

DEMOCRACY & COMMUNITY HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH



A publication of the Zimbabwe Organisation for the Youths In Politics - Z.O.Y.P
DECEMBER 2012

For all your views and comments, please contact us on: Email: zoyporg@gmail.com or Phone 0775 037 579 EDITION 4

THE BLINDING TIDE OF ELECTIONS ... Key reforms remain unimplemented



In the picture is Z.O.Y.P Programs Manager, Jasper Maposa leading a discussion in Gokwe. It was clear from the participants that lack of information on key national issues and developments lead to massive civic disengagement.

The election talk has swelled to the extend of overshadowing all other important political aspects of national importance like the constitution making process and a wide array of reforms as espoused in the Global Political Agreement.

The tide of elections is fast rising with each and every passing hour in Zimbabwe with regional and international community growing more interested in the turn of events.

It is inevitable and fitting that Zimbabwe should finally go for polls especially with the collapse of the Global Political Agreement. The GPA facilitated the consummation of the government of national unity under a tripartite arrangement. It is flatly discernible that the country is in an election mode both at intra and inter-party levels.

The election talk has swelled to the extend of overshadowing all other important political aspects of national importance like the constitution making process and a wide array of reforms as espoused in the Global Political Agreement.

This drives me to the critical aspect of this piece.

Let us not forget so fast what led to the coalition government we are in currently.

There are various reasons though largely tied to electoral contestations of the presidential election of 2008. The election was marked by disturbing delays in announcement of the election result hence fuelling political violence of shocking magnitudes. Many people lost their lives, some were maimed, some fled the country and some lost their properties in the electoral madness pitting MDC-T's Tsvangirai's and President R.G Mugabe representing ZANU-PF. These two were the centre of the contest although there were others in the presidential aspirants.

It cannot be disputed that the GNU has done the best it could under very tough circumstances but it is also factual that it can no longer continue beyond 2013 as the country risk reversing the gains that accrued this far.

Of importance to recognize and address are the electoral challenges of the past elections which in a way pulled the country into chaos and disorder.

Some of the reforms that Zimbabwean should make sure are implemented before we go for polls are as follows:

Constitutional reform- The completion of a new constitution

Media reforms- especially the public media which should carry its mandate free from political pressure. The public media has been subverted into a political party mouthpiece while riding on hate speech and hate language.

Security sector re-alignment- The politicization of the security forces has played a key role in the electoral processes hence the need to make sure that the security forces remain a credible and reliable national force serving the interests of the public.

Electoral reforms

Legitimization of the Zimbabwe Election Commission into a fully independent electoral body.

Legislative reforms- the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) have been effectively used to disadvantage oppo-

sition party supporters.

There should be clear election management procedures to mitigate issues of electoral fraud- Local and external observers should be able to do their work freely.

This will somehow assist in leveling the electoral field and pave way for a 'transparent' election in which the vote and the voter remain safe and free from political manipulation. Electoral disagreements have been key to post election violence.

Zimbabweans should not be rushed to an election whose outcome would not bear any semblance of legitimacy while jeopardizing their lives. Recently reports in a local press indicates that some terror bases in Mberengwa have resurfaced as the election talk gathers momentum. The constitution should be completed to allow the election to be held in an environment that is regulated. There is need to transfer voter registration exercise from the Registrar General's Office to the Zimbabwe Election Commission where it falls under. All election related election issues should fall under the rightful commission to avoid the glaring voter's roll errors currently existing.

Elections are surely coming. There are no two ways about it. Political parties have exchanged words and the stage has been set but like we all know, when elephants fight, it is the grass that suffers most.

The space for civic engagement

Mhepo yesarudzo yovhuvhuta

...zvibvumirano zvokandiwa kumumara

Zviri kutaridza pachena kuti Zimbabwe yatarisana nesarudzo mugore rino ra2013 apo ruzhinji kusanganisira dzimwe nyika dzakatikomberedza dzichitaridza chidokwa-dokwa nesarudzo idzi.

