

The LEGAL MONITOR

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COST-FREE

Gwisai fights for freedom



HARARE-Outspoken social rights activist, Munyaradzi Gwisai and five colleagues facing treason charges have petitioned the High Court to relax their stringent bail conditions.

Gwisai and the other economic justice and human rights activists are on tight bail conditions while awaiting trial on allegations of plotting to unseat the government through popular revolts similar to those witnessed in Egypt and Tunisia.

They argue that bail conditions should be relaxed because they have demonstrated not to be a flight risk.

Gwisai, a labour law lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe, is the International Socialist Organisation general-coordinator for the local chapter.

In an application filed in the High Court last week, prominent human rights lawyer Alec Muchadehama argued that his clients had religiously abided by their bail conditions since their release on bail in March.

"The State has advised that it would be reducing the charges to lesser ones. The feared temptation of applicants to abscond from the initial charges has been greatly reduced if not totally eliminated, not that it ever existed," reads part of the activists' application filed by Muchadehama.

High Court Judge Justice Joseph Musakwa briefly heard the application on Friday before deferring the matter to Monday to allow Edmore Nyazamba of the Attorney General's Office to file his response to the activists' application.

Besides paying \$2000 bail money, the activists have been reporting three times a week to Harare Central Police Station.

"Applicants submit that the conditions have become burdensome and they need to carry on with their normal lives," said Muchadehama, a member of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. "All applicants have suffered immense restrictions

in their daily lives." Gwisai and 44 activists were arrested in February after police pounced on them as they watched television footage of popular uprisings that ousted long-serving dictators in Egypt and Tunisia.

However, 39 of the activists, including HIV and AIDS campaigners, were freed by Harare Magistrate Munamato Mutevedzi who ruled that prosecutors had failed to prove a case against them.

This left Gwisai, anti-debt campaigner Hopewell Gumbo, student leader Welcome Zimuto, Antonater Choto, Tatenda Mombeyarara and Eddson Chakuma facing treason charges. Recently, Nyazamba indicated that the six activists,

who spent almost a month in prison before the High Court granted them bail, will now be tried at the Harare Regional Court starting on 18 July.

In his application, Muchadehama gave the example of Welcome Zimuto, who is a student at the Chinhoyi University of Technology, as one of the applicants who was being affected by the bail conditions.

"It is unfair to have a university student report three times a week at the expense of his right to education," said Muchadehama.

The lawyer added that given the lapse of time since they were released in March, his

clients' bail conditions needed to be revised. "Applicants have demonstrated beyond doubt that they can be trusted," he said. "It is submitted that time has progressed sufficiently enough and the State case has been severely weakened to warrant a reconsideration of the bail condition."

The arrest of the activists in February drew wide international condemnation of President Robert Mugabe's government. The denunciation worsened after the activists claimed that they had been tortured while in police cells. The activists have denied the treason charges and say they were arrested while attending a democracy and constitutionalism lecture at the ISO offices in Harare.

Chiweshe villagers in trouble over Mugabe song

BINDURA-Three Chiweshe villagers have been summoned to Bindura Magistrates' Court for allegedly distorting a pro-President Robert Mugabe song as well as accusing the 87-year-old's supporters of killing their relatives.

The three villagers are accused of disrupting a ZANU PF function at Nzvimbo Growth Point in Mashonaland Central province in August last year.

They allegedly disrupted the event by changing lyrics of a pro-Mugabe song to praise his arch-rival and now uncomfortable coalition government partner, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai.

The villagers deny the allegation. They say the function was an event to celebrate a trophy won by a community team, Howard Football Club, to which they had contributed

\$10 and a 50kg bag of maize each. According to the State outline, Tinashe Chinyemba, Luckson Khumalo and Tafadzwa Chironga had "no right whatsoever" to attend the event.

"During the playing of a song from Mbare Chimurenga 'Chimbomirai makadaro' thus the trio began raising their hands saying 'navaTsvangiraiwo', implying 'also with Tsvangirai'" read the State outline.

"When the accused persons were approached by Edwin Ushe telling them to stop interfering with the ongoing ZANU PF celebration, thus when the trio instructed Edwin Ushe to be silent and went on to accuse him and others who were manning Howard Police base during the 2008 harmonised elections of having killed their relatives. The three were taken to Howard Police Station,"

according to the State outline.

