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The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) met with the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU PF) Secretary for Information and Publicity, Honourable Rugare Gumbo on Tuesday, February 19 2013 at the party's headquarters in Harare.



Honourable Rugare Gumbo

The delegation comprised of CiZC Advocacy Committee Chairperson and Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) Director, Mr Mfundo Mlilo, CiZC Programs Manager, Mr Nixon Nyikadzino and CiZC Advocacy and Networking Officer, Ms Memory Kadamu.

The three member delegation ranked a flag on the unrelenting clampdown of CSOs by the government and highlighted the repercussions on civil society's critical work in preparation of the upcoming referendum and elections. The delegation also extended a hand to ZANU PF to continue promoting thought leadership through



'Zanu-PF Not Keen to Implement GPA'

participating at CiZC's platforms. Some of the issues raised also included the political party's responsibility to reign in its supporters so that Zimbabwe can hold a peaceful election among other issues.

Responding to the issues raised by the delegation, Honourable Gumbo promised to raise these issues with the other ZANU PF leaders. On the work of civil society, Gumbo admitted that continuous engagement and sharing of information between civil society and the party was important and always cherished.

"I talk to everyone and believe critical engagement is necessary because we are all Zimbabweans, we should tolerate each other. I talk to these young journalists from the private media even though they misrepresent facts sometimes. I believe that they have a desire to succeed so therefore information should be provided to them and even to you."

"Continuous engagement with you is good. We will try by all means necessary to support public forums for discussion by sending our representatives to speak" added Gumbo

However Gumbo also revealed his fears of civil society and its work which is often amplified by perceptions.

"What is the interest of these people that are funding you? Sometimes we listen to the issues that you will be saying and think they are all about regime change, the



Southern Zimbabwe Regions revealed as most poverty stricken

Mugabe and ZANU PF must go talk. So we are then forced to defend ourselves. Otherwise I should be at my farm relaxing"

Speaking after the meeting Mlilo expressed confidence in the outcome of the meeting and highlighted that it was a step towards establishing doors of continuous engagement. Mlilo however noted that time will tell if the party is sincere on its commitment to listen and act on the concerns raised by civil society.

"It was frank and open discussions which we are hopeful will open doors in the ZANU PF leadership to continue engaging and participate at civil society's platforms. We are however not sure of their sincerity on engagement with CSOs, only time will tell. Our message is clear, this unwarranted attacks of civil society should stop," said Mlilo

Commenting also on the outcome of the meeting Mr Nyikadzino was confident of the relationship created with the party and hoped that it was a new beginning for insightful engagement in the near future.

"It was a productive meeting where we exchanged notes with Honourable Gumbo. It was a courtesy call and because of the nature of the meeting, we had limited space to air our views but we managed to clarify the work and mandate of CSOs," said Nyikadzino.

Responding on Honourable Gumbo's senti-

ments on civil society work and agenda, Ms Kadau clarified that CiZC was a non-partisan organisation and only represents the interest of ordinary Zimbabweans and try at all times to work with all political parties.

“Our interests are that of ordinary Zimbabweans. CiZC create platforms for free dialogue on critical issues relating to Zimbabwe’s transition. The aim is to inculcate a culture of debate and foster tolerance of divergent views among Zimbabweans. We emulate to have all the voices represented at these meetings but unfortunately other parties refuse to participate at these platforms which we think are of mutual benefit,” said Ms Kadau

‘Zanu-PF Not Keen to Implement GPA’

THE majority of Zimbabweans think that Zanu-PF is the main culprit as far as non-implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) is concerned, a survey report by the Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI) has revealed.

The survey results were presented to civil society and other stakeholders at a dissemination meeting held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Harare on Tuesday, February 19, 2013.

Zanu-PF is “not committed at all” to full implementation of the Agreement, 26 % of the respondents said, while 21% levelled the same accusation against the MDC led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai.

Of those who thought the two parties were “somewhat committed”, 37% said the MDC-T was committed, compared to the 34% who said the former sole ruling party Zanu-PF showed commitment to the Interparty Agreement.

The survey results come amid increasing crackdown on Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) by the state through the police. Political analysts and Human Rights Defenders are of the view that the police are simply implementing successive political resolutions made by ZANU-PF.

The resolutions were made by the party’s 12th and 13th annual National People’s conferences in Bulawayo in 2011 and in Gweru in 2012 respectively.

Owing to the blitzkrieg, the victim count of affected NGOs has risen to eight in the last two months, as Zimbabwe Republic Police raids, or sometimes literally breaks into the premises of legally registered civil society organisations ahead of the constitutional referendum and elections expected in 2013.

The survey revealed that, a significant number of the Zimbabweans interviewed amounting to, 30% were not free to reveal their voting intentions in the forthcoming elections, though “the general impression is that Zimbabweans are likely to vote yes in the referendum.”

Most Zimbabweans are abreast with the constitution making process, the MPOI survey suggests.

According to the research findings:

“While 69% of Zimbabweans of the voting age said they had heard about COPAC’s process of making a new constitution, 56% claimed to have heard of the July 2012 Draft Constitution of Zimbabwe.”



On how to ensure free and fair elections in 2013, engagement of international observers from the SADC, UN and European Union was topped the list from the suggested 10 benchmarks from respondents, with “no to political intimidation and violence” as the second most popular measure.

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 majority (57%) of respondents were averse to the idea that the Inclusive Government (IG) should continue in office, ahead of the electoral contest expected in 2013.

The Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI) is a non-governmental research institute, part of the Afro barometer research institutions, which carries out periodic research on socio-economic and political country realities, disseminating its findings to the public.

Southern Zimbabwe Regions revealed as most poverty stricken



A Mass Public Opinion Institute (MPOI) survey report has revealed the Southern stretch of the country covering Masvingo and Matabeleland areas is the poorest region in Zimbabwe.

The findings of the MPOI survey were shared with civil society and other stakeholders at a dissemination meeting held at the Holiday Inn Hotel in Harare on Tuesday, February 19, 2013.

Matabeleland North stands out as the province most hit by hunger in the country with 91% of the survey interviewees saying they '*sometimes*' or '*always*' lacked enough food to eat.

The four regions of Masvingo, Matabeleland South and Midlands' harsh dry weather contributes to these regions being the most hunger-stricken in Zimbabwe with 80% of interviewed people confessing to going on an empty stomach on many occasions.

Bulawayo, Matabeleland South, Midlands and Matabeleland North came out tops as the most poverty-stricken areas with over 90% of the respondents saying they had gone without cash income during 2012.

The revelations come amid calls for, and the inclusion of, devolution in the COPAC Draft Constitution which is tentatively going to be put to referendum on March 16, 2013.

The devolution clause reportedly had to shrug off stern opposition from Zanu-PF negotiators during the drafting stage.

There has been an outcry over the de-industrialisation of Bulawayo, Gweru and Masvingo.

The MPOI survey revealed that most Zimbabwean indicated they had '*sometimes*' or '*always*' gone without basics, with the levels of deprivation "more pronounced in the rural areas than the urban areas".

Those who lacked food to eat, clean water, energy/electricity and modern medicine constituted more than 60% of the respondents.

Nothing withstanding that 91% of the interviewed Zimbabweans said they lacked a cash income, due to rampant unemployment.

Seeking external aid, creating an environment which is conducive for investment, full implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) and fighting corruption were the most prominent suggestions made by respondents as ways that the Inclusive Government could improve the economy.



Removal of restrictive sanctions and indigenization both could not make it into the top five, only coming number six and seven respectively on the list of 10 suggestions made, while national healing/reconciliation was also mentioned.

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