IChokwadi zvinofanira kuti sarudzo dziitwe kunyanya takarisana nokuti chibvumirano chehurumende yemubatanidzwa chava kusvika pamagumo. Chibvumirano ichi, chinonzi icho Global Political Agreement (GPA) chakabudirira zvichiburikidza nekunzwisisana pakati pamapato enzematongerwo enyika matatu anoti MDC inotungamirwa navaTsvangirai, ZANU-PF inotungamirwa naPresident Mugabe uye MDC yaitungamirwa navaMutambara.

Zviri pachena kuti mapato ezvematongerwo enyika ari kumhanya-mhanya kugadzirira zvesarudzo idzi zvokuti mamwe mafambiro ehurumende nehurongwa zvanga zvaisiri kupiwa

nguva yakakwana. Zvirongwa zvakaite seizvi zvinosanganisira bumbiro idzva remutemo iro rakasarira chose kumashure.

Zvakakoshawo kuti tisakanganwe chazuro nehope tomhanyirana nesarudzo pasina hwaro hwakajeka. Hurumende yatiri mairi nhasi yakauya mushure mekupokana kukuru pasarudzo

“Zviri pachena kuti mapato ezvematongerwo enyika ari kumhanya-mhanya kugadzirira zvesarudzo idzi zvokuti mamwe mafambiro ehurumende nehurongwa zvanga zvaisiri kupiwa nguva yakakwana”

. Vanhu vazhinji vakarasikirwa nehupenyu hwavo, zvivakwa uye vamwe vakatotiza munyika apo vaMugabe navaTsvangirai vakanga vava kuda kupinda mune dzimwe sarudzo mushure mekunge pashaikwa ainge awana mavhoti anokodzera kuita mutungamiriri wenyika.

Hurumende yemubatanidzwa yakaedza nepainogona napo kuunza kugadzikana kwezvinhu kunyanya hupfumi hwenyika. Asi zvakaaro, kuti ienderere mberi ichitonga yakadaro zvingaunza kudzorera kumashure zvose zvainge zvagonekanwa.

Zvakakosha kuti maitirwo esarudzo muZimbabwe agadziriswe kuitira kuti nyika isanyura mumatope akafanana neesarudzo dzemakore apfuura. Zvimwe zvezvinhu zvinoda kugadziriswa tisati tapinda musarudzo ndezvinoti:

Kuvandudzwa kwebumbiro idzva remutemo

“Sarudzo dziri kuuya zvisina kupokana asi zvakakosha kuziva kuti panorwa nzou uswa ndihwo hunotsokodzerwa”.

Kuvandudzwa kwekufambiswa kwamashoko - kuitira kuti kunyombana panhepfenyuro uye mapepa nhau zvisawanikwa sezvo zvichikonzera mhirizhonga. Nhepfenyuro nemapepa nhau eruzhinji haafaniriwi kuita seanoshandira bato rematongerwo enyika.

Mauto nemapurisa vanofanirwa kushandira nyika pasina kusarura vanhu zvichibva nokuti ndevebato ripi rezvematongerwo enyika.

Zimbabwe Election Commission inofanirwa kuzviitira basa rayo pasina kuita zvido zvakato rimwe chete. Vanoshandako vanofanira kunge vasina bato rematongerwo enyika ravanomirira.

Pane mitemo inoda kutasanudzwa kuitira kuti sarudzo dziitwe murunyararo uye zvakaajeka. Imwe yemitemo iyi inosanganisira The Public Order and Security Act (POSA), Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) neimwe yakadaro.

Vaongorori vesarudzo vanofanirwa kupiwa mukana kuitira kuti kana pane zvibingamupinyi vanobatsira kuti zvizivikanwe. Vaongorori ava vanosanganisira vekune dzimwe nyika uye vemabato emubatanidzwa yenyika. Vanhu ava vanofanira kupiwa mukana wakajeka wokuita basa ravo.

