

ZIMBABWE BRIEFING

a crisis in zimbabwe coalition regional office weekly report

1-7 February 2012

ISSUE 59



ARCHAIC

Patronage over merit
Coordinator's Note, page 2.

BASIC RIGHTS

Gender sensitivity in economics
Opinion, page 3.

What is superior the people or bullet ?

There is a monotonously over-narration of how Zanu PF captured and tries, on a daily basis, to maintain if not expand its illegitimate control of the state. Those with short memories were shocked that Zanu PF was running scared after the drubbing in the March 2008 harmonised elections. The party was stating unashamedly that the mere writing of an X to vote, could not replace the bullet. Put simple, the hundreds and thousands of Zimbabwe citizens who had overwhelmingly voted against Zanu PF could not expect to consummate their victory because Zanu PF was prepared to take up arms to deal with those who had opposed it. In the aftermath of losing the March 2008 election, Zanu PF made it abundantly clear that the bullet is mightier than the pen, unleashing a wave of terror that left almost 200 people dead and thousands displaced. Zanu PF and its spinners surely knew and still know that the will of the people as expressed in March 2008 cannot be wished away. The main question, perhaps, is- which is superior the people or the bullet? This article therefore focuses on two issues, a) exposing the myth of Zanu PF's false "bullet" dominance and b) rally the people to prepare for a new Zimbabwe.

On reflection, there was no need to be surprised at Zanu PF's utter callousness, after all the song *Zanu Ndeyeropa* (Zanu is a blood party) is enthusiastically sung by the party's supporters and storm troopers. One re-mixed version of the song which was being belted out by Zanu PF supporters as Zimbabweans prepared for the Presidential election re-run in June 2008 went this way:

<i>ZANU ndeyeropa</i>	(Zanu
is a blood party)	
<i>Ropa hatidi</i>	(we do
not want to see spilt blood)	
<i>ZANU inouraya</i>	(Zanu
kills)	
<i>Ropa hatidi</i>	(we do
not want to see spilt blood)	
<i>Ndiani ane nharo?</i>	(who
has the audacity to challenge us?)	
<i>Ropa hatidi</i>	(we do
not want to see spilt blood)	
<i>Vhotera ZANU</i>	(Vote
for Zanu)	
<i>Ropa hatidi</i>	(we do
not want to see spilt blood)	
This song celebrates and glorifies	



Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Regional Office yesterday held a press conference with highlights on the political situation in Zimbabwe and the just ended AU Summit. From left, Bishop Paul Verryn, Dewa Mavhinga and Tiseke Kasambala

violence. The message is simple but deadly: **If you don't want to die then vote for Zanu PF.** President Robert Mugabe is much subtler but the message remains the same. Students of history will know that Mugabe's 1976 statement remains a key frame of modern day Zanu PF: "...our votes must go together with our guns. After all, any vote we shall have shall have been the product of the gun. The gun which produces the vote should remain its security officer - its guarantor. The people's votes and the people's guns are always inseparable twins."

The media is awash with stories of ZANU PF's intransigence in implementing the agreements contained in the Global Political Agreement. Arrests and torture of MDC and civil society activists across the country and Zanu PF's continued reluctance to implement the roadmap to free and fair elections is in fact a strategy by Zanu PF to portray a larger than life image of itself. It is a survival tactic, albeit it being a late and expired tactic.

But the gun has gone beyond merely protecting the ballot in Zimbabwe. That gun is protecting rapists, abduc-

tors, murderers, looters and economic saboteurs. That gun was responsible for the Gukurahundi in the 1980's. It destroyed the livelihoods of nearly 700 000 people in operation Murambatsvina in 2005. It is the same gun that invited the African Union and the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to institute the current transitional authority in 2009.

As such, the Zanu PF gun has ceased to be only about protecting the ballot. The contest for the state in Zimbabwe is far beyond the simple MDC- Zanu PF dichotomy. Ordinary Zimbabweans surely know what they want and it seems, at present, their hope is deposited in the MDC. Should their hopes and aspirations fail to get fulfilment through the MDC, there is no doubt that another political movement will rise in Zimbabwe.

It is also interesting to note that at the heart of the intra-Zanu PF contests is this idea of using the gun to command operations that maintain that party's grip on the state. The Zanu PF elements that have "eyes", who have a sense of time surely know that this political epoch is a period of reform for the good of them and the whole country.

