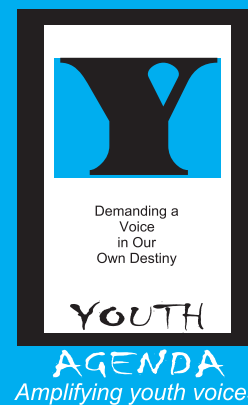


The New Age Voices

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‘Young People Initiative’ launched

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and World Education Inc-Children First on Thursday launched a three-pronged “Young People” outreach initiative at the Harare Sports Club in the Capital. It was facilitated by Youth Advocates Zimbabwe (YAZ).

The launch provided a national platform for youths to communicate their needs, concerns and opinions to stakeholders, legislators and policy makers. The program also sought to offer them life skills guidance and advice.

Present at the Launch was US Ambassador Charles Ray, USAID Mission Director Karen Freeman, guest of honor who is the chairman of heads of denominations and president of the Evangelical fellowship of Zimbabwe Dr Goodwill Shana and secretary general of the Catholic Bishops conference Father Davison Lukio and YAZ director Tatenda Songore among others.

Speaking at the ceremony, Ambassador Ray said that older people had a lot to share with their youth counterparts but urged the young people to learn from their mistakes and also encouraged them to be innovative and 'think outside the box'.

“Those who are older have a lot to share with the young people but our mistakes should not be your mistakes. You can only be successful by standing on the shoulders of great people hence we can work together and create a better life for you,” said Ray.



U.S Ambassador Charles Ray delivers a speech at the launch of the Young Peoples Initiative launch

Karen Freeman said that the US was proud to be associated with the initiative and promised support. “The American people are proud to support this innovative youth initiative that seeks to empower youth and help them solve the important issues that face them by working together.

“We think the youth initiative is an important tool that can help foster important debates and discussions on the best way forward,” Freeman said.

Dr Shana said that young people are looking for answers but they have failed to

find them in politics and economics as well hence they need to turn to the church for the right answers.

“The church is the light of the nation and it provides young people with a moment of hope and opportunity. Young people are not leaders of tomorrow but of today and they provide hope for tomorrow. This partnership will assist the church but also give inspiration and hope to the youth and will take them out of the dungeons of poverty. We want to give youth hoes so that they can build the future,” said Dr Shana.

He said that the initiative must consider vocational training and that the older generation must leave an inheritance for their children. “A righteous man leaves an inheritance for his children,” Dr Shana said.

The Young People Initiative will be run by USAID partner World Education Inc-Children First and a local communications agency, Ripple Communications. The project involves local NGOs, youth organisations, relevant government ministries, media organisations and others engaged in the lives of young people.

It will address issues such as HIV/AIDS, puberty, sexual and reproductive health, relationships, entrepreneurship, youth leadership and education.

The project has 3 components: the 'Young People' radio program, a Call-in Centre and newspaper editorials. The 30 minute radio program will be broadcast on Power FM every Tuesday evening between 7 and 7:30PM for 3 months, discussing topical issues with special guests. Selected youths, journalists and representatives of Children First will coordinate the media engagement activities including the radio programs and newspaper columns.

Youth from this group will be trained to answer immediate questions and provide information and resources at the call in centre, which is also accessible via SMS to a hotline number (0777469107), also broadcast on the radio show.

MDC, Zanu PF youths meet over violence



Tongai Kasukuwere of Zanu PF (extreme right) and Mashoko Matonhodze (extreme left) of MDC-T follow proceedings at the meeting where young people slammed the violence which has gripped some parts of the country.

YOUTHS from across the political divide last week slammed the recent upsurge in violence that has turned some suburbs in Harare into cauldrons.

Speaking at a meeting that was organized by Youth Alliance for Democracy (YAD) in Harare, youth leaders from the three main political parties castigated what they termed a deliberate ploy by politicians to continue

polarizing the youths.

The meeting was held under the theme, “mitigating electoral conflict and violence: towards a non violent solution oriented approach to violence”.

