Zimbabwe is perhaps the greatest test for ending impunity," said Stephen Lewis, co-director of AIDS-Free World.

The testimony demonstrates that the rape campaign waged by Zanu PF in Zimbabwe was both widespread and systematic, with recurring patterns throughout that cannot be coincidental. The report says some women, as the case with one of manenji's victims, were forced to watch the rape of their daughters and murder of their husbands

and other family members before or after they were raped. Several women were held as sexual slaves at Zanu PF base camps for up to two weeks.

All the women who testified described either their fear of reporting their rapes, or the indifference they encountered from the police. They consistently ascribed the lack of police action to the close, well-known association between the local and national police and Zanu PF. The report says the Joint Operations Command (JOC), then the supreme organ of Zimbabwe state security including the heads of the military, police, intelligence services, prisons, and the Reserve Bank were responsible for masterminding the election violence.

Mugabe insults SADC

...as Zanu PF Congress degenerates into a circus

HARARE - Zanu PF has passed grandstanding resolutions that undermine the latest round of SADC-initiated inter party talks by vowing that there will be no movement on outstanding issues, thereby scuttling the regional body's efforts to nudge all parties to implement the Global Political Agreement.

The resolutions, passed at a chaotic congress that almost degenerated into fist fights over the simmering succession crisis fuelled by Mugabe's advanced age and his refusal to vacate office, also sought to blame the MDC for everything, yet it was ZanuPF which has destroyed the economy and stalled media and constitutional reforms as it seeks to undermine the GPA.

The resolutions, a brazen refusal to implement the GPA, are a direct attack on SADC which has called on all parties in the inclusive government to resolve all outstanding issues.

Didymus Mutasa, who bitterly lost his bid to be Zanu PF national chairman to Zimbabwean ambassador to South Africa, Simon Khaya-Moyo, said his party had resolved not to comply with the people's demands for full implementation of the GPA.

"There should be no movement on the concerns of the MDC formations without corresponding and simultaneous redress of Zanu PF's concerns", Mutasa said.

Mutasa, who had attempted to smuggle in embattled central bank governor Gideon Gono into the Manicaland Zanu PF provincial executive as finance chief, a position rejected by Gono, also vowed that the Reserve Bank chief would also not lose his job, as demanded by

the people of Zimbabwe. A forlorn looking Gono sat in the audience at the Zanu PF congress, following proceedings attentively.

Mutasa also said the overtly biased Attorney General Johannes Tomana would stay put in his job, both of them key issues for the people of Zimbabwe who are worried about the politicisation of such an important national office. The MDC disengaged from all executive forums it interacted with Zanu PF for three weeks last month over the contentious issues, including the issue of provincial governors, lack of media and constitutional reforms as well as the failure of the National Security Council to meet as enshrined in the Constitution. It took the intervention of regional leaders to cause the suspension of the disengagement, but only pending full implementation of the agreement by December 5, a deadline which has now been missed.

Mugabe also attempted to dismiss the long overdue need to reform the partisan security forces, saying the current defence force was "the most dependable force and it shall not be tampered with."

Zimbabwe is notorious for having highly politicised and partisan security sector leaders who have hampered reform of such key national institutions. Prime Minister Tsvangirai has attended only one National Security Council meeting with the generals since he and Mugabe formed an inclusive government in February. An MDC spokesman said no amount of grandstanding would strike off the pertinent issues on the roll of outstanding issues which Zimbabweans want resolved urgently to enable the inclusive government to deliver real change to the people.

The Zanu PF resolutions were also in sharp contrast to assertions by the African National Congress (ANC) representative, Tokyo Sexwale who urged Zanu-PF to fully implement the Global Political Agreement and the January 27 SADC communique, warning that instability in Zimbabwe threatens South Africa, and the forthcoming 2010 World Cup soccer showcase, expected to attract over 400,000 people worldwide.

