

The New Age Voices



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Amplifying youth voices

For feedback email The New Age Voices on newagevoices@gmail.com

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Register to vote: Mudede

By Tobaiwa Mudede

Registration of voters in progress

The Registrar General of Voters wishes to advise the public that the registration and transfer of voters is a continuous exercise throughout the year at the Registrar General's Office nationwide. (i.e. Provincial Registries, District Registries and Sub-Offices) from 07:45 hours to 16:45 hours during working days.

It does not only occur when elections have been proclaimed. The department handles 3 types of registrations: Initial Voter Registration- any Zimbabwean citizen who is 18 years and above and has not registered before.

Transfer voter registration- any registered voter who has changed residence.

Death registration- Relatives are encouraged to register the death of their deceased relatives to enable the office to remove them from the voters.

The requirements for registration are as follows:

- A Zimbabwe national registration identity card (metal or polythene-synthetic or a legible national registration waiting pass with the picture of the holder on it; or
- A valid Zimbabwe passport. (A driver's licence is not acceptable for registration purpose)
- Documentary evidence providing that the applicant is currently residing in the ward/constituency in which registration is being done, such as:

For urban dwellers, the following documents would suffice

- A certificate of occupation/title deeds, or
- Lodgers permit/card; or
- Rates/Water statement in applicant's name;
- Electricity statement in applicant's name; or
- Credit store statement showing the physical

address of the applicant, in the respective ward or constituency; or

- Written statement from landlord, parent or friend confirming the applicant's residential address accompanied by a house card, electricity bill, rates bill or any similar document in the name of the landlord, parent or friend staying with the applicant.
- Sworn statement by employer of applicant confirming applicant's address and any other information or document sufficient to ascertain the applicant's residence. While rural dwellers would need a confirmation letter from the chief, headman or village head, farm owner or mine owner.

All eligible voters are encouraged to visit their nearest registration centre to register for the first time or effect transfers.

YOUR VOTE IS YOUR CHOICE!!!

Slain youth: dad demands 70 cattle, \$15 000 and human being

BY FRANCIS RWODZI

AS more lessons continue to dawn on the youths of this country that human life is sacred, Tawengwa Chokuda, father to murdered youth Moses Chokuda have demanded a staggering 70 herd of cattle, US\$15 000 in cash and a young woman as compensation for cutting short the life of his family's breadwinner.

The demands were made to Midlands Governor Jason Machaya whose son was convicted along with 3 others for murdering Moses by the slain man's father, Tawengwa, who had threatened that his son's vengeful spirit would haunt his killers and their families.

Machaya's son Farai and pals Abel Maposa, Edmore Gana and Bothwell Gana were last month convicted of the March 2009 murder of Moses Chokuda.

High Court judge Nicholas Mathonsi, on circuit in Gweru, sentenced the four to 18 years in jail. Moses who was an MDC-T activist in Gokwe had been accused of breaking into Farai's Green Diamond Supermarket at Gokwe centre with the help of two other men, Isheunesu Sibanda and Leroy Ndokwana.

The New Age Voices has it on good authority that Machaya has agreed to hand over 35 beats and the cash after Chief Njelele, who was presiding over the matter told Chokuda that some of his demands were "unreasonable".

Chief Njelele were quoted as saying: "It was one of the most challenging cases that I ever handled at my court. On one hand, I wanted Moses to be buried while on the other I wanted the name of the Governor to be cleared as it had been tarnished by the media who were politicising the matter.

"Eventually, I managed to engage both families. Machaya, who was accompanied by his elder brother, pledged to pay the outstanding beasts. All is now set for the burial this

Saturday in Chipere Village."

The chief said he had told Chokuda that using human beings to appease avenging spirits was illegal.

"I refused to have a human being used as compensation for ngozi. I told them that it was against the laws of the land. On the 70 beasts they wanted, I made them realise that such demands were unreasonable," said Chief Njelele. Machaya said he had agreed to carry the burden for the other three men jailed with his son because they thought they were helping Farai.

The discussions with the Chokuda family started on Thursday last week and continued through to Sunday. He added: "We have already given them 20 head of cattle as well as the US\$15,000 cash they asked for.