I argue that the people who stand to gain more from democratic reforms

are Zanu PF merchants themselves. The economic base that they now hold and the myriad of human rights atrocities under their belts pause a huge socio-political dilemma for their future. The post-people power state of the dictators who also ruled by the bullet- Gaddafi, Gbagbo and Mubarak should hold lessons for Zimbabwe. The question therefore is: for how long will Zanu PF rely on the bullet to protect the ballot in 2012/3? The global, continental, regional and domestic political terrain has changed significantly making it easier for Zanu PF to fool the world that it is the legitimate holder of the people's mandate in Zimbabwe.

The Zanu PF rhetoric of elections in 2012 must be dismissed with the contempt it deserves. It is a simple strategy which borrows from the thinking that the best defence is to attack.

The people of Zimbabwe must in fact concentrate on re-modelling their country. The control of the state needs to be retaken from Zanu PF which continues to abuse the national institutions- both public and private for its private gain.

The invasion of a commercial farm is

Continued on page 3

Pursuit of Democratic Ideals Versus Economic Loot and Plunder

Coordinator's Note



dewaMavhinga

Those in the pro-democracy movement fighting for human rights respect, good governance and genuine freedom, have repeatedly been targets of hate-speech, slander and insults from defenders of the status quo. In the state-controlled media such as ZBC TV and the Herald they have been called various names including regime change agents, sell-outs, western stooges, and, more recently, academic Selous Scouts. For this reason, it is imperative that the objectives of the struggle for democracy be laid out for the edification of the general public.

At the core of the struggle for genuine democratic rule is the need to ensure a total transformation of political power and how it is exercised in order to ensure that government leadership is a reflection of the majority's wish. It is about enabling the citizens of Zimbabwe to directly participate, freely, in the election of their leaders – leaders who represent their interests. Such free election of political or government leaders is, according to democratic convention, through regular, non-violent, free and fair elections held under a level political field.

This democratic ideal of majority rule formed one of the two pillars of the demands coined during the liberation struggle where the slogan was 'one man (woman), one vote.' The fundamental right of citizens to choose whom they wish to represent them in parliament or as president means that, even if the people choose the proverbial 'baboon' as their leader, so be it. No one individual or group of people should patronize citizens and purport to know what leadership is best for the people. To accept the concept of democratic elections means to accept that the only legitimate tools of persuasion are ideas, policies and promises of good governance, and not violence or intimidation.

Democracy is about good governance and putting an end to corruption and other abuses of public office. Zimbabwe's current political system is largely sustained by corruption, patronage and plunder of national resources by those in positions of authority. Those viciously defending the status quo are doing so driven by a desire to protect ill-gotten wealth or positions in government. It is common practice within state institutions that promotion is not based on merit, but on demonstrated political allegiance. Corrupt individuals and political parties therefore benefit at the expense of the entire nation. Instead of fighting for the common good, the struggle is

for the perpetuation of the corrupt system of using state resources to reward sycophants.

A major short-coming of Zimbabwe's so-called land reform program was that at its core, it was not about genuine redistribution of land to achieve equity and justice, but about political expedience and rewarding political loyalists. It is no wonder that, despite agreeing (under article 5 of the Global Political Agreement) to a comprehensive, non-partisan land audit to establish accountability and eliminate multiple farm ownership, such an exercise continues to be fiercely resisted by Zanu PF. If the land reform program was genuinely transparent and not a loot and plunder exercise, why would anyone resist a transparent audit?

The same template of reward and political patronage was used to parcel out portions of the Marange diamond fields, and is again being used to implement the indigenization policies and the community share schemes. The struggle for democracy seeks to transform political governance to introduce transparency and accountability and abolish a system whereby state resources are parceled out on political grounds. Where even food aid is distributed on the basis on proven membership of a particular political party.

Democracy is about freedom. Freedom to innovate, to think, to dream and to thrive without undue restrictions or prohibitions. As a result of constricted political space that has all but asphyxiated democracy, Zimbabwe has suffered a massive brain drain, with our best entrepreneurs, doctors, engineers, teachers, lawyers, judges, writers, economists fleeing to countries where merit, not political hogwash, is rewarded. Zimbabwe boasts of one of the most educated populations in Africa, thanks to president Mugabe's early policies, but the bulk of that educated sector is scattered across the globe, contributing to the development of other nations because they own country has rejected merit in favour of political patronage.

Human rights respect – a key pillar of good governance – is about uprooting the political culture of violence that has characterized political relations over the last three decades. Political violence is an instrument of coercion in the hands of a desperate political party that knows it has run out of new ideas to win the hearts and minds of the people. But more critically, political violence is so widespread and horrific in Zimbabwe, particularly around elections, be-

cause of partisan political control over the police.

