BREFING a crisis in zimbabwe coalition regional office weekly report



Its' all Within Your Power Mr President

ISSUE 75

Last week Zimbabweans were given a rare insight into President Robert Mugabe's political thinking after he met a longtime ally and rival former Defence Minister Enos Nkala. Nkala now in his 80s is retired having been fired from government and ZANU PF for buying vehicles corruptly in the 1980s. It was in Nkala's home that ZANU PF was formed in the 1960s and Nkala played a key role in ensuring that Mugabe rose to the leadership of ZANU PF. Late in his life he maintains a grudge for the manner of his dismissal from ZANU PF and the fact that Mugabe virtually turned a cold shoulder to him. Last week the two octogenarians met in Bulawayo as Mugabe was on his way to Gwanda on government business. In 2012 Nkala has afforded the people of Zimbabwe an opportunity to understand Mugabe in light of ensuing political events in Zimbabwe. According to Nkala Mugabe is afraid and concerned that ZANU PF is disintegrating and that his departure will see the party falling apart and civil strife erupting. Nkala also says Mugabe is the glue holding Zimbabwe and ZANU PF together and we all need to be careful when we shout that Mugabe must go. The reasons why Mugabe went to see Nkala are subject to speculation, but one cannot rule out that Mugabe is missing the old company and wanted someone to genuinely talk to about his fears.

23-30 MAY 2012

The discussion that Mugabe had with Nkala is interesting as it gives us an insight into the thinking of the President, a rarity, away from the spin-doctoring that we get from his Press Office. It is interesting that the fear that President Mugabe has, is shared by almost all Zimbabweans including this writer. The difference is that President Mugabe is now peddling this fear as if he is a victim, like all of us, that he alone is the solution to this fear hence blackmailing us to support him. A key concern expressed by Mugabe in his meeting with Nkala is that he appears to be losing grip of the levers of power and control both



Robert Gabriel Mugabe, President of Zimbabwe

in his party and state. In other words there are some forces that Mugabe is afraid of and who are usurping his powers, unfortunately he is beholden to the the possibility of civil war in Zimbabwe. First President Mugabe politicised the whole civil service to serve ZANU PF. This means that the civil service and

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same forces for keeping him in power. In unpacking the Nkala/ Mugabe meeting, we need to remind President Mugabe that the total sum of all his fears, be it the disintegration of ZANU PF and the possibility of civil strife are all consequences of his What happens in making. ZANU PF might not necessarily concern us as that is a voluntary organisation and its existence or disintegration should be the concern of its members. However the goings on in ZANU PF are now tied to the fate of Zimbabwe, as a result of the meshing of the party and the state. In this regard Mr Nkala says the military, intelligence, police and the senior civil service are all ZANU PF as they come from the liberation movement. Here in lies the problem with the internal strife in ZANU PF and

state security institutions are not prepared to serve the people of Zimbabwe but ZANU PF.

Secondly President Mugabe is conveniently using the security sector to promote ZANU PF and his political interests. In other words President Mugabe no longer believes in his political persuasive skills or vision to win the hearts and minds of the people of Zimbabwe hence a reliance on coercive state power. Thirdly President Mugabe is afraid of a civil war that is certainly not between the MDC parties but amongst rival ZANU PF factions. The MDC parties have no capacity on earth to launch any aggression against ZANU PF. On the contrary it is ZANU PF factions in their varying formations that are armed to the teeth. These are the military

hawks and their political fronts in ZANU PF, the intelligence said to support other factions, a police that prevaricate in and out of the factions. These groups and the collapsing ZANU PF are the forces that have the capacity to cause chaos in Zimbabwe. Mr Nkala made an interesting statement that others have said before that President Mugabe is needed now, in my view, not necessarily to continue in power but to sort out the mess that he has created. President Mugabe's fears are the height of hypocrisy and selfishness as he well knows that in a decade of so, he might as well not be around, yet Zimbabwe might be burning. He has the duty therefore to dismantle the structures of coercion that he has created especially the immense power that he has granted the security sector. It will take the stroke of a pen to send into retirement the Senior Army officers who are daily threatening the people of Zimbabwe. They are many professional security men and women in Zimbabwe who can assume leadership and take the security sector back to its democratic role.

