

A citizen reporting platform for Chitungwiza, Zimbabwe

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Zim's future lies in peaceful election participation

By Kudakwashe Munemo

Chitungwiza -An election is a formal decision-making process by which the general populace select individuals to hold public office. Thus representative democracy gives the elected people the authority to make decisions on behalf of the populace. As such, it is of paramount importance that citizens participate in elections as they directly and indirectly affect their lives.

Elections give citizens the opportunity to appoint, remove or re-appoint the leadership, mainly by voting. Everyone has a fundamental entitlement to a voice in choosing people who will represent them, hence the need to exercise the right and make informed choices. This can be at local, regional or even national level.

However participating in the elections involves much more than just voting. It also entails registering as a voter, candidate and campaigning as well. Nothing can stop one to be a councillor, legislator, and even a president, all of whom are involved in the formulation and implementation of government policies.

As such free and fair elections represent citizens with peaceful opportunities to choose their leadership and be leaders as well.

You do not have to be caught on the wrong side of always attacking whoever is elected when you are not even a member of the electorate. It does not need one to be rich, have a business or to be educated in order to participate in an election.

All it needs is to have a national identity card. If you are eighteen years and above, find time to visit the registrar general's offices together with your national identity card, proof of residence and be a registered voter!

They are no special people chosen to participate in elections. It is everyone's right as it concerns everyone. People have the power to build or destroy.

Being ignorant to elections is negatively utilizing your strength to destroy whereas taking a desirable decision to participate enhances the socio-economic and political development of our beloved motherland, Zimbabwe.



A woman proving that she has exercised her right to vote.

MDC-T launches YES vote in Chitungwiza

By citizen reporter



MDC-T officials and a supporter during the launch of the YES vote in Chitungwiza

Unit D, Seke - The Movement for Democratic Change –Tsvangirai, on Sunday 24 February launched the YES vote campaign for the COPAC draft constitution at Chitungwiza Tennis Court near the Town Centre in Unit D.

The MDC-T entered into the government of national unity with ZANU PF and the smaller faction of the MDC in February 2009 after the signing of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in September 2008. The GPA is a transitional document that was agreed upon by the country's political parties with the help of the SADC appointed mediator, former South African president, Mr Thabo Mbeki.

The launch was attended by the MDC-T leadership which include secretary general and finance minister, Honourable Tendai Biti, organising secretary and minister of information communication technology, Honourable Nelson Chamisa and the MDC-T national youth chairperson Mr Solomon Madzore. The launch meant to encourage and urge the MDC –T supporters to vote YES for the current draft constitution.

“We are launching the YES vote for the draft constitution. As a party, the draft constitution is our baby and we are popularizing it among the people and we expect them to vote YES as this came from them”, said Madzore.

He encouraged the people of Chitungwiza to participate in the referendum and the impending elections as it is their right to freely elect their leadership.

“We are encouraging first time voters to participate and we call upon the state the stop all forms of violence against the people of Zimbabwe so that they can freely exercise their rights” said Madzore.

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions was also represented and they urged their members to vote yes for the draft constitution come referendum time.

The organizing secretary Honourable Nelson Chamisa launched the slogan for the yes vote campaign. Their slogan reads, “New constitution, New Zimbabwe, My vote is YES”. He accused ZANU PF of perpetrating violence against the people of Zimbabwe. “The challenge to ZANU PF is please stop preaching peace but practicing violence. MDC is a victim of ZANU PF violence”, said Chamisa.

The MDC –T secretary general, Honourable Tendai Biti urged the people of Chitungwiza to vote YES because the draft protects the fundamental human rights and freedoms of all Zimbabweans. He said the draft constitution protects the basic fundamental rights like right to primary education, citizenship by birth, health, freedom of expression, association, communication and the right of workers to strike among others.

Schedule of COPAC campaign meetings in Chitungwiza

Date	Time	Venue
02/03/13	9 00 –13 hours	Chitungwiza Aquatic Com-
02/03/13	14 00—17 00 hours	Unit L Community Hall

Manyame Park runs dry

By Phillimon Jambaya



Manyame Park residents fetching water from unsafe sources recently

Manyame Park - A health crisis is looming in Manyame Park as the suburb has gone for day’s without water. The residents say there is a high chance of a disease outbreak as they are being denied access to clean water with no explanations as to what is really happening.

“They should notices to advice about the water disconnections”, said David Nyahodza.

Others lamented the long hours that they are now spending on water queues at boreholes and wells.

“We are wasting a lot of time in water queues, to be frank with you I am not happy with the situation”, said Raymond Dambakurima.

The continued outbreak of water borne diseases such as typhoid, cholera and dysentery has continued to expose the Chitungwiza city council’s failure to provide clean water to residents. Manyame Park residents have accused the city fathers of failing to give priority to their basic right.

Efforts to get a comment from Chitungwiza Municipality authorities were fruitless.



Residents waiting for turn to fetch water at a Church owned borehole in Zengeza 1.

