

ZIMBABWE BRIEFING

a crisis in zimbabwe coalition regional office weekly report

02-09 MAY 2012

ISSUE 72



The militarisation of Zanu pf and the risk to all of us

Zimbabwe dominant political party, ZANU PF is increasingly under pressure from its military and security sector backers who are slowly but surely taking over the party. Reports from all of Zimbabwe's provinces indicate the active participation of the security sector in deciding who occupies what position in ZANU PF's District Coordinating Elections (DCC) as well as the filling of vacant positions at provincial structures. The participation of the security sector has added a new dimension to Zimbabwe's politics as there is intense infighting for key positions with the security sector playing the role of kingmakers and also fielding its own candidates from former army generals, colonels, police commissioners to Intelligence officers. The power struggles in ZANU PF are over the succession of President Robert Mugabe, whom, despite official denials is frail and certainly on his way out. By his own admission, Mugabe is not grooming anyone to take over the party leadership nor is he interested in that idea. His intention to die in office has, however, not stopped intense jockeying by his juniors, both in the party and security sector, to position themselves for takeover.

The contending parties realise that even if Mugabe wants to hangover on for life, that hanging-on and that life is certainly not going to last long going by his advanced age and failing

unaccountable governance and corruption. The diamonds fields in Marange have invigorated a new desire for power in ZANU PF that Zimbabwe has not seen before. In the absence of diamonds many of the ZANU PF old guard would likely have chosen retirement in the face of a challenge from the young Turks in the party and the certainty of another defeat by the MDC. This is however not so as



President Robert Mugabe and the Army generals

no-one wants to be left out of the diamonds bonanza.

Aside from fighting the MDC parties, ZANU PF is tearing itself apart and fistfights and demonstrations have been reported in some provinces. The security sector has an obvious

the Chinese Communist Party. If Zimbabwe was a democratic and functioning state, the events in ZANU PF would not be a bother to anyone as infighting and jostling for power are day to day occurrences in political parties. The danger for all of us is that state organs that are supposed to be independent even under this flawed constitution are openly dabbling in politics and using state resources to ad-

vance partisan political interests. This is not new as the security sector has always supported ZANU PF and abused state resources, but now they are not looking at supporting ZANU PF but taking over ZANU PF and state control.

Zimbabwe is undergoing probably one of the most long drawn military takeover processes. The security sector is working to finalise its project of taking over the country under the guise of reforming ZANU PF. In this instance the danger to us all is that the security of citizens is put under severe threat. Essentially Zimbabwe no longer has independent state security organs but party aligned state organs. The laws of the country that include the Defence Act are being trampled upon with impunity. Added to this, the security sector is opposed to the ongoing constitutional process hence likely to exert pressure on Mu-

gabe to reject the draft constitution or to use the delays in finalising the document to pull out of the Unity Government and call for elections.

Elections under Mugabe are desired by the security sector as they would outflank the ZANU PF old Guard by asking Mugabe to anoint one of them after his planned electoral 'win'. The question is would Mugabe anoint a security sector candidate be it the Army Commander Constantine Chiwenga or another civilian military face chosen by the security sector? The answer is still very much up-in the air, but in the current circumstances, only then security sector can guarantee the security of Mugabe and that of its leadership and their ill-gotten wealth. At the end of the day, it is the security sector that is going to decide who comes in as ZANU PF leader anywhere because of their leverage to guarantee security to the politicians in ZANU PF. In other words the ZANU PF politicians are being asked to step aside and continue to enjoy the loot. Once again civil society must be fully awake to this danger which cannot be underestimated.

The regional body, SADC and the international community will be called to maintain pressure on Zimbabwe to ensure that the infighting in ZANU PF, small as it might appear, does not engulf the whole country and spill over into the region. In these circumstances the call for elections in 2011, is a process of certifying and legitimising a plan already in place that is a 'win' by Mugabe followed by the anointing of a military chosen successor. The chickens are finally coming home to roost for those ZANU PF politicians who gloated over the support of the military in suppressing other parties and civil society. Yet the crisis over security for all of us is far from over, and might as well be beginning in another far dangerous and hideous format.

Written by David Mutomba

The intense fighting is not driven by any desire to maintain any particular political ideology nor a vision for a better Zimbabwe, but to maintain the privileged life, supported by looting of national resources, unaccountable governance and corruption.

health. So whether he likes it or not, the vultures are already circling over Mugabe's party seat and hoping to still win national elections by hook or crook and maintain ZANU PF's political hegemony. The intense fighting is not driven by any desire to maintain any particular political ideology nor a vision for a better Zimbabwe, but to maintain the privileged life, supported by looting of national resources,

upper hand in this fight as it can use coercion where persuasion fails. This old guard is however not going down without a fight and some are even threatening to join the opposition in opposing the security sector. ZANU PF as we know it is in the process of transition from a political party with a facade of democratic practice to a military commandist party along the lines of the fading Burmese grouping or

Pastors' Prayers for Peace Initiative Stirs Hope

Coordinator's Note 72



dewaMavhinga

Last Saturday pastors under the auspices of the Zimbabwe National Pastors' Conference convened a National Prayer for Peace Day at Mkoba stadium in Gweru attracting close to 15 000 participants from Gweru and surrounding grassroots communities. Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai addressed the prayer meeting representing political principals in the Inclusive Government. Similar prayer for peace meetings were held in Chitungwiza, Masvingo and Mutare and there are plans to host such meetings in Bulawayo and Harare this month.