Zvinhu zvataurwa pamusoro apo zvinobatsira kuti kupokana uye mhirizhonga zviite zvisoma.

Ruzhinji harufanirwe kumhanyiswa kupinda musarudzo dzisina kujeka sezvo zvine njodzi huru. Ongororo yatakaita inotaridza kuti pane vechiuto vakatopinda munzvimbo yeMberengwa izvo zvadzoka zvotyisa veruzhinji mudunhu iri.

Bumbiro remitemo rinofanirwa kupedzwa kuti sarudzo dziitwe pane mitemo inosungira vanhu kuitevedza . Vanhu vanofanirwa kunyoresa kuvhota neveZEC kwete kwaRegistrar sezvo zvichiunza kunyunyuta kukuru kumapato mamwe.

Sarudzo dziri kuuya zvisina kupokana asi zvakakosha kuziva kuti panorwa nzou uswa ndiho hunotsokodzerwa.

Zvirongwa zvebudiriro hazvidi rusarura

Zvinofadza chose kuti vamwe vatungamiriri venyika vari kunzwisisa kukosha kwekushanda pamwechete neruzhinji rwenyika kunyanya pazvirongwa zvine chokuita nebudiriro yenyika.

Mumiriri weparemende KuMberengwa vaMakosini Hlongwane vebato reZANU-PF vakataridza kukura mune zvmatongerwo enyika apo vakaunza chirongwa chekuti veruzhinji vari mudunhu ravo vakwanise kushanda pawechete neMoonlight Funeral Assurance mukuviga vanenge vashaya. Chirongwa ichi chakunzwa

vavaMakosini mushure mekunge vaona nyatwa yeruzhinji mumaruwa apo vanopedzisira vavigwa nematanda uye gumbeze.

Zvirongwa zvebudiriro muZimbabwe zvinounza bongozozo sezvo vatungamiriri vanozvishandisa kuwana rutsigiro kubato ravo nerimwe divi vachishungurudza vasiri vebato ravo.

KuZhombe veruzhinji vakataridza kunyunyuta nechirongwa chekupihwa kwezvokudya nehurumende sezvo zvakaanga zvava kutorwa kunge zvebato rimwechete vamwe vanhu vachiregwa vachishungudzwa nenzara. Vamwe vameriri veruzhinji munzvimbo

yeZhombe vanoti vakazopa chichemo chavo kumapurisa eKwekwe.

Vatungamiriri vevanhu vanofanirwa kuziva kuti vanomirira vanhu vose kwete bato rimwechete kunyangwe vane bato ravo ravanomirira.

Umwe mutungamiriri webato reZANU ari kuMberengwa kwakare akatsiura vamwe vake pagungano rekupa vanhu horo (nzvimbo inounganira veruzhinji) yeBonda achiti hazvina kunaka kutukana pachirongwa chakadaro sezvo chisiri chebato rimwechete asi chevanhu vose vemudunhu iri. Shiricheni akati iye kusarurana kunodzorerwa budiriro yevanhu kumashure uye vatungamiriri vasotora mukana yose yose kunyombana.

Mikana yevechidiki muna2013

Bato reZANU-PF rakabuda pachena kuti vechidiki vanoda kukwikwidza musarudzo vabude pachena uye kuti

vaizopihwa mikana kumiririra bato ravo pasarudzo. Idanho guru iri mukugadzirisa matambudziko anotarisiwa nawo kana nyika ichida hutongi hwakasimba kunyanya-nyanya pachibva vanenge vambotonga kwenguva yakareba.

