



The Changing Times

Movement for Democratic Change

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SADC facilitators jet in

HARARE - A facilitation team dispatched by South African President Jacob Zuma returned to Harare Monday as part of ongoing Southern African Development Community (SADC) mandated facilitation work, with the three parties in Zimbabwe's troubled coalition government expected to hand over a progress report.

The team was expected to meet with leaders of Zimbabwe's political parties involved in the negotiations, following their prior visit to Zimbabwe last week Monday. They presented a progress report to President Zuma last Wednesday and have now returned to pick up a progress report that will be presented to SADC.

Talks between the ruling MDC and two other opposition parties remain deadlocked largely because of Zanu PF's failure to abide by the Global Political Agreement.

The team that jetted into Harare yesterday include President Zuma's long-time ally and lieutenant Mac Maharaj and two other senior officials, who are leading South Africa's ongoing efforts to restore democracy in Zimbabwe. The facilitation support team, led by former defence minister Charles Nqakula, and also including President Zuma's international relations adviser, Lindiwe Zulu, was expected to receive a report that will be presented to chairman of the SADC Troika, Mozambique President Armando Guebuza. The SADC summit held on November 5 in Maputo, Mozambique, decided that the signatories to the Global



Charles Nqakula



Mac Maharaj



Lindiwe Zulu

Political Agreement (GPA), the ruling MDC, the opposition Zanu PF, and the breakaway MDC formation led by Arthur Mutambara should engage in dialogue within 15 days, not exceeding 30 days, and that the dialogue should include all outstanding issues relating to the implementation of the GPA.

The Troika - comprising Mozambique, Zambia and Swaziland - said the dialogue should include all the outstanding issues emanating from the implementation of GPA and SADC Communiqué of 27 January 2009. President Zuma was expected in Harare Sunday but because of pressing engagements in his country, the three-strong team will now act on his behalf.

Negotiators to the GPA and the SADC team appointed by President Zuma were preparing a report yesterday

for the bloc's Troika chairman on the progress made in resolving sticking issues in the GPA. The facilitation team was expected to evaluate progress and report back to President Guebuza, who chairs the Troika, which is also called the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The *Changing Times* understands Zimbabwe's negotiation teams had agreed on 12 of the 15 items that have been deliberated on by last weekend on the 21-item agenda at the talks. The negotiators have been meeting since November 23 and the talks have been held in complete secrecy at an undisclosed location.

Sources said the major sticking-points remain the failure of the National Security Council to meet, the unprocedural appointment of RBZ

Governor Gideon Gono, Attorney General Johannes Tomana and the refusal to swear in MDC treasurer Roy Bennett as deputy minister of Agriculture. The SADC Troika has said these three issues must be addressed as Zanu-PF has now accepted them as outstanding in the GPA, and were contained in a January 27 communique that amended the power-sharing agreement. Zanu (PF) has previously said the issues are not contained in the GPA, but now says the contentious issues need to be discussed last so as to avoid stifling progress at the talks.

Significantly, our source said Zanu PF had backed down and agreed that the five MDC governors be sworn-in as initially agreed by the negotiators. *The Changing Times* understands there is also an agreement on opening up the

media, establishing human rights, anti-corruption and electoral commissions. In addition, the review of ministerial positions had been agreed on.

But there was still lack of movement on the land audit and rule of law issues. The MDC has also added George Charamba, Mugabe's spokesman as another outstanding issue for sowing divisions in the inclusive government and fanning hatred through hate speech in the public media.

The fragile coalition between President Tsvangirai and Mugabe is threatened by policy differences, the slow pace of reforms and feuding over state jobs. Foreign aid donors and investors remain reluctant to put money into Zimbabwe until further progress has been made toward democratic reforms.

Besides harping on about restrictive measures, Mugabe's party has also raised concerns with exiled radio stations and so-called parallel government structures when in fact it is actually Zanu PF which has created a parallel government structure through unilateral decisions in key executive government appointments and deliberate attempts to scuttle constitution and media reforms.

President Zuma's facilitation team has histories with the military, all having been members of Umkhonto we Sizwe, and are expected to unlock the logjam that has seen some key figures in Zimbabwe's military staunchly refuse to hold monthly National Security Council meetings with the Prime Minister as outlined in the GPA.

MDC demystifies Uzumba

UZUMBA - A jubilant 3 000-strong crowd turned up in Uzumba district, Mashonaland East province on Sunday for an MDC rally at Nhakiwa Business Centre, revealing the change in tide of political support in a constituency previously touted as a Zanu PF stronghold.

Addressing the bumper crowd, MDC deputy organising secretary, Senator Morgen Komichi urged the people of Uzumba to continue to believe in change.

Senator Komichi said the MDC was a peaceful party which did not believe in violence, such as the one that rocked the country last year.