PM Tsvangirai echoed president Mugabe's Independence Day message of peace and urged the thousands of people attending the rally to promote peace and to 'love thy neighbour as you love yourself.' The significance of the prayer for peace meetings lies in their ability to stir hope for a better, more secure future for the people of Zimbabwe. It is commendable that PM Tsvangirai and President Mugabe have verbally committed themselves to promoting peace, but it is not enough. To banish the ugly culture of violence that has characterized Zimbabwe politics in the last decade, it is necessary to cultivate a culture of openness where Zimbabweans from all walks of life, particularly grassroots communities, are able to publicly denounce violence without fear.

Violence and fear are the twin plagues that must be confronted from a non-partisan platform best provided by the churches. Churches have been blamed for promoting a spirit of docility and uncommon submissiveness in the face of extreme oppression that Zimbabweans has suffered in the last three decades, but perhaps it will be the churches that will lead in rallying Zimbabweans to promote peace as a confidence-building measure that will ultimately contribute to the removal of violence and fear. All Zimbabweans should join in the call for sustainable peace and take action in their communities to ensure the maintenance of peace.

Political principals and Inclusive Government leaders must, however, go a step further than simply calling



Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, addressing people at the Gweru Peace Rally

for peace to prevail, they must direct state institutions responsible for the maintenance of peace, law and order to act impartially, professionally and independently in the discharge of their duties. The message must ring loud and clear that violence does not pay, but rather, that there is a high price to pay for committing violence or other human rights abuses. Political activists or state agents who commit violence, or political leaders who urge or conspire to commit violence must face the full wrath of the

cases of violence committed around the 2008 elections that have largely gone unpunished because of partisan policing. But as the ICC's action against Taylor has shown, where domestic justice remedies have failed, there are international instruments that can be effectively used to achieve justice.

The ongoing prayer for peace meetings across the country are also of critical importance in that they are providing a platform for Zimbabweans from diverse



Pastors, Munemo and Furayi at the Gweru peace rally

law. The recent conviction of former Liberian leader Charles Taylor by the International Criminal Court (ICC) at the Hague is a telling example.

There has been easy resort to violence by political activists to achieve political ends primarily because the police had generally abdicated on its responsibility to ensure personal security for Zimbabweans regardless of political affiliation as exemplified by the hundreds of

political backgrounds to once again get used to peaceful public interaction which in turn acts as a confidence building measure that, although it is a difficult transition, Zimbabwe is certainly changing for the better. The merchants of violence, chaos and confusion, although vocal, are now few in numbers – they are overwhelmingly outnumbered by peace-loving, law-abiding and kind Zimbabweans. The small challenge is for the majority of peace loving

Zimbabweans to stand up and be counted.

The more people speak out for peace, the less the fear of victimization and the higher the chances that even more people will join to take charge of their lives by taking part in various peace initiatives in their communities. As the draft constitution is getting ready for further debate within communities people must come out and speak freely about the need to promote peace, basic freedoms and personal security and to have those values reflected in the new constitution.

The message of peace, non-violence and respect for basic rights is a message that unites us as Zimbabweans. It is a message that should find resonance in the church, in the pub, in Zanu PF, in MDC, in ZAPU and in any other formation or grouping. It is no longer time to be fearful; it is time to boldly proclaim the our determination as a people to build a society free of violence, fear, intimidation, hatred, patronage and corruption. The sacrifices made by thousands of Zimbabwe's gallant sons and daughters during the liberation struggle were not so that we live in fear and with a sense of victimhood, but that we enjoy freedom, development and peace in abundance.

Aspirations for peace, independence, equal protection of the law and ending polarization, divisions, conflict and intolerance are non-partisan. All Zimbabweans regardless of political affiliation should embrace the message of peace and actively support initiatives to bring lasting peace to Zimbabwe. The surest

way to give the people of Zimbabwe a genuine chance of rebuilding and reconstructing their livelihoods begins with the removal of fear through an active, public promotion of peace. The pastors prayer for peace meetings are greatly appreciated because they keep hope alive that Zimbabwe will not return to the dark age of chaos, anarchy and violence.

Dewa Mavhinga, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Regional Coordinator.

