

THE FIRST LADY GRACE MUGABE: A DECLARED NATIONAL DISASTER IN THE ZIMBABWE PARTY POLITICAL ARENA (2014-15)! A SOCIOECONOMIC ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The objective in this Paper is to find out how and why the First Lady Grace (49) wife to His Excellence President Mugabe has been unanimously declared a “national disaster in the Zimbabwe party political_arena”. Tutani (2014) in his contribution “Its domination, domination, domination” gives a review of how the First Lady Grace Mugabe joined ZANU PF politics as ZANU PF Women’s League boss during the long awaited 2-7 December 2014 ZANU PF “elective” congress. A duumvirate - a coalition of two people holding real power – could be in the making in the tumultuous political environment in Zimbabwe. Nyamutata (2015) complained bitterly about the First Lady Grace Mugabe’s entry into ZANU PF party politics to create cracks and fissures which will take a long time to heal if not to cause the fractious political party breaking into two on its way to political oblivion. Like a tree uprooting storm, the boisterous and thunderous First Lady Grace Mugabe had been renamed in metaphors that derive from disaster and destruction rather than constructiveness. Hurricane Grace, Tsunami Grace, Calamity Grace, Cyclone Grace, Typhoon Grace, Atomic bomb Grace...these metaphors are invoked to describe tremendous power and huge force. But these derive from destructive natural disasters. The First Lady Grace- a former Chivhu commoner has proved beyond reasonable doubt that she is a natural disaster capable of the annihilation of a whole generation of Zimbabweans if someone does not stop her in her tracks. This paper this grave issue form a socio-economic perspective to answer various leadership issues.

Keywords: Autocracy, Leadership issues, Socio-economic perspective, Zimbabwe

INTRODUCTION

The outcome of the December 2014 ZANU PF so-called “*elective*” congress was as predictable as a one horse race, not because those who “won” were particularly better than the “losers”, but because the outcome was predetermined through disqualification on the most partisan and cheapest of grounds. Elections to choose party office bearers were done, undone and redone to ensure a “favourable” outcome – like a rugby game which does not end until the home team wins. Like all communist countries these were or are *de jure* or *de facto* one-party states. In most cases voters were or are presented with a single list, which usually won or wins 90% or more of the vote. In some countries, those who vote against the sole candidate on the ballot face serious reprisals. This is blatantly and nakedly what happened in the run-up to and during the ZANU PF so-called “*elective*” congress where there were no elections as such. The damp squib congress did little more than approve decisions already made at the highest level of ZANU PF – the politburo (Tutani 2014).

His Excellence President’s wife the First Lady Grace Mugabe had come into the equation through this back door to make it a two person rule with the First Lady having access to the President 24/7. This was to become a *duumvirate* – a coalition of two people holding real power. Any of those people like the former Vice President Joyce Mujuru and her allies opposed to First Lady Grace Mugabe’s elevation had been thrown out either before, during or after the so-called “*elective*” congress. With this damp squib of an “*elective*” congress the First Lady Grace Mugabe had virtually become a *de facto* co-president alongside her husband. This effectively meant that those wanting to deal with His Excellence President Mugabe would have to come through her. This in the ZANU PF party gave her immense power far beyond her official roles as First Lady and ZANU PF Women’s League boss (Tutani 2014).

December 5, 2014 had marked a year after former South African President Nelson Mandela’s death. He (Mandela) had become the rarest thing in African history. A one-term President who chose not to run for office ... he understood that every step he made would be a template for other Presidents in Africa such as long serving His Excellence President Mugabe of Zimbabwe and President Jose Eduardo dos Santos of oil rich Angola to name just a few in the SADC region. Mandela could have been President for life but he knew that for democracy to rule he could not. Two democratic elections to choose Presidents Mbeki and Zuma respectively in South Africa had followed his presidency in a space of 20 years. But in Zimbabwe, most sadly, it has not been about democracy but domination. The end result has been clear for all to see – while the neighbouring South Africa is the second largest economy in Africa after the oil rich Nigeria in terms of economic prosperity. Zimbabwe on the other hand is propping up all the

55 states that are recognized by either the African Union (AU) or United Nations (UN) or both (Staff Reporter 2015, Tutani 2014).

While Tutani (2014) was bemoaning rule by domination as ably articulated above, Nyamutata (2015) was lamenting the ZANU PF disastrous politics which had unexpectedly brought the First Lady Grace Mugabe to the fore of ZANU PF politics. In his telling contribution to the ignition to the discourse in this Paper Nyamutata (2015) had complained that ZANU PF politics was harmful to both itself and the country. Justifying his overstay in politics and as leader of ZANU PF, His Excellence President Mugabe, 91 years of age on 21 February 2015 had stated that he could not leave at a time his ZANU PF party was ablaze with succession and factional wars threatening to annihilate his ZANU PF party. But the brutal truth was that he had only achieved the opposite. His Excellence President Mugabe had failed to effectively address the ruinous divisions in his ruling ZANU PF party maturely, instead erroneously electing to unleash his rabid wife, First Lady Grace Mugabe to embark on a reckless personal mission to fell archenemy Joyce Mujuru, then Vice President in both party and government. Given these circumstances the best way to describe the ZANU PF brand of politics is disastrous (Nyamutata 2015).