Often, the police has bulked at dealing decisively with matters of political violence, for instance, over 200 MDC supporters were allegedly murdered around the 2008 elections, and yet, despite reports being made, and names being presented, only one case has been successfully prosecuted resulting in a conviction.

With an extremely partisan police, perpetrators of violence roam free while their victims are incarcerated on trumped up charges. Democratic struggle is about a total transformation of the police to ensure that they are professional and non-partisan, defending citizens and maintaining law and order, not acting as a willing appendage of one political party. Good governance means a restoration of the rule of law under which there is equality before the law and an impartial application of the law. The current system gives the impression that there is law for pro-democracy supporters and virtually no law for Zanu PF supporters.

It is therefore easy, in fact frequently economically rewarding in the short-term, for one to support the status quo, chances are that you would be handsomely rewarded under the chaotic land reform program, or, if all the choice farms are gone, with a portion in the diamond fields, or a slice of the community share trust schemes, or even the recently introduced loans for the youths.

Beneficiaries of the current patronage system cannot be expected to use their ill-gotten wealth to promote democracy and good governance – for that would amount to killing the golden goose – and they do not. Rather they use their wealth to promote the status quo and to attack protagonists of political transformation.

Unfortunately, for those Zimbabweans that have acquired wealth independent of, and outside the political patronage system, the culture of funding democracy and good governance initiatives is very weak, partly owing to a genuine fear of persecution by the regime. For this reason, at present the struggle for democratic ideals is almost entirely dependent on funding from external sources. Zimbabwean business people at home and in the diaspora should seriously consider and start funding initiatives that promote good governance, political transformation and the promotion of non-violence. There is no better way to give back to the community than through contributing to the positive trans-

formation and development of society.

For those fighting for democracy it is certainly not a walk in the park; often it is a highly risky, lonely, and a thankless struggle. For standing up for justice, for challenging a predatory and kleptocratic regime one is often viewed as either extremely reckless or mad, or both. The compromised and partisan state machinery persecutes you relentlessly and regime-aligned state media labels you a sell-out. Such is the lot of a democracy and human rights activist.

The net effect has been to drive people, particularly young people who should be the vanguard of the struggle for democracy and human rights, away from political engagement into apathy. Some youths, failing to grasp the ideals of democracy, but seeing the economic rewards dangled by the regime, have embraced the regime and have become willing tools of violence and chaos. Members of the notorious, Mbare-based urban vigilante group – *Chipangano* – would fall in this category.

Despite the risks of persecution and prosecution, the struggle for democracy has its reward in the reassuring knowledge that the fight is sacrosanct, noble and just. Fighting for justice is the essence of human existence. To see beyond the narrow, selfish and parochial interests that motivate the frothing and foaming defenders of the current political system, to embrace broader, sustainable values embodied in democracy and human rights principles; that is to be a true patriot. Our independence and sovereignty can only be guaranteed when we break free from the shackles of tyranny regardless of its source. Polishing handcuffs will not make them bracelets.

The challenge for the pro-democracy actors is to inspire the people of Zimbabwe to reject false, short-term economic gains for the greater good of the country. This means already introducing a clear, distinct approach to governance representing a radical departure from the current way of doing things. This would include a total rejection of violence, corruption, political patronage and debunking the myth that all politicians are the same: seeking only to serve their interests under the guise of serving the people. We should strive for an inclusive, multi-party democracy underpinned by sustainable development, peace and security.

The struggle continues.

Getting it right with young women and economic justice

There is nothing as bad as failing to meet one’s basic needs. Everyone has the right to life and a good life for that matter. However, when there is not much that one can do to improve their life in any way, it becomes a really sad story. Some have called it the politics of the stomach and it is still fine, I would like to attempt to take us through the story of young women and how they could be failing to make a difference in their lives as a result of the environment they are socialized amongst other factors. Young women’s economic empowerment if this world is going to achieve Millennium Development Goals One (Eradicate extreme hunger and poverty) and Three (Promote gender equality and empower women) is critical. There is more that needs to be done and this begins by looking at the environment that surrounds young women and whether it is conducive to attain their economic emancipation. Three factors that will be looked at in a bid to understand this subject will include the socio-cultural plus political context and the young woman herself in relation to this subject.

