



**SADC TROIKA
MEETS ON
ZIMBABWE**



**Glenview's
Thousands
Rally behind
Feya Feya**



**We are making
amends', ZEC
tells civil society**

**SADC TROIKA MEETS ON ZIMBA-
BWE...expresses hope of redress
for Special Vote Challenges**

THE Southern African Development Community (SADC) held a Summit of the Organ on Defence, Politics and Security Cooperation in Pretoria on July 20, ostensibly to deal with DRC, Madagascar and Zimbabwe.

The meeting was chaired by His Excellency President Jakaya Mrisho Kikwete, President of the United Republic of Tanzania and Chairperson of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation.

The meeting was also attended by Mozambican President and SADC Chairperson Armando Guebuza, South African President, Jacob Zuma, Namibian Foreign Affairs Minister Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwa, as well as the Executive Secretary of SADC, Dr. Tomaz Augusto Salomao.

The meeting released an unrevealing post summit communiqué, where on Zimbabwe they

"... noted the problems that arose during the special vote on 14-15 July 2013 and would like to commend ZEC for taking these up as challenges to be overcome on the 31st of July, and called upon all political parties to cooperate as fully as possible with

ZEC in order to ensure that it is able to meet these challenges."

The unrevealing communiqué has had some Zimbabweans worried that SADC is tracking back on its hard but progressive stance from Maputo where clear reforms were articulated as being pre-requisites before the elections, while others believe that SADC has now given President Robert Mugabe a long rope by which to hang himself.

McDonald Lewanika, the Director of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, urged caution in reading the Summits communiqué.



Glenview Residents showed in their thousands in support of Free and Fair Elections (Feya Feya) - Story on Page 3

“ Our experience with SADC has shown us that Communiqués are public notes that are always devoid of details and only serve to highlight key issues that were discussed without necessarily sharing details. If one wants to understand or judge the meeting, one needs to be privy to the deliberations and minutes of the meetings.

“ At the moment, thinking that SADC has thrown in the towel on Zimbabwe or has given ZEC a ‘get out of jail free card’, while understandable, is clearly the conclusion reached by those who choose to ignore that the Summit was held because the region is concerned about the developments on the ground and would like to see ZEC and other electoral stakeholders take corrective action ahead of July 31.

“The electoral train is in motion, and SADC has deployed its biggest observer delegation (over 600) to Zimbabwe in history, led by Tanzania. The leaders had a responsibility to be measured in terms of what they put out to the public, without preempting their own observer mission, which has been on the ground since April, and launched on Tuesday the 9th of June. ”



NANGO Secretary General Michael Mabwe

“SADC must be commended for remaining seized with the Zimbabwean issue as we move towards the elections. Strong measures must be taken to make sure that the chaos that we witnessed when the special vote was conducted is not repeated because if that happens many people will fail to cast their votes and already the voter registration process, which saw them failing to register, negatively affected many.

“It is of paramount importance that the will of the people must be reflected in the results that will be announced thus all measures necessary must be put in place to make sure that the people’s vote is not stolen, and ZEC must especially make sure that the will of the people is respected,” Mabwe said.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) Spokesperson Thabani Nyoni said:

“The important thing to note is that Zimbabwe is clearly still within SADC’s radar, and while the public communication through the communiqué may suggest that SADC has taken a diplomatic expedient route in mediating the process in Zimbabwe, it is clear that they are aware and seized with the challenges experienced in the electoral process so far.

“The only challenge is that the weak wording of the communiqué may embolden Zanu-Pf’s strategy to prevent a free, transparent and credible election, thinking that the region has taken its foot off the pedal.”

National Association of Non-governmental Organisations (NANGO) Secretary General Michael Mabwe –despite the confusing signal from SADC – said it remained praise-worthy that the regional bloc kept its radar trained on Zimbabwe. He emphasized that the will of the people must be respected in the election.

The SADC Troika Summit of the Organ on Defense, Politics and Security Cooperation held in Pretoria in South Africa on Saturday July 20 praised the political parties for being committed to a “peaceful environment” and encouraged the parties to work towards “credible elections”.

