



# The Changing Times

## Movement for Democratic Change

*A Party of Excellence!*

The Official Mouthpiece of the MDC

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# Chiefs intimidate villagers

*...as army deploys soldiers to all growth points*

**HEADLANDS**—As the Constitution outreach programme rolls out this week, two chiefs in Headlands in Manicaland province are instructing villagers in their areas to parrot the Zanu PF position in the Constitution-making process or face eviction from the area.

The two, chief Dzikiti and Chief Nyamanhindi, held a meeting with villagers at Rura Primary school last Wednesday and said that anyone who goes against the Zanu PF position on the Constitution will be betraying the spirit of a former local chief, Chief Chingaira, who was beheaded during the liberation struggle.

The Chiefs are telling villagers that all land belongs to Zanu PF and villagers should show their allegiance by parroting the Zanu PF position when the outreach teams visit them.

Speaking to *The Changing Times*, the MDC Headlands District Secretary, Shepherd Maisiri, said the two notorious chiefs were distributing fliers to force the villagers to preach the Zanu PF position.

Maisiri has come under open attack from Zanu PF supporters for getting one of their own, Lovemore Marenji, arrested for raping MDC female supporters. Marenji was sentenced to 52 years in prison for raping MDC activists in the area.

Investigations by *The Changing Times* revealed that sometime last week, the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) held a meeting with chiefs at Magodo lodge in Rusape and distributed the Zanu PF position paper on the constitution to the chiefs. They allegedly instructed the chiefs to take these positions and distribute to their subjects.

Three weeks ago, Zanu PF supporters led by one Mudzamiri, Nzuma and Madzudzu visited the five chiefs in the Buhera district demanding that they supply them with 60 litres of petrol, a cow, a goat and three bags of maize every month for the party's activities.

Article 14 of the Global Political Agreement, which is now part of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, says that traditional leaders should not engage in partisan political activities in their communities.

Zanu PF has begun a nationwide terror campaign and is abusing traditional leaders to emasculate the Constitution-making process.

Two weeks ago, the President of one of the many factions of the Zimbabwe War Veterans Association, Jabulani Sibanda went to Makoni Central and threatened people that anyone who is MDC and against Zanu PF will be killed.

*The Changing Times* has received reports that members of the army have been deployed to growth points

across the country to instill fear among Zimbabweans during the Constitution outreach programme in clear violation of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, which says security organs have no role to play in politics.

Last week, a team of soldiers from 2 Infantry battalion deployed at Mutoko centre threatened an MDC team, telling them that the provincial party vehicle they were traveling in was provoking them.

"The soldiers said our car was provoking them. They said we should drive out of Mashonaland East province as they did not want to see any MDC symbol or regalia. We had to make a report at Mutoko police," said the Mashonaland East provincial organising secretary, Wunganai Tapfumane.

In a similar incident of intimidation, an MDC activist in Muzarabani North, Machaya ward 3, lost his property when Zanu PF supporters gutted down his bedroom with fire on Monday evening.

Elias Dzinesu, the MDC ward 3 treasurer, who had been warned of the calamity to befall him through a note signed by a Zisorenyika, said his hut was gutted down while he watched helplessly from a pigsty where he had hidden.

"I was coming from watching a world cup match at Soni Township. When I got home, I saw a note warning me that I should not sleep at home. So I decided to sleep in my pigsty which is about 70 meters away from my house. At mid

night, I was awoken by noises of people at my house. I saw the village head, Titus Mutasa and two Zanu PF youths. Suddenly, my house went up in flames," said Dzinesu.

*To Page 3*



*Elias Dzinesu watched helplessly while Zanu PF thugs burnt his house last week*

# Four-year old watched as mom was callously killed

**HARARE** — Six-year old Ashley Chiroto is still having sleepless nights as he tries to come to terms with the gruesome murder of his mother.

His mother, Abigail Chiroto, was callously shot dead by Zanu PF thugs and members of the military junta on the night of 16 June, 2008 while then the four-year old Ashley watched helplessly.

