



Real Change Times – Mzansi Edition

(A Monthly Publication of the MDC SA Information Department)
Issue 3—August 2012



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Take a Bow Hon. D Mwonzora and the MDC COPAC Team



Hon. Douglas Mwonzora

The MDC SA would like to salute the MDC COPAC team led by Hon. Douglas Mwonzora for their diligent work in producing a new constitution for the country.

We always knew and believed in the excellence of our representatives in COPAC but this time they have outdone themselves.

They were faced with violent disruptions of outreach meetings and inconsistent funding for the process. With shrills of criticism ringing in their ears they managed to stick to their guns (figuratively speaking of course).

The mafia, thugs and insecurecrats in ZANU PF have egg on their face now. Not that they particularly care but the people of Zimbabwe will remember when they enter the polling booth.

The MDC team in COPAC have placed a progressive document before the nation. They let ZANU fight over the scraps but made sure that the people of Zimbabwe got the meat.

Devolution, citizenship by birth and descent, an impeccable Bill of Rights, greater recognition of the rights of women, the disabled and children are just but some of the new provisions that boldly take Zimbabwe into a new era.

The conversation has shifted, we can see a light at the end of the tunnel. And its not an oncoming train.

MDC COPAC team, we recognise your sterling contribution. We thank you.

Secretary General Tendai Biti Clarifies Position on MDSCSA Status

The MDC Secretary General Hon. Tendai Biti has clarified the position on the status of External Assemblies since the release of the new Party Constitution which was amended at the 3rd National Congress held in Bulawayo in April 2011.

We quote his communication verbatim

"In addition the External Assembly which was provided for under Article 5.10.3 of the 2006 Constitution is now replaced by an External Coordinating Committee.

However, to the extent that office bearers in the current External Executive Committee were elected on the matrix

of External Assemblies there will be no changes or re-designations until the next Congress"

The new constitution has necessitated a change in name but no change in positions and most importantly allows us to focus on the task ahead to see a Zimbabwe that meets our aspirations .

Highlights of the Electoral Act Passed in Parliament

The Electoral Amendment Bill was passed in the Parliament of Zimbabwe goes a very long way in correcting some of the flaws associated with previous elections.

However, the law denies Zimbabweans in the diaspora the right to participate in the electoral process. Patrick Chinamasa enunciated some strange reasons for this denial in Parliament and we will not waste any more words in condemning the injustices associated with this man who is supposed to oversee justice in the country.

The law does provide some fundamental safeguards and checks and

balances in the electoral process.

Some of these are as follows:

- Police officers will no longer be stationed inside polling stations. They can only enter to cast their vote or if its necessary to restore order.
- Disabled and illiterate voters will be able to choose who they want to assist them in casting their votes instead of being forced to turn to presiding officers
- Electronic copies of voters rolls are available in analysable form i.e. it makes it easier to see that Zimbabwe has more centenarians on the roll than Britain
- Results of presidential elections are announced speedily
- Candidates who intend to stand for election on behalf of a political party must satisfy the nomination court that the Party wants them to represent it. The time for ZANU PF assisted candidates standing on behalf of other parties is over
- ZEC is required to disclose the details about ballot papers printed for each election.
- There is greater transparency in the counting, verification and collation of votes cast

MDC SA Engages in Mandela Day Community Service Events

The MDC SA participated in community service events as part of the 67 minutes global event to honour the 67 years Nelson Mandela spent serving others.

On the 18th of July members of the Party were at South Rand Hospital where they cleaned the gardens. Led by Kwanele Moyo the MDC Chairman they were profusely thanked by the Matron of the Hospital who encouraged them to continue participating in such events.

On the 22nd of July members of the Party were at Badiramogo Old Age Home in Oliven, Pretoria where they washed clothes, blankets, watered the vegetable garden and performed other general maintenance activities at the home.

Say a Prayer for Glen View 29

The 29 members of the MDC who are facing false charges of murdering a policemen are still in prison.

One of them Gapara Nyamadzawo is critically ill and had to be admitted to a private hospital.

The state was opposed to Nyamadzawo seeking treatment at a private hospital.

Only a callous, unfeeling and merciless prosecutor could have made such a submission in court. Is he his own man?

The innocent members who are well regarded members of society have been incarcerated for more than a year.

STOP the farce now and free them today!!!



Secretary for Labour and Social Welfare Janet Munakamwe and Women's Assembly Deputy Secretary General Mucharuza Chikandiwa attend to the washing at Badiramogo Old Age Home in Pretoria on the 22nd of July 2012

A Guide to the Constitutional Draft by Hon. Douglas Mwonzora MP

We have produced an abridged guide to the draft constitution that was written by Hon. Douglas Mwonzora. The full version is available at <http://www.mdc.co.zw>

Chapter 1: Founding Provisions

The constitution is above every person, organ, agency or institution of the State, provides that all security forces must be taught the basic values of the constitution as part of their training and sets the basic principles on which the country is founded including good governance, free and fair elections, and orderly transfer of power following elections

Chapter 2: National Objectives

Zimbabwe aspires to achieve good governance, national unity, peace and stability, good foreign policies, gender balance, food security, fair regional representation, rights of elderly persons, children, youths, women, war veterans and the workers.

Chapter 3: Citizenship

A person is a citizen by birth, descent or by registration. All citizens are equally entitled to the rights and obligation of citizenship. These include entitlement to state protection and identity documents like birth certificates, national registration documents and passports. Dual citizenship is automatically allowed for Zimbabwean citizens by birth

Chapter 4: Declaration of Rights

A very comprehensive bill of rights provides among others for the right to demonstrate and participate in collective job action which encompasses the right to strike.

