

The New Age Voices

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Amplifying youth voices

For feedback email The New Age Voices on newagevoices@gmail.com Issue 26 04-10 November 2011 Cost: Free

State media take on Prime Minister

By Staff Reporter

THE State controlled media mainly the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC), The Herald and The Sunday Mail have begun to make personal attacks on Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, a move which many have said is a deliberate ploy to discredit the premier ahead of possible elections next year.

In the past two weeks, almost all news bulletins aired by the national broadcaster have been laced with hate stories which pour scorn on the Prime Minister and denigrating the Movement for Democratic Change while propping up Zanu PF and its leader Robert Mugabe.

The attacks intensified last week when the State media took the opportunity to misrepresent the Premier on the issue of gay rights to the extent that headlines in its entire media were ridiculing him saying he was behaving like a

“European”.

This week ZBC has been fighting news stories which depict the PM and the MDC as a violent person and party using archived clips from as way back as 2002. Despite the known fact that Zanu PF has been at the forefront of perpetrating violence countrywide, ZBC and The Herald twisted events that occurred in Harare this week where the police fought running battles with cd vendors but were misrepresented as MDC hooligans.

Youths who spoke to *The New Age Voices* dismissed the latest stunt by the state media as a desperate bid by an ailing regime to undermine the popularity of the Prime Minister as it tries to rescue its waning fortunes.

Political analyst and former ZINASU Spokesperson Blessing Vava said the developments were unfortunate but said the blame lay squarely on the MDC because since signing the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in 2008, the party

has failed to pressure Zanu PF into implementing media reforms as guaranteed by the agreement.

“It’s sad but I blame the MDC because they have been wasting their energy of issues that are not important such as the Gono and the Tomana issue but negating the contentious issue of media reforms

Youth activist George Makoni slammed the recent onslaught on the PM saying they are desperate propaganda measures which will in the end fail to add votes to the ailing Zanu PF party.

“Desperate times calls for desperate measures. Zanu PF is just desperate hence all this is just politicking. I want to urge all the progressive people of Zimbabwe to pull the plug on the shameless state media buying stopping buying the newspapers. As young people we also demand that media reforms be instituted immediately.

Crisis coalition in leadership renewal

CRISIS in Zimbabwe Coalition is now under new leadership after the board led by Jonah Gokova paved way for Okay Machisa, the director of Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) who took over as the chairperson, Grace Chirenje of Zimbabwe Young Women’s Network for Peace Building (ZYNWP) came in as Vice-Chairperson while Bulawayo Agenda acting director Tabani Moyo is the new spokesperson.

The trio were ushered in at the just ended CIZC 10th Annual General Meeting held at the Cresta Jameson hotel in Bulawayo recently.

In his acceptance speech, Machisa reminded coalition members to work together especially now as the country heads for the conclusion of a new constitution and landmark elections that are certain to change the political landscape of the country.

He said that the coalition should develop a shared understanding and consensus through deliberative discourse between itself and its members.

Machisa also said that the coalition should strive to enhance member’s positions on critical matters that affect the state and its citizens so as to capacitate members towards increasing the possibilities of Zimbabwe becoming a democratic developmental state.

The annual general meeting also served to mark the coalition’s 10th Anniversary.

Represented at the meeting were youth organisations such as Youth Agenda Trust, Student Christian Movement of Zimbabwe, Youth Alliance for Democracy, ZYNWP, ZINASU, Student Solidarity Trust among others.



Okay Machisa

FIRST TIME VOTERS



Minister denies meddling in ZYC boardroom

By Staff Reporter

DEPUTY Minister of Youth development, indigenisation and Empowerment Tongai Matutu has denied that he is involved in manoeuvres to replace Zimbabwe Youth Council board members who were elected from the civic society and impose his allies.

Speaking to *The New Age Voices* on the side lines of an event that was organised by ZYC to host delegates from the Pan African Youth Union in Harare recently, Youth Minister Saviour Kasukuwere refused to be drawn into discussing the matter referring this paper to Matutu. “Matutu is here, talk to him,” Kasukuwere said.

Approached for comment, Matutu denied being involved in attempts to reshuffle the ZYC board saying that he was

shocked by the allegations which he said were “unfounded”.

Matutu showed *The New Age Voices* a text message that was sent to him by Solomon Madzore which read, “These are the names that will replace the two vacant posts left by Tichaona Masiyambiri and Arnold Chamunogwa respectively, Denford Ngadziore and Beloved Chiweshe”, the sms read.

A board member who requested anonymity told *The New Age Voices* that the people who want to replace the board members are not aware that an election has to be held before new people can be brought on board.

“People are not aware that you cannot be nominated to be part of the ZYC board, but you have to be elected, if you do not garner enough votes then you will not get through, it’s as simple as that,” the board member said.

