

ZAPU revival rattles Morgan Tsvangirai MDC-T party

The one permanent feature of the inferior man is fear - fear of the unknown, the complex and the inexplicable. Barely a month has gone by since ZAPU held its National Congress at the Bulawayo Trade fair grounds and the Morgan Tsvangirai MDC-T formation is already showing signs of fear and fatigue. Yes fear, fear of the unknown, the inexplicable as ZAPU takes its rightful place by swiftly winning the hearts and minds of the people of Zimbabwe. The Morgan Tsvangirai MDC-T project that had seemed to be visible in many major cities including Bulawayo since the last election in March 2008 has all of a sudden shown renewed interest with its personnel seen touring the length and breadth of the city of Bulawayo.

On the morning of September the first the people of Bulawayo woke up to find Morgan Tsvangirai's MDC-T had opened offices in the city centre. The explanation put forward was that the Prime Minister needed a place to work from when ever he visited Bulawayo. For those less naïve, do know that Morgan Tsvangirai had abandoned Matabeleland and its people soon after he got the legislative seats from the region. However, following the highly publicised and successful ZAPU Congress the MDC-T realised that there is something happening in Bulawayo and indeed the entire Matabeleland region. The people are abandoning the Tsvangirai project and joining ZAPU in their multitudes. His prospects of winning the three seats namely Nkayi South, Lupane East and Bulilima East left vacant after Professor Arthur Mutambara dismissed his standing parliamentarians with ZAPU in the political fray is now a complete impossibility. The arrangement between the principles of the GNU that states that they would not contest each other in by-elections expired on the 15th of September. The opening of offices in Bulawayo by his MDC-T party is obviously geared at bolstering their chances should the by-election be called in the near future. However the people of Matabeleland are all the wiser now.

ZAPU has indeed rattled the Morgan Tsvangirai MDC-T party.

On Thursday the 7th of October Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai suddenly broke off his love affair with President Robert Mugabe citing unfaithfulness. He went on to accuse his erstwhile estranged partner in the Global political arrangement of being unfaithful when the former appointed Provincial Governors without consulting him. For anybody

who is familiar with the politics surrounding the issue of the appointment of governors will remember that Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, Deputy Prime minister Professor Arthur Mutambara and President Robert Mugabe had agreed to tie the issue of the appointment of Governors to the sanctions issue. In fact the leader of the smaller MDC-M faction Deputy Prime minister Professor Arthur Mutambara was commissioned by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and President Robert Mugabe to transmit the arrangement as agreed and Professor Arthur Mutambara wrote a letter to the SADC facilitator South African President Jacob Zuma stating that the three had agreed to have the governors appointed as soon as the sanctions were lifted. And if that was not enough, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai now claims all the appointments that he acquiesced to since the formation of the Government of National Unity are all “null and void”. One wonders what all this means. Is he saying also that the appointment of his henchman Hebson Makuvishe as the Ambassador to Germany is also “null and void”?

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai should just come clean and tell the people of Zimbabwe the truth. He is a man who has made his bed and is now refusing to sleep in it. The Government of National unity was a terrible mistake made by both MDC's. President Robert Mugabe true to form has behaved consistently. They say a leopard will never change its spots. It is prudent to state that at least ZAPU had a valid reason for entering into the December 1987 unity accord. People's lives were at stake and the politicians of the day sacrificed their political careers for the people. That was real statesman ship. What was Tsvangirai's excuse? It is full hardy for Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai to think he could teach an old dog new tricks. ZAPU entered into a unity agreement in December 1987 and until it pulled out in November 2008, ZANU has never upheld its side of the agreement.

Uncharacteristic to his normal behaviour, it is perfectly obvious that the Prime minister is under fire from his colleagues in the MDC-T, who are increasingly becoming frustrated by his poor leadership qualities. The revival of ZAPU has not helped matters. Here is a man who changes his position on issues so frequently he has now earned the title “flip flop”. A cursory look at his press statement one can see that it is clearly something that was thrown together in a hurry in a futile attempt to try and salvage his waning political fortunes in the advent of an increasingly powerful ZAPU.

This hastily choreographed arrangement made another stop over in Bulawayo on Friday at a business meeting organised by the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI). Out of the blue we had Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai reading from the ZAPU policy script on devolution in Matabeleland. All of a sudden the prime minister wants to champion devolution in Bulawayo and the region. A place that he ignored soon after the March 2008 harmonised elections, after the people of Matabeleland had handed him some twenty odd seats in the legislature.

It is surprising that now Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai suddenly sees the marginalisation of Matabeleland and its people. Is it not truer that he himself is actually guiltier of further marginalising the very same people he purports to care about today when he appointed his new Cabinet? His new Cabinet did nothing to empower the people of Matabeleland. In fact his reshuffle amounted to further marginalisation of the very same people that he now purports to represent.

Out of the legislative seats the people of Matabeleland handed to the MDC-T, none of the members were included in the Tsvangirai Cabinet line up. In fact he displayed his disdain for the newly elected legislators when he by passed them and proceeded to hand pick the leader of Bulawayo agenda Gordon Moyo for a Cabinet post. His sudden arrival in Bulawayo preaching devolution after two years of ignoring the region smacks of hypocrisy and it is a cynical attempt to disguise the perfectly obvious fact that the revived ZAPU has rattled the MDC-T party. This is simply a futile attempt to try and steal the thunder from ZAPU.

The people of Bulawayo and Zimbabwe in general have now awakened to the reality that the Morgan Tsvangirai formation does not carry the aspirations of the people of Zimbabwe. The MDC-T has no visible road map for Zimbabwe beyond “Chinja Guqula, change” Their concern has always been and will always be about jobs for his boys and girls. The people of Zimbabwe are yearning for a political party that will address bread and butter issues. The people of Zimbabwe want to elect into power a political party that carries the aspirations of the people. That political party is ZAPU. ZAPU is a party that is national in character. It is now back. It has now taken its rightful place in the Zimbabwean body politic. And it will now work to correct the revolution that lost its way in the genuine interest of the people.

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