Within the socio-cultural environment of Zimbabwe, a number of factors render girls and young women vulnerable to sexual and gender based violence. For instance, in the unequal gender relations of power, men have the upper hand in the control over productive resources and immovable assets such as land and the homestead. While women and especially young women are denied property rights, much of the wealth is amassed through their labor. In a traditional marriage, the subordinate and discriminatory position of young women is formalized through payment of bride-price by men to gain control over their wives’ labor and over their sexual and reproductive choices. This control is extended to the wife’s access to the freedoms of movement, association and choice in terms of economic empowerment. A perception by the husband that his authority is being challenged can easily result in domestic violence. Violence against women also emanates from contestations over how family assets are to be deployed,

especially during hard times occasioned by drought (in rural areas) and unemployment (in urban areas). With this in mind, it is somewhat easy to see how women and young women in particular are still occupying the periphery of the economic sphere. Young women in most instances then settle for second best or nothing at all in a bid to conform to the expectations of society and also to save herself from domestic violence and the trauma it brings. The challenge here is to say as people in various circumstances and spaces, what are we doing to ensure that the young women’s freedoms are protected in a bid to make the environment conducive for her to have access to economic resources?

Farm invasions, draconian laws, gender insensitivity in economic approaches such as the Indigenization Act amongst others have resulted in the young women being disadvantaged. Currently the unemployment rate is high and yet not much is being done to ensure that the young women are accessing economic opportunities that would see them creating employment. Surely we will not even begin to talk about the way our government has simply created an environment that seems out to chase away investors. The whole notion of cleaning up the city by targeting hawkers (a whole market that young women have favoured because



Grace Chirenje-Nachipo

(Continued on page 4)

Continued from page 1

no different from the ‘invasion’ of the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation or the annexure of land in various city councils by the political elite.

Corruption is the biggest product of the Zanu PF gun. Unfortunately, this corruption has also permeated into areas that the alternative/progressive political forces preside over. The rot in various local authorities including Harare, Chitungwiza, Bindura, Kwekwe and Chegutu is shocking. These local authorities are now under the control of the MDC- but the “gun” system that Zanu PF left is still in place.

This frames the people’s challenge of today. The current threat to Zimbabwe is no longer Mugabe or Zanu PF, but Zanuism. Zanuism is the governance system that is characterised by impunity. There is no doubt that the transition in Zimbabwe is irreversible despite all the noise and threats from Zanu PF.

To get Zimbabwe move from dictatorship to democracy, there is need for the civil society to keep in check those in power. They have to be accountable. This frames the debate or the struggle beyond a uni-focus on Zanu PF. The majority party in this government is the MDC. They have to account for the continued rot in Zimbabwe and their failure to reform and democratise state institutions.

That Zanu PF is refusing is not enough when they (MDC) are presiding over local authorities from which models of change must be evident. The enclave trap which equates political power to wealth is another Zanuist trap that the people must be wary of. Does it make sense for an ordinary Member of Parliament elected to represent people in a village or township to immediately relocate to the glossy and leafy suburbs of the capital city? Who will fight to improve service delivery in terms of education, transport and health if the new rep becomes a mere placeholder? 2012 is a watershed year with or without elections. The people, mobilised as labour, students, women, the church and business must be unequivocal in defining the kind of Zimbabwe they want. That includes placing Zanu PF and its bullets where they belong- courts of law.

Another Zimbabwe is possible! Itai Zimunya is the OSISA Programme Manager for Zimbabwe. He can be contacted on itaiz@osisa.org

Youth Participation Crucial for Credibility of Zimbabwe’s Next Election

The positive and complete participation of the country’s youth will be pivotal if the next election in Zimbabwe is to be credible. In the past the youths’ energy has been diverted towards negative contribution to the electoral process and they have become infamous and synonymous with the violence that has become part of the DNA of previous elections in Zimbabwe.

The Youth Forum notes and is concerned that youth participation in previous elections has been dismally low and highly negative. According to a study commissioned by the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) in April 2010, only 18% of the currently registered voters on the voters’ roll can be classified as youth (18 – 30 years). This figure is quite shocking considering that Zimbabwe is generally regarded as a youthful population with over 65% of the country under the age of 35 years.

Contrary to the above figures which point towards an apathetic youth towards civic and political processes, young people have actually been a crucial factor in many elections that have occurred in the past. Due to the endemic shrinking of space for political participation by an elderly ruling elite, bend on perpetuating their stay in power, the energy and eagerness of young people to participate in the electoral process has been systematically channeled towards peripheral roles.