The irony that escapes the First Lady Grace Mugabe's praise singers is that the metaphors they ascribe to her, derive from disaster and destruction rather than constructiveness. Hurricane Grace, Tsunami Grace, Calamity Grace, Cyclone Grace, Typhoon Grace, Atomic bomb Grace these metaphors are invoked, unbeknown to these rented crowds, to expose ruthless power and brutal force that came with gales of strong winds that uproot huge trees to land them on top of people's houses to render them not only dead but homeless to the luck survivors. In mid January 2015, the then newly appointed Vice President after the damp squib of a congress in early December 2014 had, in his praise singing to acknowledge his belated "thank you" to the First Lady Grace Mugabe for his elevation through the back door, drawn on another metaphor of calamity, this time human-sponsored when he unashamedly declared:

"We did not know that President Mugabe was keeping a political atomic bomb at his house. She is like that bomb dropped on Hiroshima during the Second World War (1939-45)"

What a horror script of a joke in bad taste. *Mwari rambidza! Zvichapera izvi!* (Meaning God forbid! Kingdoms rise and fall! And ignore wise counsel at your peril). As the knowledgeable Munangagwa would know the negative effects of Hiroshima have been long term. Thousands of Japanese nationals perished in this man-made calamity. And unbeknown to Munangagwa he said this at the expense of upsetting diplomatic relations with cash rich Japan who could come to the financial assistance of Zimbabwe wallowing in humiliating poverty

under the pile of 55 known states in Africa. Zimbabwe, touted a bread basket at Independence from Britain in 1980, is now reduced to a hopeless basket case feeding its people on food hand outs from the philanthropic donor community, mostly from the Mugabe maligned West and not East as per His Excellence President Mugabe much hyped “Look East” policy. *Imimi Mwari dai maramba!* (meaning God forbid!) (Nyamutata 2015).

Some of the overzealous rented crowds would call the First Lady Grace Mugabe Calamity Grace, an epithet ascribed to an error prone former Liverpool goalkeeper. The idea that she changed the face of politics positively is that she named only a few political targets Vice President Mujuru mainly, as inept and corrupt is dishonest. The dishonesty is so clear to see, it is only when a party member falls out with ZANU PF that people learn of their ineptitude, corruptness and nefarious conduct. Where is Happison Muchechetere formerly Chief Executive Officer of ZANU PF accused of earning a mega salary when the rest of Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation employees were wallowing in abject poverty after going for several months without being paid. He is still a free man despite the spine chilling accusations against him to confirm that ZANU PF politics is disastrous to itself and the poor people (Nyamutata 2015). The inference from the above narrative is that in ZANU PF you can get away with iniquitous conduct for as long as you remain loyal to the ZANU PF party.

This disastrous politics resulted in the unwarranted expulsion of disloyal ministers including the former Vice President Joyce Mujuru and appointment of replacements. These ministerial changes were not necessitated by or based on any merit or national interest for instance infusing new thinking for the development of the country. Rather they were the usual rewards to loyalists after dispensing with suspected members of the alleged Mujuru sub-party group. The question to ask before the Author refocuses on the First Lady Grace Mugabe’s shenanigans to justify her being renamed or a “*declared national disaster*” is, where will the Zimbabweans get to with people who scare investors away and their much needed foreign direct investment, have no respect for constitutionalism, transparency with national resources, democracy, the rule of law and respect for property rights, to mention just a few? *Imimi Mwari dai maramba zvema dhisinyongoro!* (meaning God save Zimbabwe from ZANU PF’s disastrous politics! (Nyamutata 2015).

So much about this long but informative ignition key to the discourse on how and why the “First Lady Grace Mugabe (49) is rechristened “*a declared national disaster*”. After this searching and blistering Introduction, up next is a Statement on the related and relevant Literature Review and the Research Methodology to expose the Research findings for subsequent discussion and from which Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations are

derived. So please do not go away before that Statement which is up next and a good prospect for the beloved Reader.

Statement on the relevant and related Literature Review and Research Methodology

The mission of the above statement is to expose the Research Findings to confirm that in deed the First Lady Grace Mugabe is “*a declared national disaster*” vis-à-vis her various stakeholders in the ZANU PF “*party political arena*”. To do full justice to this question the Author made a bee-line to the private print and electronic media⁷ for strategic reasons to be articulated later by way of a footnote to this main text.

All said and done the Author then lined up prominent journalists to give their contribution relevant and related to the topic under discussion in this Paper. Therefore the first journalist to do duty with the Author was Madanhire (2014) of Newsday, who made his contribution headlined “*Can someone stop Grace?*” He followed this up with yet another telling contribution headlined “*Rein in First Lady Grace Mugabe*”. The Heal Zimbabwe Trust (2015) followed this up with their hard hitting contribution headlined “*First Lady must consider plight of vulnerable families*”. Afer this returns Madanhire (2015) with his final contribution “*Grace: A walking disaster*”. And finally the duumvirate of Mbiba and Mananavire (2015) had the last shout with their stunning revelation that the Manzou farm from which the Manzou villagers were being evicted was not fit for “Big Five Game” as per advice from the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force (ZCTF).

With the Statement on the relevant and related Literature Review and Research Methodology out of the way, up next is Madanhire (2014) of Newsday to convince the global audience why the First Lady Grace Mugabe deserves to be rechristened, “*a declared national disaster in the Zimbabwe party political arena*”. Here he goes with his fascinating contribution on why the First Lady Grace Mugabe deserves the metaphor – Hurricane Grace.

Can someone stop Grace Mugabe (Madanhire 2014)?

In retrospect the year 2014 has been one of the most eventful years in terms of Zimbabwean politics, but unfortunately, not in a positive constructive and progressive sense as has become the norm in Zimbabwe, a country that is politically and economically cursed in the 14 member SADC region of modest economic development. It has been a year of vainglorious tumult. All because of the Grace Mugabe factor. Shame, shame, shame on her (Madanhire 2014).