For the past month, Mbare and Epworth high density suburbs have been turned into war zones by marauding

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News In Brief

Gwisai, co accused still in custody.

International Socialist Organisation general coordinator Munyaradzi Gwisai and 45 others who were arrested on allegations of plotting an Egyptian Style uprising are still in custody after Magistrate Munamoto Mutevedzi refused to grant them bail and referred them to the High Court.

The 46 were arrested last week and claim that they were tortured are being charged with treason for trying to topple a 'constitutionally' elected government.

Their lawyer Alec Muchadehama made an application for refusal of further remand citing lack of evidence to show reasonable suspicion that Gwisai and his co-accused committed treason as alleged.

Muchadehama said the arrest was unlawful and it was a dragnet form of arrest akin to abduction. Their bail application is expected to be heard today (Monday) at the High court.

Libya continues to burn

Thousands of civilians continue to perish in the troubled North African Country of Libya with protesters fighting tooth and nail with the dictatorial regime of Muammar Gaddafi. The ruthless leader who has remained in power since 1969 is facing is greatest ever threat to his grip on the oil rich nation with thousands of protesters demanding that he leave office.

Gaddafi, who has ruled Libya with an Iron fist is said to have siphoned wealth that is over US\$70 billion and citizens in the Arab country have demanded that he steps down for ruining the country but he remains defiant despite already having lost some towns to protesters.

“Drug abuse among youths fueling violence”

YOUTHS who gathered in Harare last week for a post mortem of the violence that has gripped the country of late, bemoaned the influx of cheap alcohol, drugs and toxic substances on the local market as a catalyst to violence.

Youths from Zanu PF and the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) met in the capital last week to take stock and map the way forward after violence reared its ugly head in one the country's oldest suburb, Mbare, and Epworth.

The New Age Voices attended the function where youths there said that politicians are able to fuel violence mainly because they buy very cheap drugs that they give to youths who abuse them and when they get to a state of trance, they become susceptible to foolish political orders.

Zanu PF youth Norest Makururu said that the presence of cheap and dangerous alcoholic substances on the market also plays a major role in fuelling violence among youths most of

whom do not afford to buy expensive lager beer.

“People also tend to pay a blind ear to what energizes young people to engage in violence activities. Alcohol and substances such as Zed (spirits) and Scuds (opaque beer) play a major role in the increase of violence,” said Makururu.

He said that the government should move swiftly to ensure that cases of drug and substance abuse are eradicated so that in turn violence will be minimized because we would have removed the catalyst.

MDC-M youth assembly spokesperson Oswald Dziike said that cases of drug abuse among youths were worrying among the youths which he said should be controlled.

MDC-T youth assembly secretary general Solomon Madzore castigated the recent upsurge in violence and said that the issue of drug abuse has contributed to the upsurge in violence that has claimed the scalps of his supporters.



Norest Makururu, a Zanu PF youth explains how drugs lead to violence and social decay.

Violence victim remanded in custody

ON Friday 11 February 2011, police in Epworth arrested Victor Rundare (18) on trumped up charges of assault and theft in a case which is strongly believed to be politically motivated.

Rundare appeared before Harare Magistrate Mr. Don Ndirowei last week. It is the State's case that Rundare together with other youth activists acting in connivance went around the Epworth area in Wards 4, 5 and 7 where they assaulted people and took away their goods. The state further alleges that Rundare was later arrested after having been 'identified' by one of the witnesses. Rundare is denying the charge.

The State led by Prosecutor Tapiwa Kasema had strongly opposed bail on the grounds that Rundare would abscond, had

no gainful employment and was likely to interfere with witnesses. However, Presiding Magistrate Mr Don Ndirowei granted Rundare US\$30 bail and ordered him to reside at his given address. Mr. Ndirowei argued that there were no cogent reasons which warranted Rundare to remain incarcerated and should be granted bail. However the state through the prosecutor, Tapiwa Kasema, invoked section 121 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act which effectively quashes the bail granted pending the hearing of the states' appeal. Rundare is expected back in court for his routine remand hearing on February 28.