The SADC Troika called on all political parties to cooperate as fully as possible with ZEC in order to ensure that it is able to meet challenges experienced so far.

Speaking in June, last month at the Press Club in Bulawayo, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) Regional Information and Advocacy Coordinator Joy Mabenge foreclosed the possibility that Zimbabweans would accept peaceful election that had been manipulated, insisting, “we want the whole package”.

Glenview's Thousands Rally behind Feya Feya

... As Southerton, UZ and Huruyadzo catch the Feya Feya Fever

THOUSANDS of Glenview residents, this last Sunday, 21 July 2013, marked the beginning of the Ten Day Count down to elections through demonstrating support for the FEYA FEYA Campaign for Free and Fair Elections in Zimbabwe.

The massive and uncharacteristic Sunday turnout, was at Tichagarika Shopping Centre in the high density suburb in the nation's capital, put a lid on at least four other Feya Feya Campaign activities that were taking place in Harare over the weekend.

The other events included a multi-disciplinary sports tournament held at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) grounds, a Road Show at Huruyadzo Shopping Centre in St. Mary's in Chitungwiza and Pool Tournament in Southerton all on Saturday, July 20.

Another Feya Feya Road Show at Checheche Growth Point in Chipinge was however cancelled following a clash of events with a campaign rally for the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF) over the suspiciously double-booked venue.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) Spokesperson Thabani Nyoni said: *"We are pleased by the response to the campaign from across the geographic and political divide so far."*

"The overwhelming turnouts and support the campaign has received is a demonstration of a protracted yearning by the people of Zimbabwe to get a free, fair and credible electoral process for electing the leadership of their choice."

"It is a sign that the Feya Feya Campaign is not just a run of the mill CSO activity, but is also a popular public demand driven initiative that people have identified with and believe encapsulates their collective national aspirations."

"The people of Glen view this weekend, as did those of Chitungwiza, Nkulumane, Kuwadzana and other areas in Zimbabwe, have shown that despite the in-



difference to the need for free and fair elections that we have seen from other electoral stakeholders, does not resonate with what ordinary Zimbabweans want."

"Ordinary Zimbabweans are agreed on the fact that elections in the country should be conducted in a way that shows respect to all political actors as well as ordinary citizens."

The Glenview 8 residents turn out, estimated at between 2500 and 3400 at any given time during the show, and defied the difficulties usually associated with Sunday events when most families normally take time to relax from demanding weekly schedules, while preparing for the week ahead.

The *Feya Feya Campaign*, named in colloquial fashion denoting fairness and freeness, entered its third week after being launched in Bulawayo on June 27, 2013. The Feya Feya campaign was formulated and endorsed by at least 83 Zimbabwean civil society groups at a conference on June 27, 2013, in Bulawayo to be the flagship campaign in calling for a free, fair and credible election in Zimbabwe.

It has since transcended the traditional Civil Society campaigns realm by ensuring effective citizens engagement through initiatives in different areas in the country, which have used entertainment and sport to facilitate citizen's engagement, and vir-

tually through vibrant online platforms on face book and twitter and a blogspot.

The platforms, some of which are driven through the Crisis Coalition platforms have attracted close to 70,000 likes(let's make it feya feya and Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition) on Facebook, a combined total of close to 5,000 followers on twitter (@feyaXfeya and @crisiszimbabwe) and tens of thousands of hits on the blog (feya feyaZim).

The Feya Feya event at Tichagarika Shops in Glenview attracted diverse political party supporters, who took turns at the event to show support for the campaigns values, and appreciate the work being done by civil society in the run up to the elections billed for July 31 2013, concurring that the solution to the country's challenges lay in holding non-violent, transparent and credible harmonized polls.

Supporters of different political parties peacefully mixed and mingled in the exuberant crowd wearing their respective parties' trademark regalia such as berets, Caps and T-shirts.