Pasi rose zvirikutaridza kuti nguva yakwana yokuti vechidiki vachiwana mukana wokutonga vachibatsira kusimudzira nyika nemazano avo anoindirana nenguva sezvo hupenyu huri kusanduka zvikuru nenguva pfupi. Mapato ezvematongerwo enyika muZimbabwe ataridza kufambirana neguva kana tichitarisana mazera avanhu vari kumhanyidzana nekuzvishambadza maererano nesarudzo dzatakatarisana nadzo. Kungava kukonewa kukuru kuti hurumende inge isina vechidiki sezvo vari ivo vane pfungwa dzakaronza kana tichitarisa kusimudzira nyika.

Z.O.Y.P inofadzwa nemafambiro ezvinhu akadai uye inokurudzira mapato kuti arambe akashinga mukushanda nevechidiki kusanganisira nevasikana uyewo madzimai. Kungava kutanga kumedza kutsenga kuchada kana tikaburitsa mazita aya sezvo mapato achiri mubishi kunyora vanozokwikwidza musarudzo dzemubato vasati vatarisana nevemwamwe mapato. Tinorumbidza budiriro iyi nokuti inosimudzira nyika. Vechidiki vakatarisana nezvimhingamupinyu zvakaawanda chose zvinoda kuti vapinde muhurumende vazokwanisa kuunza mazano anobatsira. Kana tikatarisa, vechidiki ndivo vakamomoterwa neHIV/AIDS kudarika mamwe mazera. Mabasa ari kunetsa kuwana zvinozoita kuti vechidiki varare zvisina tsarukano. Pane rujeke mberi kwatiri kuenda kana vechidiki vakawana mikana yekupinda muutongi hwenyika muna2013



Ukukhuluma ngokhetho kunge la sivumelano esiqini leyo ku GPA.

The talk of elections without fulfillment of GPA reforms -

Udumo lokhetho luya lukhula ngo kwamalanga amazwe emhlabeni jikelele akhangelale ngezehlakalo zendaba zokhetho.

Ukhethe ngeke lubalekelwe ngemva kokubhidlika kweGlobal Political Agreement (GPA) eyiyo yalungisa ukubambana kukahulumende.

Kusobala ukuba ilizwe lisesimeni olufunele lokhetho nkulumo zokhetho soluvimba ezinye inkulumo

eziqakathekileyo ezinjenge constitution, masikhohlwa ukuletha uhulumende



Leaders of political parties are gearing up for elections

wokumangana esikuwo khathesi .Kulezizatho ezinengi ikakhulu eziphathelene

lokhethe luka 2008 olwalulobudlwangudlwangu ngenxa yokuphuza ukuveza

impumelo yalolukhetho .Abantu abanengi balahlekelwa zimpilo zabo ,abanye balimala abanye

babalekela kwamanye amazwe,,abanye balahlekelwa zimpahla zabo ngokulwisana okwakuphakathi kwe MDC -T le ZANU-PF.

Ngeke kuphikiswe ukuthi uhulumende womungano wenze okuhle okusemandleni ayo,kodwa njalo kuliqiniso ukuthi lowo hulumente ngeke aqhubekile phambili 2 kuka 2013 ngoba kungenza ilizwe lilahlekelwe ngokuhle okubesokukhona.

Kuqakathekile ukuba kulungiswe ezinye izimpambeko ukubana ukhetho luphumelele .Ezinye iziqondiso zingaba lezi:

- u k u l u n g i s w a kweconstitution entsha .

- i z i q o n d i s o zamaphephandaba .

-lamawayilesi omphakathi kumele azimele wodwa.

-ukulungiswa kwezokuvikela kumele kube leziqondiso ezigabeni zamapholisa lamasotsha ngoba b e q a k a t h e k i l e kwezombusazwe.

- k w a b a k h a n g e l a ngezokhetho .

-ukwenza iZimbabwe Election Commission ibe liqembu elizimele lodwa.

-ukulungiswa kwezomthetho -umthetho wePOSA le AIPPA alilungelanga amaqembu aphikisayo.

-iziqondiso lezi ziza phikisana ekulungiseni indlela yokhetho oluqinisekileyo lolungela buqili.