Youth finally buried 3 years on

By Heal Zimbabwe Trust

In what can be recorded as the most controversial murder case in Zimbabwe’s political history, the body of Moses Chokuda who was beaten to death by ZANU Pf activists in 2009 under unclear circumstances was finally laid to rest in his village Chipere in Gokwe on Saturday, 23 October 2011. It is reported that Moses Chokuda an MDC activist who was working for Mr. Jason Machaya, the Midlands Governor was murdered after he exposed a corruption case involving the Machaya family and food stuffs meant for relief during the economic recovery period of 2009.

Hundreds of people came to witness the burial of Mr. Chokuda who had spend three years in mortuary after his family refused to bury him until the Machaya family compensated them with 20 heads of cattle and \$15 000. Part of those who attended were Heal Zimbabwe staff, The Minister for Finance, Hon Tendai Biti, the Governor for Midlands, Hon Machaya, Members of Parliament, traditional leaders, journalists, family and friends of Moses Chokuda. After the death of Moses, his family reported the case to the police but no arrests were made until this year in September where the four accomplices, Farai Machaya, Abel Maphosa, Edmore Gana and Bothwell Gana were brought before the court of law facing murder charges and were sentenced to 18 years imprisonment. If that was not enough, the Chokuda family demanded compensation in the form of cattle and \$15 000 as per the Shona tradition. At first the Machaya family did not take the demands seriously but after reports of mysteries happening in their family they decided to settle the dispute once and for all.

Chief Njelele had to intervene during the negotiations which lightened the tension between the two families. The Chokuda case is a warning and lesson to those who have committed crimes during the political violence period that it may take months or years but one day justice will take its course.

The Chokuda case is a good example of how the process of national healing in Zimbabwe should be implemented. Reconciliation only takes place when the Truth has been established and justice has been given due regard. In a country where political position translates to immunity from the law, the persistent consistency of the Chokuda family in seeking justice in spite of the challenges they faced is encouraging. Heal Zimbabwe urges traditional leaders to emulate the role played by Chief Njelele in resolving the conflict. Of late, traditional leaders have been blamed for spearheading political conflicts in many rural areas. It is imperative for the traditional leaders to resort to their founding principles of conflict resolution, peace building as this will contribute a lot to peace and stability in their respective areas.



Moses Chokuda’s parents at the funeral

Youths, Villagers in fierce land tussle

By Platform for Youth Development

The land dispute between Chisumbanje villagers and Green Fuel has taken a new twist with the company shelving aside peaceful negotiations for a more confrontational and forceful means of winning their battle. On Tuesday, 25 October 2011, villagers woke up to the sight of the Green Fuel representatives, Arex and a few handpicked headmen telling them in no uncertain terms to accept the company's offer of what villagers referred to as shameful 0.3ha of land.

The company together with officials from ARDA continues to fly in the face of justice. On the fateful day in question, villagers were told to follow their traditional leadership to the prepared fields where each family was to be allocated 14 lines of land measuring 0.3ha. Reacting to this imposition, the bulk of village heads resisted against such an anti-people stance. Much to their dismay their resistance was met with intimidation and threats leading to some succumbing to the company's demands.

Villagers are still confused as to the meaning and purpose of the imposition. Wedzerai Gwenzi, spokesperson of the villagers described the event as shocking. "No development is imposed, let them use force but the villagers will stick to community consensus. We will see the victor," he said.

Those who refused to get the pieces of land argued that

they were being cheated and therefore are awaiting the court verdict.

Trust between the villagers and the investor has deteriorated to alarming levels to the effect that the company will struggle to win support and confidence of the surrounding communities even after the dispute is over. The company together with misinformed sympathisers want the villagers to submit their livelihood to the chagrin of the selfish investor.

The relationship between Green Fuel, ARDA and the government of Zimbabwe remains shoddy and suspicious. There is no clear government position on the land deal and the continuous silence by the government is the stumbling block to the finalisation of the matter.

The company looks clueless in communicating with the surrounding communities and seems unwilling to address this disparity. This has led villagers to threaten disruptive actions if the company goes on with its superior tendencies.

The villagers have taken a step further by approaching the courts to have the matter adjudicated as the countless initiatives aimed at bringing a lasting solution to the matter have hit a brick wall.

The locals are even more confused on the role of the Minister of Agriculture; Dr Joseph Made in the matter. Dr Made is accused of corrupt relations and lack of handy information on the nitty-gritties of the matter as he failed

to answer very simple questions when quizzed by the parliamentary portfolio committee on Agriculture, Water, Lands and Resettlement.

There is no economic justice when the company takes away over 5 hectares from a communal farmer in return for 14 lines of land. Most villagers' survival is attached to their pieces of land and such an arrangement will impoverish the community as it takes away their source of livelihood. As the ploughing season gets on track, the villagers have resolved to go and till their land as a way to start up the confrontations.

Claris Madhuku, whose organisation (Platform for Youth Development) has been mandated to provide representation, bemoaned this sad approach by the company. "We are concerned with the manner in which the company is behaving despite our call for engagement," Madhuku said.

It is becoming clear that Chisumbanje Ethanol Plant is yet another giant operation that seeks to blindly pursue profit by displacing communities. As far as PYD is concerned, this is an immoral way of doing business and therefore must be condemned by the whole world.

