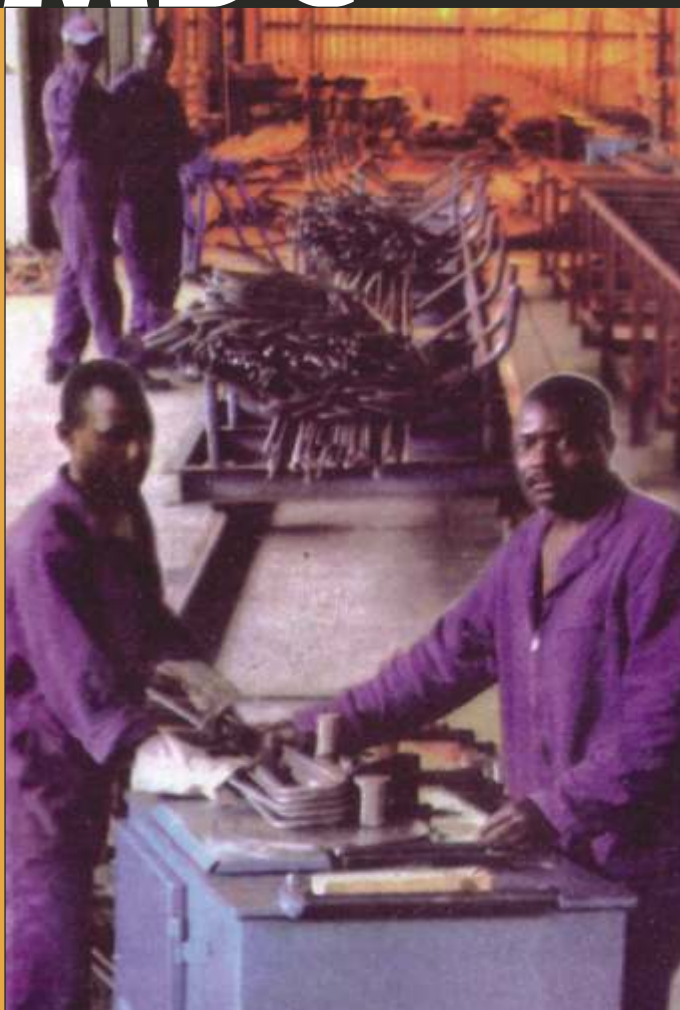


MOVEMENT FOR DEMOCRATIC CHANGE



2008

MDC



"Changing Zimbabwe for Prosperity"

ELECTION MANIFESTO

10 REASONS

why you should

V  **TE** for MDC
on

29 MARCH 2008

- An MDC government will restore and protect your constitutional rights.
- We will facilitate policies for well paying jobs that result in access to affordable food, quality education and decent housing.
- Our health system will result in affordable medicine, HIV/AIDS treatment and psycho-social support.
- An MDC municipality will facilitate the consistent provision of clean drinking water.
- We will ensure that there is sufficient and affordable fuel, electricity and alternative forms of energy.
- Our system of governance will improve the quality of roads, railway and public transportation.
- Young people will have a future that guarantees good careers and equal opportunity.
- An MDC government guarantees equal participation by women in all sectors of Zimbabwean life.
- The physically and mentally disadvantaged will play an important part in transforming our country and
- Above all, the family will once again be re-united in peace and prosperity.

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CHANGING ZIMBABWE FOR PROSPERITY

The Zimbabwean war of liberation was about ensuring freedom, equality, social and economic justice and the right to universal suffrage. The struggle for independence was about ensuring equal access to natural resources for all persons and about the African person having the opportunity to participate fully in the national economy.

Today Zimbabwe is going through a crisis which is both political and socio-economic in nature. The country is witnessing a total collapse in service delivery, there are chronic shortages of basic commodities, fuel, electricity, clean water, transport and medicinal drugs. We cannot afford to send our children to school, and the quality of education has been eroded. Every Zimbabwean is crying out for salvation from hunger, poverty, destitution, HIV/AIDS, escalating cost of living, unprecedented unemployment and meaningless wages. The family unit is now

seriously compromised as a result of forced economic migration. Young people leave the country in droves every day in search of jobs to support themselves and their families.

What is however clear is that our national socio – economic difficulties are inextricably linked to the political crisis of legitimacy and governance. The socio – economic crisis is beyond redress unless we resolve our political challenges. The MDC therefore presents this Manifesto to you, the people of Zimbabwe. We are asking you to vote for us and change Zimbabwe. Let us reclaim and realize the ideals of the liberation struggle so painfully discarded by the current government. Vote for MDC to build a stronger and wealthier nation.