When all is said and done, President Mugabe all but confirmed the dire need for security sector reform. The President is disingenuously using the fear factor to maintain his hold on power. For civil society this is clearly another demonstration of the need to intensify regional advocacy. It might as well be that citizens of Zimbabwe will, in the next few months, not have any power to play any meaningful role in determining the future as the military takes over and President Mugabe shows determination to die in office. We can no longer trust the unity government and it's never ending negotiations to deliver peace. To me peace is now the desired goal. Yet after all is said and done the power remains with President Mugabe to remove this mess and save Zimba-

David Mutomba is a Zimbabwean Journalists and Human Rights Activist.

UN Human Rights High Commissioner Pillay – Do Not Let Zimbabwe Cover **Up Serious Human Rights Abuses**

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms Navi Pillay is currently in Zimbabwe on a mission to investigate the human rights situation here on invitation from government.

Coordinator's

Note

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dewaMavhinga

Predictably, justice minister Patrick Chinamasa (Zanu PF) made feeble attempts to hide the true human rights situation by proclaiming that there are no human rights abuses in Zimbabwe and that the country has nothing to hide. But immediately after those utterances, the ministry of justice attempted to hijack the High Commissioner's meeting with civil society groups by dictating that the meeting should take place in Parliament and should include bogus civil society groups aligned to Zanu PF that have nothing to do with human rights protection and promotion. A number of the so-called groups civil society aligned to Zanu PF are implicated in serious human rights abuses themsion Bill. The meeting between the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights and civil society leaders representing the main coalitions including Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, Women's Coalition, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, the National

- That the human rights situation in Zimbabwe remains precarious although the Inclusive government has somewhat stabilized the economic situation
- Politically motivated violence is again on the rise with talk for elections, for instance, Zimbabwe Peace Project record-

police officer

- Violation of socioeconomic rights through the administrative banning of 29 humanitarian NGOs in Masvingo and partisan distribution of food including by soldiers
- Due to minimal electoral reforms and lack of a conducive operating environment, Zimbabwe is not ready to hold credible, free and fair elections in 2012

We called upon the UN High Commissioner to press for the Human Rights Commission to be immediately operationalized, for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to consider setting up a Human **Rights Monitoring Office** in Zimbabwe ahead of elections and to press Zimbabwe to ratify, domesticate and implement key international human rights treaties including



UN Human Rights High Commissioner - Ms Navi Pillay

Constitutional Assembly, National Association of NGOs, Zimbabwe Coned 413 cases of politically motivated violence in January 2012 alone triggered

Predictably, justice minister Patrick Chinamasa (Zanu PF) made feeble attempts to hide the true human rights situation by proclaiming that there are no human rights abuses in Zimbabwe and that the country has nothing to hide. But immediately after those utterances, the ministry of justice attempted to hijack the High Commissioner's meeting with civil society groups by dictating that the meeting should take place in Parliament and should include bogus civil society groups aligned to Zanu PF that have nothing to do with human rights protection and promotion. A number of the so-called civil society groups aligned to Zanu PF are implicated in serious human rights abuses themselves and their only objective in meeting the High Commissioner was to parrot the claim that there are no human rights abuses in Zimbabwe.

selves and their only objective in meeting the High Commissioner was to parrot the claim that clude Zimbabwe Christian there are no human rights abuses in Zimbabwe.

Thankfully the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, who has a background in civil society work, insisted on meeting with civil society groups at their own private venue away from Parliament where some civil society activists were recently victimized by Zanu PF supporters who disrupted public hearings on the Human Rights Commis-

gress of Trade Unions and the Heads of Christian Denominations that in-Council took place as scheduled at the ZLHR offices in Harare yesterday 22 May at noon. Collectively, civil society leaders compiled a report and emailed it to the UN High Commissioner who the received a presentation from professor Lovemore Madhuku before engaging in an hour long interactive session. Key issues that we raised with the UN High Commissioner include:

by increased talk of possible elections

Politicization of the prosecuting authority including persecution of activists through abuse of the law such as the case of Munyaradzi Gwisai and five others convicted on politically motivated charges for watch Arab spring videos and the continued detention of 29 Harare residents including MDC-T youth assembly president Solomon Madzore and activist Cynthia Manjoro on spurious charges of murdering a those focussing on social and economic rights.

We are confident that High Commissioner Pillay and her team will see through any attempts to cover up and that her investigative mission will be fruitful in ensuring the promotion, protection and enjoyment of all human rights in Zimbabwe.