Far from it the Grace actor had not been a plus, but a big minus. The whole world amongst it, the Christian world of which the First Lady is a prominent Roman Catholic by religion had watched in utter disbelief the First Lady's unladylike and unchristian conduct all in the public glare. A First Lady the civilized world over should be calming, steadying and peaceful influence and not a rubble rouser and a force of disruption she had painfully and regrettably become for the better part of 2014 when the disastrous brand of ZANU PF politics had gotten the better part of her. Like a lightning bolt from the blue, spine chilling stories were awash in the dependable privately owned print media that without consultation with the affected stakeholders she was openly eyeing the Mazowe Parliamentary seat despite that it had not been declared vacant. *Imimi Mwari dai maramba! Chinobhururuka chikagomhara wani. Ndamba kuudzwa akaoneka nembonje pahuma.* (meaning God forbid! Kingdoms the world over rise and fall. Ignore wise counsel at your peril). Every law abiding and well meaning patriot with Zimbabwe at heart rightly thought she would slow down after bagging the ZANU PF Women's League top post, but she was relentless and like the legendary Oliver Twist she was caught asking for more (Madanhire 2014).

From a political nonentity, and like an unstoppable Tsunami Grace, the First Lady Grace Mugabe had, without any meaningful investment made towards the high income project, become the second most powerful – if not the most powerful person in Zimbabwe given the diminishing returns from the excessively ageing His Excellence President Mugabe, 91 years of age in February 2015. From a Christian perspective, no fair minded person would begrudge any one's fair and merited rise but in her case it has not been that – but stepping on other people's skeletons in order to be where she is today – strictly more by default than by merit. To the ordinary Zimbabweans, in particular the rural peasant who overwhelmingly voted ZANU PF into power to earn His Excellence President Mugabe probably the last of his 7 by 5 year terms – which is a world record for the Book of Guinness, the appearance or perception is that she is using and abusing her proximity to the President as his wife to demand and get whatever she wants. That alone and nothing else has eased her meteoric rise in both government and party (Madanhire 2014).

It is amazing how fast things change in this modern world of increasing complexity. It has now become more the norm than the exception that the First Lady Grace Mugabe's word, it appears is His Excellence Mugabe's command. There is everything unsavoury about this arrangement. She demands her pound of flesh and get it pronto. The First Lady Grace Mugabe, has at will, snooped into other people's private affairs with impunity and reckless abandon, making public negative allegations about the private lives of her object of hate like former Vice President Joyce Mujuru and ex ZANU PF Mashonaland East chairperson Ray

Kaukonde, literally hounding them out of office. Her latest victim it appears is former Justice Minister, Honourable Fortune Chasi, who was sacked in mid December 2014 at her public instigation. Speaking at her Mazoe property in August 2014 the First Lady Grace Mugabe, like Typhoon Grace, had accused Chasi of needlessly “hating the First Family for no reason”. Characteristic of her belligerent behavior towards his hate objects she said:

“I must be open and honest. In this constituency we have a new member of parliament (mp) I don’t know him personally but his name is Chasi and he is a problem. He is stressing me a lot and is *shungurudza zvisingaite* (he has given me so much grief)”, she said (Madanhire 2014”).

All said and done the question that begs an honest answer from any level headed Zimbabwean, with Zimbabwe at heart is: why should a First Lady stoop so low to personalize issues? This imperious attitude by the First Lady is most frightening and most disgusting. To those who have been urging and egging her on like lickspittle Honourable Jonathan Moyo and Oppah Muchinguri could now be thinking twice as her intractability came to the fore more and more. If she can make such a public show of anger, what more in private. Like the topic of his Paper the First Lady Grace Mugabe is a typically *declared national disaster in the Zimbabwe party political arena*. Her greed seems to know no boundary. As if the sacking of Chasi was not enough punishment, now she wants Chasi’s Mazowe South National Assembly seat so that she could ease herself eligibility for a cabinet post she has been craving for. In closing remarks, someone somewhere should master the guts to stop the First Lady Grace Mugabe before, like a mischievous and truant scholar, does more grave damage to the Zimbabwean body politic. People in a hurry to make footprints on the ruling ZANU PF party politics are capable of any damage short or long term. *Munhu ngaazive pekugumira. Mai Mugabe Havana basa nazvo* (meaning unbridled ambition is dangerous. And First Lady Grace has more up her sleeves Like Cyclone Grace the time to strike is unpredictable. Anytime is tea time for Calamity Grace to cause havoc) (Madanhire 2014).

Given the above party political upheavils, Zimbabwe’s economy is growing despite continuing political uncertainty. Following a decade of contraction from 1998 to 2008, Zimbabwe’s economy recorded real growth of roughly 10% per year in 2010 – 11, before slowing in 2012 – 13 due to poor harvests and low diamond revenues (Staff Reporter 2015)

Chiri musaka saka chazvinzwira (meaning those with ears have heard it from the horse’s mouth) Madanhire (2015) is not finished yet. He came back to declare the First Lady a walking disaster. More details coming your way in just a moment.

Grace: A walking disaster (Madanhire 2015)

In recent months nearly everything said about the First Lady Grace Mugabe has been jaw dropping – game changer in ZANU PF, “You must stop it” - His Excellence President Mugabe making reference to Grace’s popular chant “stop it” during her campaign rallies last year when with reckless abandon, she publicly denounced former Vice President Joyce Mujuru for allegedly plotting the President’s ouster (Matenga 2015). The Author had no choice but to conclude that *Mai Mugabe idhuna mutuna remukadzi* (meaning the First Lady Grace Mugabe is a frightening man eating creature or monster). *Hanzi nevakare vedu gudo guru peta muswe kuti vaduku vakutye* (meaning if you are a community leader in society learn to lead by example. But the First Lady Grace Mugabe is a far cry from that maxim). Her life of uncharitable utterances which are unlady-like is that of hopping from one calamity into another one all happening in a short space of time.