The correct facts to the case are that Rundare was abducted by Zanu PF thugs who assaulted him and later on dumped him

at Epworth Police Station.

The past fortnight has witnessed an upsurge in violence that is being perpetrated by Zanu PF youth militia, which is being led by the infamous Chipangano in Mbare.

Two weeks ago, Councillor for Ward 4 in Epworth Didymus Bande was arrested on trumped up charges of assault and was detained at Domboromwari police station. Two more charges of assault were also pressed against him upon detention. He was released without charge.

The New Age Voices correspondent managed to get comments from some of the youth activists who had attended the court session in solidarity with Rundare and they expressed their dissatisfaction with the justice delivery system in Zimbabwe. They

were however quick to remind those who were manning the systems of repression that the power still resides within the masses of Zimbabwe and the time will come when the apparatus of oppression will be destroyed by the people.

The persecution of youth activists has continued in earnest since Zanu PF started unleashing violence on innocent civilians, mostly in Mbare and Epworth high density suburbs. Most youth activists have exercised restraint in the face of the attacks however in some instances they have been forced to defend themselves and their properties from further destruction.

Youth attacked as Zanu PF Bases resurface

A Murewa youth was recently attacked at a shopping centre situated in Kambarami village in Ward 10 by known Zanu PF activists as violence continues to escalate across the country.

Langton Mafuse (31) was drinking beer with a colleague at Manhembe shopping centre in a shop owned by prominent Zanu PF activist identified as Mrs Katazo when Zanu PF youths started to shove him resulting in him seeking refuge at another shop at the centre.

However, the youths waited until it was dark and followed him before pouncing on the unsuspecting youth who is also a teacher at Mutowane Primary in the area.

The young man sustained injuries on the

head and on his hands. He said he was able to identify the assailants whom he said were Pardon Chirimuuta of Mutowane and one Nyamukapa of Mutimbanyoka village.

Youths in the area said that they fear that the sporadic attacks on individuals opposed to Zanu PF rule will soon escalate and turn the area into a no go area reminiscent of the 2008 runoff election period.

“Youths here are living in fear of attacks from Zanu PF youth militia because cases of violence are increasing here. Young people need to be protected here because the situation is getting tense by the day. The militia has told us that now that the GPA has expired, they will do as they please, so we are very afraid,” Mafuse said.

Mafuse has been the MDC-T candidate for councilor in the area for the past two elections and he says that is the major reason why there is a determined attack on him.

Meanwhile as Zanu PF continues with its preparations for elections that its leader Robert Mugabe says will be held this year, the notorious bases have also started to resurface.

Youths who were interviewed by *The New Age Voices* last week said that they were beginning to see communist style meetings in their areas while some have confirmed that bases are being built in their areas, an indication that the forthcoming elections are likely to be more violent than the 2008 plebiscite.

The New Age Voices visited Epworth and saw that structures were being built at Makangira near Overspill while another one is being constructed at Donoro.

Zanu PF has set up two torture bases in Ward 7 and our investigations have shown that one of the bases is located at a house owned by Joana Mawire who is also the councillor for Ward 7 and another one is located at a house owned by Makandira who is the Zanu PF youth chairperson for Ward 7.

Political tensions remain high in Ward 7 of Epworth which is the most volatile community due to its high population density, lack of proper sanitation and infrastructure and is largely comprised of illegal structures.

the community with reckless abandon.

The youths called on political leaders to lead by example and to ensure that there is equitable distribution of resources thus empowerment must be broad based, and that perpetrators of violence be arrested, engage the police and demanded that leaders from the 3 political parties issue a joint statement denouncing violence.

Zimbabwe has of late been besieged by a spate of politically motivated violence which analysts have attributed to the growing intolerance levels among disgruntled Zanu PF party youths who feel sidelined by their leadership in economic processes but at the same time use the frustration to counter political pressure from the rival MDC-T party.

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youths who have been going around beating innocent people and stealing their belongings, a situation which has seen many families seeking refuge at political offices.