Ashley Chiroto is the son of Emmanuel Chiroto, the deputy mayor of Harare.

Abigail and Ashley, then aged four, were abducted on the night of 16 June 2008 at their Hatcliffe home in Harare by a group of Zanu PF men driving two vehicles and armed with an assortment of guns.

This was during the height of the Zanu PF madness after the party had been overwhelmingly defeated by the MDC during the harmonised polls of 28 March 2008.

Ashley, who is now in Grade One, was sitting on his mother's lap when the men heavily assaulted her while in the vehicle, breaking her legs and arms in the process.

They were demanding to know the whereabouts of Abigail's husband, Emmanuel, who is also the district chairperson for Harare North.

The Zanu PF gang's intention before they abducted the two was to abduct and murder Emmanuel.

However, this attempt failed because Chiroto, like hundreds of other MDC members, had gone into hiding as Zanu PF, assisted by the State machinery and funding from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe, went on a rampage killing MDC members across the country.

On that fateful day Abigail, Ashley and their maid, Violet, were preparing to retire for the day when disaster struck as the Zanu PF thugs stormed the Chiroto house.

Violet managed to escape as she was outside house. But the same luck eluded little Ashley and her mother, who were immediately kidnapped.

However, before the Zanu PF hooligans drove away with the two, they threw a bomb inside the house, which set the whole house on fire.

Nothing except for a refrigerator was saved from the raging inferno.

"We were left with nothing. All my son's clothes were burnt in the fire and we had to rely on handouts from well-wishers," an emotionally charged Emmanuel Chiroto told *The Changing Times* this week.

Abigail, then 26 years old and her son, were then taken to an isolated place at Art Farm on the northern outskirts of Harare.

It was at Art Farm that she was to meet her death. Her body was discovered the following day by a gold panner with a shot in the head and a deep cut on the stomach.

A post-mortem report showed that excessive force was used in breaking her limbs and that she had been heavily assaulted.

According to the husband, Ashley was also abandoned at that spot and just started to wonder aimlessly with no shoes or anything warm on him before he was picked up by the farm manager. The brave little boy told the farm manager that his mother had been killed by some men in army uniforms.

## 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.

### Makosini Hlongwane – MP Mberengwa East

In the run-up to the June 27, 2008 presidential run-off, Hlongwane, moved in the company of Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) agents based at Mataga Growth point. They terrorised and assaulted MDC supporters in the area. Hlongwane was personally involved in the assault and torture of MDC supporters at Chingechuru Primary School on 22 June 2008.

### Shuvai Mahofa – Gutu South losing parliamentary candidate

Mahofa led a ruthless trail of violence against MDC supporters. She sponsored Zanu PF youths who then established torture bases in Masvingo. Her vehicles were used by the Zanu PF militia in the abduction and torture of MDC supporters. The youths also killed Mapurisa Zvidzai on 24 April 2008 and Tiziro Moyo on 11 June 2008.

### Dorothy Mangami – Gokwe MP

In 2008, violent activities were planned from her home in Gokwe. She conspired with Army Major Dalu Moyo and Zanu PF youth militia in abducting and assaulting MDC supporters in Gokwe district.

The Zanu PF youths led by one Moyo stabbed to death MDC youth activist, Isaac Danda on 5 May 2008 and axed to death one R Gomwe at Gokwe Nembudziya on 10 May 2008.

Abigail's body was picked up the following morning by police from Borrowdale police station and taken to Parirenyatwa Hospital mortuary.

When the relatives went to enquire from the police about this, police officers at the station vehemently denied that such a body had been found, even though they had dumped the body at Parirenyatwa hospital.

Emmanuel Chiroto said he failed to attend his wife's burial as he had received information that his wife's killers were still after him.

The Zanu PF supporters in Hatcliffe even disrupted the funeral wake and police had to be called in. However, the police did not arrest them but instead arrested some of the mourners.

The funeral wake was later held at Abigail's parents' house in Chitungwiza.

She was later buried at the Warren Hills cemetery in Harare.