MDC Youth Assembly President’s Message to the Youth of Zimbabwe in the Mouth of Independence, April

I would like to congratulate Zimbabwe for attaining 32 years of independence. Thirty two years on, it is paradoxical that I am writing to you from what has been my home for the past seven months: My 1,5m x 3,5m holding cell at Chikurubi Maximum Prison. My innocent colleagues and I are here because we have said enough is enough Mugabe Must GO! So how is our spirit and determination to go forward with the struggle? We are stronger than ever before. I am greatly humbled by the unwavering support and solidarity that you have continued to show. Indeed I am profoundly moved, I urge you to keep up the spirit. My colleagues and I are sincerely grateful. I want to take this opportunity to reflect on the essence of the liberation struggle:

Zimbabweans united and waged a protracted and excruciating struggle against the settler regime in pursuit of majority rule, one man one vote and the resolving of the land question. This has however unfortunately been raped. What is in doubt today is whether majority rule as a tenet and practice of democracy and good governance is still being practiced. Are Zimbabweans freer now under the leadership of Robert Mugabe than they were under Ian Douglas Smith and his Rhodesian Front? It is unfortunate that land, our land which was the major motivation behind the struggle for liberation, was parceled out to some few people using ZANU PF’s patronage system, given on partisan lines, when indeed all Zimbabweans participated in the liberation struggle.

Indigenization and economic empowerment

In the subsequent, a patronized asset stripping and plunder spree reminiscent of the reckless land seizures and destruction of the agricultural sector which had been the backbone of our economy, has been packaged as indigenization, without clear policy framework, to perpetuate looting.

Justice System

Sons and daughters of Zimbabwe have been reduced to mere subjects of abject incarceration and persecution in the hands of

a defective justice system presided over by power mongers and overstaying oldies, bent at silencing genuine voice of dissent.

The security sector

The patronage system by Mugabe is clearly visible and hinged on the way the Zimbabwe Security forces are run. All the security arms’ leaders exude an archaic and corrupt way of dealing with citizens perceived to be opponents of the ailing commander in chief. There seems to be a mentality of being immortal and “foreverness” among those leading these forces. The people of Zimbabwe surely deserve a lot better. I would like to resolutely urge fellow youth and Zimbabweans to ensure that we reclaim what is rightfully ours. Our determination and conviction to see a better Zimbabwe for all must be our driv-

ing force.

and predictability and political stability and the protection and furtherance of democratic institutions.

Reforms and the election

Zimbabwe can definitely not afford not to have the long overdue fundamental reforms before any election that would be deemed democratic. We have a clearly defined election road map, with SADC as guarantor and that should and will be followed. If one political party goes against that, then the outcome of such an election is simply that of a primary election. It will just be unacceptable. Zimbabwe does not belong to any political party. There is no doubt what so ever that Zimbabweans will speak again in the forthcoming election in support of their candidate whose victory was robbed by Mugabe.

It is my sincere hope that the government will sincerely gear up its effort in ensuring a violence free society and also to prepare to feed millions of hungry citizens, as we face another looming drought. The food must be distributed on non partisan grounds. The youth also hope that the new constitution and subsequently the new government will resuscitate and revamp our dying justice system that has been used as a tool of repression by the former ruling party. We also hope and demand to see a complete prosecution of 2008 murderers and those that were perpetrated before that period. Truth, reconciliation, justice and genuine individual and societal healing are indispensable if our nation has to go forward as desirable.

Government Work Programmes (GWPs)

The forthcoming election must ensure that our civil servants working conditions are greatly improved and that they are motivated by a reasonable and meaningful remuneration in order for them swiftly and effectively implement government work programmes (GWPs). Fellow brothers and sisters, this current unjust and evil incarceration has taught me that dictators are all the same everywhere. They harden their stance so much as they reach their breaking point. Think of Adolf Hitler, Pinochet, Idi Amini, Sani Abacha, Slobidan Molosevich, Saddam Hussein, Hosni Mubarak, Ban Ali, Gaddafi, Bingu Wa Mutharika and many others. They are all history now.

I challenge fellow youth and the broader Zimbabwean community to reignite the fighting resolve. It is our duty as the youth to ensure that we reclaim what is rightfully ours. Our determination and conviction to see a better Zimbabwe for all must be our driving force.

We will always remember how all Zimbabweans from all walks of life sacrificed their lives for the birth of our nation. God Bless Zimbabwe I remain
Solomon Madzore, President MDC Youth Assembly



Solomon Madzore, President MDC Youth Assembly

Social services delivery system

We remain resolute in demanding optimal health for all; equal access to education and further training irregardless of political affiliation; demanding that there be comprehensive democracy in Zimbabwe; an absolute halt to state sponsored/organized violence against the people; a total stoppage to arbitrary arrests of political activists and civil rights activists. We also demand a stop to the selective application of the law by the Antony General, judiciary and police. We demand the creation of modern and sound infrastructural establishments in all sectors of our economy, policy consistency

That Morgan Tsvangirai will be the president of Zimbabwe after elections is sure and certain as the rising and setting of the sun. The only candidate who can defeat Morgan Tsvangirai is Jesus Christ himself.