The trio is accused of contravening Section 41 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act Chapter 9:23 for conduct likely to provoke the breach of peace. In their defence, Chinyemba, Khumalo and Chironga say they were surprised to find people wearing ZANU PF regalia at the celebrations, prompting them to inquire from the team manager whether the event had been turned into a political rally.

Although the team manager assured them the event was non-political, ZANU PF activists proceeded to pitch a public address system to play pro-Mugabe songs and address the soccer fans.

"We said there can't be a political rally at a soccer stadium. We refused to be addressed. ZANU PF youths became belligerent and

later on called a police detail who arrested us," the trio says in its defence.

This is not the first time that pro-Mugabe songs have caused problems for MDC activists. Three Penhalonga residents in Manicaland province, Patrick Chikoti, Faith Mudiwa and Phillip Dowera were in February charged under the same law for allegedly singing a modified version of Mbare Chimurenga Choir's Nyatsoterera song at a funeral.

The residents were accused of having sung: "Nyatsoterera unzwe kupenga muhofisi mune mboko nyatsoterera unzwe kupenga" and 'Ngatishandei nesimba takabatana tibvise kamudhara aka muoffice mupinde president wenyika Morgan Tsvangirai (Listen carefully to the madman and idiot in the office. Let's work hard to remove this old man from office and install Tsvangirai)."

The SADC Lawyers' Association

SADC Lawyers Association condemns the harassment of Civil Society Representatives by Zimbabwean State Security Agents at the SADC Extraordinary Summit in Windhoek



The SADC Lawyers Association is appalled by the harassment of civil society organizations' representatives at the SADC Extraordinary Summit in Windhoek on 20 May 2011 by Zimbabwean state security agents accompanied by Namibian police officers. Various members of civil society organizations from Zimbabwe and the region were at the Summit to highlight their concerns on issues that were on the summit agenda, including the crisis in Zimbabwe and the future of the SADC Tribunal.

The Civil Society Organizations held meetings and press conferences in various venues in Windhoek to highlight their concerns. At the venue of the Summit, Safari Court Hotel, some Zimbabwean state security agents who refused to identify themselves targeted Zimbabwe National Association of Non Governmental Organisations (NANGO) chairperson Dadirai Chikwengo, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition officials MacDonald Lewanika, Pedzisayi Ruhanya and Dewa Mavhinga and other representatives of the Zimbabwe Election

Support Network who were distributing statements with civil society demands to the summit. They were taken away from the hotel by the Namibian police under the watchful eye of the Zimbabwean state security agents. This was despite the fact that ZANU PF youths, led by one Nguni were allowed to freely distribute glossy booklets titled "Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) and the Culture of Violence" without any interference from either the Namibian Police or the Zimbabwe state security agents.

The SADC Lawyers' Association Executive Secretary Makanatsa Makonese, Executive Director of the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights Irene Petras, Lloyd Kuvheya of the Southern Africa Litigation Centre and Joy Mabhege of the Institute for a Democratic Alternative in Zimbabwe were also targeted whilst holding a meeting at the Safari Court Hotel. They were taken from the hotel into the parking area by armed police officers and interrogated by aggressive Zimbabwe

state security agents for more than an hour. The security agents asked personal questions about the CSO representatives' addresses in Zimbabwe, villages of origin, who had paid for their tickets to Namibia and where they were staying in Namibia. They also demanded the four's passports to record their national identity numbers and other identity information.

Another civil society representative Jealousy Mawarire was briefly detained for taking pictures whilst a car that was being used by Dewa Mavhinga was confiscated. Both Mawarire and the car were only released after the intervention of Namibian human rights lawyer Norman Tjombe.

The SADC Lawyers Association is dismayed that the Zimbabwe state security agents continue to behave as a law unto themselves, even on foreign land. To this end the Association supports the call made by the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights on 20 May 2011 for the reform of the Zimbabwean

security sector as enunciated in the Zimbabwe Global Political Agreement. It is sad that the Namibian police officials allowed themselves to be used by these agents to harass harmless and peaceful civil society organization representatives who had not committed any offence. The Government of Zimbabwe, state security agents in that country and SADC Governments are reminded that civil society organizations and individual citizens have a right to be heard and to participate in issues that affect how they are governed.