A memorial service was held last Sunday to mark the second anniversary of her gruesome death.

*To Page 3*



# This blood-letting is not in the national interest

By Yvonne Mashayamombe

One Epicurus once said it is possible to provide security against other ills, but as far as death is concerned, all people live in a city without walls.

Death knows no political boundary, knows no tribe, religion or beliefs. Death is a natural calamity that comes to all men. The question arises on how they die.

In the past decade, we have watched as people were butchered by their own neighbours. We have watched as our nation's soils were watered with blood. We have watched as our river beds were polluted with bodies of our brothers, sisters, mothers and fathers. In this nation, we have witnessed as families turned against each other. We have seen even churches being abused as Zanu PF engaged in a shameless pursuit of power.

Power is a good thing as long as the energy is channeled towards development. When the nation attained its independence in 1980; it came about after a protracted struggle. But sure as it did, people hoped for better legislation that would ensure equal opportunities, equal rights for all people and equal access to national resources. But all this has not happened. The same grievances we had before independence are the same grievance we have today.

Even justice has exemptions on some quarters in Zanu PF. Is this the equality

our brothers fought and died for? Some few individuals brag about how much they own and how they have risen from being tea boys to super rich men, what is there to brag about? That they looted our resources, that they used our sweat and blood to fertilize their avarice, is that it? Well, do not be fooled, one day, all that you have stolen will return to the rightful owners.

The way some of these people have abused national resources to promote violence has been noted. Justice might not have taken place now, but the inheritance and the legacy they leave for their children is a shameful one. It is a legacy every child borne of their loins will curse; a legacy that will destroy their names.

For those who have promoted murder, death will still catch up with them and they shall know no peace.

Imagine, on Monday 14 April in the year 2008 in Mudzi North, a man was assaulted with an iron bar at his home. A day later, while his wife was taking him to the clinic in an ox-drawn cart, they were blocked at the Vhombozi river by the same thugs who had assaulted him, just because he was an MDC supporter. The Zanu PF youth killed the oxen and chased his wife away. They then took this man to Magwada Torture Base, where they continued to torture and beat him. They made him drink rat poison - he did not die. The next day they made him drink Rogor (a strong chemical) - he did not die.

On the third day, they axed him to death.

The perpetrators are all known.

However, because these thugs had strong political backing, from those that wanted to retain power, from those who were greedy enough to want the status quo to remain, they still roam free.

But are they really free? Does their collective conscience give them rest? Do they think they are invincible? Trust you me, fate will not exempt them.

On Sunday the 8<sup>th</sup> of June, in the same fateful year of 2008 in Mhondoro Ngezi, a Zanu PF gang sent by a well known Zanu MP came to the house of Dadirai Chipiro. They were looking for her husband, a well-known MDC activist. He was not there. They beat up Dadirai, chopped off both her hands and her feet, threw her into her hut and set it alight with a petrol bomb. She burned to death.

All in the name of serving a political master?

Never again in the history of this nation should the people of Zimbabwe allow political leaders to play atrocious games with them. First it was *Gukurahundi*, then *Murambatsvina*, then came *Operation Mavhotera Papi*, now we are told of an *Operation Chimumumu* ahead of the Constitution-outreach programme.



An elderly woman ponders her next move after her house was destroyed during Operation Murambatsvina

Until when should we remain mum in the wake of all these threats and human rights abuses?

But the message remains the same, though security can be offered against getting arrested, death will eventually catch up with all of us. But are people going to celebrate or mourn with your family when you die?

Recently, the remote and usually quiet growth point of Jerera in Zaka, Masvingo province, broke into music and dance when a notorious Zanu PF thug only known as 'Hazvidi hope' died at Jerera growth point.

This man was associated with the bombing of the MDC Jerera office on

June 4 2008 where several people died and a few more sustained injuries.

Is this the legacy that we want that people will celebrate our death?

Justice has to take its course. No human being has a right to spill other people's blood. Only God has that mandate. But since some of us have given ourselves the powers of God, let us see if He will be happy that we have usurped his sacred powers.