Dewa Mavhinga, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Regional Coordinator

Zimbabwean Challenges Continue to Escalate

Whilst Zimbabwe has serious political challenges with Zanu pf and the two MDCs fighting in Copac, the ordinary Zimbabweans are facing more life threatening challenges. Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority issued a statement that load shading is going to be increased to 9 hours a day. The statement is far from realities as people in high density suburbs like Mkoba in Gweru are sometimes go the whole day without electricity. The just ended weekend many Harare residents went for 17 hours without electricity on Saturday. Some Kuwadzana residents interviewed by Crisis Coalition informed that they no longer remember when they last used their electric stoves in cooking. It is still unknown to many Zimbabweans when the electricity shortage will end.

The shortage of electricity has affected many companies' production. In a land mark ruling the president of the Labour Court Ms Loice Matanda-Moyo ruled in favour of a local company Adhesive Tapes, in a case in which an employee, Mr Maxwell Nyakudarikwa, was contesting the deduction on his salary for the hours he had not worked due to power cuts. The company, through its human resources manager, Mr Tererai Maraidza, convinced the court that paying workers for mere availability for work without production was not sustainable.

In Masvingo province in the town of Chiredzi a new outbreak of cholera has been confirmed, since the 14th of May two people have been confirmed dead. About a 100 cases had been recorded



Children play near sewage water from a burst pipe at Matapi Flats, Mbare,

by the 17th of May, authorities in the small town blames the recurrences on water shortages. Most people in Chiredzi rely on boreholes for drinking water, but most others use canal water to irrigate sugar cane plantations. Such water is highly susceptible to contamination. Head of Epidemiology and Disease Control in the Health Ministry, Dr Portia Manangazira advised that people should seek medical care immediately if they suspect they have been infected.

A looming crisis of water is feared in the country following revelations that 26 local authorities cannot afford wa-

ter treatment after the United Nation's children Fund {UNICEF} terminated a contract to supply the chemicals. The disclosures came when UNICEF terminated its contract to supply water treatment chemicals to 20 urban councils on April 1. Deputy Minister of Local Government, Rural and Urban Development Sesel Zvidzai confirmed recently that a number of local authorities were facing a water treatment crisis due to lack of adequate funding. The situation, if not addressed, could reach crisis levels similar to those in 2008 when cholera killed more than 3 000 people country wide.

The MDC-T, Chimanimani region and Lupane East constituency alleged that their members are being denied government seed and food aid. In Chimanimani they claim that 350 families were denied seed because they are known to be MDC supports. The most disturbing factor in Zimbabwean challenges is that there is no sign from authorities that they are doing something practical to solve the issues. Politicians are pre-occupied with power fights that they are blind to citizen problems.

The electricity and water shortages have a far reaching consequence to the citizens of Zimbabwe. Recently the Malawian president died in a local hospital due to lack of medical treatment at the hospital. Zimbabwe if not careful will lose many lives if they ignore these challenges as the shortages of water and electricity is found in hospitals and clinics as well. At the beginning of 2012 Harare hospital reported that they were buying water for their operations. The Finance Minister Tendai Biti, on Thursday said a Chinese diamond firm Anjin failed to remit revenue from its operations in Zimbabwe's controversial Marange fields in the first quarter of this year. Anjin is in a joint venture with the Zimbabwe government. Revenue from diamonds and other minerals should be used to ease the problems people are faced with.

By Tafadzwa Maguchu

Inbrief Around Zimbabwe

Cholera Outbreak in Chiredzi

A cholera outbreak in the Chiredzi district of Masvingo Province was confirmed on the 14th of May 2012 by the Ministry of Health. By the 17th of May two people had been confirmed dead with 100 cases reported. The outbreak is a result of people drinking unsafe water due to acute shortages of treated water in the country.

President Mugabe Met With his former Ally Last Week

Mugabe met with Enos Nkala, one of the founding fathers of ZANU PF over the weekend.Nkala was fired from government and Zanu pf for buying vehicles corruptly in the 1980s. Nkala is the former Finance Minister of Zimbabwe 1983, Minister of National Supplies until 1985 and Minister of Home Affairs and Defence just after the 1985 election. He was linked to have taken part in the Gukurahwindi which he denied. The visit came barely a week after ZANU PF held a politburo meeting to discuss problems bedeviling the party. It is alleged in the meeting Mugabe told Nkala that was he tired but afraid to leave the party with its current power struggles.

