



**Feya Feya
Hosts Election
Manifestoes
Debate**



**MDCs promise
jobs and devo-
lution.....as
ZANU PF clings
to empower-
ment straw**



**Regional Soli-
darity alliances
back feya feya
elections**

THE Feya Feya Campaign on Wednesday July 25, 2013, hosted the Feya Feya Debate on Political Party Manifestoes, at the Media Center in Harare. The debate was aired live on ZiFM Stereo, a commercial broadcaster and streamed live on the internet, breaking new ground in terms of reach and access to information.

The debate attracted a full house studio audience of approximately 500, and is the closest thing that Zimbabwe has had to a head to head live Political Parties "Presidential Debate" type event which is broadcast.

The Feya Feya Debate was collaboration between the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC), Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) and the Media Centre. The

debate dubbed Feya Feya Debate, assisted in nudging the 2013 harmonized election campaign trail into the turf of ideas beyond smear campaigns and populism by political actors.

The Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai was represented by the party's National Organizing Secretary, Minister Nelson Chamisa while the Zimbabwe African National Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF) was represented by former legislator and ZANU PF politburo member, Mr Patrick Zhuwawo. The MDC led by Prof. Welshman Ncube was represented by party Vice President Edwin Mushoriwa.

Speaking about the event before it commenced, McDonald Lewanika, Director of

the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) said:

"At Crisis we believe that debate is freedom and always do what we can to promote open debate, especially at critical political moments like the one we are at with an election just under a week away."

"The Feya Feya debate follows in the tradition of the Crisis debates, which were held during the Constitution making process, whose format does not lend itself well to politicking, slogan-eering and opaqueness of issues."

Lewanika added that as the organizers, the Media Centre, CHRA and the Feya Feya Campaign "believe that the people of Zimbabwe, (besides the rallies

FEYA FEYA ACTIVITY CALENDER

- Women's Ward Meeting (Focus Group Discussion)

Venue: Sizinda Tshabalala Bulawayo

Time: 1400hrs

Date: Friday 26th July 2013

- Concert

Venue: Mbizo Kwekwe

Time: 1100hrs- 1630hrs

Date: Saturday 27th July 2013

- Pool Tournament

Venue: Coldstream Chinhoyi

Time: 1400hrs

Date: Saturday 27th July 2013

- Mini Concert

Venue: Mtapa Hall Gweru

Time: 1100hrs- 1600hrs

Date: Saturday 27th July 2013

- Concert

Venue: Glen Norah B Shops Harare

Time: 1100hrs- 1630hrs

Date: Sunday 28th July 2013

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which are unitary in set up with each political party selling its spin) have a right to see these parties side by side, hear their issues in comparison and make an educated choice based on that”.

He said: “The debate is an attempt to see beyond the “old people” and “ugly faces” discourse because the election is not a beauty contest, to focus on pertinent issues and leaders’ visions and plans for the country.”



CizC Director McDonald Lewanika

In a bid to be retained by voters in government beyond the imminent polls, the parties launched their manifestoes within three weeks after the proclamation of the election date on June 13, but thus far the election has, largely, been characterized by sloganeering, slander and promoting personalities ahead of issues and what the parties stand for.

Lewanika shared that the Feya Feya Debate on Political Parties Manifestos was a unique initiative which saw a campaign, Feya Feya, a social movement, CHRA, and a specialized technical partner, Media Centre, creating an unusual synergy with ZiFM.

The synergy, he shared, would see the event being accessible to the ordinary masses through CHRA’s network, tech savvy citizens and international solidarity partners through the Feya Feya International Network and Facebook and Twitter platforms, Radio through ZiFM and video and additional media platforms through the Media Center.

The venue at the Media Centre was packed with a diverse audience, which included members of the public, business executives, civil society leaders and journalists who witnessed as the parties advertised their governance menus which they would dish out to Zimbabweans if they were elected into power on July 31.

Broadcasting the debate live on radio, streaming it on internet and tweeting about it live, meant it was the first such single Feya Feya campaign event to reach out to thousands of people beyond physical and space constraints, within and without the borders of the country, following the endorsement of the campaign by over 83 civil society organisations at a conference held in Bulawayo on June 27, 2013.

The three parties which were represented are part of the outgoing Government of National Unity (GNU) established by the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in February 2009, and are largely seen as the major political actors in the country.

on the campaign trails courting potential voters, who on July 31 2013 will have the final say on who presides over the state for the next five years.