At the meeting, Zanu PF was led by Tongai Kasukuwere who is the Secretary for external relations in the youth wing, MDC-T by Solomon Madzore who is the secretary general in the Youth Assembly while MDC-M was represented by Oswald Dziike, youth assembly spokesperson. Also present at the meeting were youths drawn from across the civic society.

Scores of youth who thronged the venue poured cold water on moves by some unruly politicians to use cheap and tired tactics of trying to “buy” youths using few pieces of silver, toxic drugs and substances.

Maphosa of Zanu PF said that the causes of political violence are multifaceted but are mainly political, social and economic. He said that it is imperative that these issues are addressed to ensure that the effects do not turn into violence. He also said the youths are not at par socially and economically which is a recipe for disaster.

“We are not at par as youths but what makes matters worse is the issue of polarization which is affecting youths, it must be eradicated,” he said.

Madzore said that youths should desist from taking odd orders from politicians but instead said they must be originators of their own actions.

“There is no individual who has monopoly over violence. Youths let's just say no to violence because it is ruining our

communities,” said Madzore.

Scheduled to address the youths were, the Co-ministers of Home Affairs Kembo Mohadi and Theresa Makone, Co-Chairpersons of The Organ on National Healing and Reconciliation, John Nkomo of Zanu PF and Sekai Holland of MDC-T. They all could not come.

The youths also attacked police commissioner Augustine Chihuri saying that he should explain to the youths why the police are failing to bring to book perpetrators of violence. The co-Home Affairs Ministers were not spared either.

They also fired a broadside at the media which they said is the chief culprit in fuelling divisions among youths and called for the dissolution of the dreaded Chipangano youth militia in Mbare which has devastated

Youth Agenda denounces violence

Youth Agenda Trust (YAT) strongly condemns the recent upsurge in violence that is taking place in the country especially in the high density suburbs of Mbare and Epworth in Harare. The organisation notes with great concern that the timing of these well orchestrated violent activities, which have come on the backdrop of proclamations by Zanu PF leader Robert Mugabe that elections will be held this year.

YAT is deeply disturbed by the manner in which the youths of this country have been held at ransom by some unrepentant politicians who only view the existence of the young people only within the scope of electioneering and the achievement of selfish political ends. We also note with sadness that since the first round of elections that were held in independent Zimbabwe in 1980, young people have been occasionally used as pawns in the bigger political puzzle.

Despite being used by politicians to fane political violence which in most instances has claimed thousands of lives, youth in Zimbabwe remains among the continent's most poor people who have been denied a piece of the cake by the powerful elite of this country. Unemployment in the country hovers around 90 percent yet the plight of young people has never featured prominently in national planning.

The recent violent activities only expose the unpreparedness as a country to holding a peaceful, free and fair election that is held under the SADC's rules and regulations on the holding of elections in the region.

The organisation is deeply disturbed by the manner in which the police have also handled the crisis in these areas where in many instances victims of violence have been arrested while perpetrators of violence have been left to go scot free.

The recent xenophobic attacks at the gulf complex in the

capital were a clear indication that intolerance levels have reached unprecedented levels in the country which is desperately crying out to foreign investors for life support.

We also note with great concern the awesome deception by the state media notably the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) and the Herald in the coverage of these violent skirmishes which has so far claimed a life in Mbare. Although it is public knowledge that Zanu PF through its notorious youth wing, has been the main perpetrator of violence, the state media has chosen to shift the blame from the real culprits to the innocent citizens of this country.

Although there have been calls for the reform of the state media, these have fallen on deaf ears and these government entities have all but become a mouthpiece of Zanu PF.

Zanu PF has coined fake empowerment rhetoric as a result of the perennial poverty It has entrenched amongst young people. Zanu PF should instead move away from its divisive and impractical economic policies and ensure that there is broad based and genuine empowerment of all young people regardless of their political inclinations.

Youth Agenda views this violence and those propping it up as a clear sign that there is no sincerity on behalf of Zanu PF in as far as implementing the Global Political Agreement is concerned. The formation of the Human rights commission and the Organ on National Healing and Reconciliation has proved to be deceptive political gimmicks because they have not served any purpose at all.