Freedom of the media is recognised, so is the responsibility of the media to be impartial and not incite violence, advocate hatred and hate speech. A first are political rights which include the rights to peaceful, free and fair elections.

Chapter 5: Executive Authority

The President serves two terms of 5 years each and he or she will nominate 2 running mates during elections.

In the event of a President dying or leaving office then the 1st Vice President automatically takes over. The President is allowed to appoint an Attorney General who is his legal advisor. However, this Attorney General does not have prosecuting power.

Chapter 6: Legislature Authority

Parliament is made up of the Senate and the National Assembly. The election of 88 Senators will be by proportional representation using a party list and zebra system alternating men and women.

The National Assembly will have 210 seats with an addition of 60 women MPs elected by proportional representation.

Chapter 7: Elections

All elections or referendums must be peaceful, free and fair and must be free from violence and other electoral malpractices.

All matters dealing with elections ranging from voter registration & education up to the actual announcement of the results will be done by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. All elections are going to be harmonised and will be held in the last month of a Presidential term.

Chapter 8: The Judiciary and the Courts

The Constitutional Court becomes highest court of the land. The independence of the judiciary is enshrined in this constitution. The Judicial Service Commission will advertise judges posts for appointment and the candidates, including those nominated by the President will be subjected to public interviews before appointment

Chapters 9 & 10: Principles of Public Administration and the Civil Service

State-owned enterprises will abide by the principles of good corporate governance. Ambassadors will be appointed by the President while permanent secretaries are appointed by the President after consultation with the Civil Service Commission.

Chapter 11: Security Services

Security Services are under the authority of the constitution, the Parliament, the President and Cabinet. Members of the security services must not act in a partisan manner, they cannot further the interests of political parties nor prejudice the lawful interests of political parties. They are not allowed to violate fundamental human rights and freedoms of the Zimbabwean citizens.

Chapter 13: Institutions to Combat Corruption and Crime

Two bodies are provided for i.e. the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission and the National Prosecuting Authority. The Prosecutor General who heads the National Prosecuting Authority is appointed in the same way as a Supreme Court Judge is appointed.

Chapter 14: Provincial and Local Government

This chapter provides for devolution of power to the ten provinces. Each Province is run by a Provincial Council made up of all senators, National Assembly members as well as mayors and chairpersons of local authorities in that province with a further 10 people are elected by a system of proportional representation.

The jurisdiction of provincial councils is in the sphere of social and economic development of the province. The provincial council is headed by a Provincial Governor appointed by the President from a list of two names submitted by a party with the majority of seats in that province concerned.

Under the section dealing with local authorities, the removal of councillors and mayors can now only be done in terms of the constitution. The minister responsible for local government has no power to remove councillors and mayors anymore.

Chapter 15: Traditional Leaders

Traditional leaders are not allowed to be members of political parties or to participate in partisan politics. They are neither allowed to further interests of political parties nor to violate fundamental human rights.

Chapter 16: Agricultural Land

Land redistribution must be fair and equitable, having regard to gender balance and community interests. Every citizen is given a right to acquire hold, occupy, transfer, hypothecate, lease or dispose of agricultural land regardless of his or her colour.

This chapter guarantees security of tenure to persons lawfully occupying land. A Land Commission will ensure periodic land audits and help enforce the principle of one person, one farm as well as the appropriate compensation to be paid in respect of agricultural land.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Editor

Where can I get a copy of the new constitution?

Tarisai

Dear Tarisai

The final draft constitution is available on the following links

- On the MDC website

<http://www.mdc.co.zw>

- On the MDC SA website

<http://mdctsa.wordpress.com/2012/07/20/final-consolidated-draft-constitution-18-july-2012/>

Quick facts

- The ownership of Anjinis as follows: Zimbabwe Defence Industries (ZDI) owns 40 %, ZMDC owns 10 % and Chinese Defence Industries owns 50% .

(51% requirement anyone?)

- In 2012 Diamond production has increased from 2,5 million to 4,5 million carats
- Mbada Diamonds paid US\$2 million as PAYE whilst Anjin paid just US\$200,000
- The Government has received USD41 million instead of USD285 million from the diamond companies
- From January to June 2012 total mineral exports were valued at USD1,16 billion. Platinum contributed USD379 m (32%), diamonds USD364m (31%) and gold US\$269m (23%)

Survey of the Month

Jonathan Moyo says ZANU PF spent 18 hours going through the constitution.

What do you think?

We asked our readers to respond to the our *Survey of the Month* question. Below are some of their responses :

1. Who in that abominable party would survive 3 hours doing any continuous activity? *Tsano, Pretoria*
2. 18 hours? Coming from a man who wears a size 19 hat you can be sure that they spent 18 minutes.
3. I suppose Robert Mugabe was sleeping for 17 hours 45 minutes of that time. *Winana, Maitland*
4. Ha! Ndazoona kuti mapiriti anosevenza manje. *Rodrick, Witbank*
5. He was told by the army to say that!! *Terence, Seshego*
6. One wonders how long was spent planning to bomb the Daily News?. *Machewe, Avondale*
7. There were promised free diamonds at the end of the meeting. *Pamela, Mafikeng*

The new Constitution is the foundation of a new Zimbabwe?

Register to Vote !!!

and

Vote YES! YES! YES!