-abantu belizwe lase Zimbabwe bephangelwe okhethweni olungela siqiniseko lokwethembeka.

-amanye amaphephandaba aveza ukuba kwezinye izindawo e Mberengwa udli useqalile evuswa ngenkulumo zokhetho.

-kulesidingo sokukhipha i voter registration registrar general office ye eZimbabwe election (ZEC)office lapho efanele ukuba khona .Lakanye ukhetho luyeza ,amaqembu ombusazwe ajikelana amazwi noma kunjalo nxa kusilwa indlovu utshani yibo oluhluphekayo.

Ukuthuthuka akumelanga kube ngokwamabandla ezombusazwe

Ukwehlukwana phakathi kwamabandla ezombusazwe sokubisele emuva intuthuko elizweni njalo sekumele kusetshenzwe ukuze silwisane lalokhu u kungezwani.

Kuyajabulisa ukuthi abanye abakhokheli sebenelise ukuqhubekisela phambili imisebenzi yabo yokuphumelelisa ilizwe benga hlanganisi lokwamabandla abo awezombusazwe.

Omune walabo ngu meli we phalamende we Mberengwa West u Makosini Hlongwane (ZANU-PF) osesungule ifuneral policy plan yabantu besigaba sakhe.

Amaprograms anjalo asebanenge udlakela kwezinye indawo lapho abantu abasuka bekhombane ngeminwe abanye bevalelwa phandle ngoba bengayisibo be bandla elithile.EZhombe kubikwa umumbu uphiwa kukhangelwa

ukuthi ungowebandla liphile zombusazwe lokuthi ulalo yini ikhadi lalelo bandla eliyabe liholisa.Kwaba lokumangalelana emapholiseni eKwekwe ngemva kokuba abantu bevuse umsindo ubangwa lalowo mumbu.Abakhokheli ikakhulu ama councilors ,abameli bephalamende ,amagorvenors labo bonke abakuhulumende kumele bananzelele ukuthi kumele basebenzele ilizwe loba belamabandla abo

ezombusazwe.

UNKosikazi Shirichena umeli we phalamende e Mberengwa usole kakhulu abanye be bandla lakhe ngo kukhangelela phansi amanye amabandla ezombusazwe mhla kuvulwa iBonda Community Hall.Ubatshela ukuthi ukuyeyisana ngamabandla ezombusazwe kubisele phansi intuthuko yelizwe njalo kumele bebewazi ukuthi i hall le yakhelwe umuntu wonke

ukhetho luka 2013 :ithuba lokuba abatsha babuse.

Kuyancomeka ukuthi amaqembu ezombusazwe bathakazelela ubuhle bokubusa kwabatsha esizweni .Iqembu le ZANU PF selibekwe kwabasobala ukuthi lizimisele ukuvula umkhandla wokuba ontanga bathole izihlalo zokubusa kukhetho oluzayo.

Ngalokhu umbhalo ka Charles Darwin wokuthi abantu kumele bathakazelele ukuguquka kwezinto .Amaqembu ombusazwe awe Zimbabwe asebekile ukuthi bafuna

ukuphathisana labatsha ekubuseni kwelizwe.Kuyinto engabukeyo ukuba abatsha bakhohlakale endabeni zombusazwe ngoba baqakathekile kungqubela phambili yesizwe.

Iqembu labatsha le ZOYP selibone ngokukhulu ukuthaba kokuthi abatsha bayazilungiselela ngokuzimisela ukuthatha izihlalo zokubusa lokhu kuzaqinisa indima edlalwa ngabatsha ekuphumeliseni kwesizwe .Inengi labatsha

lihlaselwe ligciwanwe lencelaze lokuswela umsebenzi okuyinto okumelwe ikhangelwe njalo iguqulwe ngemithetho efakwayo.Nxa abatsha bengahlala ezihlalweni zokubusa isimo sabo singaguqukela ebuhleni .