Youth Agenda calls on all the young people of this country to strongly refuse to be used by these sunset politicians whose political fortunes largely depends on polarized youth who are made to believe that they have differences, yet all the youths in this country are suffering

together today because of a generation of politicians that is content with the sun rising tomorrow as they have failed to meet the demands of today.

We view these latest xenophobic attacks a mere regression into the pre-colonial smith era where property and business was the privy of a certain political and racial elite. We call upon Zanu PF Officials to stop political grandstanding forthwith and also call upon the police to ensure that bases that have been constructed in Epworth and other areas are disbanded.

We also call upon the Police Commissioner Augustine Chihuri to stop forthwith treating our honorable ZRP into an extension of Zanu PF but a professional body that is politically blind. It is also in the same vein that we challenge the co-home affairs ministers Kembo Mohadi and Theresa Makone to quickly move in and protect the young people of this country who are under siege from tired and failed politicians.

We also reiterate our desire to have the non functional Organ on National Healing and Reconciliation disbanded to pave way for a properly constituted body divorced from these political clowns who have failed this country since day one, with one that has time to attend to issues that the present office bearers have failed to address.

YAT and other progressive young people of this country demands and urgent audit of the violence and non partisan execution of justice to victims and perpetrators and urgent SADC facilitation on outstanding issues so as to create a conducive environment where young people will not be coerced into being vectors of violence but active participants in the election process

Youth of Zimbabwe unite and say no to violence.

ZANU PF Youth League should walk the talk

By Lovemore Chinoputsa

Declarations by the usually militant youth league that they will not engage in violence again was great news to many of us who braved the 8pm propaganda bulletin of the national Broadcaster (ZTV) on Wednesday 19 January 2011.

The Zanu PF youth League assertions on national television that they will this time around desist from violence should have come as sweet music to a lot of Zimbabweans who have lost their relatives, have lost their limb, were raped, maimed or harassed over the years.

They however should live to their word and allow Zimbabweans for the first time in so many years to choose a leadership of their choice without any coercion.

It will be quite refreshing to note that if these youths stick to their word, no unsanctioned roadblocks will be found in our rural areas, that it will not be compulsory

to move around with an election manifesto in your car and that my poor grandparents in Zaka will be able to attend that rally which they have so much desired to attend but can never do so for the fear of the "Young Comrades", that my brother Festus Dumbu will in the next election be able to travel the breadth and width of Zaka West freely to canvas for support.

That a presidential campaign team of that popular politician of the day will be allowed to move all over the country in their red bus and that no one will end up at Harvest House having ran away from their rural areas is really god news to all of us, but only if these youngsters decide to keep their word and promise to the people of Zimbabwe.

In an attempt to show off verbal prowess but lacking depth they tried dismally to castigate the Global Political Agreement which to any sane minded person has

worked to the full advantage of the Zanu PF Party where a loser of an election ended up keeping their office and in the process adding superfluous titles to their name in a desperate attempt to show Zimbabweans that they are still in charge.

One just wishes such a declaration had been made early and we could not have lost Washington Nyamwa from Zaka, Tonderai Ndira, Better Chokururama and many others who perished in the 2008 election violence, May their souls rest in Peace.

The Youth league in their proximity to the entire leadership of the party should take their declaration to fellow senior members of the party who have come in the open and declare that they will not leave office even if people reject them. They should equally take their message to the women's league which has become so much known for its singing and sexually provocative dances when

people are being beaten and tortured in bases. They should equally take their message to their militant war veterans colleagues that there is no need to continue with the Operation Kubudirana Pachena as it will only serve to further alienate them from the electorate.

In trying to play to the gallery that they have never been involved in violence, the youth league has failed to explain why and how the so called provocation from MDC has resulted in the death of MDC cadres.

The current leadership of Zanu PF youth League will do Zimbabwe a great favour if they leave by their word and walk the talk as history will judge them well for being a generation that would spoke against violence and violence was never witnessed again in any elections.