Who Are We?

We are a Social Democratic Party that seeks to address African aspirations within a Pan-Africanist framework.

We believe in a non-racial, non-ethnic society, where the ability of citizens to prosper is not limited by their sex, color, religion or any other God-given distinction.

We believe in regional integration inspired by the principles of SADC, COMESA and the African Union.

We believe that the key to prosperity and development is to empower communities through peaceful free and fair elections. MDC as a party is committed to and believes in democratic collective decision –making processes.

Our Vision for Zimbabwe

Our Vision is of a Democratic, Prosperous and Peaceful Zimbabwe, characterized by

- Freedom of Expression
- Freedom of Association
- Freedom from Want and Hunger
- Freedom from HIV/AIDS
- Freedom from Social Injustice

Our Vision is of a proud, vibrant and forward-looking Zimbabwe, which has hope in the future

Recovery, Reconstruction and Development

The MDC manifesto is premised on a recovery, reconstruction and development model. We seek to eradicate poverty and restore the peoples' freedom. As a party we are committed to addressing the humanitarian crisis that currently afflicts our nation, while at the same time ensuring that we restore the dignity and freedom of our people to participate in national processes and be a people who are proud and free.

The MDC will deal with the issues of recovery, reconstruction and development through implementing measures in the following areas :

MDC'S 10 KEY ISSUES

- A new Constitution and Good Governance
- The Economy
- Health
- HIV/AIDS
- Education
- Labour
- Women
- Youth.
- Local Government
- International Relations

A NEW CONSTITUTION TO RESTORE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY

The Task:

We acknowledge that the current constitution does not represent the wishes and aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe. In order to achieve national cohesion and integration, it will be a priority of the MDC government to engage in a constitution-making process that is inclusive.

Our Solution

- Restore the rule of law
- Promote and protect citizens' basic rights and freedoms
- Build an inclusive, plural and multi-party democracy.

The New Constitution

- An MDC government will ensure that the people have an opportunity to make a new constitution through a transparent, accountable and inclusive constitution making process.
- That constitution should result in a government accountable to parliament, an independent judiciary, respect for human rights, equality of all citizens and respect for the rule of law.



Good Governance

An MDC government will:

- Restore the rule of law and personal security for all Zimbabweans, ensure the cessation of intimidation and all forms of violence and will protect all Zimbabweans without regard to race, colour, ethnicity, creed or religion.
- Restore all the democratic freedoms and liberties of the people.
- Ensure and promote the freedom of the press.
- Guarantee that the public media is accessible to all.
- Provide justice for including compensation for victims of political violence and persecution.
- Entrench the democratic right of the people to participate in the democratic process and freely elect a government of their choice.

THE ECONOMY

The MDC seeks to transform the current dualistic economy into a fully integrated economy

The Task:

The task to the Zimbabwean economy is to transform it from a dualistic structure inherited from colonialism and deepened during the ZANU PF rule. The economy has rapidly declined over the years. Key sectors of the economy such as Mining, Agriculture, Tourism and Manufacturing have witnessed sustained decline owing to poor policy implementation and bad governance. There is over 80 % unemployment and the country has experienced a negative GDP growth rate of over minus 5.5% pa since 1998.

The task for the MDC will be to recover the economy and make it grow again. The MDC will have to make the economy more inclusive and diverse.

There will be an urgent need to ensure that there is recovery, reconstruction and transformation of the economy so that the economy becomes vibrant and prosperous in a manner that provides for today and for future generations.

Our Solution

The MDC will present to the nation an economic blueprint that addresses all the key sectors of the economy to make it functional and vibrant again. Outlined hereunder are some of the Key features of our economic blueprint.

Trade and Industry

The MDC will underpin the recovery, reconstruction and transformation of the Zimbabwean economy on the industrial sector. Through innovative strategies the MDC will ensure that primary, secondary and tertiary industry is mechanized and technologically developed. Industry will form the engine of Zimbabwe's growth and poverty reduction model. This will entail active government participation in ensuring that there is resuscitation, development and expansion of the country's industrial base.

Special attention in industrial expansion and growth will be given to the Mining Agricultural, Tourism and Environment Sectors.