**Yvonne Mashayamombe is an information officer in the MDC's Department of Information and Publicity.**



## Letters to the Editor

### Ladies, let us write the new Constitution

Dear Editor,

Please allow me space in your paper to encourage all the women out there to go and participate in the Constitution-making process.

We as the women of Zimbabwe are the drivers of this process so we need to be seen doing something.

We should say how we want issues affecting the women to be incorporated in the new Constitution.

So how do we get our concerns highlighted if we ignore the process?

Most of the women out there have always ignored pertinent issues to do with national development. We can not let the men do it all, we have to assist them.

The men will not be able to articulate our issues on our behalf, we have to do it and this can be done when we are there. The good thing is if you are ashamed or afraid to speak in public, you can now put down your points on paper and your submissions to the outreach teams in your area. So ladies, take your pens and paper and go out there and express your viewpoints and opinions.

This is our time to chart a better tomorrow.

Mai Tino  
Warren Park

### Written submissions welcome

Dear Editor,

I would like to commend COPAC for allowing written submissions as part of their outreach data capturing process.

In the Mashonaland provinces, most families have been intimidated if they are to participate in the Constitution-making process.

In fact, in Goromonzi, we are being told that if we are not given some papers we should not speak during the public meetings. So thank you COPAC for coming up with such a splendid proposition.

Mavima  
Goromonzi North

### Continue fighting for real change

Dear Editor

I would like to praise the MDC for fighting a good war for all Zimbabweans in order to bring democracy to the country. It takes a humble man like Morgan Tsvangirai to lead a suffering nation like Zimbabwe to Canaan. You have stood up amongst great obstacles and have won respect for that. I wish you all the best in all you do, and keep on fighting a good war. God will see us through to the other side one day.

Hilda  
Via e-mail

### Let's get out of the comfort zone

Dear Editor

I would like to urge all urban dwellers to go all out and contribute to the writing of the new Constitution. We are the people. We are the ones who should have a say on what the Constitution should be like.

For so long urban residents have let down the rural flock, who have been very faithful to the cause of our nation.

They have stood up against the relentless evil forces of Zanu PF. They have faced the worst kind of tyranny from Zanu PF. We need to support our colleagues in the rural and farming areas.

Urban dwellers have been in the comfort seat, taking a laid back approach to national developmental issues. Let us stand up for the sake of our brothers and sisters whose voices continue to be muffled in this nation.

Let us participate for the sake of our intimidated and threatened family

members in the rural areas. If they are not allowed to speak, let us make a louder voice for their freedom. If they are beaten up to say their views, let us get killed raising our opinion. Let us expose Zanu PF for who they are - a greedy and selfish people.

Let us get out of the comfort zone so that we help our brothers and sisters in the rural areas.

I am participating in the drafting the new people-driven Constitution for the sake of my own brother and sister.

Alice  
Mt Pleasant



# Religion

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.

## RELIGION

1.1 Everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, which includes -

- (a) freedom of thought, opinion, religion or belief;
- (b) freedom to change their thought, opinion, religion or belief; and
- (c) freedom to practise and propagate and give expression to their thought, opinion, religion or belief, whether in public or in private and whether alone or together with others.

1.2 No one may be compelled to take an oath that is contrary to their religion or belief or to take an oath in a manner that is contrary to their religion or belief.

- Religious observances may be conducted and religious instruction may be given at public institutions, including State or State-aided institutions, if-
- (a) the observances follow

reasonable rules made by the appropriate public authorities; and

- (b) the observances are conducted on an equitable basis and with due regard to the rights and sensibilities of others.
- 1.3 Any religious community may ensure that religious instruction is given in educational courses

or institutions provided by the community, even if the community receives a subsidy or other financial assistance from the State.

- 1.4 The Constitution founding principles and preamble should acknowledge God's supremacy.



# Local Government Forum

## MDC-led Gokwe Council working hard to serve the people

GOKWE – The MDC – led Gokwe town council has embarked on an investment project aimed at attracting both foreign and local investors, the town's chairperson has said.