Issued for and on behalf of the
SADC Lawyers Association

By Thoba Poyo-Dlwati

President

23 May 2011.

Zimbabwe Parliamentarians Against HIV and AIDS (ZIPAH) *Statement on HIV, Human Rights and the Law*

BACKGROUND

1. We, Zimbabwe Parliamentarians Against HIV and AIDS, representing more than 45 constituencies met in Victoria Falls on the 20th and 21st of May 2011, for a workshop on HIV and AIDS, Human Rights and the Law.
2. We note the progress made towards ensuring universal access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Zimbabwe in the past five years.
3. We are concerned that Zimbabwe remains one of the countries experiencing huge challenges in treatment, care and support of its people and is among the countries worst hit by HIV in the world.
4. We note that the human rights issues are underlying responses to HIV and recognize the importance of the legislative mandate as a key component of the responses.
5. We acknowledge the need for political will, commitment and leadership in halting the advance of the epidemic in Zimbabwean communities.
6. We reaffirm our commitment to WALK the TALK.
7. We undertake to cultivate best practices for the role of parliamentarians in addressing the spread and impact of HIV.
8. We advance our commitment under the umbrella body of Zimbabwe Parliamentarians Against HIV and AIDS (ZIPAH) through practical involvement.

HUMAN RIGHTS AND HIV

9. We affirm that access to HIV prevention, treatment, care and support is a human right.
10. We note the importance of promoting and protecting human rights when formulating responses to HIV around law, policy and practice.
11. We note the need for a human rights based legislative agenda on issues related to health and HIV in particular.
12. We stress the importance of universal access to health care and other social services as an important aspect of the rights based approach to HIV.
13. We note that human rights violations anywhere and in whatever form exacerbate the spread and impact of HIV.

CRIMINALISATION OF HIV TRANSMISSION IN ZIMBABWE

14. We acknowledge the existence of legislation that criminalises HIV transmission in Zimbabwe.
15. We further acknowledge our monumental role in facilitating an enabling legal framework to promote human rights in the context of HIV.
16. We reiterate that deliberate transmission of HIV is a criminal offence that should be punished under our criminal laws without HIV specific law.
17. We admit that our present laws on criminalization of HIV transmission are wide in scope and seek to punish and control. This hampers efforts to deal with HIV openly without fear and secrecy – thereby discouraging disclosure, testing and uptake of health care services.
18. We acknowledge that Section 79 of the Criminal Law Codification Act needs revisiting to align our responses at the national level with global standards of enabling legal frameworks.

ESSENTIAL MEDICINES AND DIAGNOSTIC SERVICES FOR HIV

19. We note the continued challenges facing people living with HIV in accessing basic diagnostic and treatment services.
20. We acknowledge the importance of facilitating the inclusion of the right to health in the new Constitution for Zimbabwe.
21. We recognize that access to life saving antiretroviral treatment is critical in the enjoyment of the right to life and well-being of a person. We are also cognizant of the fact that HIV infection is a chronic but manageable condition.
22. We acknowledge that access to life saving antiretroviral therapy is important for economic growth and development of our nation.
23. We underscore the need for the central Government to do more in facilitating accessible and affordable health care services.
24. We underscore the need to fight corruption in the provision of HIV drugs at the facility level through strengthening of systems and procedures in the distribution and dispensing of HIV drugs and services.

MOST VULNERABLE, MOST AT RISK POPULATIONS AND HIV

25. We acknowledge the peculiar challenges faced by most vulnerable and most at risk populations that exacerbate the spread and impact of HIV, and note the need to expand and strengthen the responses.
26. We recognize that gender inequalities fuel the epidemic in Zimbabwe.
27. We understand that legislation should protect women's and children's rights around national issues of inheritance, food security, empowerment and social security.
28. We note the urgent need to increase the reach of prevention of mother to child transmission services and programmes across the country to benefit women in resource poor settings.
29. We note the increase in the number of orphans and child headed families owing to HIV in Zimbabwe and call for legislative efforts to facilitate central Government obligations to care for their well-being.
30. We note the challenges faced by HIV positive prisoners and persons in places of detention as regards opening and closing times of cells that impair timelines and schedules for taking ARVs.
31. We acknowledge the need for prison authorities to provide nutrition, prevention, treatment, care and support services in prisons.