Mining

- The MDC believes that the Mining Sector has the capacity and the potential to become the core of the Zimbabwean economy.
- Platinum, Gold and Diamond mining production in Zimbabwe has the potential to provide over 40% of the country net income by 2010
- The MDC will, through technological advancement and proper management, seek to grow the Mining Sector such that it becomes the engine room of the recovery, reconstruction and transformation of the Zimbabwean economy.
- The MDC will ensure that 10% percent of all proceeds of natural resources in an area go towards the development of that area.

Land and Agriculture

While the MDC acknowledges the emotive nature of the Land Question and the key role of Agriculture, it is convinced that the growth of the Zimbabwean economy will not be based primarily on it. An MDC government will:

- Ensure that there is support, both material and technical, for A1 farmers as well as communal agriculture as a major component of poverty reduction.



- Set up an open, transparent and fair marketing structure so as to ensure appropriate benefit to farmers.
- Provide clear security of tenure in order to improve viability and stimulate production in agriculture.
- Transform and develop rural areas in order to create viable markets and jobs. The MDC government will ensure that there is beneficiation and value addition in agriculture.

The MDC government realizes that land reform is not an event but a process. The government will therefore embark on a process to ensure that there is viability and utilization of land by those who have received it. In that regard, the MDC will establish a land commission, which will have jurisdiction over all state land and ensure:

- The supervision of transformation of land and Agriculture
- The efficient allocation and distribution of agricultural inputs, technical and extension support services.



Water

- Make the provision of safe drinking water a priority;
- Rehabilitate water and sewerage infrastructure to prevent leakages;
- Urgently embark on major dam construction for Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru, Masvingo, Mutare and other centres whose population has expanded well beyond the capacity of current reservoirs;
- Rehabilitate and expand irrigation systems including dams.

Environment

The Task

After its people, Zimbabwe's environment and natural resources are its greatest asset. The tragedy has been the manner in which those resources have been mismanaged.

Under an MDC government there will be sustainable use of resources for present and future generations.

The MDC will

- Make its biggest environmental impact by reducing poverty. The current deforestation, desertification, soil erosion and poaching are overwhelmingly caused by poverty.
- Research and support programmes to enable Zimbabweans to utilize and profit from our environment and natural resources in a sustainable manner;
- Assist those currently engaged in harmful activities with damage minimisation strategies, education and alternative activities where possible;
- Ensure that 10% of the proceeds of natural resources go towards the development of the local community.
- Urgently invest in the electrification of Zimbabwe;
- Research and promote appropriate alternative energy schemes, while improving the efficiency of current energy usage;
- Embark on (omit a) massive rehabilitation of areas that have suffered environmental damage owing to unsustainable policies, and ensure strict adherence to environmental legislation (ie move this bullet up to be part of this), including independent environmental impact assessment for all major projects.
- Research and mitigate the effects of global warming;
- Actively manage transfrontier parks and shared waterways with our neighbours, and foster the adoption of international standards of environmental management.

TOURISM

The Tourism Sector has the potential to become a key driver of the Zimbabwean economy. An MDC government will:

- Ensure government investment in the tourism sector
- Ensure effective and efficient marketing of the nation as a tourist destination
- Ensure the development of appropriate infrastructure through both government and private enterprise to maximize on the potential of tourism.

EMPOWERMENT:

The Task

There is an urgent need to transform the economy so that indigenous people effectively participate in national development. This should, however, be done with due recognition of existing patterns of ownership of the means of production and respect for property rights.

The MDC government will:

- Embark on an empowerment process that ensure growth with equity and sustainable utilization of resources.
- Provide for a process of empowerment that ensures that the primary engine of economic growth is internal, through programmes that harness natural and human resource potentials

- Ensure that no group of persons is unduly disadvantaged by virtue of their race, colour or ethnic grouping during the empowerment process.
- Ensure that the empowerment process is not used to deprive or disadvantage certain individuals, but rather to consolidate national gains in economic development and encourage social intergration.

LEVERAGING ZIMBABWEANS IN THE DIASPORA

The Task

The country has a huge population of economically active people who have left the country. This has resulted in massive brain drain in virtually all sectors of the economy. The task for the new MDC government will be to return those skills to Zimbabwe.

Our Solution

The MDC will:

- Put in place a programme to ensure the return of skilled personnel in the Diaspora.
- Provide a platform for persons in the Diaspora to actively participate in the economic development of Zimbabwe.
- Ensure that there is a systematic manner of utilization of benefits derived from people in the Diaspora.
- Encourage people in the Diaspora to contribute towards the technological mechanization and industrialization of Zimbabwe.