It is common knowledge that previous elections in Zimbabwe have seen young people competing with their mothers as praise-singers of elderly politicians at political rallies during electoral campaigning periods. Nefarious politicians have gone on to drug these youth and coercing them to perpetrate gruesome acts of violence against real and perceived antagonists and rivals of these politicians. Youth militias and vigilante groups have become synonymous with elections, and this trend was quite evident in the run-up to the sham June 27 2008 presidential run-off election, whose result we all know later culminated in the animal we call the inclusive government today.

The Youth Forum avers that for as long as the energy of young people is diverted towards such peripheral and negative roles in the electoral process, we will continue to have discredited elections in Zimbabwe. We continue to emphasize the need to have meaningful participation of young people in the electoral process as a precursor to building a robust citizen response and participation in the governance process – in allowing the citizens to have the final say on who governs them through regular, free and fair elections.

Given their demographic dominance, it is through the participation of young people in the elections that Zimbabwe can truly realize democracy and a government that is truly representative of the majority.

As Youth Forum, we call upon all stakeholders to prioritize ensuring that the youth are empowered to take a leading role in deciding who governs them from time to time. We urge the government of Zimbabwe to be sensitive to the plight of many young Zimbabweans who are being frustrated in their quest to register as voters.

We would also like to urge the youths to take the first initiative towards voting, which is registering as a voter, the following are the types of registration available:

- Initial Voter Registration - any Zimbabwe citizen who is 18 years and above and has not registered before.
- Transfer Voter Registration - any registered voter who has changed residence.
- Death Registration - Relatives are encouraged to register the death of their deceased relatives to enable the office to remove them from the voters.

The following are the Requirements:

- A Zimbabwe national registration identity card (metal or polythene - synthetic or a legible national registration waiting pass with the picture

- of the holder on it; or
- A valid Zimbabwe passport. (A driver's license is not acceptable for registration purpose).
- Documentary evidence providing that the applicant is currently residing in the ward/ constituency in which registration is being done, such as:
- For urban dwellers, the following documents would suffice
- A certificate of occupation/ title deeds, or
- Lodgers permit/ card; or
- Rates/ Water statement in applicant's name; or
- Electricity statement in applicant's name; or
- Credit store statement showing the physical address of the applicant, in the respective ward/ constituency; or
- Written statement from landlord, parent or friend confirming the applicant's residential address accompanied by a house card, electricity bill, rates bill or any similar document in the name of the landlord, parent or friend staying with the applicant

Sworn statement by employer of applicant confirming applicant's address and any other information or document sufficient to ascertain the applicant's residence. While rural dwellers would need a confirmation letter from the chief, headman or village head, farm owner or mine owner. All eligible voters are encouraged to visit their nearest registration center to register for first time or effect transfers. Your vote is your voice.

From the Youth Forum of Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe’s citizens have the right to speak



My bank teller in one of the newer banks in Harare that courteously offer you a nice cushy seat as you do your banking transactions, having discovered that I profess to work in some capacity with the media, asked me: why do you people criticize what is happening in the media? You should just live and let live. I tried unsuccessfully to convince him with my increasingly lofty sounding ideals that everyone has a right to speak but sobered fast enough when he observed that, “of course you can speak but “they” will arrest you just because “they” have the power to do so”.

I was rather bemused by this observation of course, as it happened while I was sitting in an air conditioned bank office, but it belied the murky depths in which the media in Zimbabwe are forced to operate and the fear that most Zimbabweans live in, that if you speak you will get arrested. This fear is instilled by the myriad of arrests, threats of arrests and general harassment of media workers in Zimbabwe. A case in point was the arrest of three officers from the Media Monitoring Project (MMPZ) staff members, Fadzai December, Molly Chimhanda and Gilbert Mabusa late last year; and in another case, the arrest of an ordinary Zimbabwean, Vikas Mavhudzi for posting a comment on the Zimbabwean Prime Minister’s *Facebook*’ wall.

Despite that the majority of charges leveled against the MMPZ trio were dropped and Mavhudzi’s case thrown out of court, a clear message was sent out: you speak you get arrested.

At the risk of getting bogged down by legalese speak, it should be clear that the right to speak is guaranteed in Article 20 of Zimbabwe’s Constitution which states that “*Except with his own consent or by way of parental discipline, no person shall be hindered in the enjoyment of his freedom of expression, that is to say, freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart ideas and information without interference, and freedom from interference with his correspondence*”.