The Feya Feya campaign has adopted art as a tool, and at the Glen View event, young and popular artistes such as dance groups Malaika and Mageshi dished out their best acts, while urban grooves and youth musical sensations Shinzoman and Yoz belted out treasured musical hits for free. The Glen View thousands were serviced by information on the campaign, its 11 principles and other election related materials, which the organisers had brought.

To date the campaign has made use of at least 10 entertainment acts transcending genres and types, including poplar artists NoxGuni, Madiz, Dadza D, Guspny Warrior, XQ and Poets for Human Rights.



In the run in to the election, the campaign will continue on this track, and has promised the release a set of Jingles and songs done by various leading artists including Stunner of the Godo fame, Junior Brown of the 'Madrinks' fame and song birds DuduManhenga and Pauline, formely of MaFrik. The musical jingles will be shared on the campaigns online platforms as well as aired on national and community radio.

In other Feya Feya events held over the weekend of 20 and 21 July, the sports jamboree at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) grounds saw eight football and Netball teams battling for the Feya Feya trophy and kits. The Inaugural Feya Trophies for both Soccer and Netball were won by the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) which beat PSI 5-1 in the soccer final and Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) won over Horizon in the Netball final.

At the Feya Feya Pool Tournament held at the Southerton shopping complex, Archery Pool Club emerged eventual winners after a day which saw six matches being played. In the final saw Archery and Southernton did battle.

In the week leading up to the election, the Feya Feya campaign will stage multiple events in support for peaceful, free, fair and credible elections in Kwekwe, Chipinge, Masvingo, Gweru and Bulawayo.

Zimbabwe held a sham and violent presidential run-off election amid a serious humanitarian crisis, record breaking hyper-inflation and a catastrophic famine five years back on June 27 in 2008. The Campaign has 11 principles which it believes, if abided by electoral stakeholders, will avoid a repeat of the June 2008 sham.

The Feya Feya principles include demands that Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) which on July 14 and 15 presided over a chaotic special vote should act with honesty and integrity, and state media and institutions such as the security forces should be non-partisan.

Access to information by journalists, alertness by international election observers and an exhortation that the international community should not encourage or let Zimbabwe lower the standards of its coming election are part of the demands.

The 11 Feya Feya principles are informed by electoral principles of fairness in the new Constitution's Sixth Schedule as well as Southern African Development Community (SADC) and African Union (AU) protocols and standards governing democratic elections.

We are making amends', ZEC tells civil society

Civil Society leaders from the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO's Forum, NANGO and the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, yesterday, Monday July 22, held a meeting with the full body of commissioners from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

The meeting held, at the Harare International Conference Centre (HICC), was meant to place at the feet of ZEC concerns that Civil Society had with regards to the electoral process thus far, as well as proffer suggestions around how ZEC can deal with the said challenges while hearing their own plan and state of readiness ahead of the July 31 polls.

Special voting

The attending CSO's raised the issue of irregularities and the chaos that surrounded the special vote which took place on June 14 and 15 to the Commission and asked what ZEC was going to do with regards to those who were unable to exercise their right to vote though they had been cleared to do so.

"The special vote is a difficult situation, and we know as a commission that our decision either way is going to be controversial."

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.

“If we accept that the failure by some members of the uniformed forces was not their fault and as such they should be allowed to vote, we will run afoul of the Electoral Act, which says those who are supposed to have a special vote should do so, and may not exercise their right to vote when everyone else does.

“But on the other hand, if we say no they cannot vote in order to comply with the Electoral Act, we will be accused of infringing on the constitutionally guaranteed right to vote of affected special voters, especially because the challenges that led to their failure was not of their making,” said Commission Chairperson Justice Rita Makarau.

Justice Makarau, however added that they were going to have a discussion of the full Commission on the matter and reach a position which they will share with the nation.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition reminded the Commission of issues raised by CSO's, around the fact that their performance during the special vote did not inspire confidence in the populace around their ability to administer a credible poll

Justice Makarau, suggested that to compare the two processes would be simplistic. She added that,

“The two processes are different. The Special Vote was a new and complex process, held under a new law, which in some areas was not properly conceived.