"The remaining cattle will be handed over anytime soon. I could have surrendered them with the others on Monday but the beasts are in an area infected by foot and mouth and are not allowed to be moved out by the Veterinary Services Department."

Moses's body has been lying uncollected in a police metal box at Gokwe District Hospital mortuary for more than two and a half years.

His father, a self-proclaimed member of Johane Marange Apostolic sect, once claimed that his dead son was "fighting his own wars at the mortuary".

He claimed his son had been seen seated on top of coffins and at times chasing away self-proclaimed prophets who wanted to conduct prayers before collecting his body for burial.

Chokuda, who is employed by Gokwe Town Council as a general hand, revealed then that there were certain rituals that needed to be done first before his son could finally be buried.

FIRST TIME VOTERS



REGISTER • VOTE • TRANSFORM

**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

Violence engulfs Chipinge South

By Claris Madhuku

Political violence has resurfaced in Chipinge South with war veterans and other Zanu PF functionaries assaulting MDC-T youth executive members attending a party meeting at Garahwa Business centre over the weekend.

Platform for Youth Development (PYD) has it on good record that war veterans and Zanu PF members went to disturb a meeting organised by the Youth Committee of the MDC beating up and harassing locals attending the meeting. This resulted in Nyasha Madhodha and Forget Hlomani being arrested and detained at Chisumbanje Police Station.

The two who are executive members of

the youth committee were thoroughly assaulted and were rushed to St Peters Mission Hospital where they were refused medication. The police are said to have followed up on them at the hospital leading to their arrest and detention at Chisumbanje Police station.

The war veterans and Zanu PF thugs led by one Micah Jerera are said to have disturbed a peaceful meeting and this is not the first time such an instance has happened. War veterans have since 2000 been known for taking the law into their hands without actions of the state security.

Platform for Youth Development Trust (PYD) is disturbed by such reports and appeals to state security agents to arrest and charge all perpetrators of violence regard-

less of political affiliation. The incident has left villagers scared as they have been reawakened to the tragic memories of June 27 2008.

It is shocking that the injured victims were the ones arrested instead of the perpetrators. The two had to spend a night at Chisumbanje police station before they were released. The police behaviour of arresting victims instead of perpetrators is worrying and has been associated with police partisanship.

We are emphasising our call for peace and call upon the merchants of violence to desist from provoking the otherwise calm environment.

Partisan tendencies of the Chisumbanje police forces was also exposed in Member

of Parliament for Chipinge South Hon Meki Makhuyana's arrest ahead of the known and identified perpetrators of violence in 2008. Makhuyana had to miss parliament sessions while locked at Mandikise remand prison.

We therefore appeal to the Chisumbanje police officers to be professional in their conduct and ignore unethical instructions. We demand the immediate arrest of Micah Jerera and his Zanu PF thugs for inciting political violence. Jerera's arrest is very critical as it will go a long way in restoring community and national confidence in the police force.

PYD subscribes to an enactment of a law that gives stern punishment to all those who are found guilty of political violence.

Youth Economic Empowerment: The panacea to effective youth participation in electoral and governance Issues.

By Youth Forum

YOUTH Economic Empowerment remains one of the most effective ways through which government and other stakeholders can improve the participation of our youth in critical national processes such as the electoral and governance issues. In a developing world, that is increasingly becoming one village, many governments, development agencies and other stakeholders contend that nurturing the youth and the younger generations and developing their capacity to effectively participate in national development processes is an important and integral aspect in realizing sustainable development.

History and research by various players point to the fact that many youths in Zimbabwe and indeed other African countries are failing to contribute positively to national developmental processes and participating in electoral processes because of high levels of poverty and economic disempowerment that compromises their ability to independently think and make decisions for themselves.

It is this reality that many politicians, especially the elderly, exploit time and again as they easily manipulate the youth through token gifts and cash pay-outs in their pursuit for political power. This is fingered as one of the key drivers of political violence that is associated with elections in Zimbabwe and other African countries.

