

ZIMBABWE BRIEFING

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Police Ban May Day Celebrations in utter disregard of SADC Troika Resolutions



STANDING FIRM: Zimbabwe Police are determined to stop any demonstrations on May Day, going against SADC Troika resolutions. - www.zimbabweinpictures.com

In total disregard of the SADC organ Troika on Politics, Defence and Security resolutions calling on all stakeholders to implement all the provisions of the GPA and create an environment of peace, security and free political activity, police in Zimbabwe this week banned all May Day celebrations and marches planned by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) for 1 May.

In a separate incident, police in

Kariba arrested at least ten MDC provincial leaders in Mashonaland West who are also delegates to the MDC Congress. Those arrested face spurious charges of organizing an illegal meeting and are being held at Kariba Police station.

Meanwhile, the MDC led by prime minister Morgan Tsvangirai will between 28 and 30 April hold its third national congress to elect new leadership. Some district and provincial elections were marred by violence.

We expect that the national congress will be exemplary in its embrace of democratic values and in shunning all forms of violence and intimidation. Morgan Tsvangirai and other party leaders have spoken against violence, but they must swiftly act against any members of their party who instigate, participate in or fan violent conduct.

By Dewa Mavhinga – Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Regional Coordinator.

Five Pillars of the Zimbabwe Elections Roadmap

Coordinator's Note



dewaMAVHINGA

SADC is strongly urged, as President Zuma's Facilitation Team continues to engage the six negotiators from Zimbabwe's three political parties that make up the inclusive government, to broaden the process of drawing up the Zimbabwe elections roadmap to make it as inclusive as possible – particularly taking on board views from civil society. Ahead of the SADC extra-ordinary summit on Zimbabwe scheduled for 20 May possibly in Namibia, civil society groups under Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition and the Zimbabwe Election Support Network are finalizing a position paper on minimum conditions necessary for the holding of democratic elections in Zimbabwe that are without violence or intimidation.

Five pillars that have to be in place for the elections roadmap to genuinely and positively change Zimbabwe's political and electoral landscape, and ones which the negotiators, the Facilitation Team and SADC should take note of, are as follows:

1. Establishment of a SADC-driven mechanism to completely separate the military and other security forces from political, civilian and particularly electoral affairs. SADC must

categorically call for a return to the barracks for all soldiers currently deployed in various areas across the country where reports of violence and intimidation involving them have been received. To demonstrate the security chiefs' total commitment to democratic values and to their constitutional mandate, they must be called upon to publicly issue statements renouncing any partisan involvement in political and electoral affairs and their willingness and readiness to serve under any leader who emerges from a democratic election.

2. Zimbabwe's three political parties in government must carry out a comprehensive human resources and personnel audit of all Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) Secretariat staff with a view to completely demilitarize and professionalize the institution. The professionalism, suitability for the job, non-partisanship and independence of ZEC staff must be beyond doubt. SADC should assist ZEC with technical expertise from SADC Electoral Commissions and should ensure that ZEC is adequately resourced and legally empowered to discharge its elections management mandate including updating and cleaning up the voters' roll, delimita-

tion of constituencies and running the elections.

3. Within the context of its continuing mediation role, SADC must play a direct and central role in the management of Zimbabwe's next election. Firstly, SADC needs to independently examine and publicly certify that conditions on the ground in Zimbabwe are conducive to the holding of free and fair elections where violence and intimidation play no part before an election date can be set. Secondly, SADC must have an on the ground presence in Zimbabwe to enable it to closely monitor fulfillment of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) provisions particularly regarding constitutional and electoral reforms. Thirdly, SADC must deploy a peace-keeping and monitoring force in Zimbabwe at least six months ahead of elections and remaining on the ground at least three months after elections to monitor and prevent state-sponsored violence that emanates mainly from the security establishment.

4. Zimbabwe must establish a new, democratic constitution before elections are held and must carry out comprehensive legislative reforms that include the repeal of all repressive and undemocratic laws

such as the Public Order and Security Act (POSA), the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA), the Criminal Laws [Codification and Reform] Act and the notorious Presidential Powers Temporal Measures Act which allows the president to legislate in between elections without recourse to Parliament. The new constitution must guarantee a safe and secure environment for, and free political activity by, various marginalised groups including women, youths and people living with disability.