Mines not Remitting Diamond Revenue

The Finance Ministry has voiced concern over the lack of transpar-

ency in the remittance of diamond amount remitted by diamond mines



revenue by the major diamond mines in the country. Projections were that at least US\$600 million of the US\$4 billion National budgamounted to US\$30.4 million against a target of US\$ 122.5 million. Fears are that the diamond



Part of the Crowd that attended the National Prayer day for peace at Barbourfields in Bulawayo

et was to be financed by Diamond revenue. As at 21 March 2012 the revenue might be financing a parallel government.

Violence and Intimidation Escalate in Masvingo Province

Traditional leadership in Masvingo province has continued to cause a stir by engaging in activities which are aimed at alienating all alleged opposition supporters chiefly, while blocking all political meetings and rallies by parties which are not Zanu Pf.

Chief Serima ordered Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) councillors in Gutu West Ward 5 Maxwell Mazambani to pay two goats and brew beer as customary payment for misdeeds of organising MDC rallies, failure would result in the expulsion of his family from chief Serima area of jurisdic-

In Mwenezi East Ward 6 Vengai Chuma was threatened and intimidated by Headman Eliam Mungazi Chuma a ZANU PF official for associating himself with the MDC and has been barred and blacklisted from benefiting from the grain loan scheme further depriving citizens the right to food.

Bulawayo Hosted National Prayer Day for Peace

Part of the ten thousand Zimbabweans attended the National Prayer day of Peace at Barbour fields on the 19th of May in Bulawayo organized by the Zimbabwe Pastors Fellowship Conference

Aprons and Shovels: Celebrating the Ethic of the Majonijonis, Magaisas and Injivas.

The challenges facing Zimbabwe at the moment seem insurmountable, but the reality of the matter is that there is no challenge in this world bigger than the human brain. In previous contributions I have argued for legislation that seeks to create a culture of citizenship and not subjects. The focus was on the state, but the focus of this paper is on the ordinary citizen; Jeremiah the builder and Maidei the waitress staying in the slums of Masiphumelelo site 7 in Cape Town South Africa, having travelled more than 2 800km from Manzvire, Chipinge, Zimbabwe in search of a better life. They are known as the Majonijoni, Magaisa and Injiva. The dangers that these men and women have gone through in search of a survival, not for themselves only but even for those back at home is amazing. It is that ethic that this paper will contribute to. The unwanted 6 million whom Mutasa talked about, the despised group that our political leadership in Harare fail to recognize through the enactment of progressive legislation that make them contribute to the national discourse, and the commoners that the current indigenisation gravy train seeks not to empower yet they have been the bedrock of livelihoods deep down in Mabeye village 700km from Harare, where there is no bus service or any government service to talk about. If I would borrow from the Bible; "the stone that the builder rejected that has become the corner of the foundation".

Those in the Diaspora are Injivas in their own right, with different stratification, that is from the lowly regarded Jeremiah and Maidei yet vital stone that has kept alive the dreams of various neglected citizens back home to Tamuka sitting in the plush 3rd Floor office of Usizo Foundation, with a panoramic view of Durban City and its beaches at the University of KwaZulu-Natal typing this article. The NANGO-IDS UZ supported study "Harnessing the Diaspora Potential for the Socio-Economic Development in Zimbabwe: Investment, Trade and Participation in Political Processes", makes the following interesting observations:

...about 72% of Zimbabweans in the Diaspora send remittances to relatives and friends back home and this is mostly done through informal channels. The recipients of the remittances use the money for food (41 %), education (12%), rentals (10%), health (7%), and clothing (7%).

The statistics are quite telling and one needs not to over-emphasize the significance of such remittances in fulfilling the dreams of many young people and even old people back in Zimbabwe. It is the Jeremiahs' and Maidei's sweat and toil that account for the statistics above, in dealing with pertinent issues such as examination and school fees, sending rental, food or clothing to those relatives and friends in need back home; whose lives have been deprived by a failed government. It is the ethic of these Magaisas that kept the house together when Zimbabwe was busy falling apart. They kept the dreams and hopes of a better Zimbabwe alive. The passions and affection for Zimbabwe that many of these women and men hold for their country is amazing. Working 14-18 hour shifts in order to break even, sleeping in plastic houses (better known as mjondolos) in order to save every little rand, pound and dollar that



Zimbabweans in Johannesburg under the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition banner march to the Sandton Covention Centre were a SADC head of States meeting was taking place on the 11th of June 2011.

they come across, doing the infamous so called BBC (British Bottom Cleaning) or Dot Com work and R&R (Rese Rese), spending sleepless nights in a research center or fingers straddling on the keyboard of desktops and laptops are the stories of the Diaspora. As a foreigner you have to go an extra-mile and work hard to justify why you have to be hired. This contribution by the Jeremiahs and Maideis are not mean, they have been the source of livelihood for most families during the times of our economic meltdown.