HEALTH CARE FUNDING

32. We recommit to the Abuja Declaration of a 15% allocation of the national budget to health care.
33. We stress the importance of wealth redistribution as a means to health care financing in the developing countries which emphasizes the role of multi-nationals and companies benefiting from resources in low income countries like Zimbabwe.
34. We lend our voice to the call for a Global Convention on the Right to Health before 2013 that facilitates health care financing anchored in wealth redistribution that places obligations on the wealthy to fund health for poor countries.
35. We acknowledge the need to expand sources of health care financing at the local level to include innovative ways of tapping into special taxation or other avenues of local revenue collection.

THE WAY FORWARD:

1) IN THE IMMEDIATE

- ☐ We commit ourselves to providing national leadership on HIV responses by shaping a conducive legislative and policy framework that place human rights at the centre of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Zimbabwe.
- ☐ We call upon the Executive arm of Government to provide similar political commitment in upholding basic health rights in national policy and budgeting
- ☐ We commit ourselves to amplifying the voices of people living with and affected by HIV vigorously now and onwards.
- ☐ We will launch ZIPAH within the next three months.
- ☐ We will organize and encourage all MPs to place HIV and AIDS and related issues as part of their daily agenda at constituency and national levels.
- ☐ We will organize in two months group or collective public voluntary counseling and testing (VCT) for ZIPAH members as a way to encourage citizens by leading from the front (walking the talk).
- ☐ We will intensify our collaboration with other key stakeholders in our endeavor
- ☐ We will link and work with traditional and other leaders on HIV agenda.
- ☐ We will advocate for involvement of MPs in the finalization and implementation of ZNASP II and Global Fund – related matters (Country Coordinating Mechanism and other relevant processes)

2) IN THE MEDIUM TERM

- ☐ We will intensify our ZIPAH membership drive to 75% of the total MPs of Parliament.
- ☐ We will involve elected local Government Officials, Mayors, Councilors in the response to HIV and AIDS
- ☐ We will engage in the crucial fight against stigma through campaigns for people to know their individual HIV status
- ☐ We will initiate integration of HIV related issues into the existing legal framework and the crafting of a stand-alone HIV law.
- ☐ We will engage in advocacy for the universal access to prevention, treatment, care and support using our highly esteemed officers and we will place the issue of adequate funding for HIV and work towards fulfillment of International Funding Agreement.

3) IN THE LONG TERM

- ☐ We will work to establish downstream structures to work with the NAC coordination structures (PAAC, DAAC, WAAC and VAAC).
- ☐ We will support and reinforce the work of Parliamentary Portfolio and Thematic Committees.
- ☐ We will work towards coming up with clear legislative advocacy agenda: reviewing and updating the existing HIV related laws and initiating the new ones as needed;
- ☐ We will advocate for ratification, domestication and full implementation of relevant international conventions and treaties.
- ☐ We will also advocate at all levels for greater meaningful involvement of people living with HIV.
- ☐ We will work to establish sustainable ZIPAH programmes with focal administration as stand alone or housed under key stakeholders administration roof.
- ☐ We will continue to WALK the TALK.

This declaration was issued at a meeting held at Elephant Hills Hotel, Victoria Falls, Zimbabwe. 20-21 May 2011

Dumped Mudede defiant

HARARE-Dumped by the Attorney-General but determined to strip a Canada-based Zimbabwean man of his citizenship, the Registrar-General Tobaiwa Mudede has hired a private firm to push for his quest.

The AG ditched Mudede after the High Court ruled in favour of Sebastian Piroro, a Zimbabwean whose application for a passport was turned down by Mudede. Justice Susan Mavangira had given Mudede until 14 April to renew Piroro's travel document.

Mudede has instead defied the ultimatum and has indicated his intention to appeal.

He has since contracted Mushonga, Mutsvairo and Associates to fight Justice Mavangira's judgment. Piroro, who resides in Canada and was born and educated in Zimbabwe. Piroro is represented by Bryant Elliot of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) in his quest to renew his passport.

Mushonga, Mutsvairo and Associates wrote to ZLHR on 18 May confirming they had taken over the case. The law firm said it had written to the Registrar of the High Court pointing out that Justice Mavangira was yet to release reasons for her ruling against Mudede to enable an appeal.

In response, ZLHR informed the lawyers that Mudede's window to appeal had closed on 3 May.

ZLHR said Mudede had no option but to comply with Justice Mavangira's ruling. "In the circumstances, unless you confirm by return that your client is agreeable to complying with

the Court Order forthwith, we will have no option but to bring Contempt of Court proceedings against him," ZLHR wrote on 24 May.