5. ZEC must be fully resourced and legally empowered carry out country-wide voter education and to invite and accredit all domestic, regional and international elections observers granting them full and unfettered access to all parts of the country for effective and robust observation of the Zimbabwe elections to ensure full compliance with SADC principles and guidelines governing democratic elections. The State must guarantee the security of all observers. ZEC must facilitate for the deployment of long term elections observers at least six months before elections and three months after elections are held.

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Zimbabwe-Swaziland Peace and Democracy Rally

Last week Wednesday Zimbabwe, Swaziland and South African civil society groups held a peace and democracy rally at Thokoza Park, Soweto, attended by close to 400 people. The rally called on SADC to fully exercise its role in promoting genuine regional peace, democracy, stability and development with particular focus on the twin-challenges presented the Zimbabwe and Swaziland regimes.

The rally called for free political activity in Zimbabwe and Swaziland and the unbanning of political parties in Swaziland. The rally strengthened solidarity between Zimbabwe, Swaziland and South African civil society groups through emphasis on shared values, principles and aspirations.

Delegates who traveled from Swaziland and addressed the rally include cde (Ms.) Sibongile Mazibuko (pictured above), president of the Swaziland National



Association of Teachers (SNAT), cde (Ms.) Simangele Mmema also of SNAT, cde Vincent Nqongwane and cde Mduduzi Gina, secretary general, Swaziland

United Democratic Front. Representatives of Zimbabwe groups who addressed the rally include Gabriel Shumba, Zimbabwe Exiles Forum, Munjodzi Mutandiri,

National Constitutional Assembly, Dewa Mavhinga, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, Norah Tapiwa, Global Zimbabwe Forum and Percy Nhau, Hope for the Hopeless, Durban. Solidarity messages were received from the South African Council of Churches, the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU), Zimbabwe Solidarity Forum, Southern African Women's Institute for Migration Affairs, The Democratic Left, Solidarity Peace Trust, among others.

The Zimbabwe peace and democracy rally is the first in a series of events aimed at promoting regional solidarity and at highlighting the democracy and governance challenges that confront the people of Zimbabwe and Swaziland and the rest of the southern Africa community while calling for appropriate remedial action.

Report by Dewa Mavhinga, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Regional Coordinator



Official Independence Day speech

MY dear subjects, On this year's anniversary of our independence, there is much for us to celebrate. I congratulate myself and fellow ruling clique members for our heroic role in the liberation struggle many decades ago. It continues to give us the steam and the cover by which to continue ruling you today. We enjoy the material privileges and the impunity to do anything we please and get away with it. That is why we so joyfully celebrate this occasion, even as many of you are discouraged and disillusioned about Independence.

We are drafting the Questioning the Benefits of Independence Act, along with the Sanctions Denial Act. Severe punishment is envisioned for those treasonous counter-revolutionaries who flout either pending law. They are designed to strengthen our independence and deepen our sovereignty by flushing out those who think in ways contrary to those we prescribe.

When we say, "We brought you Independence," you must not abuse that to start thinking we have given you permission to think independently. We face opposition from the usual quarters, but we are going full steam ahead to indigenise the economy, using the template of the successful land reform programme.

The ungrateful, racist Rhodie farmers we had allowed to continue making money became arrogant, forgetting where their bread was buttered. They dared think they could openly, publicly sponsor regime change against us. Who can forget the provocative images of them waving their cheque books in the face of Wattara, the puppet they thought they could fund to replace me and to safeguard their interests? I was left with no choice but to ruthlessly bring them down, show them who is top dog around here. The imperialists left me alone and even continued to praise me when I practised anti-indigenous repression, but then all hell broke loose when I



descended on their previously pampered, previously untouchable kith and kin. Land reform achieved its intended goal: decimating a group sponsoring a developing alternate political power center. The decline in agriculture was part of the collateral damage. As the imperialists say when they bomb a whole innocent village by accident in their many "wars against terror and for democracy:" Oops, sorry about that.