In an interview with *The Changing Times*, the Gokwe town council chairperson, Darlington Mabasa Mudondo said the town had made available 20 commercial stands and over 100 residential stands.

"We hope that this initiative will see investors coming to do business here. Residents here and those from surrounding rural areas are being forced to travel to Gweru, Kwekwe and even Harare to do their business and we found that this was unnecessary and we have decided to bring investors here," he said.

He said the town was satisfied with the number of investors who had shown interest in settling in the town.

"The turnout in taking up both the business and residential stands has been tremendous. We are also charging affordable rates for both and we hope very soon we will have 100 percent occupancy," he said.

Gokwe town council popularly known as "Gokwe Centre" is in the Midlands North province.

It has three residential areas, Sasame, Mapfungautsi and Jelele and has a population of less than 100 000 people.

The centre is surrounded by Gokwe rural, which is known for agricultural farming particularly of cotton production. It is also known for cattle ranching, abundant wildlife and small-scale gold mining.

However, Chairperson Mudondo said despite the town's efforts of bringing investment to the town, the centre was facing serious water shortages as the Zimbabwe Water Authority (Zinwa) was failing in providing clean water to the province.

"Zinwa is failing to provide clean water to the centre and this has resulted in the town facing serious challenges. It is also posing as serious health challenges as the residents are being forced to source water from unprotected sources," Mudondo said.

Since getting into office in 2008, the council has managed to secure several vehicles for better service delivery including a fire brigade truck that was donated by the Civil Protection Unit.

The council has also managed to secure an ambulance and restock medical supplies at the council clinic, Cheziya Clinic.

"When we got into office, our greatest challenge was service delivery which was almost non-existent as the former

councillors from Zanu PF had failed," he said.

Mudondo said the former council was at one time hiring private vehicles to carry out certain council tasks and this proved to be very expensive and the system was corrupt.

In addition all the administrative offices are now computerized, a situation which has seen council business being done in a professional and efficient way.

"We also hope this will also go a long way in curbing abuse of council resources as we will capture every transaction that happens in the town," Mudondo explained.

The chairperson took a swipe at the "special interest" councillors that were appointed by Zanu PF's Ignatius Chombo as they were frustrating council operations.

"These councillors who are from Zanu PF are unnecessarily meddling in the smooth operations of the council. They are still bitter that they lost in the March 2008 council elections," said Mudondo.

Chombo has brought through the backdoor hundreds of Zanu PF supporters who lost in the 2008 council elections as "special interest" councillors.

Some councils have challenged the move at the High Court and Bulawayo city council has won the case.



Gokwe town council chairperson, Darlington Mabasa Mudondo

However, the council has also managed to refill all the potholes in the town after it managed to secure tar from the Zimbabwe National Road Agency (Zinara) last month.

"All the major roads leading into Gokwe town are now friendly to the road users," he said.

He however, reminded ratepayers to pay their bills on time as the council was not

generating enough money from the residents.

"Our rates are very minimal but we are failing to collect enough from the residents and this seriously impacts on service delivery," he said.

Residents pay US\$5 a month for water charges in high density areas and US\$10 in the low density suburbs.



## Chiefs intimidate villagers

From Page 1

He said he did not report the matter to the police as they have not done anything with reports made since 2008.

Cases of terror and intimidation continue to be recorded throughout the country. In Mashonaland Central province, 10 MDC activists who were arrested in February this year in Dambaza village in Shamva North on trumped up charges of attempted murder and arson were last week acquitted by a Bindura magistrate after all the witnesses said they were surprised to see the 10 in court as they were not the ones who burned their homes when they appeared in court for trial.

Meanwhile, Bindura Mayor Daniso Wakatama and two other councillors Rindai Muchemwa and Christopher Mazembe appeared in court for their

routine remand hearing and were remanded to 13 July 2010. They are facing trumped-up charges of flouting tender regulations in the purchase of two council vehicles and refuse collection tractor.