South Africa President Jacob Zuma, mandated with a Maputo SADC Troika summit of November 5 to facilitate talks to resolve power-sharing problems threatening to torpedo Zimbabwe's inclusive government, has expressed concern at the lack of urgency by negotiators in Zimbabwe's inclusive government.

President Zuma's spokesman, Vincent Magwenya said this week negotiators of the three Zimbabwe parties were expected to report back to the SADC facilitation team during the course of this week after which the facilitation team would present the report to Zuma.

"After his briefing, President Zuma will then be able to update the SADC Extra-Ordinary Summit on Zimbabwe," Mangwenya said.

The talks have been put off until December 18 because negotiators from a breakaway MDC faction headed by Professor Arthur Mutambara have requested time off to attend to conferences related to their ministries outside the country. Zanu PF had requested time to attend the congress.

But *The Changing Times* understands Mugabe, Prime Minister Tsvangirai and Deputy Prime Minister Mutambara yesterday met after receiving reports from their party negotiators last week.

They were expected to jointly announce progress after Mugabe returns from Copenhagen, Denmark, where he is expected to attend the UN Climate Change conference this week.

The Prime Minister's spokesman, James Maridadi said in the spirit of unity and speaking with one voice on climate change and in the spirit of promoting a single delegation from Zimbabwe, Prime Minister Tsvangirai decided to stay at home and drive the government work program in order to ensure momentum through the holiday period.

"The decision to stay is also informed by revelations of a bloated Zimbabwe Government foreign travel budget by Finance Minister Tendai Biti in his recent budget statement," Maridadi said.

Meanwhile, the weekend Zanu PF congress was torn to pieces over power struggles prompted by the death of Zanu PF second secretary and vice president Joseph Msika in August. Factional clashes heightened dangerously as the competing Emerson Mnangagwa faction and the Solomon Mujuru faction jostled for the position.

The clashes played out in the congress venue, where delegates openly defied the leadership by refusing to endorse candidates elevated into the presidium and the Central Committee.

There was a near fist fight on the Masvingo bay when the province was called out as the only province which had not voted for Joice Mujuru to be second secretary. John Nkomo had a torrid time trying to quell the factional clashes, beamed live on State television.

There were also clashes in the Manicaland province bay, whose



President Jacob Zuma

chairman Basil Nyabadza resigned on the eve of the congress because he was not happy with the imposition of leaders, and was also livid that Khaya-Moyo was elevated to chairmanship, and not Mutasa. The last Zanu PF national chairman from the province was Herbert Chitepo who was assassinated in 1975 amid similar factional fights that characterised their recent chaotic congress.

So chaotic was the congress that the top leadership refused to discuss proposed amendments to the Constitution, including caps on terms of office for their ageing President. The amendments have been referred to a close door meeting of the Central Committee, where the discussion can be better managed. There were a reported 100 proposed amendments to the archaic Zanu PF constitution. Zanu PF also called off appointments into the Politburo because of the simmering tensions at the congress.

Outstanding issues stalling progress - Mangoma

MUTARE – There is an urgent need to resolve all the outstanding issues in order for the inclusive government to be successful, the MDC deputy treasurer and Makoni North MP, Hon. Elton Mangoma has said.

Addressing thousands of MDC supporters at Chitendero Primary School in Mutungagore, Makoni South on Sunday, Hon. Mangoma, who is now of the MDC negotiators, said the inclusive government would see no progress if all the outstanding issues were not resolved.

“The inclusive government will not go ahead if the will of the people is not represented,” Hon Mangoma said.

“Zanu PF and Robert Mugabe should understand that they are only in government because they were co-opted into the inclusive government.

“They cannot resolve anything without agreeing with President Morgan Tsvangirai. The people of Zimbabwe made their voices heard on March 29 2008 and that should be respected. We are in these talks to ensure that real change is delivered to the people of Zimbabwe,” he said.

Hon. Mangoma who is also the Minister of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion said the MDC was a people’s project that would deliver real change to the people of Zimbabwe by giving them the freedom they deserved.