There are exemptions to this freedom of course in the interests of public order, public safety, defence etc, but important to note is that the Constitution a later makes the statement “...reasonably justifiable in a **democratic society**.” The inclusion of these words presumes that Zimbabwe is a democratic society and therefore whatever laws we come up with should be reasonably justifiable in our democracy. If we make claims to democracy, our values, ideals, laws and policies should be reflective of this principle. Against this background, citizens in Zimbabwe have to claim the right to expression, the right to not just hold an opinion but express that opinion. Any laws that are passed that impinge on this right should be nullified. It is almost impossible to say this without reference to the 12th ZANU PF conference held in Bulawayo last year that resolved according to Webster Shamu the ZANU PF Secretary for the Commissariat, to “call upon the Government to put in place a regulatory framework that will ensure a balance between media industry interests, protection of privacy, concerns of the public, concerns of individual citizens as well as national security”.

One wonders what laws are going to be brewed next that will criminalize the right to speak, over and above laws that are already used to arrest individuals who dare to speak. The list of legislation includes, the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) 2002; Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act 2004 as amended in March 2007; the Official Secrets Act 1970 amended 2004; criminal defamation laws; Interception of Communication Act 2007, and the Privileges and Immunities and Powers of Parliament Act 1991.

The various media laws have been proven to be undemocratic and in need of extensive reform or outright repeal as they criminalize the right to speak and fall short of international principles that guarantee freedom of expression, principles that Zimbabwe acceded to in various international and regional policies.

That said, it should remain clear that freedom of expression is a fundamental right that facilitates the democratic participation of citizens in how they are governed, and not a privilege that can be conveniently taken away at the whim of those that happen to be in government.

Patience Zirima is a Media Rights Activist.

TYPHOID outbreak on the increase in Harare

The coalition government of Zimbabwe has been criticised for lacking urgency in dealing with the country’s health problems, following an increase in the number of reported cases of the typhoid disease. Zimbabwe is reporting up to 50 cases of typhoid per day and has treated more than 1,500 people in an outbreak blamed on poor water and sanitation facilities, the health minister said Tuesday. The Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR) also says the number of reported typhoid cases had reached 800, mostly in the Kuwadzana high density area.

THE OUTBREAK HAS PROVEN THAT THE CHALLENGES ZIMBABWE FACING ZIMBABWE ARE NOT JUST POLITICAL BUT ESCALETS TO ALL ASPECTS OF LIFE INCLUDING HEALTH RIGHTS.

"By the end of December 2011, more than 1,500 cases had been seen and treated," Henry Madzorera told a news conference in the capital Harare. "An average of 30 to 50 cases are reported on a daily basis." The bacterial disease is transmitted by contaminated food and water. Since the current outbreak started last October, 350 suspected cases and 16 confirmations were reported in the first three weeks of this year.

Poor water and sanitation conditions continue to prevail in most of Harare’s urban areas and other parts of the country. “To cut off water at a time like this when typhoid threatens is a problem. We expect them to provide water services until the problem is resolved. They can wait,” Mfundo Mlilo, the Director of the Combined Harare Residents (CHRA) also explained. He added that the situation “could run out of control” if not properly managed.

Last week Finance Minister Tendai Biti announced the country will use \$40 million (31 million Euros) from IMF support to refurbish water and sanitation facilities. Some suburbs go for weeks without running water as Zimbabwean municipalities battle to keep up services. Harare city authorities said they can't supply water to all the city's residents. Dams and water treatment facilities date back to before Zimbabwe's 1980 independence and cannot sustain demands from the ever-increasing population in the capital.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition appeals to the government to provide funds to refurbish the water, sanitation and sewerage infrastructure as a matter of urgency.



The shortage of clean water and adequate sanitation has contributed largely to the outbreak of typhoid in Harare—*Crisis Coalition information Desk*

Continued from page 3
of its very high turn over rate) has not helped the young women to have a stepping stone in as far as economic empowerment is concerned. There is need for you and me and especially the young women themselves to begin a process of demanding what is rightfully theirs. When the people begin to demand from the powers that be what they want to see, I believe the transformation begins. Look at Egypt, Libya and all others including Syria. Let us hold hands and see that we are the ones to make a difference and ensure the change we want to see! Economic empowerment to women now and so let us fight to make the environment conducive, unless we are saying we are not really committed to Millennium Development Goals 1 and 3!

By Grace Chirenje-Nachipo, an activist. She is also Vice-Chair of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition.