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CCDZ officials
released on bail



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NGOs



Resigned ZEC Boss
Mutambanengwe
Betrayed Zimbabwe
– PM

Human Rights Defender Chamahwinya Granted Bail

THE human rights defender and ZIM-RIGHTS Education Programmes Officer, Leo Chamahwinya was granted US \$ 1000.00 bail, after spending 67 days in remand prison by Justice Mwayera at Harare's Rotten Row Magistrates Court today, Monday, February 18, 2013.

Chamahwinya will have to report at Harare Central Police Station once every week, remain at the residence stated to the police and must not interfere with investigations as part of the bail conditions.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) Director McDonald Lewanika said Chamahwinya's reunion with freedom was welcome; nevertheless the dark cloud of the escalating crackdown on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) needs to be expelled in totality.

"Our position remains clear that the release of Chamahwinya is welcome, but a piecemeal victory. What we want is the complete halt of the criminalization of the work of non-governmental organisations, which is happening across the country on an escalating scale."

"What we want is a free operational environment that is adequate to guarantee the durable democraticness of Zimbabwe through a free and fair election in line with what is stipulated in the Global Political Agreement (GPA). Anything short of that unequivocal end to unnecessary hostilities being unilaterally perpetrated on NGOs by the state will not war-



Leo Chamahwinya

rant celebrations from our part," said the Crisis Director.

Two CCDZ Officials Released on Bail in Chegutu

THE two officials of the Centre for Community Development in Zimbabwe (CCDZ), Programs Officer George Makoni and community mobiliser Gift Konjani who were arrested at Pfupajena, Chegutu on Friday, February 15, 2013, were released on bail today, Monday, February 18, 2013.

The two CCDZ officials were each granted US\$ 50.00 bail, by Chegutu Magistrate Zhou, after spending the weekend in police cells and will appear before the court on March 6, 2013.

The two were arrested, purportedly for holding an "illegal meeting" and are being charged under Public Order and Security Act (POSA). They were arrested together with Rev. Deve of the Chegutu Church of Christ who was released after being warned, on the same day.

Commenting on the developments and the continued harassment of civil society, CCDZ Director Phillip Pasirayi said:

"There is nothing criminal about the work CCDZ and other organisations are doing. As civil society we were of the mistaken view all along that the new Inclusive Government would respect our rights of freedom of association and assembly."

"CCDZ will continue to provide civic education and encouraging citizen participation in the political process. Each time elections are looming civil society organizations are subjected to harassment by the authorities."

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Director, McDonald Lewanika said the charges being levelled at CCDZ show the restrictions placed on civil society at a time when they should be educating people about the COPAC draft constitution ahead of the referendum.

"We have a short space of time between now and the constitutional referendum for ordinary people to be educated about the draft constitution. It does not help matters if POSA-related restrictions are placed on civil society actors who want to do civic education, in terms of how they should be holding meetings with the communities. We are of the view that such restrictions should not be there at all in this critical phase of the constitution making process," said Lewanika.

Before the arrest of its three officials on Friday, February 15, 2013, CCDZ had one of its meetings disrupted by police details at Dhirihori in Marondera a few weeks back on February 6, 2013.

Chiefs' Head Backs Controversial Crackdown on NGOs

MASVINGO – THE Head of the Chiefs' Council Senator Fortune Charumbira reportedly sang from the Zanu-PF hymn book sounding an unconstitutional embargo against the free operation of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) in Zimbabwe, on Friday, February 15, 2013.



Head of the Chiefs' Council Senator Fortune Charumbira

Charumbira was addressing other unelected hereditary leaders at the Chiefs' Council's conference, which took place in Zimbabwe's oldest town of Masvingo from 14 to 16 February 2013. The Chiefs' Head is said to have tried to fish in the troubled waters for political mileage, to please ZANU PF bigwigs attending the Conference by attacking NGOs.

The Indaba, to which Zanu-Pf supporters were allegedly ferried using government vehicles, including one identified police van with registration number ZRP 2730, was graced by President Robert Mugabe. The meeting was reportedly closed to journalists from all other media houses except the State-controlled media.

According to a statement mailed to the Crisis Report by Community Tolerance Reconciliation and Development (COTRAD):

"The crackdown on NGOs has cascaded to the custodians of culture, as Fortune Charumbira the president of the Chiefs' Council emphasized the need for the traditional leaders to close down the space for NGOs. He said they are continuously undermining the sovereignty of this country by promoting regime change."

"The president of the Chiefs council and provincial administrators from the 10 provinces highlighted the need for the traditional chiefs to closely monitor their subjects who are participating in some of the electoral related programming being carried out by CSOs."

COTRAD official, Zivanai Muzorodzi, confirmed that they had been apprised of the developments, by some of the attendees who were privy to the discussions.



The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is a broad based civil society network of over 72 active members comprising churches, women's groups, social movements, residents associations, labour unions, human rights lawyers, and health professionals. It was formed in August of 2001 to focus on democracy, human rights, good governance and sustainable development issues – working locally, regionally and internationally.

"The national program for traditional leaders turned out to be a political gathering with a lot of sloganeering. The use of public institutions and resources for political gathering should be stopped," said Muzorodzi.

Muzorodzi, who was recently detained for two hours at Masvingo Central Police Station, when the COTRAD and NANGO shared offices in Masvingo were raided by police on February 11, 2013, added:

"CSOs and relevant government departments should dig deep into Campaign finance monitoring as this will be critical and essential in creating a level playing field as the country continues to prepare for elections."

The traditional chiefs are not new to controversy, having been fingered in assisting suspected Zanu-Pf militias in harassing the supporters of other political parties in areas such as Hurungwe in 2012, as well as in all past election seasons since 2000.

Resigned ZEC Boss Mutambanengwe Betrayed Zimbabwe – PM

The recently resigned Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) Chairperson Justice Simpson Mutambanengwe betrayed Zimbabwe, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said at a state-civil society interface meeting held at the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition offices in Harare on Wednesday, February 13, 2013.

The PM said Mutambanengwe would be replaced without delay, while the Global Political Agreement (GPA) Principal's view on the former ZEC boss's conduct resonated with National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) Chairperson Lovemore Madhuku's expressed opinion on the same resignation.

Apparently Mutambanengwe could not be discriminated from the ZEC post, on condition of his health, though he has not been well for quite some time to which the PM confirmed, adding that the next Principals' 'Monday meeting' on February 18, 2013, would be discussing his replacement.

"I know he has not been well for quite some time but he should have communicated in time. He betrayed us," Hon. Tsvangirai said.

Hon. Tsvangirai said resigned Human Rights Commission (HRC) boss Reginald Austin will also be replaced soon. Madhuku took umbrage with Mutambanengwe, wondering why the former ZEC boss accepted a job for which he was paying little attention.

Mutambanengwe, since his appointment by President Robert Mugabe as new ZEC chairman to replace Justice George Chiweshe in 2010, juggled between his responsibilities in ZEC and a career as a Supreme Court Judge on the Namibian bench.

Madhuku told fellow leaders of the Civil Society that Mutambanengwe had shown "lack of responsibility", at a Civil Society Monitoring Mechanism (CISOMM) press conference held at the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) offices earlier in the day on February 13, 2013.

"Why has Mutambanengwe resigned? He has not been working, allowing his friends in Zanu-PF to dominate ZEC. It shows a lack of responsibility because he has been in Namibia all the time," Madhuku said.

Madhuku further warned that the ZEC boss and the resigned Human Rights Commission boss Reginald Austin will be replaced *"by one-sided chairpersons."*



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WHY ACCEPT OR REJECT?

A DEBATE ON THE YES-NO VOTE ON ZIMBABWE'S DRAFT CONSTITUTION



YES

VS

NO



VIRGINIA MUWANIGWA
WOMEN'S COALITION



PSYCHOLOGY MAZWISA
ZANU PF



PROFESSOR LOVEMORE MADHUKU
NCA



JOB SIKHALA
MDC99



HON DOUGLAS MWUZORA
COPAC



HON PAUL MANGWANA
COPAC



DR CHARITY MANYURIKE
UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE



DR SIMBA MAKONI
MKD

DATE	WEDNESDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2013
TIME	17:30 HRS TO 20:00 HRS
VENUE	CRESTA JAMESON HOTEL
ADMISSION	FREE-ANYONE CAN ATTEND

THE POLICE HAVE BEEN NOTIFIED OF THIS EVENT



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