

The Manifesto of the Movement for Democratic Change

Parliamentary Elections 2005

Our Promise to the People

This Manifesto represents a covenant between the MDC and the people of Zimbabwe to create a new beginning. Together we will build a new Zimbabwe in which there is liberty, freedom, prosperity, job opportunities, justice, safety and a living wage.

A NEW BEGINNING. A NEW ZIMBABWE

Our party symbol is the open hand; signifying tolerance and inclusiveness. In this Manifesto, each finger represents our commitment to five critical areas of that require urgent redress:

- a) a sound economy,**
- b) agriculture and livelihoods**
- c) a new Constitution and Good governance,**
- d) the Social Agenda**
- e) Women and Youth**

OUR VISION FOR A NEW ZIMBABWE

The MDC's vision of a new Zimbabwe is a country whereby all Zimbabweans are happy and content and have access to jobs, decent pay, food, housing, health, education and a better life. We aim to build an inclusive, just and fair Zimbabwe.

The MDC is the party of compassion, justice, solidarity, equality, empathetic leadership; a social democratic party. And we are a truly national party that recognises no ethnic, tribal, religious or racial boundaries. We offer the people a new Zimbabwe, a new beginning.

A NEW BEGINNING. A NEW ZIMBABWE

Our vision of a new Zimbabwe is rooted in national unity and integration, peace, security, democracy, equality and the rule of law.

We will build a just society in which no one need live in poverty.

We will provide opportunities for all in a Zimbabwe in which all Zimbabweans will have access to prosperity, happiness, liberty, jobs, decent pay, food, housing, health and education. We will build an inclusive, just and free country.

OUR VALUES

Our vision derives from the MDC being a responsible, inclusive, people-centred political party committed to social democratic values of:

- Solidarity
- Social justice
- Freedom
- Democracy
- Equity and Equality

We are a party which puts the people first; we are guided and driven by the interests and aspirations of ordinary Zimbabweans.

Voting for MDC means restoring our future, our lives and our dignity and it is this which offers us a new Zimbabwe and a new beginning.

MDC'S FIVE KEY ISSUES

1. The Economy
2. Agriculture/Livelihoods
3. A New Constitution and Good Governance
4. The Social Agenda
5. Women and Youth

<u>IMMEDIATE PRIORITIES OF AN MDC GOVERNMENT</u>

A NEW BEGINNING. A NEW ZIMBABWE

During its first 100 DAYS an MDC government will make life easier by:

- Restore the rule of law
- Implement economic recovery measures that will create job opportunities
- Provide treatment and care to those suffering with HIV/AIDS
- Provide inputs and financial support to farmers, in particular those in communal and resettlement areas, in order to revive and increase food production
- Mobilise international donor support to ensure that no Zimbabwean goes hungry

1 THE ECONOMY

Our Vision: *A decent standard of living for all*

Our Plan

- economic recovery, stabilisation and growth
- job creation
- food security
- access to affordable and decent housing
- better pay

Our economic plan, RESTART, is based on social democratic principles. The key issues of job creation and the pursuit of social justice are factored into every aspect of our economic agenda.

We are the party that has an honest and real plan for job creation.

Macro-Economic Stabilisation

Restoring macro-economic stability is a pre-condition for stimulating economic growth and reducing prices.

Our economic plan aims to ensure that all basic commodities are affordable to ordinary Zimbabweans.

An MDC government will be fiscally responsible and will run a tight budget.

We will introduce rational and sound fiscal and monetary policies (see box below) to stabilize the macro-economy.

KEY TARGETS/MEASURES

Inflation

An MDC government, with international financial support, will reduce real inflation to single digits.

Foreign Exchange

An MDC government will stabilise the foreign exchange market and restore the Zimbabwe dollar as a competitive and strong currency.

Public Debt

An MDC government will engage the international community and negotiate debt relief and debt re-scheduling. An MDC government will also investigate odious debts and hold those responsible accountable.

A NEW BEGINNING. A NEW ZIMBABWE

We aim to create an economic environment that enables industry and commerce to flourish and encourages the resumption of national savings, investment and growth.

By restoring a rational economic environment, an MDC government will ensure the resumption of stability and growth in the manufacturing, mining and agricultural sectors. The economic revival of these key productive sectors will ensure the maintenance and **creation of jobs** whereby workers are paid a living wage above the poverty datum line.

Housing

The MDC believes that that all Zimbabweans have the right to secure, affordable and appropriate housing throughout their lifetime.

- The MDC aims to build over **750,000 houses** within five years in order to eliminate the urban housing backlog and ensure adequate, decent housing in rural areas. And we will modernize and up-grade existing housing stock.
- We will introduce a National Housing Strategy to tackle homelessness particularly among women and youth.
- This is a major element of our RESTART programme: the construction of houses will not only address an urgent social need, it will also create thousands of job opportunities.
- We estimate that our house building programme will generate over **100,000 jobs**.