200 Peer educators graduate at YASC

By Mutakiwa

Unit L, Seke - Two hundred students graduated at Young Africa Skills Centre (YASC), Chitungwiza after the successful completion of a peer educator’s training course. 100 students were drawn from ten private colleges in Chitungwiza and the other 100 were drawn from private colleges and sports clubs in Epworth.

The trained peer educators are expected to implement various programs in their communities as they raise awareness on HIV/AIDS issues, unwanted pregnancies, STIs and sexual and reproductive health rights. The students received certificates and starter up kits.

Director of Young Africa in Zimbabwe, Mrs Ennet Mukurazita urged the graduates to use their skills to confront the challenges faced by their communities. “I urge you to implement your programs and participate in efforts to combat HIV/AIDS in your communities and the country at large,” said Mrs Mukurazita.

Mrs Rhoda Chivandire from the National Aids Council urged young people to be more organized and participate in Provincial Aids Committees (PAC), District Aids Action Committee (DACC) and also prioritize their education. “Education first and marriage later,” said Mrs Chivandire.

Each college presented their action plan and the projected time frame. The plans presented included debates, clean up campaigns and information dissemination. Young Africa is a Non-Governmental Organization which helps young people between the ages of 16 – 25 years old.

“We provide hands on skills to young people so that they can live purposeful lives,” said Mr Kwaramba, Young Africa in Zimbabwe, Administrator.

Some of the colleges which took part in the program included Transparency, Ezekiel Guti, Beverly Hills, Key College, Hillworks and Manyame from Chitungwiza, Epworth Methodist Academy, Eagles Sports Club, Sporting Tigers and Domboromwari High School coming from Epworth.



Representatives of Transparency college receive their certificates and start up kits during the graduation ceremony



Supervisors of the YASC Peer Education Network pose for group photograph

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Matibiri shines at schools completion

By citizen reporter



Emaculate Matibiri flanked by her teachers Miss Kodzwa and Mr Muringani at Seke 6

Unit K, Seke - Marathon runner, Emaculate Matibiri dominated in the long distances scooping top prize in the 3000m, 1500m and 800m events Under 18 girls’ category at the zone competitions for secondary schools in Seke that were held on the 22nd of February at Seke 6 High.

The 17 year old who is a form student at Seke 1 High said she only trained for a week before the competitions and she could have given other competitors a torrid time had she trained for a longer period.

“I only trained for a week, if I had trained much longer I could have given them a good run,” said Matibiri.

Matibiri also said that her dream is to become one of the country’s top female runners as she plans to take part in national competitions this year.

“I was using this event as training for national competitions, I was scheduled to take part in a marathon at the Town Centre tomorrow the 23rd but I heard the event has been postponed,” said Matibiri.

The rising star said she is facing sponsorship challenges as she is not attached to any club at the moment and called on well-wishers to come on board as she is in urgent need of a professional kit and better training facilities.

“I need a proper kit for competitions and better training facilities so if there is anyone who can help me achieve my dream I will greatly appreciate,” said Matibiri.

Miss Precious Kodzwa a teacher at Seke 1 High said Matibiri’s future is very bright as she proved to be an exceptional athlete as she came and challenged for the 400m to prove her worth which she did with ease.

“She came after we had held inter-house competitions and she challenged the 400m winners and they were beaten by a distance of nearly 100m,” said Miss Kodzwa.

Although her school did not take top spot at the competitions, she was the best runner on the day which had good runners who included Tinashe Jonifani of Seke 5 High and Clinton Mufambi from Seke 2 High who gave a good run in the 400m boys under 18years and under 20years respectively.

Seke 3 High came out the winners with Seke 4 High and Seke 2 High on second and third respectively.

“Our attitudes control our lives. Attitudes are a secret power working twenty-four hours a day, for good or bad. It is of paramount importance that we know how to harness and control this great force”. ~ Tom Blandi

Soccer academy looking for sponsorship

By Mutakiwa

Zengeza 1, – Teachers Soccer Academy in Chitungwiza is appealing for sponsorship from well-wishers’ locally and abroad to help them achieve their objectives. The academy teaches soccer to young boys between the ages of 11-19 years old.

“We are appealing for sponsorship in form cash in cash or kind. This might be in the form of balls, uniforms, transport, medical and referees’ fees”, said Charles Fungai Chogugudza, owner and coach of Teachers Academy.

“We also want to have women’s teams but the financial difficulties are crippling us” said Chogugudza.

Teachers Academy was formed as formed in 2001 and joined the Chitungwiza Province junior league where they play in the under 11, 13, 15, 17, 19 and the Division 2 ZIFA league.

“During the economic crisis, we pulled out of Division 2 and continued playing in the St Mary’s –Zengeza Area Zone”, said Chogugudza.

The academy is now playing in Divison 2A, Harare Province after they purchased the franchise of Aces Soccer Academy that had bought a Division 1 franchise.

The season was tuff for them as there were in the relegation zone throughout the whole season but managed to escape relegation on the last day of the season.

They also play in Zengeza Area Zone soccer league in the juniors and senior team.



Teachers Academy owner and coach Mr Charles Fungai Chogugudza.



Schools athletics competition at Seke 6 high school.