"We will remain calm and collected as we will use the villagers mandate to seek economic justice. I am very much convinced that we are doing the right thing to resist those foreigners who are stealing our land regardless of their political and economic power.

Tertiary Education: Who is Fooling who?

By Students Solidarity Trust

The case and fate of Zimbabwean students has always been shredded in secrecy and political intrigue. Tertiary students have been recipients of a raw deal from central government due to their perceived support for other parties other than ZANU PF. Through unfettered powers given to Vice Chancellors and principals through the acts that govern universities and colleges, vice chancellors and principals have persecuted many a student, suspending and expelling them at will. In most of the cases, the state has not been able to have any of their rulings upheld. As the persecution has gone on, the state has always consistently argued that students are the ones to blame despite the state muzzling them.

On July 9 2007, Levi Nyagura, the Vice Chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe gave thirty minutes to 4258 unsuspecting students to vacate their halls of residence or face being tear-gassed. Indeed, students scurried out of the halls of residence uncertain of their destination as most of them were from out of Harare. This was two weeks before end of semester and end of year exams. Resultantly some students who were unable to find accommodation had to skip these crucial exams. Others went through a harrowing time, susceptible to vagaries of staying on the streets and or with strangers. The argument given by Nyagura then was that students had embarked on a demonstration and the institution had to be closed for security reasons. The Minister of higher and tertiary education also mentioned this in parliament even accusing the Students Christian Movement of Zimbabwe of being behind these demonstrations.

In recent times however, Nyagura's tune has changed and is now citing lack of proper sanitation as a reason for closure of the halls of residence. He has accused parliament and government of neglect as he says the water situation is the reason why halls of residence are closed. This contradicts the previous statements and utterances of a security concern.

This deceit by Nyagura has meant government and other partners have not been able to intervene in the most efficient of ways in resolving the students' crisis. As government's point person he is supposed to accurately report to the minister and not make political statements. The need to rehabilitate the University of Zimbabwe has been always there for some time. The structures are falling apart and this applies to the library and other structures at the institution.

In addition, the administrative structures at the institution also need to see new administrators. The parent ministry should look at ensuring that the University has efficient managers who should not only concentrate on saving ZANU PF's political skin but deliver the best for the institution. Despite the rebound in the economy of Zimbabwe, the lecturer to student ratio is still a worrying point with other courses having been suspended due to lack of personnel.

Students demand and deserve a space-age university which as modern leaders who are above petty political shackles. The twenty-first century has no place for people like Nyagura who continue to play to the political gallery at the expense of a quality education for the more than fifteen thousand enrolled students at the institution he is misleading and mismanaging.

New strategy on HIV and young people

Did you know that every day 3000 young people become infected with HIV, and more than 5 million young people are living with HIV, with only a minority having access to lifesaving treatment?

We invite you to help develop a new strategy on HIV and young people to change this, through an online collaborative project called CrowdOutAIDS.org.

CrowdOutAIDS.org uses online and offline tools to connect young people inside and outside the AIDS response, to share knowledge and experiences for concrete action. We want to work together with young people for stronger and more effective action on AIDS.

You will be given the opportunity to shape the new strategy on HIV and young people, through regional discussion forums, different voting and ranking applications, and finally

through a wiki-like platform that will be launched to draft the strategy.

This approach will ensure that the recommendations for action in the strategy reflect the needs and challenges faced by young people today.

This is a radically new way for the UNAIDS Secretariat to collaborate with young people, transferring decision making power to you. So sign up, and take a part in shaping the future AIDS response at www.crowdoutaids.org

Please circulate this message widely to youth networks and organisations that you or your organisations work with.

Inserted by Tawanda Chisango Information and Communications Officer Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)

TAKE PART
IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL MAKING
PROCESS
LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD IN TIME

The stages that have been implemented

- ✓ The Appointment of the Constitution Select Committee
- ✓ All stakeholders Conference
- ✓ Outreach consultations
- ✓ Data uploading
- ✓ Sitting of thematic committees

The stages that remain

- Drafting stage
- Second all stakeholders conference
- Draft constitution debate in Parliament
- Referendum

Contact us for more information on how to take part in the remaining processes

ARE YOU 18 AND ABOVE?
ARE YOU REGISTERED TO VOTE?
Take the First 5 Steps to Democracy...

1. COLLECT YOUR IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS
2. VISIT YOUR NEAREST VOTER REGISTRATION OFFICE WITH YOUR I.D AND PROOF OF RESIDENCE
3. REGISTER TO VOTE AT ALL COSTS
4. COLLECT YOUR REGISTRATION SLIP AND KEEP IT SAFELY
5. PATIENTLY WAIT FOR THE NEXT ELECTION TO VOTE FOR THE CANDIDATE OF YOUR OWN CHOICE

YO VOTE CAN MAKE THE DIFFERENCE
CLAIM YO VOTE, CLAIM YO FUTURE

Contact us for more information on the
Voter Registration office near you