The popular Madanhire (2015) returned this time with a mission to deal with the First Lady a fatal blow to silence her once and for all. Here he goes. In good times and bad, the ladies of Heads of State and Government, of which Grace Mugabe is one of them, sure to put up with a lot of challenges such as corruption, political uprisings and often other wives popularly known as “small houses” (meaning girlfriends.) Some First Ladies the world over use their positions to advocate for important charitable causes in their respective nations yet others are pros at looking the other way, grabs everything, gallivanting, broad smiling for official photos and even perpetrate human rights abuses, restrict freedom of the telling it as it is Press and ruthless oppression of the opposition. Hence the spine chilling stories and press reports that First Lady Grace Mugabe had evicted over 200 families from Manzou Estate near her multimillion dollar orphanage centre are saddening to say the least. What is most regrettable is that these people settled on the farm some 15 years ago. So we wonder where exactly they would return. And the First Lady Grace spares no thought about their possible plight. Perhaps the only option would have been to find alternative land to resettle the evictees as a matter of extreme urgency in fact, it is a human rights issue. All the concerned people including the pro-poor Author are wondering what the First Lady Grace Mugabe, who aspires to become “*Mother of the Nation*”, is up to. If it is not to decimate what remains of His Excellence President Mugabe’s tattered legacy what is it? (Madanhire 2014).

For someone who recently assumed the role of power broker in the fractious ruling ZANU PF party, it is as clear and obvious as death comes after life that the First Lady Grace Mugabe is on a destructive mission for the country in her dubious bid to control the levers of power in both ruling ZANU PF party and Government. Lamentably it must be noted very seriously that the affected families, who claim to have voted for the ruling ZANU PF party during

the last general elections on 31 July 2013 resettled on the disputed farm in 2000, the year which marks the onset of the chaotic Land Reform Programme in Zimbabwe to spark widespread starvation in the politically and economically cursed Zimbabwe in a SADC region of modest economic development. Besides, these persecuted families have a standing High Court order barring the paranoid ZANU PF government to evict them before finding alternative land. Now the pertinent question that begs the answer here and now is: what power does the First Lady Grace Mugabe wield over the laws of the country? *Mwari we nyasha tibatsirei* (meaning the Lord of mercy please help us) (Madanhire 2015).

Unbelievably the First Lady Grace Mugabe is a multi farm owner with large scale commercial farms in Mashonaland East, Central and West and perhaps elsewhere. Sadly enough, she had done this with impunity and above all against the one man one farm Government policy. The people believe that by virtue of her status the First Lady Grace Mugabe should have attained role model status and therefore be exemplary in all manner, including but not limited to the brutal and reckless manner she treats her subjects who are fellow Zimbabweans and the way she does her business. She must not abuse her authority in the manner she has repeatedly done in the past i.e. since July 2014 when she ruinously took her misfiring adventure to the Zimbabwe party politics of immense tumult (Madanhire 2015).

Again it is most regrettable by any stretch of imagination, that on every farm she has chosen to grab against government policy for that matter, she has each time evicted the hapless occupants she assumed are lesser human beings and each time at the start of the rainy season and to add salt to a festering wound with nowhere to go. And that is the First Lady Grace Mugabe who is aspiring to be a Mother of the Nation. *Imimi Mwari we nyasha nesimba rinoshamisa dai maramba!* (meaning Lord of mercy please help us!) Only in December 2014 the First Lady Grace Mugabe went around the width and breadth of Zimbabwe soliciting for support from ZANU PF members to become ZANU PF Women's League boss, giving those that cared to attend her impromptu rallies on empty stomach because of starvation stalking Zimbabwe ever since the 2000 chaotic Land Reform Programme in Zimbabwe, a pittance of 2 kilograms of seed maize, and afterwards urging them to seriously do farming, but now she has, with reckless abandon, turned against the same poor peasants who overwhelmingly voted for her rise. *Mwari we nyasha tibatsirei* (meaning the Lord of mercy please help us in this hour of great need) (Madanhire 2015).

People like the Author with the plight of the vulnerable at his heart would wonder what type of a person is the First Lady Grace Mugabe who chooses to displace poor peasants with school going children when the reopening of schools is just a week away. Again the question that begs an answer here and now is: Does she care about the education of these poor children

from a poor rural background? As if that is not enough, the paranoid ZANU PF, notorious for its disastrous politics ruinous to itself and the country, is advocating for her to assuming the role of Vice President and one wonders what damage she can cause to both ruling ZANU PF party and Government (Madanhire 2015). *Mwari chete ndiye anoziva* (meaning only God knows the right answer to what would happen to Zimbabwe and should “stop it” a reference to the First Lady Grace Mugabe when she was imploring the former Vice President Joyce Mujuru then heavily suspected of plotting to topple and assassinate His Excellence President Mugabe to “stop it”

If the First Lady Grace Mugabe had grabbed only a piece of land to expand her farming venture, one would have thought otherwise and gave her the benefit of the doubt, but that she wants a whole Manzou Estate to satisfy her insatiable desire for more land and create an unnecessary, unimportant self indulgent venture for personal gratification rather than for the common good is quite unacceptable in a modern world of increasing complexity. The idea of mega madness by the First Lady Grace Mugabe to create a private multi-million dollar wildlife sanctuary in a neighbourhood which is a sea of humiliating poverty is quite astonishing, to say the least when one considers it is coming from someone who aspires and prefers the moniker “*Mother of the Nation*”. Has the First Lady Grace Mugabe, 41 years Mugabe’s junior, become Zimbabwe’s “*declared national disaster*” if not Zimbabwe is in disgrace all because of her selfishness which knows no boundary. Perhaps her lavish life style and international shopping sprees could better explain who exactly she is – a servant of the people or a servant of the First Family.

