

# The President's Letter

MDC Message from President Tsvangirai

May 2008

Post Election Volume 8

## MDC Establishes Fund to help Victims of Violence



**President Tsvangirai with his Vice President Thokozane Khupe shares a light moment with a victim of post election violence.**

My fellow Zimbabweans

For the past six weeks we have been a nation living in the shadow of a deliberate and determined campaign of violence conducted by supporters of Robert Mugabe.

Innocent and ordinary Zimbabweans, members of the MDC and leaders of the Party have been targets of this brutal campaign. Since my return, I have met with victims, met with the relatives of the victims and attended the funeral of a committed democratic activist.

Over 50 Zimbabweans have been killed in the past six weeks. Many thousand more have been injured, displaced or had their houses destroyed and their property looted.

I have been saddened that Zimbabweans are willing to shed the blood of other Zimbabweans over political differences. I have been angered by the fact that a man who once offered the people so much is refusing to listen to their cries for change. But most of all, I have been heartened by the courage and resolve of those targeted by this regime. People who are determined to stand by the democratic dream and adhere to their principles of peaceful change. Standing with those who have suffered from this mindless and futile rage of a dying regime, I have been proud to call myself a Zimbabwean and a democrat.

I am not alone in these feelings of respect and pride for my fellow countrymen and women. Over recent weeks I have been approached by leaders of civil society, the churches and the business community wanting to know how they can help.

At this dawn of a new era in Zimbabwe, we believe it is not enough to just offer words of solace and support.

If we are all going to rebuild our country, then we must begin by helping those affected by this violence to rebuild their lives.

Therefore, today, Tuesday 27th of May, I am launching the President's Fund for Victims of Violence. Today, I am saying to the nation that rebuilding our beautiful country begins now. The time of intolerance and destruction is coming to an end. The time for peace and prosperity is beginning.

In addition to the National Funds for Gukurahundi Victims and the Murambatsvina Fund which will be launched by the MDC Government in July, The President's Fund for Victims of Violence will begin by providing an initial US\$300 thousand to begin the process of supporting victims of political violence.

We have selected a Board of Trustees from churches and grass-root organizations to administer the fund and it will be audited by an independent firm of accountants. The Trust will be chaired by Ellenor Sisulu. The beneficiaries will be assessed and assisted through the provincial and district welfare committees created for that purpose. The monies in this fund will go to those who need it the most. In particular, the fund will assist those who lost their houses and property, orphaned families through violence and those physically incapacitated.

The President's Fund will not become another War Victims Compensation Fund that benefits the elite, because this Party is committed to running its affairs, the affairs of the nation and the affairs of the people in transparent and improved ways. Only by doing this can we rebuild a New Zimbabwe that offers hope and a New Beginning to all Zimbabweans.

Details of the management of this fund including bank and account details and how the monies will be disbursed will be advertised in the media and through our Party structures starting this coming weekend.

I call upon all Zimbabweans at home and not affected by the violence and our brothers and sisters abroad to contribute to this fund.

My fellow Zimbabweans, the rebuilding of our New Zimbabwe begins now. We deserve the change, the change we trust. The MDC represents that change.

I thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mugabe'.

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