In Kwekwe, some Zanu PF youth officers have invaded Amaveni Theatre hall and Mbizo hall in an attempt to destabilise the smooth running of the Constitution making process.

Edward Fore, the MDC ward three chairperson in Mudzi North, had his house and granary burnt down at midnight last Saturday. The property was burnt following a Zanu PF rally held at Nyamanyoro business centre where a Zanu PF official, Jasper Kanjanda, urged all MDC members to join Zanu PF or risk losing their lives and their property.



## Four-year old witnesses mother's murder

From Page 1

"We have managed to identify five of the murderers and have even advised the police but nothing has happened. They are still roaming free in Hatcliffe and everyone in the suburb knows that they are my wife's killers," said a tearful Chirotto.

However, he refused to name the murderers but said one of them died last year. Before he died, he had gone insane and would talk publicly about how they had savagely killed Mrs Chirotto.

"I want these murderers to be arrested. They ruined my life. My son was left without a mother and he is facing difficulties in coping at school as he witnessed her death," an emotional Chirotto told *The Changing Times* on Monday.

He has since sold his Hatcliffe house and is now staying in another suburb.

"I could no longer stay at the house," Chirotto said.



Harare deputy mayor Clr Emmanuel Chirotto

Over 500 MDC supporters were murdered by Zanu PF militia in 2008 while thousands received life

threatening injuries and had their property looted as Zanu PF went on a rampage country-wide.



# Zanu PF blocks MDC's Voice of Real Change

The MDC notes with concern attempts by Zanu PF to derail the party's efforts to provide the people of Zimbabwe with a new information platform launched last week.

The audio service, dubbed the *Voice of Real Change*, is meant to give the people of Zimbabwe a new and exciting platform to know what is happening in the country and in their party.

However, the service has since been terminated and suspended after Zanu PF, through the regulatory authority put pressure on Econet to block some of the lines used for the service.

Within three days of operation, Zanu PF threatened cellular phone

service providers, Econet Wireless, Net-One and Telecel with closure following the MDC's use of cellular lines for the audio service.

It is heartening to note that the other lines, Net-one and Telecel lines used in the audio service have not been blocked and continue to operate without any hindrances. The Telecel and Net-one numbers such as 0734142600 and 0713 102 917 have not been blocked.

It is telling to note that our service was disrupted hard on the heels of a threat to one of the cellular phone service providers by one Nathaniel Manheru, who is widely believed to be a senior but misguided civil servant in the Ministry of Media, Information and Publicity.

These political threats on our audio service are a threat to plurality and the basic freedoms of speech and

association and we will not take them lightly. As a party, we value the need for Zimbabweans to have many platforms to converse and interact.

Our audio service is not a violation of any laws of the country, but provides a new, unique and exciting platform for Zimbabweans to exercise their basic freedom of speech within the law. We believe in plurality and a multiplicity of voices across the spectrum.

We believe in the sacrosanct right of Zimbabweans to exercise this right without any fear of self-appointed demi-gods who have a penchant to stifle democracy and reform.

Under the MDC new information platform, Zimbabweans will call a set of cellular phone numbers which include Econet, Net-One and Telecel lines.

The numbers will immediately cut off and our call-back facility will ensure that people are called back to receive various options in all languages.

The options will include, news round-up, President Morgan Tsvangirai's weekly message, the MDC's position on the Constitution making process, party events and a feedback platform where Zimbabweans can leave their messages to the party.

The MDC will continue to fight tenaciously for the people's right to enjoy this exciting service. The opposition to diversity and pluralism should not be allowed to stifle this unique experience for the people of Zimbabwe.

## MDC councillors face persecution in Banket

CHINHOYI - Banket Town councillor and senior MDC Mashonaland West provincial executive, Emmanuel Chinanzvavana who is facing a trumped-up murder charge was last Thursday attacked by six Zanu PF supporters in the town.

Chinanzvavana, who was granted bail last month, was assaulted by the gang and threatened with disappearance.

"I am feeling very insecure with the current beating and threats of disappearance that I am receiving from Zanu PF members" said Chinanzvavana.