Hanzi nevakare vedu kuti murume anzi abudirira hunge aine amai vakangwara mumashure make (meaning we thought behind every great man is a great woman, but she who stands behind Zimbabwe’s His Excellence President Mugabe could be a disaster in the making). Her endless abuse of power knows no boundary and the partisan police tasked to carry out her orders are simply following the hard to resist orders from the First Lady Grace Mugabe. What a sad chapter in the checkered history of post colonial Rhodesia (now renamed Zimbabwe after independence from the always Mugabe maligned Britain in April 1980).

While the First Lady Grace Mugabe is in overdrive to become a ‘*a declared national disaster*’, the financially hamstrung Zimbabwe government faces a number of difficult economic problems, including damaged and destroyed infrastructure and regulatory deficiencies to become an investor spooking nation. Hence the low foreign direct investment inflow into the country compared with its SADC counterparts such as neighbouring South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia.

The no nonsense Madanhire⁸ (2015) of the *Newsday* is refusing to give up on the First Lady Grace Mugabe’s shenanigans which transformed Zimbabwe into a tragicomedy for the

politically and economically turbulent Zimbabwe from mid 2014 to 2015 and beyond. In his round 3 contribution in a row, the combative Madanhire (2015) comes back yet again to take the podium with his very fascinating and feel good story headlined: "*Rein in First Lady Grace Mugabe*" – an impassioned plea to whoever is in charge of the leash to control her to do so now to save the ruling ZANU PF party and Government more grievous damage from her endless string of shenanigans on the Zimbabwe "*party political arena*". Please keep vigil for more details in prospect coming your way just now.

Rein in First Lady Grace Mugabe (Madanhire 2015)

The early January 2015 inhuman eviction of over 200 poor villagers from Manzou farm in Mazowe District, Mashonaland Central Province, to pave way for the First Lady Grace Mugabe's private animal sanctuary can best be described as a callous act by a woman of her national status – *a Mother of the Nation*. His Excellence President Mugabe's wife callously ordered the insensitive removal of these inhabitants to expand her multi-million dollar business empire which stretches from where her orphanage is located. Zimbabweans have learnt with utter shock that a woman whom society proudly and respectably regards as a mother figure can be so unfeeling and unsympathetic to the hundreds of families in humiliating poverty⁹ that they had been left homeless following the insensitive eviction by none other than the First Lady Grace Mugabe. The underlying message in the evictions is clear that the First Lady Grace Mugabe does not want to co-exist with humiliating poor commoners, hence would rather have animals to surround her. Yet she is herself a former commoner from Chivhu in Chikomba District (Madanhire 2015).

Zimbabwe, a famous tourist destination, because of the Victoria Falls, has no shortage of game parks which the First Lady can adopt and create an animal kingdom. But surely removing hapless villagers who have absolutely nowhere to go is something that no woman with a motherly instinct can do with reckless abandon. There was public outrage beginning of January 2015 after the partisan police swooped on the farm, destroying houses and evicting families from the property, which is also near the First Lady Grace Mugabe's dairy farm and several other projects belonging to the First Family (Madanhire 2015).

Mashonaland Central Provincial Affairs Minister, Honourable Martin Dinha recently confirmed that the land in question was earmarked for the expansion of the First Lady Grace Mugabe's business projects, although he had initially distanced her from the property. It is highly regrettable that Honourable Dinha like many of his ilk had become the First Lady Grace Mugabe's poodles just to remain in the ZANU PF gravy train, but surprisingly against their conscience. The First Lady Grace Mugabe confirmed her interest in the land at one of her

campaign rallies in 2014 when she told ZANU PF rented youths that she wanted to take over the conservancy and use it to generate income for her orphanage (Madanhire 2015).

Although the High Court had ordered the evictions to stop Honourable Dinha had nevertheless warned the affected villagers not to place much hope on the High Court order. The inference of this mouthful of a statement by Honourable Dinha was that the ruling ZANU PF party was above the law come the need for land by the First Lady Grace Mugabe who had become the law unto herself. This development clearly demonstrated the kind of leadership Zimbabwe will have to endure from then on (Madanhire 2015).

In the unpredictable politics in Zimbabwe which has no respect for the rule of law, it will not be surprising at all for the untouchable First Family to order the dismissal of the High Court Judge who made the ruling in favour of the poor villagers – the same people who had overwhelmingly voted ZANU PF in the 31 July 2013 poll, in which the party was widely expected to lose because of waning support. The one million dollar question which begs an answer here and now is: Why are the poor villagers being evicted in blatant violation of the High Court order, which stipulated that no eviction before alternative land to resettle them had been found.

When you consider that these poor villagers whose dwellings were ruthlessly razed down with reckless abandon had planted their maize crops to sustain them during the dry season, but will soon become perpetual beggars without any hope of getting any State support, the poor peasant's prayer is *Mwari we nyasha murikupi?* (meaning where are you the Lord of mercy?) The bleak fate of these poor villagers resembles in all material respects that of the estimated 3000 Chingwizi Transit Camp Tokwe-Mukosi victims, who after they were pushed out of their homes with reckless abandon by flash floods at Tokwe – Mukosi Dam in 2014 spent the better part of the year cramped at Chingwizi Transit Camp matchbox tents in the searing heat of Masvingo Province as the clueless government officials haggled over where to resettle them. Finally and with all the cruelty of an uncivilized poor Third World country they were against their will resettled on one hectare plots despite their clamour for more land to sustain themselves. On top of it all they were in rough ride fashion denied compensation with which to rebuild their destroyed homes (Madanhire 2015).

