



Drag Security Forces to Constitutional Court – Mangwana



Civil Society to Attend 23rd Human Rights Council Event



SADC Must Remind Politicians of Democratic Elections Guidelines

Drag Security Forces to Constitutional Court-Mangwana

ZIMBABWEANS who are unhappy with the conduct or utterances of the security forces should take them to the constitutional court, Paul Mangwana who is the Member of Parliament for Chivi Central and a Zanu-PF politburo member has said.

Mangwana said if there were perceptions that members of the security services are

flouting the supreme law - the new constitution stipulates how the security forces should conduct themselves.

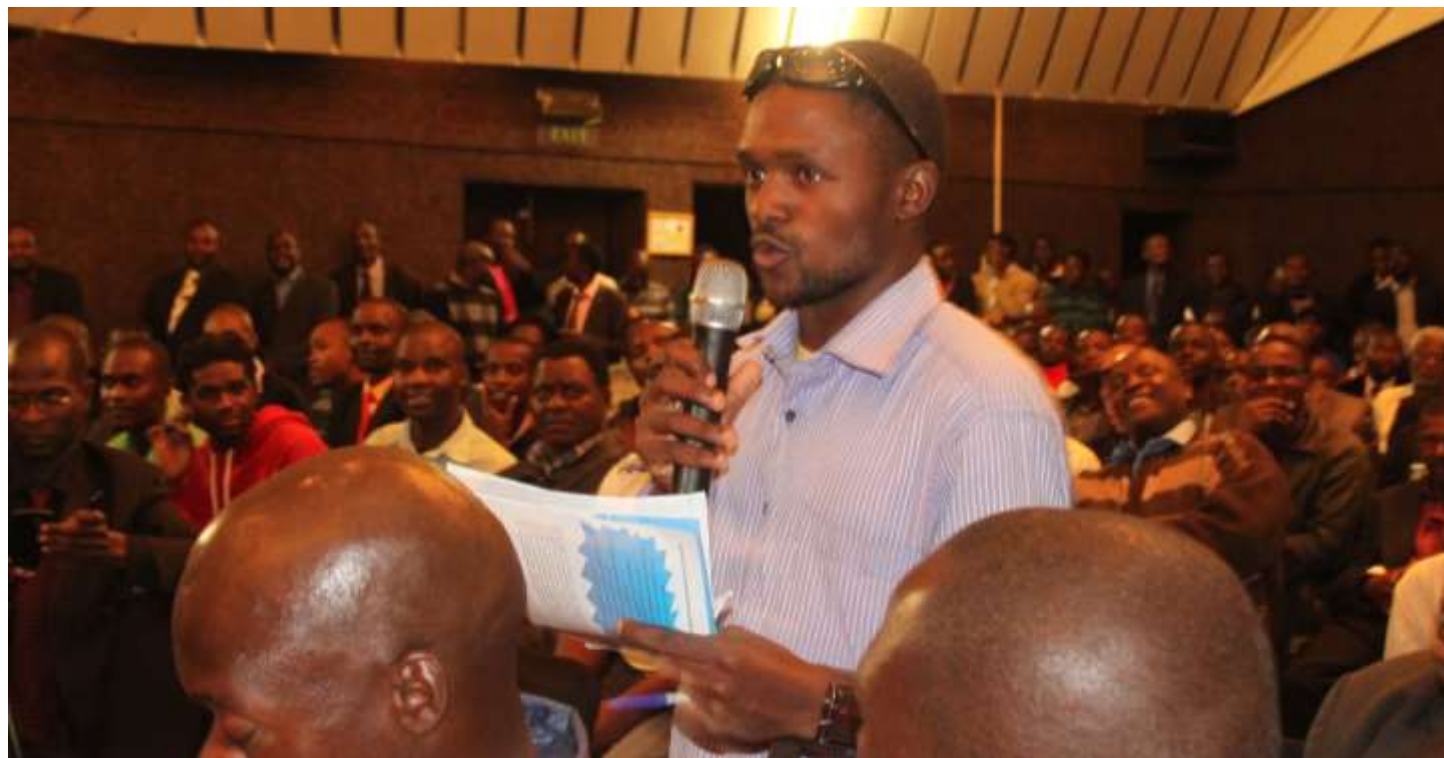
The Sixth Schedule of the new Constitution came into effect on May 22 when the President signed the Constitutional Amendment Bill 20.

The Schedule gives effect to Section 208 (2) (a) to (d) which prohibits security forces from being active members of political parties and from prejudicing or furthering

the interests of a political party.

"If anyone thinks that the security forces are violating the constitution you must take them to the constitutional court," Mangwana said at a Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) organized public meeting held in Harare on Wednesday.

Asked why Zanu-PF was not acting on the issue like the MDC-T, which has been



Contributions From the floor at the Public Meeting organised by Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition

disciplining its councilors fingered in corruption, Mangwana said it was not Zanu-PF business.



Hon Paul Mangwana

Analysts have pointed out that the party reaps from the behavior of the security forces whose suspected role in the violent and contested 2008 elections was investigated by the South African government in a report which has been kept secret.

"The security forces are the security forces of Zimbabwe. Zanu-PF does not own soldiers, they belong to Zimbabwe.

"Security services are disciplined by the Defence Act," the Former Copac co-Chairperson said, in a bid to exonerate his party from accusations of corrupting the forces and making them toe the party line.

Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) Commander Constantine Chiwenga reportedly said Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai was "a psychiatric patient who needs a competent psychiatrist" - utterances that analysts said brought into question the issue of whether the forces were in contempt of civilian rule.