Rehabilitation and Development of Infrastructure

- An MDC government will facilitate comprehensive programmes for the rehabilitation and development of the national road network, bridges, railways, power stations, hospitals and clinics, schools, boreholes and dams.
- Rehabilitating the nation's infrastructure will be an immediate priority and will provide jobs and skills training to over **250,000 people**.

Entrepreneurs and small scale enterprises

- An MDC government will ensure the availability of capital, skills training, input supply and other support services to encourage and stimulate the development and growth of entrepreneurs and small scale enterprises.

Tourism

- An MDC government will stimulate the revival of tourism by restoring the rule of law, providing security for both locals and foreigners in every corner of Zimbabwe and aggressively marketing the new beginning taking shape in Zimbabwe.

In 1998 Zimbabwe attracted over 2 million tourists and the industry employed 233,000 people.

Today there are less than 800,000 tourists and only about 50,000 jobs remain in the industry

- Our aim is of tourists two years; this will ensure the creation of over **200,000 jobs**.

to restore the number to 1999 levels within

Transport

A NEW BEGINNING. A NEW ZIMBABWE

Affordable and reliable public transport is a basic necessity. We are committed to making this happen.

- Under an MDC government no one will have to walk inhumane distances to work.
- An MDC government will also ensure the rehabilitation and expansion of the national transport network, including the national railways and the national road network. This will facilitate the creation of jobs and reopen our rural areas whose roads have been neglected during the 25 years of ZANU PF rule.
- An MDC government will provide affordable, safe and regular local, regional and international air transport.

Energy

An MDC government will provide reliable and affordable energy to rural and urban communities, schools and health institutions.

An MDC government will rehabilitate existing generating stations and will further promote investment in new sources of energy, particularly renewable sources of energy and regional cooperation on efficient energy utilization.

Water

- The MDC will ensure that every household has access to clean, safe and adequate drinking water. We will rehabilitate our major dams and boreholes and develop new sources of water.

Trade policy

- An MDC government will promote fair and equitable trade. We will openly engage the process of economic integration at the regional level and will work with our partners in Africa, and other parts of the developing world to negotiate collectively more favourable terms of trade and better access to the markets of the developing world.
- An MDC government will introduce incentives for foreign trade.

Through our economic policies we will usher in a **new beginning** for a **new Zimbabwe** and ensure a better future for ourselves, our families and our children.

2 AGRICULTURE/LIVELIHOODS

Our Vision: Access to land by all those who need it and a vibrant, diversified and productive rural economy

Our Plan

- ensure food self-sufficiency
- tackle rural poverty and create jobs
- guarantee equal rights for women with regards to land access, ownership and inheritance
- grant security of tenure to all who occupy the land
- transform rural areas into mainstream agro-industrial centres

A NEW BEGINNING. A NEW ZIMBABWE

Recovery of Agriculture and Food Self-Sufficiency

An MDC government will:

- ensure the recovery of the agricultural sector as a major component of the national economy so as to once again make the country the bread basket of region.
- Implement programmes to achieve food security within the first 100 days of coming to power and ensure food self-sufficiency within 12 months.
- provide all farmers with access to agricultural inputs, technical and financial support and extension services; this, in particular will improve the livelihoods of those in communal and resettlement areas as it will stimulate production and consequently raise incomes.
- set up an open, transparent and fair marketing system, based on consent rather than coercion.

Tenure

- The MDC will promote security of tenure in order to improve the viability of farming, stimulate investment and boost production
- The transformation of communal and resettlement areas will include the granting of title to land users.

Agro-industrial transformation

An MDC government will:

- ensure public sector investment in rural areas
- create and develop infrastructure in rural areas, in particular schools, hospitals, electricity and tarred roads
- improve the access to vital health care services for those living in rural areas
- provide advice on marketing strategies
- transform and develop rural areas in order to create viable markets and jobs, tackle rural poverty and address the issue of rural-urban migration.

Land Commission

The MDC will establish a constitutional Land Commission which will have jurisdiction over all state land and ensure:

- the rationalization of land rights
- the supervision of rural transformation
- the efficient allocation and distribution of agricultural inputs, technical and extension support services.

3 A NEW CONSTITUTION AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

Our Vision: A plural, democratic society anchored on the principles of fairness, equality, transparency, social justice and respect for human rights

Our Plan

- restore the rule of law

A NEW BEGINNING. A NEW ZIMBABWE

- promote and protect citizens' basic rights and freedoms
- provide a constitutional guarantee for women's equal rights
- tackle corruption
- build an inclusive, plural and multi-party democracy

A 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:

- set up a constitutional, effective and independent **Anti-Corruption Commission**, composed of Zimbabweans of impeccable standing. The Commission will be provided with terms of reference that will ensure that 'no stone is left unturned' in the MDC's drive to root out, expose and eradicate all forms of corruption. An MDC government will ensure that this notorious barrier to our national development is permanently removed.
- restore the rule of law, personal security for all Zimbabweans, 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 by inter-alia repealing all repressive legislation
- ensure and promote the freedom of the press
- guarantee that the public media is accessible to all shades of political opinion.
- provide justice for all, including victims of past 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