HEALTH

The Task

The Health Sector has virtually collapsed. There is massive brain drain owing to the poor remuneration offered to health personnel. There is very poor equipment in the public health facilities and the chronic shortage of drugs has led to numerous unnecessary deaths. The increasing disparity between the public health system and the private health system is a clear testimony of failed policies.

Our Solution

The MDC government will:

- Promote equitable community, local government and central government investment in public health and social infrastructure.
- Recognise that Health issues are at the core of people's development and accordingly place significant budgetary support for the Health Sector.
- Ensure the provision of basics to health such as clean water and access to primary health care.
- Establish a National Health Scheme
- Re- attract personnel in the Health Sector

HIV/AIDS

The Task

The task for a new Government will be to ensure the proper resourcing of HIV/AIDS programmes and to put them to the fore of any development discourse. Currently Zimbabwe only receives less than USD 10 per person per annum for HIV and AIDS in international support. This is almost insignificant when one considers that the regional average in support is over USD 100, with countries such as Malawi receiving USD 136. The MDC places great significance on issues of HIV/AIDS and believes these should be tackled as a separate and distinct issue.



Our Solution

- Ensure that there is support for all people living with and affected by HIV/AIDS, particularly orphans and child-headed families.
- Ensure increased international resourcing for HIV/AIDS
- Affordable access to treatment and ARV for all citizens
- Free access to treatment and ARVs for all in the public sector..
- Increased government investment in preventive programmes on HIV/AIDS
- Provide victims of rape and sexual abuse with post-exposure prophylaxis.

EDUCATION

The Task

The task for a new Government will be to rebuild a collapsed education system, from primary and secondary to tertiary education level.



There will be an urgent need to ensure the resuscitation of infrastructure, provision of books and, more importantly, to stem the flight of experienced personnel in the education sector.

Our Solution

The MDC Government will:

- Emphasise the adoption of appropriate science and technologies so that education assists in economic transformation.
 - Emphasise the need for appropriate primary, secondary and tertiary education.
 - Develop relevant curricula for different groups of learners throughout the education system
 - Ensure proper training and remuneration of personnel in the education sector.
 - Promote cultural diversity, growth and gender sensitivity.
- Ensure that children and adults with special needs are adequately catered for the education system.
 - Promote the provision of quality education both in public and private schools, colleges and universities.

THE WORKING CLASS



The Task

The country is experiencing unemployment levels of over 80%. The task will be to create employment and to further ensure that the worker is properly compensated for his or her service. Today most workers do not earn a wage that allows them to live a decent living. Most are now below the poverty datum line. The failure to provide adequately for the working class has been the key driver to migration to other countries by economically active people, resulting in the social fabric of the family unit being destroyed.

Our Solution

An MDC government will therefore:

- Guarantee the right to collective job action.
 - Ensure not only the promotion of jobs but also the protection of workers' rights by fully implementing International Labour Organization conventions and
- elevating the protection of labour rights to a constitutional principle.
 - Reverse decades of neglect of the majority of the workforce in the non-formal, mainly rural, sectors of the economy.
 - Eliminate discriminatory practices against women in the workplace.

- Create conditions that will ensure and promote a living wage.
- Promote tri-partite negotiations to achieve a social contract.
- Implement programmes aimed at promoting skills enhancement and encouraging entrepreneurship.

WOMEN

The Task:

The MDC as a new government will have to address the inequalities that exist in the treatment of women in the social, economic and political spheres. Women are discriminated against and marginalized, and have not been provided with an opportunity to participate fully in the development of the country owing to historical and cultural factors.

The marginalization of women in Zimbabwe and the failure to afford them equal rights is a scar on our society. The MDC is committed to addressing this injustice.