“The challenges that the process presented will not be there for the actual election. So there is no need to over analyze the special vote because they are different. The main election is under a familiar process and we have had more time to prepare for it.”

Money Matters

The issue of funding was also raised to the Commission, to which the Commission responded that they were still operating under a shoe string budget but they were getting by.

Justice Makarau reviewed that they had taken a practical approach in order not to allow resources to act as an impediment.



Justice Makarau

“We have so far received USD20 million, and an additional USD 38 million from Treasury and are getting by on that.

“We have also said that we will be practical, so we continue to order services and supplies knowing that the debt we will incur are not ZEC debts but national debts, since the elections are a national process.

“So we will continue and forward the bills to the Ministry of Finance, because we do not have time.”

Hate Speech, Unfair and unequal Coverage of Political Actors

The delegation shared with the Commission concerns around hate speech and the unfair nature within which competing voices were being covered especially by the state owned media.

ZEC referenced a statement on hate speech that they had put out, and shared that they were dealing with issues on a case by case basis.

On the issue of Fair and Equal access, Kazembe shared that they had also received complainant and were in the processing of reviewing them and would share the responses with the complainants, who could choose to publicize the responses or not.

Commissioner Makoni, who seems to be responsible for media, also shared that part of the problem the way they saw it was that, political parties were not providing their activity schedules to the media in good time.

The delegation, expressed reservations on the ZEC approach, and raised that outside responding to complaints ZEC also had an obligation to approach broadcasters and newspapers on issues related to the media.

'I never said it' – Kazembe

The CSO delegation raised issues around statements attributed to the Commissions Deputy Chairperson Kazembe, which blurred the line around impartiality and independence. The Commission Chairperson came short of admitting that there had been some uncomfortable moments for the commission based on Commissioners acts.

Makarau emphasized that whatever may have happened was an honest mistake and that the Commission took collective responsibility, and that it had nothing to do with sympathies real or perceived with any political party.

In her own defense, Commissioner Kazembe said:



Commissioner Kazembe

"I never said those words or mentioned any political party. I did state that some of the challenges had been presented by challenges presented by litigation on some issues but did not point to anyone.

"It is known that all the major political parties registered appeals. I think what came out in the paper was editorial interpretation, not something that I said."

Voters' roll

The CSO's raised issues around the state of the Voters roll and asked for an update on compiling the consolidated voters roll.

Commission Deputy Chair Kazembe, shared that they were in the process of mopping up on finalizing the voters roll, and that indications were that the voter population stood at about 6,4 million up from the previously released number of about 6,187 million.

Justice Makarau revealed that after finalizing they expected the voter population to be at about 6, 6 million.

Asked whether the final voters roll will be inspected and signed on to by the contesting political parties, Justice Makarau, shared that they would

"stick to what is provided for by the law", which has got no provisions for the kind of accent anticipated by some politicians.

Justice Makarau shared that those with grievances on the roll could still challenge it, or the presence or absence of some people on the roll through the appropriate channels.

The Commission shared that they had stated the process of printing rolls for the wards which will be used for the election, but that every voting Centre would also have the consolidated roll on their systems.

Civil Society Operating Space

The delegation shared with the Commission reports of CSO that were being hindered from doing work around voter and civic education, especially in Manicaland.

ZEC professed ignorance on the matter, and shared that those they accredited to do voter education should not be having problems, because they had authorizing letters from ZEC.

Justice Makarau and her colleagues shared that they expected voter education to continue until the 26 or 27 July without any hindrances and urged organisations that encounter challenges to report and liaise with provincial election officers.

The delegation was led by the NGO Forum's Abel Chikomo, and also had David Hofisi and Dzimbabwe Chimbga of the ZLHR, Cephas Zinhumwe of NANGO and McDonald Lewanika of Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition.

The CSO's left the ZEC meeting, with some questions still persisting and some answers still unsatisfactory, but with hope that the Commission would indeed take corrective action to deal with the anomalies.