He said the MDC would continue fighting for a better Zimbabwe with good governance, food, jobs and better education for all.

Commenting on the recent visit to Maputo where the negotiators and three

principals in the inclusive government met with the SADC Troika, Hon. Mangoma said: “Robert Mugabe used to say the MDC was the puppets of the West and needed to bring regime change to Zimbabwe.

“However, he was openly told in Maputo that SADC recognises the MDC and would need to see the outstanding issues resolved hence the 30 day period in the SADC Troika’s Maputo Communiqué to resolve the issues,” he said.

Hon. Mangoma explained the party’s decision to form the inclusive government saying Zanu PF had failed to provide and restore dignity to the people of Zimbabwe in their 29 years of dictatorship while in less than a year the



Hon. Elton Mangoma addresses a rally in Mutungagore

MDC had managed to restore hope and build confidence in the people.

“This has been witnessed by the improvement in the education, health and other sectors in the past months,” he said.

Militia camp set up at Sipambi

MASVINGO - Zanu PF sympathisers and purported war veterans here have turned Sipambi Training Centre in Ward 11 in Masvingo West constituency into a secret militia camp.

Hundreds of Zanu PF youths are based at Sipambi training centre and are intimidating villagers.

“There are secret militia activities at Sipambi Training Centre,” said our source. “The training centre is harbouring ghost workers who are on the government payroll.

“It is unfortunate to note that Sipambi has been turned into a Zanu PF militia base instead of being a centre for training youths to engage in self help projects,” added the source close to the training centre.

There are also reports that retired soldiers are leading military training activities at the training centre.

“Zanu PF is feeling uneasy therefore they are determined to cling to power at all costs and they are ready to shed blood in order to maintain a tight grip on power,” said Tapiwa Nyamande, from Masvingo West.

“Youth militia gangs are being kept at the training centre so that they would be unleashed on the people.”

Hundreds attend Khupe graduation party

BULAWAYO – Hundreds of people joined Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister, Thokozani Khupe at McDonald Hall Saturday to celebrate her attainment of a Masters in Business Administration (MBA) degree.

Residents of Mzilikazi expressed their gratitude at the VP’s humility in celebrating her professional achievement in their suburb.

Hon. Thokozani Khupe thanked the MDC president and Zimbabwe’s Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai for his unwavering support in her quest to further her education by allowing her to take time off politics and concentrate on her studies.

“I thank President Tsvangirai for allowing me time for my studies and the people of Mzilikazi for being patient with me and for their unwavering support,” Hon Khupe said. “From now on you are going to see additional change ngoba sesiguqula izenzo.

“It has not been an easy road to tread for the past 10 months. We have walked through thorny fields, mine fields and untamed forests. But we will continue to fight in whatever way in order to bring real change to the people of Zimbabwe,” Hon. Khupe said.

Speaking at the VP’s celebrations, the Minister of State in the Prime Minister’s office, Hon. Gordon Moyo, said Mai Khupe’s achievement was not only for her but for the MDC and the people of Zimbabwe.

“We can not ignore that Zimbabwe is not yet stable,” Hon Moyo said. “Hon. Khupe has achieved an MBA during



Hon. Thokozani Khupe

hard times, especially when the country is not yet stable in between campaigning for the MDC and negotiating for the better of Zimbabwe. She is an example that we all today are should feel challenged and take our children go to school.”

MP acquitted

GOKWE – The MP for Gokwe-Kabuyuni, Hon. Costin Muguti who was facing trumped-up charges of public violence, has been cleared of the charges in court.

Gokwe magistrate John Mberewe ruled that there was no evidence linking Hon. Muguti to the charges after the State failed to produce any witnesses who could testify against him.

Representing Hon. Muguti was Tapera Sengweni who applied for the removal of his client from remand arguing that it was clear that the purported witnesses did not exist.



