

The Zimbabwean diaspora is puzzled that a month has passed since the stolen elections and a seemingly punch-drunk opposition has given no sign of a strategy to confront Mugabe, let alone stage demonstrations against Zanu PF's blatant chicanery.

We at the Vigil are sorry that the MDC did not decide to boycott parliament to make a powerful statement to the world about the election rigging – especially necessary since the puzzling withdrawal of the MDC's legal challenge against the outcome. We don't think their presence can serve any useful purpose but we had no real hope that the honourable members would pass up the perks – even though it just lends legitimacy to Mugabe.

Well, here's another suggestion for the MDC and one which we hope they will look at more favourably. Our suggestion is that the party returns to its roots: trade unionism and human rights. The new constitution the MDC has laboured so long over and welcomed so joyously must give room for this activism. The Labour Court President Custom Kachambwa thinks so. He says the constitution guarantees civil servants the right to strike (Zim Labour Expert Urges Workers to Exploit New Governance Charter – http://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/jb_zim-labour-expert-urges-workers-to-exploit-new-governance-charter/).

Mugabe promised that civil servants and others would be given pay rises. We urge the MDC to support the legitimate demands of workers for this promise to be honoured. The MDC must also surely support Mugabe's call for adequate inputs and finance for farmers, for the reinvigoration of industry, for the overhaul of water and electricity provision, for improved roads and transport....

No money to pay for this? The workers know that there is money from diamonds that Mugabe has at his disposal. By promising pay rises and other help, Mugabe has just invited them to apply for it. So we call on the MDC to get out there and get the civil servants, farmers, soldiers and business people to demand their rights.

The Vigil is inspired by the wise counsel of Papa Jukwa – father of Baba. He says Zanu PF's decision to cancel municipal bills will be followed by the long-heralded revival of the Zimbabwean dollar. The Zanu PF insider says the currency will be backed by damages from the West awarded by Zimbabwe's learned judges in compensation for the illegal sanctions which have cost Zimbabwe \$42 billion or more. As a down payment, all properties of these vile countries will be seized without compensation. Our problems will be over at last.

Other points

- Following SADC's rubber-stamping of Zimbabwe's crooked elections we are introducing a new feature: SADC Watch. Here is a start. The son of Zambia's President Sata is said to be one of the people behind the supply of closed circuit television equipment to the Zambian government at an inflated amount of \$210 million instead of \$13 million (see: <http://www.zambianwatchdog.com/mulenga-sata-and-chinese-crooks-that-conned-govt-on-blocking-watch-dog-now-to-supply-cctv/>)

– Mulenga Sata and Chinese crooks that conned govt on blocking Watchdog now to supply CCTV). Malawi's President Banda is reported to have followed Mugabe's lead and employed the shadowy Israeli company Nikuv to help steal the elections planned for next year (see: <http://www.theindependent.co.zw/2013/08/30/banda-ropes-zim-nikuv/>)

– Banda ropes in Zim, Nikuv).

Challenge Mugabe to deliver – Zimbabwe Vigil Diary: 31st August 2013

Written by Administrator

Sunday, 01 September 2013 15:31 -

· Thanks to Joseph Chivayo who caught the 3.50 am coach from Derby to be with us before the start of the Vigil to help set up. Others who came early were Michelle Dube who took care of the register and merchandise sales and Rose Maponga who took up her usual post at the front table.

For latest Vigil pictures check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwевigil/> . Please note: Vigil photos can only be downloaded from our Flickr website.

FOR THE RECORD: 35 signed the register.

EVENTS AND NOTICES:

· **ROHR Executive meeting.** Saturday 7th September at 11 am. Venue: Strand Continental Hotel (first floor lounge), 143 Strand, London WC2R 1JA.

· **Zimbabwe Action Forum (ZAF).** Saturday 7th September from 6.30 – 9.30 pm. Venue: Strand Continental Hotel (first floor lounge), 143 Strand, London WC2R 1JA. The Strand is the same road as the Vigil. From the Vigil it's about a 10 minute walk, in the direction away from Trafalgar Square. The Strand Continental is situated on the south side of the Strand between Somerset House and the turn off onto Waterloo Bridge. The entrance is marked by a big sign high above and a sign for its famous Indian restaurant at street level. It's next to a newsagent. Nearest underground: Temple (District and Circle lines) and Holborn.

- **Zimbabwe Yes We Can meeting.** Saturday 21st September from 12 noon. Venue: Strand Continental Hotel (first floor lounge), 143 Strand, London WC2R 1JA.
- **Zimbabwe Vigil Highlights 2012** can be viewed on this link: <http://www.zimvigil.co.uk/the-vigil-diary/467-vigil-highlights-2012>
· Links to previous years' highlights are listed on 2012 Highlights page.
- **The Restoration of Human Rights in Zimbabwe (ROHR)** is the Vigil's partner organization based in Zimbabwe. ROHR grew out of the need for the Vigil to have an organization on the ground in Zimbabwe which reflected the Vigil's mission statement in a practical way. ROHR in the UK actively fundraises through membership subscriptions, events, sales etc to support the activities of ROHR in Zimbabwe. Please note that the official website of ROHR Zimbabwe is <http://www.rohrzimbabwe.org/>. Any other website claiming to be the official website of ROHR in no way represents the views and opinions of ROHR.
- **Facebook pages:**
 - Vigil: <http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=8157345519&ref=ts>
 - ZAF: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Zimbabwe-Action-Forum-ZAF/490257051027515>
 - ROHR: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/ROHR-Zimbabwe-Restoration-of-Human-Rights/301811392835>
- **Vigil Myspace page:** <http://www.myspace.com/zimbabwevigil>.
- **Useful websites:** www.zanupfcrime.com which reports on Zanu PF abuses and

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www.ipaidabribe.org.zw where people can report corruption in Zimbabwe