But in our defence, look at how hard we have been working this past decade to try to figure out what to do about this mess now. In these efforts we have had many problems beyond our control: some years we have had drought, other years too much rain, and now we face illegal sanctions by the imperialists who are sore at us. At the conclusion of the indigenisation exercise, it will be understood by all, foreigners as well as locals, that the decision on who gets to prosper in business is the sole preserve of The Party. We will not tolerate foreign or local investors who ever forget this. Do your business quietly, give The Party its cut of the action (think of it as tithing if you like; we know how ostensibly religious you Zimbos are, heh heh heh) and Stay Out Of Politics. Unless of course it is in our support, in which case you can be as political as you like. We will not

tolerate allowing you to make money and then letting you exercise your so-called democratic right to oppose us. If in doubt, talk to the former white farmers about the consequences of such rank foolishness. This is also why we will not give title deeds to our new farmers. We don't want them to feel too secure on the farms we have given them. When they become rich and comfortable they may then have notions of ganging up against us like the rich Rhodie farmers tried to do before we cut them down to size. We prefer the present situation where the new farmers know that if they fall out of line politically we can dispossess them of their farms at a moment's notice. The Party giveth, and The Party taketh.

A big recent achievement is the cherished dream of a one party state. We call it the inclusive government, in which we allow several parties to think they are autonomous under a guided, carefully controlled democracy. We achieved this by simply buying out the leaders of the former opposition parties. We co-opted them by giving them big titles, big cars and other perks, all while making sure they wield no real power. We have effectively neutralised them, divided them and made them harmless.

The success of this policy was recently shown by how two former opposition officials amused us by fighting tooth and nail over the inconsequential position of deputy prime minister. Forgetting who their real enemy is to fight over the few leftovers we allow them!

The country has greatly benefited by this neutralisation of the former opposition, as can be clearly seen by the peace that prevails and the economic recovery under way since the formation of the inclusive coalition one-party government. Some have asked where all the money from the sale of diamonds disappears to.

The coalition government is expensive to run. In order to accommodate the former opposition officials in government we have had to create even

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Independence Day – A Reality Check

ON APRIL 18, 2011, Zimbabwe turned 31 -- marking three decades of 'self-rule' and independence from colonial rule under the Ian Smith regime. It is imperative for the present generation to introspect on the trials and tribulations that we as a people have experienced and attempt to make a proclamation on the course of direction which we must pursue. In his 1979 book, *Unity and Struggle*, Amílcar Cabral said: *"We must avoid the obsession of some comrades that everything is spoiled, everything is over if they should leave the posting where they are. Nobody is indispensable in this struggle; we are all needed but nobody is indispensable."*

"If someone has to go and goes away and then the struggle is paralysed, it is because the struggle was worthless ... this is without mentioning cases of other comrades who think when they are transferred, they are going to die, because they have already established all conditions for working in one spot and are called upon to go to another. What blindness! As if our land were just a little corner! This shows a lack of awareness of the real reason, the aim and characteristics of our struggle."

Our struggle for the liberation of Zimbabwe was not fought by ZANU- PF alone. It was Zimbabwe's struggle for self rule and independence, and all living in it fought and felt it. Its aspirations, hopes and dreams were aimed at ending all forms of discrimination; facilitate equitable access to the country's resources and the greater enjoyment of a peace of mind which comes with such freedoms. It was never a personal struggle -- each and every man and woman played a part in ensuring that the set-

ter regime was dismantled.

With the coming of independence in 1980, the nation lost its way in the euphoria of the black administration coming into power. We literally surrendered our rights into the hands of other men to define and chart the course of our destiny. In this, we allowed man and woman to build fiefdoms and empires of immortality aimed at self preservation as opposed to serving the nation. Personalities grew in stature and the national image dwindled. As Cabral clearly stated in his historical narratives, we need to deal with the 'irreplaceables' in our body polity.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) through its organ Troika on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation seems to have struck the correct code. What it did on March 31, 2011, was to remind the political leaders of Zimbabwe on the virtues of the liberation struggle which they were fast forgetting. Impliedly, the resolutions seem to point to the fact that the concept of sovereignty comes with responsibilities for the state actors.