Hon Komichi said that the MDC was a party whose aim was to bring real change to all the people of Zimbabwe.



Senator Morgen Komichi reassures an elderly man at the rally

"President Morgan Tsvangirai sent me here to tell you that we are together in the struggle for a democratic Zimbabwe," he said. "We are marching together to deliver real change to the people of Zimbabwe, and that includes the people of Uzumba."



Deputy Minister of Information Jameson Timba hands out copies of the GPA

He further encouraged MDC supporters to participate in the Constitution-making process so that their views would be incorporated in the new governance charter.

"If you hear that Simbanauta Mudarikwa (Zanu-PF MP Uzumba) is

having a meeting on the Constitution, go there, because it is not his process, it is your process," Hon Komichi said.

Speaking at the same rally, Hon. Jameson Timba, the MP for Mt Pleasant and the deputy Information and

Publicity minister, took the opportunity to explain how the inclusive government was performing.

"We had seen that the people of Zimbabwe were suffering despite having spoken out loud on 29 March 2008," Hon Timba said. "We wanted to restore the dignity that was taken away from the people of Zimbabwe. We wanted our freedom back. You were beaten up, houses were burnt and you were living in fear, but we are saying we want the police to safeguard the interest of the people not of political heads," said Hon. Timba.

"This is in no way a no-go area," he said.

Uzumba was one of the hardest hit during the post 29 March 2008 elections violence. More than 500 people most from Mashonaland East, were killed, maimed, raped and displaced.

MDC, delivering real change to the people of Zimbabwe

Thousands attend Manicaland rallies

MUTARE – The MDC Manicaland province held several rallies across the province that were attended by thousands of people.

Addressing one of the rallies at Nheta grounds in Makoni North, Musikavanhu MP, Hon. Prosper Mutseyami said it was a paradox that the current talks are meant for Zanu PF to agree on the things the party had already signed to a long time ago.

“The talks are underway to resolve outstanding issues that have threatened the delivery of real change to the people of Zimbabwe,” Hon Mutseyami said. “It’s however ironic that the talks are meant for the principals of the inclusive government to agree on the things they have already agreed to.

“We expect to hear the results of this dialogue early next week. There are 28 outstanding issues that need to be resolved before the end of this year.

“The issue of appointment of ambassadors, RBZ Governor and the Attorney General’s position need to be revised and reconsidered,” he said.

He added that it was a shame that since the inception of the inclusive government, the Global Political Agreement had not been fully implemented because of the unfaithfulness of Zanu PF.

Hon Mutseyami also took a swipe at the public media for doing nothing to improve dissemination of information.

“The media is still very much politicised and Robert Mugabe is given excessive

power that he does not deserve through the titles he is given.

“The public media is full of hate speech regardless of the fact that the government has changed and that the formation of the inclusive government calls for a more objective and truthful media,” said Hon. Mutseyami.

Speaking at Tombo 2 on Saturday Nyanga North MP, Hon. Douglas Mwonzora said every view of the people must be captured in the Constitution-making process and no political party should impose its views on anyone.

“Every person’s view must be captured. Constitution embeds among other issues, the issue of managing free and fair elections, the responsibilities of soldiers and police officers.”

Hon Mwonzora who is also the co-chairman of the constitution select committee said the rally had given the people of Nyanga North an opportunity to see and review the inclusive government.

“This rally among other things offers us another opportunity to reflect on our performances, management, strategies, successes and failures and hopefully position us on the success path.”

Addressing about 8 000 people at Kondo Business Centre in Chipinge West on Sunday, Makoni South MP, Hon. Pishai Muchauraya explained the purpose of the inclusive government and said the

people should not tire especially at this point where real change is about to be brought to the people.

“The government we have today is an inclusive one and not a government of national unity as some might want to put it,” he said. “We are not united in any way. You can never unite with Zanu PF and feel secure.

“Zanu PF will ever be Zanu PF. It is a waste of time to think that Zanu PF will ever change. It’s a well known fact that Zanu PF will never change. Its corruption tendencies will forever remain. Zanu PF is so corrupt that after shaking hands with a Zanu PF member you are tempted to check the number of your fingers otherwise one or two will already be missing,” said Hon Muchauraya.

Zanu PF mob attacks MDC supporters

UZUMBA - An MDC supporter Daniel Makaranga was rushed to hospital after a Zanu PF mob attacked the truck they were travelling in at Katiyo shopping centre on Sunday.

The mob pelted the T-35 truck with stones, injuring the passengers who were on their way to Nhakiwa Business Centre where they were going to an MDC rally. Makaranga was rushed to Nhakiwa clinic where he was denied assistance because the nurses feared to be victimized by the Zanu PF militia who work hand in hand with the police.

