

**A Time for Truth, A Time for Transformation and A Time to
BUILD**

Today is a historic day.

Today we present ourselves to you in humility and the humbling comfort of the people's support. There has been intense speculation from our detractors. There has been strong anticipation from our supporters. We had to resist the temptation. The temptation to formalize our being and existence without adequate consultation with the people of Zimbabwe. This is a day of great significance in our great country's political history. Today we confirm the existence of a viable, home grown and inclusive political party. It is now public knowledge that:

ZIMBABWE NATIONAL PEOPLE'S PARTY IS HERE!

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The times we are living in call for truth to correct our past wrongs, change for good, unity and determination to BUILD a new Zimbabwe in peace. Zimbabwe faces an urgent need for political, economic, and social reform.

We are living under an unjust system. There is selective application of the law, one for the poor and powerless, one for the rich and powerful, one for opposition party supporters and one for ruling party supporters.

The right to self-determination and self-dignity has disappeared. The ordinary person's capacity to earn a living continues to disappear. People's savings have long since disappeared. Government itself faces a severe cash squeeze. Many of our civil servants work tirelessly without adequate tools or resources, not to mention lack of timely and adequate remuneration.

Zimbabwe does not even have a currency of its own for nearly ten years now. Infrastructure is old and dilapidated and urgently in need of repair, if not complete replacement with the most modern technology. The investment environment is crowded by multiple incoherent policies; inadequate and unaffordable credit finance and an urgent need to reform a parasitic, non-performing parastatal sector.

This has given rise to economic decay in both urban and rural centers

across the whole country. Zimbabwe urgently needs investor friendly and market driven policies to stimulate economic activity. In order for all this to take effect, the scourge of corruption will need to be totally uprooted so that the nation is rid of this cancer and evil spirit.

There is an urgent need to create jobs for the huge growing army of unemployed and hopeless people out there. A wholesale review of the Indigenisation Act will be effected. We shall instead, emphasise Economic Empowerment that attracts investment and promotes the broad based socio-economic and infrastructure development objectives of BUILD. The Agricultural, Banking, Financial, Manufacturing, Mining and Tourism sectors are all in need of well designed restructuring to make them geared to a 21st century emerging African economy that creates jobs and promotes economic growth.

Faced with an imminent drought season and a political management team without focus, there is no credit finance, no irrigation infrastructure and no marketing mechanisms to mitigate the

agricultural challenges that lie ahead. Farmers lack adequate inputs and where the few farmers produce, they find no markets. A well-defined land policy should be instituted and properly administered to ensure full and sustainable utilization of land by recipients. There should be an independent land audit to weed out multiple farm ownership and to support sustainable land use.

A more acceptable security of tenure will replace the “offer letter” which leaves both recipients and lenders very insecure. Bankable and transferable leases are not an option but a given.

Zimbabwe is a broken country. In dark times such as this, we look to the government of the day to serve as BUILDERS of a better country for all. We look to the government of the day to bring the change that is desired by all. We know we will not get this from the government of the day. It has broken the social contract that should exist with the Zimbabwean people. The people of Zimbabwe voted for a new democratic constitution in 2013 but it is still to be fully implemented. In line with the new constitution, we need the electoral laws reformed to ensure a free and level playing field. Is the government of the day

looking at this? **NO**. The suffering masses through their political representations, need to make this point loud and clear, so that the next election is not in any way disputed or considered flawed or rigged so as to deny legitimacy to any outcome thereof.

Our great nation is crying out for transformation.

My fellow citizens, change and hope lie in the promise of honesty and hard work. Zimbabwe National People's Party stands for accountability, hard work and transparency to BUILD a better Zimbabwe. Corruption in any form at any level has no room in a Zimbabwe National People's Party government. This is the commitment of Zimbabwe National People's Party to you. The commitment to serve Zimbabwe honestly and justly. The commitment to bring about change. Our **Blueprint to Unlock Investment and Leverage for Development (BUILD)** outlines our policy thrust to change Zimbabwe for good.