With the First Lady Grace Mugabe now safely the head of the all powerful Women's League, it goes without saying that Zimbabweans in general and ruling party supporters in particular are headed for extremely tough times given her blatant disregard for basic human rights which because of her shallow education is also shallow, if not missing altogether. From the look of things unveiled by the Author's relevant and related Literature Review, it appears, with deep regrets though, that the First Lady Grace Mugabe has no conscience at all as all she thinks of is herself and the lickspittle stooges that surround her day in day out. What remains to

be seen is how the First Lady Grace Mugabe fares in 2015 and beyond. But for now things are not looking good for the ruling ZANU PF party and Government all because of the “Mother of the Nation” who has so far proven inadequate to her challenges as First Lady (Madanhire 2015).

One other stumbling block for Zimbabwe since the turn of the 21st Century has been that the country’s political leadership has no respect for the rule of law when it comes to the land repossession ostensibly to correct the historical land imbalances of pre-colonial Zimbabwe. The chaotic Land Reform Programme of 2000 and the violence, murder and rape against the white commercial farmers mostly of British descent was a sign that hell has no fury like the ruling ZANU PF party in pursuit of land to resettle its members. And with the jaw dropping news of the 2015 eviction of 200 villagers from Manzou Estate the confirmation is Zimbabwe through its political leadership has no respect for the rule of law to turn the country into a pariah state not worth of foreign direct investment (fdi). Hence the low fdi inflows into the country compared with other lowly SADC countries such as Mozambique and Zambia (Staff Reporter 2015).

The duo of Mbiba (2015) and Manavire (2015) had unexpectedly come to the rescue of the evicted villagers with the good news that Manzou farm in Mazowe is after all not fit for the “Big Five” game in accordance with the expert advice coming from the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force – a stunning revelation which would give the troubled and persecuted villagers not only a sigh of relief but new hope. Let us find out in more details about this coming your way in just a moment. So please do not go away from the prospect of this “*feel good*” story of the persecuted Manzou villagers.

Manzou farm not fit for “Big Five” game (Mbimba and Manavire 2015)

Vakare vedu vaisiti Mwari haasi wemunhu mumwe chete ndewedu tose. (meaning one man for himself and God for us all). The long time proverb could not have said it any better which is to the relief of troubled villagers. According to the duo of Mbiba (2015) and Manavire (2015) Manzou farm in Mazowe which had been given to the First Lady Grace Mugabe to run as a wild sanctuary is actually not fit for “Big Five” game, Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force (ZCTF) had said. John Rodrigues, Chairman of ZCTF had announced that Manzou farm should not be turned into a game park as the “Big Five” game – comprising lion, elephant, buffalo, leopard and rhinoceros species – will cause problems to nearby villagers.

“I think it is wrong what they are doing”, Rodrigues said. “Mazowe is an agricultural area and the wild animals will cause a lot of problems for the villagers. I think Mazowe should be reserved for agricultural activities and not a game park. But we know that when you talk about

the “Big Five” you are talking about big monies. People all over the world will come and hunt and this means money. But we cannot put money first ahead of the people.”

The ZCTF Chairman had questioned where the broke Zimbabwe government would get funds to secure the farm. “In order to have a park, there are security measures that they need to put in place like fencing”, he said. “who is going to pay for this when they are struggling to pay workers. Who is paying for the transportation of the animals?” (Mbiba and Mananavire 2015).

Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority (Zimparks) had been skating around their role in the control of the controversial Manzou farm. The paranoid Zimbabwe government had said the First Lady’s farm would be controlled by Zimparks which was supposed to release animals including the “Big Five” in mid January 2015. Approached by the Daily News to clarify how they were going to undertake the takeover and release of animals given that there were villagers adjacent to the farm, Zimparks had been skating round the issue without anyone at the parastatal willing to give the correct position. Caroline Washaya- Moyo, Zimparks public relations officer had directed the media to Godfrey Matipano, the acting director conservation who refused to comment on the issue referring the private media back to Washaya-Moyo. “I am not the spokesperson, talk to our public relations officer”, the dodgy Matipano had said (Mbiba and Mananavire 2015).

But Washaya-Moyo still failed to answer questions posed to her, questions which included how Zimparks was going to protect people as well as how they envisaged stopping animals from being hunted down. In recent weeks heavily armed police had descended on the controversial Manzou farm, indiscriminately and arbitrarily demolishing villagers’ homes, slashing thriving crops and setting on fire personal belongings and property owned by the villagers under siege sponsored by none other than the “Mother of the Nation” the First Lady Grace Mugabe.

But, High Court Judge Errica Ndewere had on 19 January 2015 granted a provisional order stopping the scandalous evictions if no alternative places of residence for the evicted villagers were availed by the State. A chorus of condemnation to the callous and insensitive removals including the horrendous displacement of children from their schools as well as the wanton destruction of crops and property had fallen on the deaf ears (Mbiba and Mananavire 2015).