Lovemore Chinoputsa is a Former Secretary General of the Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU).

NCA salutes the people of Egypt

The National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) salutes the gallant people of Egypt for successfully and peacefully overthrowing a tyrant, Hosni Mubarak who ruled Egypt for 30 years.

The 18 days at Tahrir (Liberation Square) through difficult conditions demonstrated your commitment and unity in the fight against oppression. It was indeed an inspiration to the people across the world and in particular those of Zimbabwe who continue to reel under iron fist rule of Robert Mugabe. It was a show of the fact that the right to self determination can still be asserted even in the most trying of political environments.

What happened in Egypt and Tunisia should send a clear message to the last breed of dictators around the world that the people's power will soon catch up with them. As the NCA we urge the transitional military rulers in Egypt to ensure that there is respect for all human rights, including the right to freedom of expression and association, as the country steps

forward to democracy.

We also hope that the people of Egypt will be accorded the chance to write a new constitution and determine the nature of governance system they aspire for.

We are now in a new era in which democracy should be the norm and no longer be a point for clamor by the global citizenry.

Meanwhile we wish to register our utter disgust for the recent scale of violence that have rocked the country especially the capital Harare. The ugly scenes witnessed in Mbare and the recent march by ZANU PF youths is a cause for concern and it shows the high levels of political immaturity and intolerance especially from the parties in the inclusive government.

We are aware that the use of violence is a strategy by ZANU PF to intimidate the people so that they vote for them in the upcoming elections.

As the NCA we do not condone the use of violence as a campaign tool. Sadly what we have noticed from the past is that women and especially the youths are the 'main victims of violence and as an organisation we are putting measures in place to curb or at least discourage violence.

Through the 'Act Now Against Political Violence Campaign' we are building response and preventive mechanisms in communities to this barbaric scourge that politicians especially from ZANU PF have been thriving on.

We also note our displeasure with the performance of both Ministers of Home Affairs Kembo Mohadi and Theresa Makone in failing to decisively deal with the scourge of violence.

Further, we demand an end to violence and call for peace and tolerance amongst all Zimbabweans.

COSATU condemns arrest of ISO activists in Zimbabwe

By Bongani Masuku

COSATU condemns the continued persecution of political activists in Zimbabwe and the never improving situation in that country. The detention of about 52 activists of the International Socialist Organisation (ISO) in Harare on baseless charges of plotting to topple the government indicates the state of insecurity in that country.

Amongst those arrested is Gwisai, a former MP for Highfield, who is also the general coordinator of International Socialist Organisation (ISO). The arrests are a clear sign that the democratic and constitutional rights of the people of Zimbabwe are still a distant dream and that the

GNU has not changed the situation for the better.

COSATU leadership received a full briefing on developments in Zimbabwe from the Deputy Secretary General of the ZCTU, Japhet Moyo last week during the trilateral meeting between Nigeria NLC, Ghana TUC and COSATU, who indicated that things are reaching desperate levels once again and that conditions for a free and fair elections are not obtaining in that country.

In this regard, we continue to pledge our full solidarity with the working and struggling people of Zimbabwe at this critical time and call upon SADC and the AU to act now in support of democracy and the people's will in Zimbabwe and

everywhere else in our region and continent.

It is no doubt that the Egyptian and Tunisian experience have inspired many workers and poor people all over the world to stand up and demand an end to dictatorship, corruption and injustice of whatever kind. It is for that very reason that we call upon all workers and poor people to overthrow all forms of oppression, occupation and injustice in their countries, as we pledge our full and unconditional support to the fighting people of Bahrain, Yemen, Morocco, and Libya in their continuing struggles for democracy and justice.

Bongani Masuku (International Relations Secretary) Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU)

Students' woes continue unabated

Varsity students denied entry

MORE than sixty percent of students at the National University of Science Technology (NUST) failed to register when the institution opened on Monday the 14th of February 2011 due to failure to pay their tuition fees and a vile late registration fee of US\$2 a day has been instituted by the university authorities.