Hon. Costin Muguti

More sanitary ware donations by VP

BULAWAYO – MDC Vice-President and Deputy Prime Minister, Hon. Thokozani Khupe continued to provide sanitary pads to hospitals and prisons, handing a donation to Mlondolozhi Prison in Bulawayo at the weekend.

Hon. Khupe said that hospitals and prisons had been neglected in the past and this compromised the health of women.

She however paid tribute to all hospital and prison staff who in trying times remained dedicated to their duty of protecting the lives of those in need regardless of inadequate material.

She pledged to ensure that a conducive working environment was created for the prison officers, nurses, patients and prisoners.

“My office will do everything to make sure that these issues are looked into,” Khupe said. “I will also through my office source funds from the Finance Minister, Hon. Tendai Biti, to disburse for the upkeep of our prisons and hospitals.”

Handing over the donation, Hon. Khupe said it was appalling to note that women were using unhygienic sanitary ware and said donation were going to be an on going exercise for those in prisons and in hospitals.

“It is degrading for a woman not to have sanitary ware,” Hon Khupe said. “It takes away any woman’s dignity considering that most of them cannot afford it and it increases the rate of infectious diseases considering that these women are then forced to use inadequate and unhygienic materials such as pieces of blankets.”

Mlondolozhi Prison inmates thanked Hon. Khupe for being sensitive to women’s plight, even those in jail. The inmates honoured her for just ‘remembering the natural excuse of being a woman’ and asked the vice president to extend her hand to every other woman.

“We thank you for your unconditional love for the women of Zimbabwe,” said Margret Makhotose on behalf of the inmates. “You have empowered us as women.”

Hon. Khupe also made similar donations at United Bulawayo Hospital (UBH), Mpilo Hospital, Khami Prison.

On Friday, Hon. Khupe was in Mutare where she donated the pads at Mutare General Hospital and Mutare Prison.

MDC wants better life for all - Chamisa

CHIVHU – The MDC continues to cherish the role the people of Zimbabwe played in the March 2008 elections, party spokesperson, Hon. Nelson Chamisa said at the weekend.

He was speaking before a huge crowd at a celebratory rally in Chikomba Central, Mashonaland East.

“The MDC won the elections, but because Zanu PF lost, they started killing our relatives,” Hon Chamisa said. “Zanu PF failed to accept reality that they had been defeated by the MDC.

“We felt the journey to a new Zimbabwe could not be filled with blood, so we did not participate in the 27 June 2008 sham run-off presidential election.

“But because Zanu PF had lost, it decided to come back to us so that we form a government. Because the people of Zimbabwe had suffered, we decided to form the transitional government,” he said.

“The MDC is bent on delivering real change to the people. We have seen what leadership under President Tsvangirai is like. We are not there yet. We have seen Canaan, but we have not arrived yet. We want real change and this can only be achieved under an MDC government,” he said.

Hon. Chamisa who is also the Information Communication Technology minister said the government had made available inputs for the people and was being sold at a subsidised price of US\$7 for a 50kg bag of fertiliser.

Speaking at the same rally, the organising secretary, Hon. Elias Mudzuri, who is also the Minister of Energy and Power Development said the MDC was working hard to ensure that the lives of the people improved.

“As we are in the inclusive government, our major aim is to ensure that we restore your dignity as a people, we want a better life for you all.

“A leader has to be told what to do by the people. People should have freedom of expression to say out what they think the leadership should do. We do not have to tell you what to do. You do not have to be afraid of us,” said Hon. Mudzuri.

The MP for Chikomba Central, Hon. Moses Jiri said he had held the celebratory rally as a way of



Hon. Nelson Chamisa at a rally in Chikomba

acknowledging the role the people played in voting for him.

“I want to thank you all for voting for the MDC during the 2008 harmonised

elections. I promise delivery, delivery and more delivery to you. Let us all eat, drink and celebrate the dawn of real change,” said Hon Jiri.