Iminyaka emithathu yokulwela iconstitution 3 years of constitutional struggle .imizamo yokuphuma leconstitution entsha avela kuzulu iphanjaniswa ngamaqembu

ombusazwe .Ngaphandle kokunyonyoba ekulotshweni kwaleyo constitution ekhangelelwe ukuba ikhokhelele ukhetho ,kubukeka ingani izakhamizi zemabaphandleni kaziqedisizi izinto lezehlakalo zombusazwe .Ukubusa okuqondileyo okukazibuse kudingeka ukuthi uzulu abelolwazi aphaheke ezindabeni zokubusa.

Lokhu kubizwa ngokuthiwa yikuzibusa .Iqembu le ZOYP ladingisisa ezigabeni ze Gokwe le Mberengwa yathola ukubona abantu kulezozigaba abalalwazi ngokwenziwa kweconstitution .Imizamo eyenziwa ngamaqembu ombusazwe ekuqaliseni wokunika abantu ulwazi kwakumele iqhubekwe kuze kube sekucinini .Kuqakathekile ukuba ngalesi isikhathi uzulu aphaheke ezindabeni zereferendum .Omune umama we Gokwe akalalwazi ngendaba zekhonstitushushini .Abanye babesithi iconstitution isiphumelele njalo abanye betshengisa ukuthi abalalwazi ,izindleko azifakwe ekubunjweni kweconstitution zenza kudingakale ukuthi..

The long walk to a new constitution

Attempts, if ever they are there, to have a new 'homegrown' constitution seem to be persistently facing frustrations from political parties.

Apart from the disturbing delays in the writing of a new constitution which is envisaged to propel the country to general elections, it appears that rural communities are far from comprehending the political developments which are part and parcel of the constitution making process. Functional democracy would require their informed participation of citizens in their governance.

This would be aptly called self rule

Z.O.Y.P moved in most parts of Gokwe and Mberengwa and sadly noted that people there had a weak and in some cases no appreciation of the constitutional making process. How then can such people meaningfully contribute to their own governance?

The spirited efforts made by political parties at the incipient stages of the constitutional making process in engaging the electorate in the outreach phase where information was been gathered should have survived throughout the process. In fact, it is more critical at this stage to engage citizens on the process as the country is hopefully going to the referendum One woman in Gokwe Kabuyuni highlighted that she once had that Zimbabwe would try to start the process of coming up with a new constitution but indicated that she was not aware when that process would begin. She last heard of the constitution at the outreach phase and thought that maybe it had been set aside. Some shockingly revealed that Zimbabwe had already adopted a

new constitution ...CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

2013 Elections: A platform for youths leadership

It is commendable that finally political parties are embracing the productive reality that this country hunger for youth leadership.

ZANU-PF has made it clear that it would open the space to youths who aspire to take leadership positions in the forthcoming elections. This is huge step towards eradicating excesses of leadership vacuum. The world is indisputably growing more youthful as some analysts have posited and accepting the inevitable is vital for human development. Charles Darwin's theory of evolution would explicitly express the urgent need for us to adapt to change rather than resist change.

Zimbabwean political parties are no vain examples of political parties that have deliberately

moved towards infusing their structures with youths' leadership. It would be a misnomer to have leadership structures that negates the critical role that the youths play in nation building and developmental processes.

Z.O.Y.P has noted with great delight that the young people are gearing up for leadership positions. It is however, premature to give names of some of the young people who have declared their interests to participate since political parties have not declared primary elections and candidates. This stance will go a long way in bolstering the role of youths in national development. It is not likely that youths sensitive policies would be made by legislators who are not youthful. The youths



Z.O.Y.P Director, Nkosilathi Emmanuel Moyo, talking to a community in Zhombe recently updating them about the constitution making process and election related matters.



Women play a critical role in good governance.