The attack was engineered by Zanu PF’s youth chairman for Uzumba district, one Mbizi who is in charge of militia bases which still exist in Uzumba. Currently there are five Zanu PF bases at Katiyo, Mashambanhaka, Mtawatawa, Nhakiwa and Rukariro.

These bases are under the command of Paradzai Zimondi, the commissioner of prisons, Douglas Nyikayaramba an army brigadier, Kandemiri Farisi a war veteran, Agrippa Muromba a war veteran, Joe Katiyo and Playa Katiyo, Zanu PF district officials.

The matter was reported to the police at Mtawatawa and the RRB number is 0539068.

The Deputy Minister of Information and Publicity Hon Jameson Timba who was at the rally condemned the barbaric attack of Zanu PF on innocent MDC supporters.



A battered Daniel Makaranga

“Primitive and barbaric politics of the knobkerrie are pursued by those parties who have nothing to offer to the people,” Hon Timba said.

The incident took place before the Minister arrived.

On hearing this, Minister Timba approached the Assistant Inspector Dzveterere of Mtawatawa Police Station who assured him that the identified culprits will be brought to book.

Two men were arrested in connection with this violent and barbaric act, however, there were fears from the locals that the culprits will be released.

MDC supporters who attended the rally in Uzumba went home in fear of their lives because Zanu PF youths were waiting for them at their bases.

One of the Zanu PF youths was listing names of MDC supporters who attended the rally.

MDC activist flees home

MUTARE - An MDC activist Ishmael Mutambara, of Mutupo Ward 9 Mutare North in Manicaland province fled his home last week after succumbing to pressure from Zanu PF supporters who had threatened to kill him.

Narrating his ordeal to *The Changing Times*, Mutambara said Zanu PF supporters led by Boldman Musadema, Gwengwe, Gumende and one Mai Ziki came to his house twice on 17 and 24 November and threatened him for reclaiming his chickens, which were stolen during last year’s presidential run-off.

“They came to my place twice. On all the two occasions, they warned me against reclaiming back my chickens, which they looted during last year’s presidential run off,” he said.

“This is really hurtful considering that I also lost a daughter, Serina, who was beaten to death by Zanu PF youth militia during last year’s state sponsored violence and the police took no action against the culprits.”

Mutambara has since fled to Mutare, where he is staying

with his brother. Despite reporting the threats to the police, no action has been taken against the perpetrators.

Meanwhile, Sydeny Rupiya of Ward 7 in Chakari was last week severely assaulted by Zanu PF youths for defecting from Zanu PF and joining the MDC.

Speaking to *The Changing Times* MDC chairman for Chakari District, Moscow Chakabvapati said Rupiya was assaulted for openly disclosing that he was now an MDC supporter.

“Zanu PF youths visited him carrying knobkerries and severely assaulted him leaving him unconscious, he was rushed to the hospital but is now finding it difficult to walk,” said Chakabvapati.

“A report was made to the police but no action was taken,” he added.

The chairman said that it was wrong for Zanu PF to try and force people to support the party.

“Everyone has a right to support a party of their choice without being intimidated,” he said.

40% of all projects to women: Minister Makone

HARARE - Hon Theresa Makone, the Minister for Public Works and MDC Women’s Assembly chairperson, has said women should get 40 percent of all projects that will be okayed by her ministry.

Makone was speaking at a luncheon her ministry hosted for women in the construction industry to discuss the role women can play in rebuilding the country’s creaky infrastructure.

The luncheon, which was held in Harare, was attended by 15 women in the construction industry.

Hon Makone said, as the Minister of Public works, she wanted to see the involvement of more women in the construction industry.

“I have vowed that as Minister in this male dominated field, I will ensure that women are also involved. In fact, we have agreed that 40 percent of all the projects we are embarking on are to be done by women,” she said.

Women in construction took the opportunity to share ideas and make a plan of how they were going to proactively get involved in the reconstruction of the country.

Mrs Elisabeth Chakudunga, a brick layer by profession and the president of the Zimbabwe Women in Construction Association (ZWICA) said, women had to do a quality job if they are to be recognized.

“Some women have taken up offers they were unable to complete, and this gives bad precedence,” Chakudunga said. “If the job is heavy, women should get into partnerships. This will help mitigate the problems all women have to face because of one who messed up.”

It was suggested that, in order for the women to be able to live up to expectations, they had to actively participate and do a smart job to guarantee their stay in the industry.

The meeting of women in construction is part of efforts by the Ministry of Public Works towards gender balancing in all sectors.

MDC women in leadership have taken a lead role in promoting women in business. The Deputy Prime Minister recently hosted the Women’s Economic Summit in order to support women in economic development.



Hon Theresa Makone (centre) with women movers and shakers in the construction industry