Political Parties have so far traversed the length and breath of the country

Asked about her feeling on the idea of live manifesto debates which brought the contesting parties on one platform, one female attendee Viola Chitukutuku who is a registered voter said:

“It is important for us to hear what the political parties are offering so that when they fail to deliver we can remove them with our “x” as we did when we put them in power.

“I think you should have done this debates as soon as the campaign started so that we could have the political parties debate on their manifestoes and assess their manifestoes in time.”

The culture of live election manifesto debate has been a part of modern-day electioneering in advanced and advancing democracies, which has its roots in the United States of America. In the immediate past elections in the United Kingdom and Kenya, televised debates were introduced for the first time.

On July 21, 2013 at a rally in Mkoba Gweru, Morgan Tsvangirai, the sitting Prime Minister and aspiring Presidential candidate, challenged his four competitors to a live debate, but his challenge has not seen any takers so far.

MDCs promise jobs and devolution.....as ZANU PF clings to empowerment straw

THE three political parties in the outgoing Government of National Unity (GNU) on Wednesday July 24 promoted and defended their Manifestoes seven days before the watershed harmonized elections in a Feya Feya debate organized under the theme, *"Hopes, Dreams or Lies: What's on the menu? Unpacking the political parties manifestoes for the 2013 Harmonized election"*.

Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai was represented by the party's National Organizing Secretary, Minister Nelson Chamisa while Zimbabwe African National Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF) was represented by former legislator and Zanu-PF politburo Patrick Zhuwawo. The MDC led by Prof. Welshman Ncube was represented by party Vice President Edwin Mushoriwa.

The debate was moderated by ZiFM presenter, Farai Mwakutuya.

Chamisa said the Movement for Democratic Change led by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai will continue to rebuild the economy from the GNU years where its successful policies were allegedly sabotaged and had their full success limited by Zanu-PF.

"We are very clear in terms of our jobs and upliftment plan which is going to create a million jobs. I know you would want to know where those million jobs will come from. First of all, through our jobs and upliftment program we need to make sure that we need to restore the factories that were previously operational."

"Without going any further we just need to make sure we restore our factories, our mining, we restore our manufacturing industries, and we restore our agriculture. We are looking at no less than 500 000 jobs that are just going to be restored."

Chamisa said the MDC-T would also focus on restoring the education and health sectors as well as help in resuscitating companies like Jagers, Bata shoe factory and the Hippo Valley

Sugar plantation estates which he said were operating *"below threshold"*.



MDC National Organizing Secretary, Minister Nelson Chamisa

"That is only possible when we have created a conducive environment where we are not just taking but creating, but where we are making; where we are not just reducing, but increasing; where we are not actually threatening investors, where Zimbabwe is open for business, where we are able to respect the rule of law; where we are saying to investors you can come on our terms."

Chamisa added that the MDC-T would attract back indigenous business people like Mutumwa Mawere and others who had been haunted out of the country by Zanu-PF policies, saying we need to allow them to show their entrepreneurial skills.

The Host asked Zanu-PF representative, Patrick Zhuwawo what they wanted to improve in the next five years which they failed to do in the past 33 years they have been in power.

"As Zanu-PF our thrust really is on liberating the economy, our manifesto talks about taking back the economy. We have as Zanu-PF been able to liberate the nation politically, which is an achievement that was brought forward by Zanu-PF and Patriotic Front-Zapu."

"We have also been able to get back Zimbabwe to the position of being the most literate and educated nation in Africa, so we have spent a significant amount of time and effort in making sure that we have educated the people of Zimbabwe."

"We have also as Zanu-PF been able to take back the land which is one of the most critical components in terms of economic activity."



Former legislator and Zanu-PF politburo Patrick Zhuwawo.

Zhuwawo said Zanu-PF was bent on creating 2, 265 000 jobs in the next five years if it is elected into power, more than double the one million jobs pledged by the MDC-T which was however met with skeptics by the audience. Zhuwawo claimed that his party had projected these jobs, basing on sector by sector analysis of the economy.

Edwin Mushoriwa said the governance of the Movement for Democratic Change led by Professor Welshman Ncube will be centered on devolution of decision making to the provinces. Mushoriwa said the Ncube led party would also create jobs though he declined to give projections.

"We want to make sure that we change the system of government that exists in this country. As you know in this country we have had a unitary system of government for the past 100 or so years and after independence we continued with the same system."