The Youth Fund as introduced by the Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenization and Empowerment is a noble idea but the manner in which it is being run leaves a lot to be desired. Youths have complained about how difficult it is to access the funds with stringent requirements that include collateral. It is mind-boggling how unemployed and economically disenfranchised youths are expected to own valuable items like houses and cars to use as collateral to access the funds. If the fund is genuinely meant for the suffering youth, the conditions for accessing it should be relaxed. With the Chiadzwa diamonds (presumably) churning out millions into the Government coffers, it only makes sense that the amount afforded to youths through the Youth Fund be increased to allow the

youths to start meaningful and self-sustaining enterprises.

The Government must also assist the youths to establish enterprises that will become part of the value chain in different sectors, thus empowering the future generation and creating employment. This can be achieved through strategic interventions like providing technical training on starting and running a business to aspiring youths, ensuring that companies source a specified proportion of their inputs from indigenous entities as well as assisting youths in registering their enterprises in a hustle-free youth-friendly environment. This will contribute immensely in attaining the First Millennium Development Goal, which aims at eradicating poverty, and in having a positive economic growth that is also inclusive.

History has shown that economically empowered individuals make it a prerogative to participate in governance issues that have a direct bearing on their economic emancipation.

Youths chart road-map to a new Zimbabwe

BY STAFF REPORTER

YOUTHS have laid conditions they say are necessary before the country can hold elections which are being expected to be held next year.

Speaking to *The New Age Voices* over the weekend, young people in Chinhoyi and Chegutu spelt out minimum conditions which they said are necessary before committing themselves to another round of elections.

The youths laid out their demands during Youth Agenda Trust's community discussion forums held in Chinhoyi and Chegutu last weekend.

The said that a legitimate and credible constitution is important before elections are held. They also said that the new constitution must guarantee rights to administrative justice, emphasizes the principle of equality, and does not give excessive powers to the Executive.

They said it must provide for checks and balances between the Legislature, the Judiciary and the Executive, emphasize the principle of transparency and accountability and has sufficient provision for the protection of human rights among others.

Youths also took a swipe at the current constitution making process being spearheaded by COPAC saying that the process is flawed, as it is now clear that the people were hoodwinked, time and resources wasted as Zimbabweans will get a negotiated document.

Young people also said that elections would not go ahead until national healing, cohesion and unity are

achieved. They said that the government must ensure that all past victims have been compensated adequately and perpetrators brought to book before rushing into elections as this was likely to lead to more violence and more political conflicts.

"Only after the achievement of national healing and accountability for past human rights violations will the people of Zimbabwe, especially the youths, feel free to participate in national processes like elections, therefore, it is important that these be addressed as a matter of urgency before calling for any elections," Shepherd Jack of Chegutu said.

The youth also called for an environment that allows for freedom of expression and the right to information and demanded that there be a diverse media that is not subject to intimidation and abuse before elections can be held. They said arbitrary arrests, intimidation and victimisation of journalists and other media personnel based on draconian legislations must stop.

According to the Global Political Agreement, "there should be free political activity throughout Zimbabwe within the ambit of the law in which all political parties are able to propagate their views and canvass for support, free of harassment and intimidation".

The youths also called for the reform of the security sector saying that state institutions do not belong to any political party and should be impartial in the discharge of their duties, and should dispense of their duties ethically and professionally in conformity with the principles and

requirements of a multi-party democratic system.

Youth also said that there must be real political reform before elections are held because the current electoral laws cannot be relied on to give us a democratic government as they have failed in the past, leading to sometimes nasty contestations as was the case in the 2008 June run-off election. They said SADC should also make sure that such reforms are in tandem with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

They have also called for the overhaul of the Voter's Roll so that it becomes a true reflection of registered voters and not the current state in which dead people are still found on the roll and also participate in elections.

Youths also called on SADC and African Union to establish early warning systems to respond to political violence and human rights violations and demanded that SADC together with the AU start to monitor the likely elections at least six months before they are held. This, they said, will enable the bodies to bear true witness and come up with an accurate position regarding the freeness and fairness of the election.

"It is the duty of the Inclusive Government, together with other groupings to make sure that these conditions are met," Douglas Tembe of Chinhoyi said.

Youth Agenda Trust programmes Officer Trust Nhubu called young people to participate in national processes so that they can determine their own future.