Zimbabwe National People's Party believes in a Zimbabwe that belongs to all people who call it home, regardless of disability, ethnicity, gender,

nationality, political affiliation, race, or religious affiliation. This was an important value of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle and Zimbabwe National People's Party is entirely devoted to this particular value. Zimbabwe National People's Party is therefore an inclusive party. It is a party made of many, a diversity of Zimbabweans brought together by common values inherent in us and the vision for our nation that we carry and the realization that we have to save this great nation from wanton destruction by those who do not see what the people value and want. Zimbabwe National People's Party is informed by the values of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle. The legacy of the liberation struggle belongs to all Zimbabweans. We fought for the right to self determination, the right to freedom, the right to vote under the principle of one person one vote and NOT one "man" voting for us ALL. One of Zimbabwe's greatest sons in the liberation war, General Josiah Magama Tongogara, once said: "We are not fighting against the white man. We are fighting against a system. It is the system, the system, that system which is unjust". Today that unjust system ZANLA, ZIPRA and the Zimbabwean masses fought against, remains a noose around our necks, as that system has stolen any hope for the people of

Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe National People's Party is a dynamic party that embraces the future. A party that offers transformation and hope to the young and old people of Zimbabwe. A party that will remove the unjust system once and for all through economic, political and social reform.

Zimbabwe National People's Party believes in a Zimbabwe where the civil service is apolitical, efficient, meritocratic, professional and transparent in its conduct. Without these traits, we cannot BUILD a better Zimbabwe. We cannot bring about change and restore hope. The effective civil service we shall assemble provides a basis for the vibrant economy we aim to BUILD. We shall encourage and institute e-government throughout the service to achieve set targets by set timelines and curb corruption. We shall ensure that government's role is to facilitate, promote, regulate for a level and a sustainably stable economic playing field.

Zimbabwe National People's Party is committed to ensuring that Zimbabwe regains its rightful place in the global community of nations. We shall rejoin the Commonwealth. We shall be committed to meeting our international debt obligations. We will seek rapprochement with countries that currently have poor diplomatic and difficult economic relations with Zimbabwe, without sacrificing our national sovereignty. Zimbabwe shall strengthen its relations with all those countries it currently enjoys good relations.

Let me now address a certain level of skepticism, which is bound to be directed at Zimbabwe National People's Party by some stakeholders. That skepticism which says: “you were in ZANU PF for many years. Why then should we believe that you will transform this country?” My simple answer is that Zimbabwe National People's Party is a new entity, with new values and followers from every political party in Zimbabwe, including those who had never joined any political party before, from every province and ethnicity. We are the People and what brings us

together, all of us, is our desire to transform and to BUILD a better Zimbabwe. We are not a one- simple woman party. What we are, is a party with a one People Center of Power.

I must also speak for myself. I have known only one political party since I joined the liberation struggle. I am now outside that party. I am neither an assassin nor a witch. This is now there for all to see. I have never been a pretender that is why you never heard me encourage or promote hate speech. If there is any crime that I am guilty of, it is the belief in the periodic constitutional and democratic renewal of leadership from within, and this is the same position I am now promoting within Zimbabwe National People's Party.

In the coming months, Zimbabwe National People's Party will make preparations for an inaugural Elective People's Convention to usher in substantive leadership to all positions within the party, from the Ward to the National level. To this end, I will be announcing a national management committee to spearhead this process. The emphasis and objective being to hold a successful inaugural Elective Convention.

At this stage let me highlight Zimbabwe People First's position on coming and working together with other likeminded political organisations. We will stand by and support all those that believe in what we stand for: Peace, Freedom, Democracy and Prosperity for all. To this end, we will strive to ensure a coming together and meeting of minds on this vision. To this end, we will encourage and promote dialogue amongst all likeminded organisations. To this end, we will support a convergence of minds and views under an objective to attain peace, freedom, democracy and prosperity for all. To this end, we will seek the mandate of the National People's Party members to take this to its logical conclusion.

Let me conclude by calling on all Zimbabweans within and without our borders, from all walks of life to be part of this agenda to restore practical and meaningful hope to our people. We accept political diversity. We embrace political tolerance and abhor political violence and intolerance in any form whatsoever. We wish well to all the people of Zimbabwe as we embark on this huge challenge of

transforming our country to embrace and adopt all the above. We urge all our War Veterans, the Police, the Army, the Air Force, and Intelligence services to defend the Constitution of Zimbabwe. So people of Zimbabwe let us bring the transformation that brings the hope that everyone is looking for.

Zimbabwe National People's Party is carrying the desire for transformation and hope for all Zimbabweans.

On behalf of National People's Party, I want to appeal to all Zimbabweans to rally behind this call to BUILD our country in peace, whilst some revolutionaries are busy pulling Zimbabwe down.

Thank you and God bless you all.

**Dr. Joice Teurai Ropa Mujuru President,
Zimbabwe National People's Party**