4 THE SOCIAL AGENDA

Our Vision: Adequately resourced public services that cater for the needs and aspirations of all Zimbabweans and ensure that no one is left behind

Our Plan

- Combat HIV/AIDS
- provide basic standard of healthcare for all
- ensure all children are able to attend school
- provide training to boost the national skills base
- ensure the basic rights of the socially disadvantaged (in particular the disabled, the physically handicapped, orphans and the elderly) are adequately protected and that their needs are sufficiently catered for

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HIV/AIDS

The HIV/AIDS pandemic is wreaking havoc in our community. We are losing a generation of workers and producing a generation of orphans. The impact of the pandemic has been exacerbated by the collapse of our health system over the past five years.

The MDC is committed to reversing the tide of this pandemic and pursuing a national strategy to combat HIV/AIDS.

- More than 600,000 Zimbabweans have died from HIV/AIDS since 1998
- 2.3 million are now infected with the disease
- 2,500 are dying each week from HIV/AIDS
- There are now over 1 million AIDS orphans in Zimbabwe

An MDC government will:

- provide strong leadership on this issue across the political, public, private, traditional and community sectors
- declare HIV/AIDS a public development crisis
- mobilize national and international resources to ensure that those suffering from the disease receive adequate treatment and care
- establish a policy and regulatory framework for treatment, the provision and distribution of drugs
- establish a National Aids Trust whose core responsibilities will include the co-ordination and provision of support to 'Aids Orphans'.
- guarantee free access for all to anti-retroviral drugs for the prevention of mother-to-child transmission and post-exposure prophylaxis for health workers
- provide public information to support changes in perception, knowledge, attitudes and practices around AIDS, knowledge of prevention and treatment strategies, understanding of risk factors, such as sexually transmitted infections, and of co-infections, such as tuberculosis
- eliminate stigma and discrimination. This is particularly important in the case of women sufferers who often face discrimination in their own families, in the workplace and in society
- put in place laws and mechanisms to ensure that labour organizations actively enforce non-discrimination in the work-place and to penalize gender violence and sexual abuse in all forms, especially where it relates to deliberate HIV/AIDS transmission
- expand access to voluntary counseling and testing

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Health

Decent and adequate healthcare is a basic right. The MDC is committed to creating a health system that delivers and meets the people's basic needs.

We will:

- guarantee sufficient budgetary allocation to improve healthcare standards and ensure that resources are available for the procurement of adequate drugs and other essentials
- make rapid progress towards complying with the African Union, SADC and UN standards of allocating at least 15% of the national budget to health
- fulfill the state's obligation to provide sound health services, equally distributed and directed towards priority health concerns
- ensure affordable access to essential medicines
- improve palliative care services and ensure people can die with dignity
- improve conditions of service and remuneration of all health personnel and in the process encourage the return of expatriate health professionals

Labour

The MDC is the party of the workers. We will stand up for the workers of this country

An MDC government will:

- 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 Organisation 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.
- encourage the formation of public sector unions
- implement programmes aimed at promoting skills enhancement and encouraging entrepreneurship

Education

Quality education is a basic right. A good education is the key to a good future

An MDC government will:

- facilitate national development through education
- guarantee that no child is left behind by ensuring those who are disadvantaged are able to attend school
- ensure affordable, quality pre-school education for all children.
- provide free primary education for all

A NEW BEGINNING. A NEW ZIMBABWE

- ensure that girl children and women have equal access to education
- allocate significant subsidies for secondary and tertiary education
- respect freedom of choice and fully protect the rights of private schools to operate without hindrance and interference from the state

5 WOMEN AND YOUTH

Women

Our Vision: Women participating equally with men in all spheres of life

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.

An MDC government will:

- 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 social, economic and political rights in the constitution of Zimbabwe
- 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
- commit to achieving a minimum of 50% of all public sector positions being occupied by women.
- ensure that women's issues are mainstreamed across all development and public policy processes. **POLICIES THAT ARE NOT ENGENDERED ARE ENDANGERED**
- 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

Our Vision: Empowered youths possessed with skills and opportunities to realise their dreams and aspirations.

The youth are the cornerstone and future of Zimbabwe. In Zimbabwe today the youth constitute 40% of the population. The new Zimbabwe created by an MDC government will provide opportunities for the youth to realise their true potential and take up their role as leaders.

A NEW BEGINNING. A NEW ZIMBABWE

An MDC government will:

- promote the participation and involvement of youth in all national matters through a constitutionally guided framework
- build a supportive environment for the social, physical, cultural and economic development of youth in a manner that respects their input and that provides responsible authority
- 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 opportunities both for those youth about to enter the job market as well as those who are already seeking employment.
- provide increased resources and focus to youth programmes with regards to 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

Vote MDC for a new Zimbabwe and a new beginning.

Chinja Maitiro. Guqula Izenzo