At the same time the Minister for Provincial Affairs for Mashonaland Central Honourable Martin Dinha, along with the paranoid ruling ZANU PF party, had in the meantime vehemently denied that the First Family was in any way involved in the callous and insensitive evictions, arguing falsely and rather self servingly that the First Lady Grace Mugabe was a “philanthropist” who would never destroy people’s livelihoods. If his is not dangerous public posturing then it is

outright misleading the people of Zimbabwe who surely cannot be taken for granted like this. The people know that as obvious as the sun rises in the East and sets in the West that the recalcitrant ZANU PF is covering up for the First Lady, Grace Mugabe. *Kurova imbwa wakaviga mupini. Murikupi Ishe wenyasha?*(meaning it is as delusional as it is stupid to cover up for the First Lady Grace Mugabe. Where are you the Lord of mercy? Please help us) (Mbiba and Mananavire 2015).

However in a sudden about-turn in mid-January 2015, Honourable Martin Dinha, the Mashonaland Central Provincial Affairs Minister had confirmed that the First Lady Grace Mugabe had applied for a licence to run an animal sanctuary and had been duly awarded the vast and fertile farm bordering her other multi-million dollar business and farming interests in the area. The same Minister had added elephants and lions were going to be moved onto the farm, but he did not disclose how much this self serving project of moving animal to the farm and repairing infrastructure such as the fencing would cost and whether the First Lady Grace Mugabe would pay for all this or it was the taxpayers' hard-earned money to finance all this insensitive development project instigated on behalf of the First Lady Grace Mugabe. Rodrigues, the ZCTF chairperson had said that government should first consult ecologists to determine whether the ecology at the farm in endless dispute between the Manzou villagers and the First Lady Grace Mugabe was suitable for the wild animals (Mbiba and Mananavire 2015).

It is all rank madness on the part of the insensitive First Lady Grace Mugabe to confirm that she deserved to be re-christened "*a declared national disaster in the Zimbabwe party political arena*". The Manzou farm is situated in a sea of abject poverty and to choose to erect an unnecessary and exorbitant animal sanctuary at the insensitive displacement of humiliatingly poor villagers *kushaina kusina dhiri kunoitwa na Amai Mugabe ikoko* (meaning shouting unprintable obscenities at the bereft during a bereavement). It is honestly high time somebody somewhere came to red flag the First Lady Grace Mugabe before she causes further damage to the ruling ZANU PF party and Government.

That Zimbabwe has no money in its coffers is not an overstatement. The decline in fdi coming into Zimbabwe has torched a public outrage. And the Table 1 below has more on the spine chilling story. And all this happening to Zimbabwe, once touted a food basket for the SADC region is shocking and a sign of bad governance, of which First Lady Grace Mugabe is one of them.

Table 1 FDI inflows into Zimbabwe compared with Zambia and Mozambique for the period 1980 to 2013.

Country	Fdi in US\$ Billion	Ranking	%
Mozambique	15.8	1	65
Zambia	7.7	2	31
Zimbabwe	1.7	3	6
Totals	25.2		100

Source: International Monetary Fund Report (2015)

SUMMARY

The Introduction to the discourse in this Paper is spearheaded by Tutani (2014) who complained bitterly about the First Lady Grace Mugabe coming into politics to become a duumvirate of husband and wife dominating both ruling party and government. Nyamutata (2015) bemoaned the ZANU PF brand of politics which he said was disastrous to itself and the Zimbabwean people which it was primarily founded to serve and not destroy as we witness the First Lady do to the former Vice President Joyce Mujuru and his allies in the ongoing and never ending succession and factional fights to succeed the ageing His Excellence President Mugabe in both the ruling ZANU PF party and Government.

Immediately after the rubble rousing Introduction came the Statement on the related and relevant Literature Review and the Research Methodology which were primarily designed to expose the Research Findings, the subject of subsequent discussion which leads to the discussion of Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations of the Paper. After this Statement came the Literature Review proper.

Concerned about the reverberations caused by the sudden and unexpected entry into politics by the rubble rousing and politically bungling the First Lady Grace Mugabe, Madanhire (2014) had called her to order in his ground breaking contribution to the discourse headlined “*Can someone stop Grace_Mugabe?*” Like a Tsunami she had shaken both ruling ZANU PF party and government since July 2014 and in a short space of time to January 2015.

The same Madanhire (2015) came back in January 2015 to rename the First Lady Grace Mugabe a “*walking disaster*” in his contribution to the discourse headlined Grace: “*A walking disaster*”. Like a strong and huge tree uprooting storm, she started to publicly denounce the former Vice President Joyce Mujuru for plotting to oust His Excellence President Mugabe from both ruling ZANU PF party and Government.

The same combative Madanhire (2015) had come back to red flag the perennially offside First Lady Grace Mugabe to order. In January 2015 the inhuman eviction of 200 poor villagers from Manzou farm in Mazowe District to pave way for First Lady Grace Mugabe's private animal sanctuary sparked a public outrage from the concerned stakeholders who argued that for self serving reasons the First Lady Grace Mugabe was putting animals ahead of the poor villagers most of whom had overwhelmingly voted ZANU PF back into power in the heavily disputed 31 July 2013 poll. This was argued in Madanhire's third contribution headlined "*Rein in First Lady Grace Mugabe.*" For his massive contribution in this discourse, Madanhire was honoured by being given a footnote number 9.

The duo of Mbiba (2015) and Mananavire (2015) made a stunning revelation that the Manzou farm was not fit for "big five" game park in a district adjacent to villagers whose safety could not be guaranteed because the broke ZANU PF party had no money to fund this luxury when it was dismally failing to pay civil servants on time. This bout of good news had brought smiles back on the faces of the tormented villagers.

With this episode it can be concluded the First Lady Grace Mugabe had gone too far and only divine intervention could save Zimbabwe from further damage from the perennially off side First Lady Grace Mugabe.