"In terms of the Court Order, your client had 10 days from the date of the Order within which to renew our client's Zimbabwe Passport. Your client has failed, to date, to comply with that Court Order," according to the ZLHR letter to Mudede's lawyers.

"In terms of Rule 30 (a) of the Supreme Court Rules, if your client had intended to appeal, he had 15 days within which to file a Notice of Appeal. This time limit commenced on the date of the Court Order, namely 31 March 2011. With respect, it does not commence only



Tobaiwa Mudede

reasons for judgment are delivered," wrote ZLHR.

Piroro's passport was issued in 2000 and expired last year. True to past form, Mudede refused to renew the document alleging that Piroro was a dual citizen on account of his father being born in Mozambique. Mudede said Piroro should first renounce his purported Mozambique citizenship-which he does not hold-before he could proceed further and obtain a new Zimbabwe passport.

Mudede's office turned down Piroro's application to renew his passport and indicated that the Registrar-General could only do so after he renounced his purported foreign citizenship. Mudede argued that Piroro was a "Mozambican citizen by

descent" and that he should have renounced his purported citizenship between 6 July 2001 and 6 January 2002 under the provisions of section 9 (7) of the Citizenship of Zimbabwe Act.

Mudede argued that although Piroro was born in Zimbabwe and had spent most of his life in the country he had lost his Zimbabwean citizenship and was now regarded as an "alien".

Piroro's father Saidon was born in Mozambique, migrated to Zimbabwe around 1955 and never returned to his country of birth. He became a citizen of Zimbabwe by registration and had a Zimbabwean identity number. His mother, born in Marondera, was a citizen of Zimbabwe by birth.

Disagreeing with Mudede Justice Mavangira, who heard the matter in March, ruled that Piroro was a citizen of Zimbabwe by birth in terms of Section 5 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

The High Court Judge declared that "the provisions of Section 9 (7) of the Citizenship of Zimbabwe Act (Chapter 4:01) in so far as it relates to citizenship by birth are ultra vires the powers vested in the Parliament of Zimbabwe in terms of Section 9 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe and are in consequence of no force or effect."

The ruling was a landmark in Zimbabwean law, as it can be applied to assist thousands of Zimbabweans who have similar circumstances to those of Piroro and who in recent years have been unlawfully stripped of their citizenship by Mudede under the guise of enforcing amendments to the Citizenship of Zimbabwe Act.

Repression blight Uhuru day

NYAMANDLOVU-While the rest of the African continent held celebrations to mark Africa Day last week, it was a different account for some Zimbabwean human rights defenders as they endured a week of state sanctioned repression characterised by arrests and trampling of basic rights.

On Monday, police arrested two Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) employees after they convened a workshop to conscientise villagers on the use of torture and its effects in Tsholotsho District in Matabeleland North province.

Florence Ndlovu, the ZimRights regional coordinator for Matabeleland province and Walter Dube, the organisation's paralegal officer for Matabeleland, Midlands and Masvingo provinces spent four and three nights respectively in police detention at Nyamandlovu Police Station while the police denied lawyers access to their clients.

The lawyers, Charles Moyo of Moyo and Nyoni Legal Practitioners, Jonathan Tsvangirai of Danziger and Partners Legal Practitioners who are member lawyers of Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights and Lizwe Jamela of ZLHR shuttled between Bulawayo and Nyamandlovu in search of their clients but to no avail.

It was only on Thursday, a day after Africa Liberation Day that the lawyers finally located the two ZimRights employees at a police station in Lupane, Matabeleland North province.

Ndlovu and Dube, who had been

detained at Nyamandlovu Police Station since Monday, were moved to Lupane Police Station on Wednesday where Ndlovu was charged with contravening Section 31 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act for allegedly communicating false statements prejudicial to the State. The police alleged that Ndlovu told villagers who had gathered at Tshino Business Centre in Tsholotsho District that the "police torture and assault people".

However, the ZimRights regional coordinator denied the allegations in her warned and cautioned statement which was recorded in the presence of her lawyers and indicated that she only spoke about examples and scenarios of torture.

The police preferred no charges against Dube whom they released on summons pending further investigations.

Ndlovu was granted \$50 bail by Lupane Magistrate Gwazemba when she appeared in court on Friday and ordered to report everyday to Pumula Police Station until 10 June.