The NANGO-UZ IDS study gives further insight of the contribution of the Diaspora to the economy as highlighted below:

The World Bank (2008) estimates that migrant remittances to Zimbabwe through offi-

from the Diaspora through licensed bureaux de changes were estimated at US\$135 million, up 22% from US\$110.5 million recorded in 2010. The International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) estimated remittance inflows (formal and informal) to Zimbabwe at US\$1.3 million in 2004 and US\$361 million in 2007 (7.2% of GDP). A study by Leeds Uniestimated versity that US\$0.94 billion was sent from the UK to Zimbabwe in 2007. A UNDP study (2010) estimated remittance inflows to Zimbabwe at US\$1.4 billion in 2009.

These significant volumes of financial inflows from the Jeremiahs and Mai-



Zimbabweans in Musina participating in a community meeting organised by Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition on the 20th of February 2012

cial channels amounted to US\$17 million in 1980, increasing to US\$33million in 1982, and US\$44 million in 1994. The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe estimates that remittances further increased to US\$1.1 billion in 2002 and US\$76 million in 2008. In the first half of 2011, receipts

deis provide opportunities for the reconstruction of Zimbabwe. Through the aprons and washing dishes in Cubana restaurant, shovels digging trenches for construction sites in Cape Town and Dot com work in the UK, such inflows are made possible. This work ethic is highlighted by the remarks of one Chinese contractor I came upon in Botswana

"Zimbabweans, work like machines; same, same with JCB. Put a Zimbabwean or JCB no difference they finish same time". The key lesson in this whole story is not celebrating menial work but the work ethic exhibited by this forgotten group of citizens from Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe they live is a virtual one, outside the natural geographical borders, yet their souls, dreams and visions are still grounded in Zimbabwe. It is their undying patriotism and love for Zimbabwe that may only explain the inflows of the figures above. The Jeremiahs and Maideis are no less patriots or cowards to those back home, but are visionaries and torchbearers of the New Zimbabwe in this increasingly globalised world. They form the cohort upon which we can build a nation.

Nation building is thus a dynamic process that can't be accounted for by single serving narratives. building is a result of a collaborative effort and no wonder why we have the Shona proverb "Rume/Gadzi rimwe harikombi churu" (selfishness does not pay) or as remarked by Oliver Mtukudzi in one of his songs "Chara chimwe hachitswanyi inda, (one finger can't crush lice)". It is this African Wisdom that we need to inculcate in our everyday lives and begin to realise that 'Umuntu, ngumuntu ngabantu' (We are who we are because of other people). Therefore Zimbabwe is what it is because of the collective efforts of its citizens not one or a few clique of citizens. Similarly the Jeremiahs and Maideis are neither superior nor above Gogo Mhlanga looking after their kids that they left in Mabeye village or Leticia the civil servant working at the registrar's office at Makombe building in Harare. We all have an equal role to play in creating the Zimbabwe we want. Nation building is like the organs of the human body; the heart cannot claim to be superior to the lungs and neither can the eye claim to be superior to the ear. We are all like building blocks and the sooner we realise the strength in our numbers and unique but complimentary roles we play, the sooner shall we be able to put Zimbabwe first among the family of nations. We therefore need the Majonijonis, Magaisas and Injivas to rise up and begin to claim their rightful positions and be the drivers of economic development in Zimbabwe. It is possible for the Injivas to fund the financial starved Matabeleland Water Zambezi Project and create a greenbelt with downstream industries that can revive back Bulawayo to being the manufacturing hub of Zimbabwe. The national railway system and transport infrastructure can be revamped and be the gateway to sub-Saharan Africa. Power shortages can be a thing of the past if we tap into our collective effort. Through adopting the Ant Model the inflows from British Bottom Cleaning and the Aprons of Cubana Restaurant can build an economy that will be a model for the developing world. For further discussions of this subject see you next week. Don't forget to salute the Jeremiahs and Maideis or Gogo Mhlanga and Leticia the civil servant.

Together we can make Zimbabwe Great.

Tamuka Charles Chirimambowa.