Thousands who had turned up for studies risk deferment or dropping out of tertiary education because of failure to pay fees. Tuition fees at NUST range from US\$ 375 to US\$ 800 and in country where the majority earn just below US\$ 200, it can only be rational that the tuition fees regime is unreachable to the majority of the students whose parents toil and oil the country's government departments as well as keep the industries open in an unbalanced exchange of a paltry monthly salary of US\$200.

Thousands of Zimbabwean students continue to face such state sponsored persecution for the simple reason that they belong to the poor of this country. This is however a litmus test of Minister Mudenge's bitter deceit and empty demagoguery as it comes barely two weeks after Minister Mudenge declared and agreed with a delegation of ZINASU leaders that no student shall be barred from tertiary education because of failure to pay tuition fees.

Five student activists appear before a Masvingo Magistrate

According to the Students Solidarity Trust (SST) Five Great Zimbabwe University (GZU) student activists appeared before a Masvingo magistrate yesterday facing charges of malicious damage to property and assault. The charges emanated from a demonstration in 2010 when students were protesting against high fees and the decision by University authorities to bar those students who had not paid school fees from writing examinations. The five, Arnold Batsirai, Zivanai Muzorodzi, Gamuchirai Mukura, Godfrey Kurauone and Brighton Ramusi were summoned to court after the state had indicated that it was ready for prosecution. Trial in the case will start on the 1st of March.

Cadetship leave students stranded at Bulawayo Poly

In a candid display of a dreadful aftermath of a great betrayal, hundreds of students at Bulawayo poly who had subscribed to the cadetship are being forced to pay fully their 2010 tuition fees in order to access their 2010 HEXCO results transcripts. Fees at Bulawayo poly range from US\$200 to US\$ 300 per term; this means that the students owe the institution amounts ranging from US\$ 600 to US\$900 without which the institution continues with holding their HEXCO results transcripts and students

cannot resume studies. This will force these sons and daughters of Zimbabwe to defer studies or drop out of tertiary education completely.

The cadetship is an unpopular government scheme that was crafted by the then Zanu-PF government in 2008 erroneously designed to replace the traditional loans and grant system which provided state loans and grants to students in state institutions of tertiary education. Cadetship a tool of appeasement meant to conceal the ZANU-PF government failure to fund education was crafted to work in secrecy keeping in darkness how much beneficiaries would have received or consumed and unlike the loans and grant system cadetship is not compulsory only those sanctioned and selected by college authorities using an unknown criterion can benefit. These among other factors forced the majority of students to reject the scheme in agitation of the old system of loans and grants.

However, this comes against the background of the meeting ZINASU had on the 4th of February with Minister Biti of in a quest to seek clarification over the conflicting positions in regards to students funding and agreed with the a significant number of students have debts in tuition fees dating back to 2008 such that those that have finished their studies have not been afforded

their transcripts. As such we agreed that students who have accrued debts in tuition fees and extra to be financially supported through the loan scheme inclusive of past debts. ZINASU agreed to collaborate with the Finance Ministry Director of Budgets Mr. Ngororo and college administrations to come up with quantitative figures of the students in need of this facility to augment the ministry's administrative statistics for allocation sake and this is a process still in progress - ZINASU

Name and Shame

Starting this week, *The New Age Voices* has introduced a new column that will name and shame perpetrators of violence in communities around you.

This week, we publish the names of some youth militia who have been perpetrating violence in Epworth. Top on the list is the notorious Zanu PF councilor for Ward 7-Juana Mawire and his equally notorious lieutenants Brian, Murehwa and Tinashe.

FIRST TIME VOTERS



REGISTER • VOTE • TRANSFORM



Popular urban groover stunner wows the audience at the Young Peoples Initiative launch



Actors dramatise how political violence affects communities during elections times



Dr Goodwill Shana was one of the dignitaries invited to the Young Peoples Initiative launch



Poets For Human Rights' Shoes Lambada(L) recites a poem "Yemubatanidzwa" at commemoration of the Black History month hosted by the American Embassy