Chinanzvavana managed to identify his assailants as Last Chiwawa, who is the Zanu PF Banket district chairperson, and well known Zanu PF youths Maxwell Madzivadzira, Wonder Huteyasi, Wellington Kaseke, Brian Chareka and Douglas Chiwawa.

He sustained minor injuries and received treatment at a clinic in Chinhoyi.

While beating, him the assailants claimed to have been given instructions by Zanu PF MP for Zvimba North, Ignatius Chombo and Zvimba South MP and Walter Chidhakwa to attack him.

Emmanuel Chinanzvavana, Fani Tembo, who is also an MDC councillor in Banket and Givemore Hodzi, an activist, are wrongly being accused of murdering Lancelot Zvirongwe a Zanu PF special interest councillor in January.

The two councillors have also not been paid their allowances by the council since January under instructions from Chombo who is also the Minister of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development.

Chinanzvavana, his wife Concilia and Tembo were among MDC officials who spent more than eight months on trumped up charges of banditry.



Clr Emmanuel Chinanzvavana

## People participation vital to Constitution-making

Every person in spite of their political affiliation, religious beliefs, creed or background, should attend the constitution outreach meetings to be held in their wards, an MDC leader has said.

Speaking at a rally in Dotito, Mt Darwin West over the weekend, MDC deputy Treasurer General, Hon Elton Mangoma said the MDC was in support of a people driven process and valued people's participation.

"This document can only be formulated if you come out and air your views".

He however castigated some rogue elements in society who were intimidating people saying it was out of sheer ignorance.

"They are not aware that they are eating into their own future. They are forgetting that the future is theirs and they are sabotaging their opportunity to make this nation work again. Our young people need to be made aware that the process they intend to block is the same process that will liberate them for ever," Hon Mangoma said.

Addressing the same rally, Sunningdale Member of Parliament, Hon Margret Matienga encouraged women to participate in their numbers in order for the Constitution to protect them.

"Women are the worst affected in any crisis. We need to ensure that our rights are enshrined in the supreme law of the country so that we are legally protected. Women are rape victims, they are at the brunt of any economic meltdown, as such we need to state that women

empowerment should be a right for every woman," Hon Matienga said.

Hon Mangoma also addressed another rally at St Albert's business center in Muzarabani South on Sunday where he further encouraged people to fight off fear and participate in the Constitution-making process.

In Mushumbi pools, Glen Norah MP, Hon Gift Dzirutwe encouraged the people to express their views and opinions freely so that these are captured in the constitution.

"As the outreach begins, you must feel free to say what you want to see in the new Constitution. It is your right as citizens of this country to write the Constitution at such an opportune time," Hon Dzirutwe said.

The MDC women's Assembly Harare province held a constitution feedback rally at Zororo grounds in Highfield, Harare.

The provincial Organising Secretary, Mrs. Joyce Jaja said that, the outreach programme, scheduled to begin this week, was a platform for women to advocate for the recognition and protection of their rights.

"We are being given an opportunity to enshrine the needs, the rights and the recognition of a woman. Once those are written and included in our constitution, we are safe. A new breed of empowered women will arise," she said.

The rally was attended by members of the provincial women's Assembly leadership.



Mrs Joyce Jaja addressing women in Highfield

Addressing thousands of MDC supporters at Dojani business center in Zhombe, Midlands North province, the provincial Vice chairperson Mr Rogers Chisi said;

"We can rebuild our nation by contributing to the writing of the supreme law of the land that guarantees necessary freedoms to the people. This document will ensure that the leadership they select represents the people's needs," said Mr Chisi.

In other rallies in Bulawayo, the MDC Provincial chairperson Senator Agnes Mloyi said, "This time the people of Zimbabwe should go in their numbers and make sure that the referendum will not be voted No, as long as the Constitution is written by the people."

Kuwadzana MP Hon Hon. Lucia Matibenga who attended the Lobengula rally said the MDC's mission is to make sure that Robert Mugabe and his party are removed through the ballot box. She urged the people to remain undaunted from the mission of a new constitution and a new government.