The Constitutional agenda

We sincerely trust that COPAC will expedite the completion of the constitution making process, so that we can move forward as a nation. This moment in our history, becomes dawn call to every youth out there to go and register to vote, vote and be ever prepared to defend their vote.

Peace, tranquility and citizens’ livelihoods

Inbrief around Zimbabwe

COPAC Submits First Draft of the Constitution

COPAC submitted the First Draft of the Constitution of Zimbabwe to the Management Committee. The Management Committee endorsed the draft constitution and the draft is to be submitted to the Principals by the fifth 5th of May. COPAC has only managed to deal with a few issues in dispute, for instance citizenship and death penalty leaving the rest to be dealt with by a new government that will emerge after the next elections.

ZANU PF infighting continues

The infighting in ZANU PF is intensifying and more factions continue to emerge. One faction is led by Vice President Joyce Mujuru and the other by Defense Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa. Army General Constantine Chiwenga is heading another faction, with Mugabe's loyalists staying with him. In Masvingo armed police had to be called to avert crisis when factions clashed over District Coordinating Committee elections. Currently the succession

battles are being fought at district level with the DCC elections as battleground.

Sata expresses support for Mugabe's ZANU PF

THE ZITF was officially opened on Friday by Zambian President Sata, who went on to use the platform to express his support for Mugabe, ZANU PF and its controversial policies like the accelerated land reform program.

Nation Celebrates Workers Day

The nation celebrated workers day yesterday the 1st of May amid escalating reports of abuse of workers by their Chinese employers. Violence, low pay, safety concerns top the list of abuses by the Chinese in construction and mining companies and this comes at a time when workers organisations, the two rival ZCTUs ,celebrated Work-

ers continued to show animosity by celebrating workers day separately.

Reports of Politically Motivated Violence

MDC T supporters are being harassed and intimidated in Zaka East Constituency. They are being denied food aid and Chief Nhema is spearheading the violence. Violence has also been reported in Sanyathi in the Midlands province. The Zimbabwe Peace Project said Saturday that monitors reported a 15 percent increase in human rights violations "directly linked" to the new push for polls in 2012.

Written By Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Media department



Part of the crowd that attended the peace rally in Gweru

Solidarity around rape in South Africa

English author Edward Bulwer-Lytton in 1839 for his play Richelieu the Conspiracy used the metonymic adage; "The pen is mightier than the sword". I was reminded of this during this past week when I heard a report from South Africa about a mentally disabled minor

Firstly, humanity cannot allow to stoop that low. This video that was uploaded on the Internet and some people took it upon them to watch. The lesson here is that what people do with their time and in their private space may need some reconsideration so that there is not promotion of

cannot just stand by and watch as women are being raped at such a scale.

Secondly, there is need for some action form around the globe to show solidarity with women in South Africa around this rape issue. Sometimes people keep quiet about

this rape issue that seems deeply rooted in culture, tradition and patriarchy! Finally, I was shocked by how vey few political leaders spoke out about this particular issue. Maybe in a country that is so torn by rape, it has somewhat become "normal". However, nothing can excuse such behavior if this world is going to become a safe place for the vulnerable to live. Politicians have been elected for the purpose of serving the every people who get them into such positions and when they cannot serve these people's needs and also are accountable, and then they do not deserve to be leaders! In that light, let us remember that we all have a role to play to end rape by holding political leaders accountable. Let us do this and make a difference in women's lives and especially those of the South African sisters!

By Grace Chirenje

there is need for some action form around the globe to show solidarity with women in South Africa around this rape issue. Sometimes people keep quiet about issues because their worldview has the "us" and "them". However, such a view is unproductive in that switches can happen in as far as positions are concerned and in the end, once a victim then survivor and the same is true vice versa.

who was raped by a group of teenagers who joked about it and even had the audacity to share it via the internet! I was angry, shocked, saddened and after this initial wave of emotions, I managed to remember that even though I may not have many options, I could write about this report and share a few insights on the report.

ill behavior that is detrimental to society's development. Moreover, the idea that these teenagers could do such a hideous act speaks to how much as a global village there has been failure at some levels to raise children well. Rape is wrong in any community and in a place like South Africa where according to CNN a woman is raped every 26 seconds, the world

issues because their worldview has the "us" and "them". However, such a view is unproductive in that switches can happen in as far as positions are concerned and in the end, once a victim then survivor and the same is true vice versa. In that regard, it is important that as people live through life, sisters in South Africa receive our support and solidarity to address