CONCLUSIVE REMARKS

Vakare vedu vakati chinonzi munhu unhu wako (meaning you are what other people say is a good/bad character). In this modern world of increasing complexity, the principles to guide any person's relationship with others are:

- The respect for others' basic rights.
- The respect for Religion
- The respect for the rule of law.
- The respect for property rights and
- The respect for rule by democracy.

But lamentably none of these good governance guidelines could be ascribed to the proven delinquent First Lady Grace Mugabe perennially caught in a wayward offside position in a game of soccer to earn herself a deserving red card for an early shower much to the booing of her supporters who were not enjoying her drama at all.

Vakare vedu zvakare vakati kunyaanzi ngingi murombo asi munhu chete (meaning any person whether rich or poor is entitled to, but not limited to the following basic human rights:

- Right to shelter

- Right to food and water
- Right to good governance
- Right to children's education
- Right to fair treatment
- Right to land to sustain your well being etc.

But lamentably again none of the aforementioned human basic rights found favour with the First Lady Grace Mugabe to spark a public outrage from the concerned stakeholders whose human basic rights were violated left, right and centre e.g. the poor Manzou villagers whose houses were razed down to leave them sleeping in the open much to the mercy of the incessant summer rains. Having said this the only way to arrive at the appropriate conclusion in this Paper is as below stated.

For this study, A declared national disaster in the Zimbabwe party political arena (2014-15) the Null Research Hypothesis (H_0) and the Alternative Research Hypothesis (H_1) in respect of the aforementioned Research Topic or title in this Paper as articulated above shall respectively be:

H_0 The First Lady Grace Mugabe is not a declared national disaster in the Zimbabwe party political arena.

H_1 The First Lady Grace Mugabe is a declared national disaster in the Zimbabwe party political arena.

Given the overwhelming evidence as given elsewhere in this Paper including the Summary which is loud and clear for all to hear and see the Alternative Research Hypothesis namely: "The First Lady Grace Mugabe is a declared national disaster in the Zimbabwe party political arena" is to be resoundingly accepted in light of the overwhelming evidence which was 100% pro the Alternative Research Hypothesis, H_1 as above and 100% anti the Null Research Hypothesis, H_0 .

With the exciting Conclusion of the Study done and sealed up next are the Recommendations which are primarily designed to address what was not done right vis-a-vis "*unhu wa Amai Grace Mugabe* (meaning the character of the First Lady Grace Mugabe and what basic human rights are the people in general entitled to) with reference to the Conclusion of the Study.

RECOMMENDATIONS

With reference to the Conclusion of this Study the Recommendations are as below stated.

Respect for others' basic rights

The inhuman evictions of the Manzou villagers and the slashing of their thriving maize crop by the partisan police at the express orders of the First Lady Grace Mugabe was most regrettable and the First Lady must learn to respect other people's basic rights.

The respect for Religions

Civilization comes with Christianity. But for the First Lady Grace Mugabe she was expected to consider Christianity first before she tore into the private life of the former Vice President Joyce Mujuru shouting at her to "stop it" – a reference to the Mujuru plot to topple and assassinate His Excellence President Mugabe. The First Lady is hereby urged to behave not only as a "Mother of the Nation" but a Roman Catholic of which she is a prominent member.

The respect for the rule of the law

The High Court had ruled that the inhuman and callous evictions could only take place after an alternative place to resettle the villagers had been found. But in flagrant breach of the High Court order the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) had swooped on the villagers indiscriminately burning their houses and slashing their crops to leave them sleeping in the open. And the orders to do this was from none other than the First Lady Grace Mugabe who is hereby urged to respect the rule of law.

The respect for property rights

The Manzou villagers were legally settled at Manzou farm with a right to own property in the form of houses which were set ablaze despite the fact that the said houses were legally owned by the Manzou villagers.

The respect for the rule by democracy

No elections were done to appoint the two Vice Presidents, Munangagwa and Mphoko. His Excellence President Mugabe exercised his prerogative to appoint them to their positions in party and government. And the rule by democracy is hereby urged in the ruling ZANU PF party.

The right of the poor to basic needs of life

Even if the Manzou villagers were humiliatingly poor they nevertheless were like anybody else in society entitled to shelter food and water, good governance, right to education for their children,

right to fair treatment and right to ownership of land to sustain their well being etc. But from the way the Mujuru faction was expunged from party and government and how Honourable Fortune Chasi, member of parliament for Mazowe Constituency was recalled from parliament and sacked, only goes to show that people in general and the poor in particular need protection from the rubble rousing First Lady Grace Mugabe.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

In presenting this Paper, the articulate Author would right from the outset, wish to reassure the beloved Reader that all the facts and figures herein contained were articulately stated as they are on the ground and without fear, favour or prejudice. And the Author will hurriedly want to add that the mission of this Statement coming late in the Paper presentation is meant to allay the fears or doubts by the Reader and to give him/her peace of mind on the factual contents of this manuscript in the wake of the somber and solemn atmosphere left by the footprints of this manuscript vis-à-vis the First Lady Grace Mugabe now re-christened “*a declared national disaster in the Zimbabwe party political arena*”.

Given the reported suffering as elsewhere given in this Paper it is as obvious as death coming after life that Zimbabwe is in great need of a short prayer especially after taking the beloved Reader through the rough ride terrain offered by the First Lady Grace Mugabe who had hit Zimbabwe like a cyclone ever since her unannounced arrival in the tumultuous ZANU PF brand of politics in July 2014. Chief among her alarming negative achievements was to reduce the former Vice President Joyce Mujuru from hero to zero in both party and government. And she is not stopping there – a typical Hurricane Grace.

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