The main challenge which confronts Zimbabwe today is too much investment in personalities. We are fast moving towards creating cults in our political leaders. Our artists are now relegated to dedicating their creative prowess in praise singing. It's like the country pulse at one moment is on pause as dance, song, poetry and other forms of art congest media prime time slots in a bid to immortalise the mortals. Truly, these are not the founding principles on which the liberation struggle was waged.

What the country fought for was the freedom to choose and other freedoms including living in peace. ZANU-PF has lost its le-



REALITY? - Some newspaper clippings from Zimbabwe's Independence celebrations in 2009. www.zimbabwein-pictures.com



gitimacy and mandate to see through the aspirations of Zimbabweans. The MDC factions, on the other hand, seem to be trapped in the political methodologies and facing challenges in interpreting the stage at which we have reached in the journey of the liberation struggle.

This is a stage of understanding the realities of the nation, managing to lead

the nation from the realities and providing practical solutions to these realities. There is need for an overhaul of our politics, drifting away from the personification process towards a configuration of Zimbabwe where every woman and man is equal.

By Tabani Moyo. Contact: rebeljournalist@yahoo.com

Official Independence Day speech



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more useless high positions than we had before. Many of these people don't do anything at all, but each must have a luxury car or two, drivers, per diems and other allowances on their frequent travels and many other perks to keep them under control. It's all about the perks.

As it is, there are constant cries from those members of the former opposition parties who want to be included in the coalition gravy train, as well as many members of my own party clamouring to get in on the racket. We may have to increase the size of cabinet, perhaps even appoint more deputy prime ministers. After we have caught up with all these pressing essential needs, if there would still be any diamonds left in the country perhaps we will then be able to look at funding luxuries such as better civil service salaries; expenditure on education, health, agriculture and so forth.

We will get to all that any decade now, don't be so impatient. We will hold elections in a few months, in order to bring about some necessary power adjustments in our many-parties-within-one-party coalition government. It gives me great pleasure to tell you what the results will be: my party has allocated itself 63.53% of the votes of that coming election.

The supreme organ of my party

is yet to decide how to distribute the remaining 36.47% of the numbers of that future election amongst the other sub parties of our one-party coalition system. Zimbabweans, I congratulate you for knowing what's good for you and voting wisely! If you choose not to actually go to the polls on voting day, that will be okay with us, since we have already fixed the result for you as part of our campaign of empowering the people. Our enemies continue with their evil illegal sanctions against us, trying to thwart our people-driven twin agendas of total empowerment and permanent revolution. The sanctions have been wonderful in giving us an excuse for all our failings. We are actually terrified that the sneaky, evil imperialists may rob us of our main campaign strength by suddenly lifting the sanctions now, just when we really need them! But we are sure we will be able to continue to trick them into thinking we really want them lifted, which will make them continue them in what they think would be spiting us.

But we have a notable success against the evil illegal imperialist sanctions. Due to the tireless efforts of our revolutionary sanctions busters, we the sanctioned rulers are still able to freely purchase our favourite brands of imperialist luxury cars! Those greedy, corrupt imperialists

never saw a diamond they could turn down, whether it was bloody or not. Tinovaziwa, we know their weaknesses. As a result of this one and only anti-sanctions success, we your rulers are still able to go to and fro in the style and comfort to which we have become accustomed. We are sure it also gives you the suffering povo great sovereign and independent pride to see us zipping by you in the expensive prestige we deserve.

As you walk to work or squeeze into mini-buses and the backs of pick-up trucks, you can proudly point to us and say, "There go our rulers in the expensive cars our resources have bought them." As a sovereign and independent state we reject all interference by our former oppressors. We kicked out that foreign racist oppression and have replaced it with our own, more effective indigenous oppression.

We therefore say to them: keep out! But as a result of our dependent, impoverished state, they are quite welcome to keep on making donations of food, medicine, textbooks and the like. Time limitations do not allow me to catalogue all our successes, but you get the idea.

Try to control your joy and excitement as you do so, but you may now stand up to thank me and applaud.
By Chido Makunike. This article appeared on NewZimbabwe.com

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

- > SADC Extra-Ordinary Summit on Zimbabwe, Namibia, 20 May
- > Africa Day Zimbabwe Public Seminar, Durban, 25 May



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