Our Solution

An MDC government will:

- Commit to achieving a minimum of 50% of all public sector positions being occupied by women in line with AU protocols in both political and social spheres.
- Guarantee equal rights for women and men and take steps to eliminate existing inequalities in all spheres of life.
- Guarantee the inclusion of women's sexual, social, economic and political rights in the constitution of Zimbabwe.
- Guarantee increased resources for HIV/AIDS for women.
- Introduce measures aimed at ending the discriminatory practices against women in all areas of society, in particular in the workplace.
- Guarantee that women enjoy the same ownership and access rights to property, land and other resources.
- Ensure that women's issues are mainstreamed across all development and public policy processes.
- Implement laws and policies that will eliminate all forms of violence against women and provide redress mechanisms and enhance the dignity of women in all spheres of life.
- Establish a Gender Commission, which is adequately staffed to perform core functions such as gender sensitization, training, counseling and the monitoring and evaluation of gender mainstreaming across all policy areas.
- Ensure that all international conventions on women's rights are enacted into law soon after ratification.
- These commitments will complement and be facilitated by other key aspects of the MDC programme, particularly in the economy, land and social sectors.

YOUTH

The Task:

The Youth in Zimbabwe are generally very disillusioned. They have been marginalized from most important processes, and have tended to be remembered only at times when they are sought to serve the needs of individuals and be abused for political systems and institutions. As a result, most young people feel disenfranchised without an opportunity to become much in future. They have lost hope and confidence.

Our Solution:

An MDC government will:

- Promote the participation and involvement of youth in all national matters.
- Build a supportive environment for the social, physical, cultural and economic development of youth in a manner that recognises their input.
- Establish a National Youth Council to ensure implementation, coordination and evaluation of all youth-related programmes.
- Set aside a day to recognize and celebrate the youth.
- Abolish the youth militia and rehabilitate the graduates.



- Ensure that all youth are provided with the skills and training that will empower them to build a proper future for themselves and their families.
- Create job and business opportunities both for those youth about to enter the job market and those who are already seeking employment.
- Provide increased resources and focus to youth programmes concerning HIV/AIDS to ensure that youth in and out of school access appropriate information, life skills, reproductive services and counseling.
- Ensure that young Zimbabweans in institutions of learning operate in an environment of academic freedom.



LOCAL GOVERNMENT

The Task

The Local Government system has completely collapsed. There is little or no refuse collection in most areas. Other basic services such as road maintenance have long since been abandoned. More devastating is the manner in which the provision of a key resource such as water has been handled by ZINWA. Most areas now go for months without water or, where it is erratically available, it is not suitable for consumption.

As a party the MDC will seek to give back the power to the communities so that they are ultimately responsible for their local governance issues. The MDC will seek to make local government structures effective and responsive to the needs of the people so that there is efficient service delivery.

Our Solution

- The decentralization of powers to local government structures.
- Ensure that people in local structures benefit from revenue collected and generated in their locality as well as from the natural resources in that particular area.
- Ensure that there is minimal interference with local government structures by central government through appropriate legislation.
- Ensure that service provision in areas of refuse collection and road maintenance is efficiently done.
- Restore water management to local government structures.
- Ensure the harmonization of rural and urban councils.
- Ensure the financial empowerment of local governance structures.

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

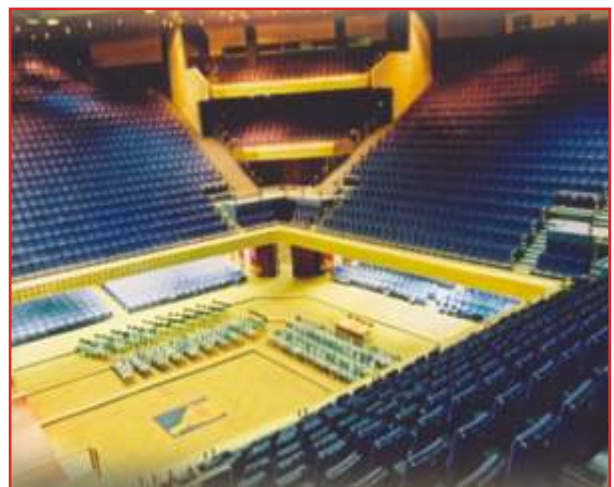
The Task

Zimbabwe today is a pariah state. It no longer has the support of most countries in the international arena. This is largely because of ZANU-PF failed policies and conduct of diplomatic relations. There is an urgent need to restore Zimbabwe to its place in the comity of nations so that it can enjoy the benefits associated with a country among friends.

Our Solution

An MDC government will

- Employ policies and principles that do not lead to its isolation in the international community.
- Ensure that there is re-engagement with all progressive governments and institutions that are prepared to assist the country in its relief, recovery and reconstruction process.
- Ensure that all its conduct in the international community is guided by respect for national and international laws, values and principles.
- Contribute to regional and international development.





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