MDC deputy spokesperson, Hon. Thabitha Khumalo however said the MDC wants to see the rule of law being applied in the country. She said there remained outstanding issues in the GPA because there was no respect for human life and the nation.

Hon. Thabitha Khumalo urged the people to prioritise the Constitution-making process so that they can tailor the kind of empowerment, equality and commissions they envision.

"The Constitution is finally coming to the people to pave way for a democratic nation. Go and meet the Copac teams and talk of empowerment, equality, land and systems of government.

The new constitution should force the police to reform, fulfill the outstanding issues of the GPA and ensure an environment that brings to book all perpetrators of violence," said Hon. Khumalo, who is also MP for Bulawayo East.

Addressing a rally in his constituency, MP for Njube /Lobengula Hon. Sipepa

Nkomo told the people that only a people-driven Constitution will pave way for a democratically elected government in the country.

"We are tired of 30 years of maladministration, disasters and murders in the country. A new beginning has neared and the next elections should determine one leader for Zimbabwe," said Hon. Nkomo, who is also the Minister of Water Resources Development and Management

The Minister of Sate in the Prime Minister's office, Hon. Gordon Moyo said that the MDC presented Zimbabweans with a different breed of leadership, which sought the desires of the people, which is why it has fought for the writing of a new Constitution over the years.

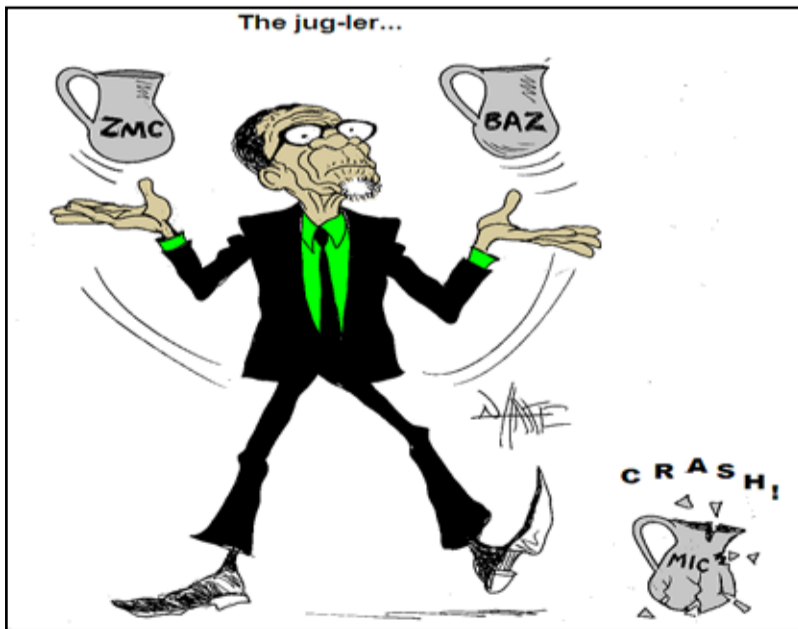
"We have got an opportunity as Zimbabweans to write a new Constitution. Let us go in hundreds and be heard so that future generations may live in a peaceful country," Hon. Moyo said

In Matebeleland South province, the MDC National Chairman Hon Lovemore Moyo addressed two rallies in Matobo South in Marko and Slebuco wards where he told villagers to refuse to be spoken for but to take the opportunity of a lifetime to correct the wrongs they have experienced in the 30 years of Independence under the rule of Mugabe.

The MDC National Chairman told the people that the MDC was in a transitional government on a mission to deliver real change and to restore the people's dignity.

"There are some achievements that we need to make while in the inclusive government because we are aware that the people are still suffering from the wounds and memories of politically motivated violence and the perpetrators continue to roam the streets."

He was accompanied by the Matobo South MP who took time to encourage the villagers to stay prepared and ready to meet the outreach teams and be part of the historical exercise of writing a new Constitution.



**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**