Zimbabwe Civil Society Organisations' Statement on the Visit by the UN Human Rights Commissioner to Zimbabwe

21 May 2012-We, the Zimbabwe Civic Society Organisations (CSOs), welcome the historic visit to Zimbabwe by the United Nations High Commissioner of Human Rights, Madam Navanethem Pillay.

We consider the visit by the High Commissioner, at the invitation of the Government of Zimbabwe, as a good opportunity for her to meet and interact with the various stakeholders involved in the promotion and protection of human rights, in order to make an informed assessment of the situation on the ground and make recommendations thereafter.

In preparation for the maiden trip by the UN High Commissioner, more than fifty CSOs from different clusters and from around the country, led by the legitimate umbrella bodies, organised themselves and prepared for the scheduled one-and -a-half hour meeting with Madam Pillay to apprise her on the situation on the ground. All these plans were at a very advanced stage - with the venue, time and agenda finalised and communicated with the advance party of the UN High Commissioner.

It was thus with great shock that we learned that the Government of Zimbabwe, through the permanent secretary of the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs had ambushed the plans that had been made and already put in place by CSOs in preparation for the visit by the High Commissioner.

The permanent secretary, David unilaterally Mangota, had changed the venue of the meeting, moving it to Parliament building and had invited several other 'organisations' that are not known to be doing any work on human rights in Zimbabwe. It was also not lost on the participating CSOs that the venue proposed by the permanent secretary has been the scene of violence and disturbances in the past when issues around human rights were discussed. In the recent past, members of parliament, journalists, human rights defenders and members of the public have been beaten up and manhandled by hired thugs in full view of the disinterested police. To date, no action has been taken to prosecute the known and identified perpetrators. It is therefore mindboggling that the permanent secretary has chosen to have a meeting of this nature at such a venue with its history.

It should be pointed out, at this juncture that the visit by the UN High Commissioner is meant to be a broad-based, open and transparent process that enables the UN High Commissioner to independently and objectively assess and better understand the human rights situation on the ground and to thereafter make recommendations to all relevant actors that promote the full enjoyment of human rights for all.

The visit is not meant to be a stage-managed process where state representatives take the High Commissioner through a guided tour to meet people who give a glorified and sugar-coated account of the human rights situation in Zimbabwe. It is an opportunity for self -introspection by everyone including and especially the Government of Zimbabwe, which bears the primary responsibility for promoting and protecting human rights in this country - something they very often choose to ignore.

In this vein the government ought to allow the UN High Commissioner to meet diverse groups of people who have an interest in issues of human rights, if the process is to have credibility and be beneficial to the generality of the citizens of Zimbabwe. Minister Chinamasa is already on record saying the government has nothing to hide - so why are they choosing to suppress interaction between Madam Pillay and credible and trusted CSOs who have been working on the ground for dec-

We today are here to make it clear that genuine CSOs will not be commandeered by government to a stage-managed civil society meeting with the High Commissioner which is organised by the government; neither will we legitimise a fraudulent exercise meant to give the UN human rights chief a superficial picture of our country's human rights situation. We also wonder why government will not allow us a mere one hour and thirty minutes with the High Commissioner during a programme that is set to continue for 5 days, and especially when it does not know what we are going to say.

Surely, government can and is free to organise its own meetings with its preferred "CSOs" and leave us to execute our mandate independently!

For the record CSOs will convene tomorrow at 11:30 am at the original venue as communicated to the organisations concerned, in anticipation of the arrival of the UN Human Rights Commissioner for a fruitful discussion – one which will definitely not occur at Senate Chambers in Parliament.

ENDORSED BY;

Artists for Democracy in Zimbabwe Trust

Bulawayo Agenda

Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association

Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe

Combined Harare Residents Association

Commercial Farmers Union

Counselling Services Unit

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition

Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe

General Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe

Law Society of Zimbabwe

Matabeleland Constitutional Reform Agenda

Media Institute of Southern Africa

Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe

Musasa Project

National Association of Non Governmental Organisations

National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped

National Constitutional Assembly

National Youth Development Trust

Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe

Research and Advocacy Unit Student Solidarity Trust

Women and Law In Southern Africa

Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender

Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights

Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust

Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and **Development**

Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions

Zimbabwe Council of Churches

Zimbabwe Election Support Network

Zimbabwe Human Rights Association

Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights

Zimbabwe Peace Project

Zimbabwe United Residents Trust