Young women reading material from Z.O.Y.P. This is a great step towards increased representation of young women in politics

Dear Z.O.Y.P

I must thank Z.O.Y.P for their sterling efforts in engaging us through this newsletter.

The newsletter has grown to be a reliable platform for democratic engagement as we come to appreciate political developments in the country. I stay in Gokwe Nemangwe area and we do not know of any newspaper that comes in our area. We therefore, depend on this newsletter for balanced coverage of issues.

I was much delighted with an article that appeared in your third volume in which you indicated the need for the youths to realise that they are leaders of today and not tomorrow. We have been lied to since time immemorial by our opinion leaders that we are leaders of tomorrow and this is the reason why some of us are very passive when it comes to political participation. We will be deluded into thinking that our turn would announce itself in old age but alas it will be a case of lost opportunities.

It is sad to note that people give the youth of this country very harsh and harmful label: apathetic, lazy, and selfish and not too bright. Youngsters must read and the only struggle they understand is when the jam jar refuses to open.

To the youths I say politics is not committing a crime as some people have made us believe. It is our democratic right to do so and we should not beg for this space as it is there and is ours.

Perhaps many young people are deterred into politics because they fear being ignored or being marginalized therefore urge fellow youths to understand that realising that our voices are important does not require recognition from others but ourselves. We must realise that being young just indicates that we had not lived many years on earth but that does not mean we have to be followers, always looking for solutions and answers from the elders but we should provide the solutions to questions of the day.

I look forward to a day when youth voice is finally taken heed of, I look forward to the day the youth take themselves seriously.

Lets take leadership positions, let's overwhelmingly turn out for the constitutional referendum.

Nyasha Mbune

Gokwe

Nemangwe

Developmental programs should be non-partisan

Political polarization is the major drawback to national development and efforts to eradicate it are urgently needed especially as the country gears for watershed elections.

It is encouraging to note that some political leaders have started to separate political party activities and national programs for the development of the country. One such is Mberengwa West Legislator Makhosini Hlongwane (ZANU-PF) who has facilitated the funeral policy plan for people in his constituency. These programs in other areas are a bone of contention and fodder for victimization and name calling as other people are excluded. In Zhombe it was reported that grain meant for everyone was selectively distributed to people of one political party to the exclusion of others who were told to have political party cards of a certain party. A report was made at Kwekwe Central Police station as partisan distribution of grains had brewed political conflict in the area. Leaders especially councilor, legislators, Ministers, Governors and even the executive should appreciate that they are leaders of the nation and should serve the nation in as much as they have their political party duties. Discharging these duties in a clear and transparent manner is the way to go.

Another Zanu-Pf legislator in Mberengwa, Shirichena castigated her fellow party members at the official opening and handover of Bonda Community Hall for taking the opportunity to lambast other political parties. She unequivocally told her fellow party members that the obsession with party politics was inimical to development hence they were supposed to take note that the hall was for the community not ZANU-PF members while hate language was not consonant with the objective of the gathering.

FROM PAGE 3:

...while some alarmingly expressed ignorance on any issues inherent in the draft constitution.

Someone must surely remain with the people when all the political hullabaloo overshadows the pertinent democratic process of coming up with a 'people' driven constitution.

If surely the people are the ones who are going to legitimize the draft into a constitution through the referendum, it is incumbent that these people should be conversant with the developments thereon.

The resources that have been put into the constitution making process calls for seriousness on the part of political parties spearheading the process. Whatever contentious issues, it would be best that people are given the chance to evaluate by way of a referendum what they want and what they do not want. Politicians have literally run away with people's trust and abandoned their mandate but concentrate their efforts on making sure that people remain in the dark so that they can ride on people's ignorance. When they argue, they do so on the premises of 'defending what the people said' in the outreach phase. Do you mean that all the people who participated in the outreach phase are no longer living that you assign yourselves the supreme role of being their mouthpieces?

Let's take national development as paramount.

The space for civic engagement