In Harare, Magistrate Reward Kwenda ended five days of horror for 27 residents of Kuwadzana and Marlborough suburbs, who were arrested on 19 May on their way from the burial of their relative and charged with public violence for allegedly assaulting some ZANU PF supporters and some new farmers.

Magistrate Kwenda freed the mourners on Tuesday after their lawyers Gift Mtisi of Musendekwa and Mtisi Legal



Kossam Ncube

Practitioners and Tarisai Mutangi of Donsa-Nkomo and Mutangi Legal Practitioners, who are members of ZLHR applied for bail when they appeared in court on Monday. The Magistrate ordered the 27 mourners to deposit \$20, continue residing at their given residential addresses and not to interfere with State witnesses. The 27 mourners who included Pastor Dominic Dziwedziwe (36) of Kuwadzana, Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) Harare Province Vice-chairperson Shakespeare Mukoyi were arrested on Thursday 19 May 2011 and charged with contravening section 36 (1) (a) of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act Chapter 9:23 while coming from burying the body of an MDC activist Jack Ndeketya at Granville cemetery, who

had passed away recently.

On a slightly positive note, Bulawayo Magistrate Gideon Ruwetsa on Monday granted bail to six members of Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) who were arrested last week and charged with malicious damage to property. The six WOZA members namely Teresia Phiri, Janet Dube, Juliet Nyathi, Thobekile Ncube, Sibekezele Nkomo, and Loyce Ndlovu were charged with contravening Section 140 of Criminal Law (Codification and Reform Act) Chapter 9:23, for malicious damage to property.

ZLHR member lawyers Kossam Ncube of Kossam Ncube and Partners and Godfrey Nyoni of Moyo and Nyoni Legal Practitioners represented the WOZA members. The six WOZA members were ordered to pay \$100 bail and to report once a fortnight to the police. They were also ordered to surrender their travel documents and to continue residing at their given residential addresses and not to interfere with State witnesses.

In Nyanga, Magistrate Ignatio Mhene on Monday granted an application filed by Nyanga North Member of Parliament Hon. Douglas Mwonzora and 32 Nyanga residents, seeking a referral of their matter to the Supreme Court to determine the violation of several of their constitutional rights.

Hon. Mwonzora and the Nyanga residents who were arrested in February and charged with public violence filed a constitutional challenge on 10 May arguing that their rights to liberty, protection of the law and protection

from inhuman and degrading treatment as enshrined in the Constitution were violated when they were arrested, abducted and detained in filthy police and prison cells in Nyanga and Mutare respectively.

In his ruling which was delivered on Monday, Magistrate Mhene upheld that the application was not frivolous or vexatious as claimed by the State prosecutor Tirivanhu Mutyasira, who had opposed the application filed by Mwonzora and the residents' lawyers Jeremiah Bamu of ZLHR and David Tandiri of Maunga, Maanda and Associates Legal Practitioners, who is a member of ZLHR.

Magistrate Mhene ruled that all the questions raised by Hon. Mwonzora and the Nyanga dwellers relating to the alleged violation of their rights enshrined in the Constitution should be referred to the Supreme Court in terms Section 24 (2) of the Constitution as requested by the applicants.

The Magistrate suspended the reporting conditions for the Constitution Select Committee (COPAC) joint chairperson and the all the Nyanga residents pending the determination of their application in the Supreme Court.

Hon. Mwonzora and the other applicants had been reporting once a week to the police as part of their bail conditions.

Magistrate Mhene also ordered the police to immediately release upon sight of the court order a Mazda BT 50 vehicle which Hon. Mwonzora had been using to execute COPAC duties.

Walking the talk

VICTORIA FALLS-Several legislators have committed themselves to walk the talk by pledging to organise group or collective public voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) as a way of encouraging citizens to do so in the fight against the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

The legislators, including those who are members of the Zimbabwe Parliamentarians Against HIV and AIDS (ZIPAH) said they will lead from the front in organising and encouraging all MPs to place HIV and AIDS and related

issues as part of their daily agenda at constituency and national levels.

The legislators made the pledge at a workshop convened by Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights with the support of UNAIDS and the National

Aids Council in Victoria Falls last week.

The parliamentarians committed themselves to providing national leadership on HIV responses by shaping a conducive legislative and policy framework that place human rights at

the centre of HIV prevention, treatment, care and support in Zimbabwe.

Below are some of the scenes captured by ZLHR during the workshop which was attended by MP's and Senators from ZANU PF and the MDC parties.