"We are going to change that and come up with a devolved system of government and in a devolved system of government we want to make sure that power is shared between the central government and the local councils and the provincial councils."

"We want to make sure that we bring political, economic as well as social transformation."

"Economically it means that whereas economic activity is centralized here in Harare, we are going to make sure economic activities are going to happen within the provinces and that means socially, in terms of roads, in terms of education, in terms of the livelihood of Zimbabweans things will definitely improve."

Although the debate was dominated by the discussion on employment creation, the parties responding to questions from the audience said they were committed to gender equality and equity and were sensitive to issues of people with disability in their development models.

Regional Solidarity alliances back feya feya elections

REGIONAL solidarity movements have backed the call by 83 Zimbabwe civil society organisations for credible, free and fair elections by endorsing the Feya Feya campaign as the rallying point for efforts towards democratizing Zimbabwe. The endorsement was unanimously done during the recently held two regional meetings held in Johannesburg, South Africa where countries from Southern Africa agreed that free, fair and credible elections that can guarantee stability in Zimbabwe were a matter of collective desire in the region.

The Zimbabwe Solidarity Forum (ZSF) held a Regional Seminar on Zimbabwe July 17, which was attended by 100 participants including those from the South African labour movement, women, youth, faith organisations, social movements and Zimbabwe Diaspora formations. Among the attendees were delegates from Swaziland, Mozambique, Lesotho, Tanzania, Zambia, Botswana, local peace committees from Alexandria, Soweto and Orange Farm and individual activists, researchers and the press corps.

Speaking at the event Skhumbuzo Phakathi, the National Union of Metal Workers of South Africa (NUMSA) International Relations Officer at said:

“The people of this region have a common future and it is therefore important that we struggle for that future together,” he said.

Phakathi said the people of the SADC region were united by their common history in seeking liberation from colonial forces and needed to keep that oneness in the new fight for democracy. The Numsa official expressed disapproval in the lack of media and security sector reform ahead of elections as well as the general plight of the workers of Zimbabwe.

After the meeting the ZSF statement released a Communiqué which said:

“We will be embarking on a programme of mass action that will seek the maximum participation of the citizens across the SADC Region who seek to express their solidarity support for the demands and concerns contained within the communiqués released by Zimbabwean civics and outlined in the Feya Feya Campaign document calling for a peaceful free and fair election.”

ZSF emphasized

that SADC and the African Union, as the Guarantor of the Global Political Agreement should vigorously assert and uphold the principles enshrined in the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance with regards the July 31 harmonized elections.

Article 17 of the African charter on democracy, elections and governance stipulates that;

“state parties reaffirm their commitment to regularly holding transparent, free and fair elections in accordance with the Union’s Declaration on the principles Governing Democratic Elections in Africa...”

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) released a statement in which they thanked President Jacob Zuma for his principled stance on Zimbabwe and said his International Relations Advisor Lindiwe Zulu was being subjected to “targeted and personalized attacks for her principled role in the facilitation process”.

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.

“COSATU notes with concern the situation in our neighbouring country of Zimbabwe. Having travelled the long journey with our fellow comrades thus far, we are proud of the remarkable steps forward made by the people of Zimbabwe towards creating a sustainable momentum for free and fair elections in Zimbabwe,” the South African umbrella body of trade unions said.

COSATU also urged the SADC Troika to implore the government of Zimbabwe to create a conducive environment for credible, free and fair elections;

“We call on the coming meeting of the SADC Organ Troika to act with the required firmness and demand all parties adhere to the agreed measures in the GPA and that a climate for free and fair elections remains central to real and tangible progress in Zimbabwe”, read the statement.

The powerful South African trade Union mother body called for the holistic implementation of reforms before elections in Zimbabwe.

“We remain in support of the holistic package of reforms that all the parties of Zimbabwe committed themselves to in the Global Political Agreement (GPA) signed in 2008. They are not just about electoral reforms, but all the critical areas requiring reforms, including and particularly the security cluster, media and the judiciary to embrace a diverse political dispensation and all the people of Zimbabwe in their diverse political opinions”. The recent solidarity by ZSF and COSATU followed an elections conference held in Johannesburg in July under the auspices of the Feya Feya campaign, where again various stakeholders including Zimbabweans living in the Diaspora backed the call for feya feya elections in Zimbabwe.



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