Mangwana said disciplining of the security services was a matter that could not be dealt with by anyone outside of the military hierarchy, or without resorting to the courts.

President Robert Mugabe is the Commander-in-Chief of the Zimbabwe Defence forces and has been silent as generals made statements to the effect that they would not respect any electoral outcome that does not favor a candidate with liberation war credentials - in apparent reference to the 89-year-old leader.

The Chivi Central Legislator said the new constitution was clear on the behavior required of the security forces.

"The reforms you talk about are contained in the new constitution.

"The new constitution says how the security forces must behave and how the media must behave," Mangwana said, adding:

"Any reforms which must be done are already in the new constitution."

Mangwana said if it was a matter of implementation, it meant that the executive had to play its part.

However former MDC-T COPAC co-chairperson Hon. Douglas Mwonozora intimated that for these reforms to be implemented there was a need by the South African mediation team and SADC Heads of State and Government to insist on them at the Special Summit on Zimbabwe that could take place next week.

"We are going to SADC simply for the purposes of being helped to abide by our constitution," the MDC-T official mouthpiece said, admitting that some of the reforms are now in the new constitution but have not been translated into practice for which he leveled blame at perceived Zanu-PF reluctance and delaying tactics.

Civil Society to Attend 23rd Human Rights Council Event

A DELEGATION of civil society leaders is in Geneva where they are scheduled to address at a parallel event during the 23rd Human Rights Council session, the Crisis Report can reveal. The Zimbabwe delegation is comprised of Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Director, Mr McDonald Lewanika, Zimbabwe Human Rights Association Director, Mr Okay Machisa and Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights Director, Ms Irene Petras.

The Zimbabwe civil society received an invitation from the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ) and three representatives will speak at the side event on the morning of Friday, 7 June 2013, at the Palais des Nations in Geneva, Switzerland.



McDonald Lewanika, the director of Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) will speak on the legacy of the 2008 election and their impact on the 2013 election.

Okay Machisa, the director of Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (Zimrights) will speak on the legal and institutional framework for the 2013 elections and identify potential challenges in guaranteeing transparent, peaceful, free and fair elections.

Irene Petras, the director of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) will speak on attacks against opposition activists, independent minds and human rights defenders in the context of the forthcoming elections.

The discussion will be moderated by Martin Okumu-Masiga, ICJ Africa Regional Programme, Deputy Director.

Outlining the purpose and necessity of the event, the ICJ gave historical background of the harassment of Human Rights Defenders by Zimbabwean authorities.

"Past elections in Zimbabwe have been marred by violence and attacks of human rights defenders and the rule of law more generally.

"In the period leading to the 2013 elections, there have been several incidents of crackdown on political and independent voices.

"The impunity enjoyed by past and current perpetrators of electoral violence has continued to exacerbate fears of the integrity, peaceful conduct and fairness of the upcoming elections," the ICJ noted.

The 23rd Human Rights Council session commenced on 27 May and will end on 14 June 2013 in Geneva, Switzerland.

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.

SADC Must Remind Politicians of Democratic Elections Guidelines

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) Special Summit on Zimbabwe that is likely to be held in South Africa next week must remind political players of the bloc's Principles and guidelines governing democratic elections, civil society has said.

Speaking at a Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition organized public meeting held at Crowne Plaza in Harare on Wednesday 6 June, Virginia Muwanigwa, the Chairperson of the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe said SADC should remind political players of the bloc's principles and guidelines governing democratic elections in furtherance of its Global Political Agreement (GPA) mediation process.



Virginia Muwanigwa

The meeting attracted nearly 400 people and was held under the theme, *"Constitutional Court ruling, New Constitution, SADC Special Summit on Zimbabwe: what are the implications for the holding of a free and fair election in Zimbabwe."*

"I think it is an opportunity for SADC countries to remind the political players to abide by SADC principles and guidelines governing free and fair elections," the Women's Coalition Chairperson said.

She pointed to the need to align electoral laws with the new Constitution and for Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) to have adequate time to carry out mobile voter registration and inspection.

Muwanigwa bemoaned the way the media was conducting itself ahead of elections.

"The media continues to do a disservice to the nation as far as how both men and women are participating in political processes," she said.

Director of the Zimbabwe Democracy Institute (ZDI) and political analyst, Pedzisai Ruhanya, said SADC recommendations guiding the Zimbabwean political transition – facilitated by the South African presidency since May 2007 – must be respected.

"The SADC treaty is part of international law and its decisions must be obeyed," he argued.

Douglas Mwonozora, the MDC-T spokesperson said they hoped in terms of the next elections that the SADC Special Summit on Zimbabwe would help the Inclusive Government to follow through on the reforms agreed under GPA and those contained in the new Constitution.

The President Robert Mugabe signed the new Constitution Bill 20 into law on May 22 and sections of the document came into effect as per the Sixth Schedule.

"We are going to SADC simply for the purposes of being helped to abide by our Constitution," Mwonozora said, adding that his party would respect what SADC will recommend.

"If you are a member of a regional bloc international law is such that you surrender part of your sovereignty," the MDC-T official mouthpiece said.

Paul Mangwana, who is the Chivi Central legislator under a Zanu pf ticket said Zanu-PF leader and first secretary, President Robert Mugabe will not be dragged into compliance of any SADC Summit outcome.

"What SADC says is only persuasive and not binding. We are not a colony of SADC."

"Our President is a man of steel and he will not be bullied by anyone," the Zanu-PF politburo member said.

ZEC has started preparing for elections which the constitutional court ruled must be held by 31st of July 2013, though analysts have said that a lot needs to be improved if Zimbabwe desired a democratic election.