

MUGABE UNDER RENEWED SPOTLIGHT IN HIS PUNISHING ROLES AS SADC AND AU CHAIRPERSON AMID BALLOONING CONCERNS ABOUT HIS OLD AGE AND ILL HEALTH (2014-15): A SOCIO-ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVE USING CONTENT ANALYSIS

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Abstract

The mission in this Paper is to carry out a comprehensive study of how His Excellence President Mugabe assumed the punishing roles of SADC and AU chairperson amid ballooning concerns about his old age and ill health. Apart from the above punishing roles of SADC and AU chairperson His Excellence President Mugabe is also president of the ruling ZANU PF party and p[resident of Zimbabwe. The four roles for him given his advanced age and ill health is surely too much for him. Hence the compelling need for the study. The privately owned print and electronic media will be used to carry out the study. On major Study Findings His Excellence President Mugabe is no longer fit to continue as SADC and AU chairperson. If he cannot add value to ZANU PF and Zimbabwe which are burning under his watch why do you expect His Excellence President Mugabe to add value to SADC and AU chairperson which are more demanding and more punishing roles than those for the ruling ZANU PF party and the Zimbabwe.

Keywords: Leadership issues, Socio-economic perspective, Mugabe, Spotlight, SADC and AU Chairmanship, Zimbabwe

INTRODUCTION

Those gifted with vivid memories can very well remember an Iraq lunatic called Muhammad Saed al-Sahhaf, then a minister of information in the Saddam Hussein-led government during the time when America and her allies invaded the country to topple Saddam Hussein in 2003. Despite the massive show of fire power by the US forces, Al-Sahhaf who earned himself the name Comical Ali for his antics tried as much as he could to mislead the world into believing that Saddam Hussein was unconquerable (Marwizi 2015).

With a straight face, he brazenly lied that USA forces were committing suicide by the hundreds at the gates of Bagdad and that Iraq forces would prevail against the American infidels. As mortar shells exploded a few hundred metres away from the venue of his press briefing, Al-Sahhaf's lunacy was laid bare (Marwizi 2015).

After His Excellence President Mugabe dramatically fell at the Harare International Airport on 4 February 2015 on his way back from the African Union (AU) Summit earlier held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia people could sense that Zimbabwe had its fair share of Comical Alis hell bent on spreading lies about His Excellence President Mugabe's state of health. These propagandists had wanted Zimbabweans to believe that at 91, His Excellence is still that sprightly and much adored man he was in 1980, still possessing abundant energy that is needed for one to lead this country. Sadly for these officials who want the president to remain in power, giving them enough time to feather their nests, His Excellence President Mugabe is human and is quite old by any standard – whether African or European, and its inevitable that his health is now failing. He now needs help when walking and more so when navigating stairs and carpeted areas. Without such assistance it was quite saddening on 4 February 2015 to see the veteran leader who had been euphoric about his election as African Union Chairperson tumbling down after missing the stairs of a podium at the airport. Strangely none of his guards who are trained in providing close security for the President were present to shield him. The worst could have happened if he had hit the ground headlong with his glasses on, his hapless guards watching, (Marwizi 2015).

The poor guards then thought they could cover up the incident by ordering journalists, who were fully accredited with the Media and Information Commission to delete their images. The journalists complied but unfortunately for these enemies of a free press in the age of the digital revolution, these efforts always end in vain. Soon videos of the unfortunate incident were awash on WhatsApp, Facebook and other platforms and His Excellence President Mugabe was a subject of hilarious memes on the Internet. Both the digital natives and immigrants saw the unflattering videos of the President and only those with net phobia missed them. Before chuckles had died down, we heard the two recently promoted Vice Presidents were showering

praises on him. The two Munangagwa and Mphoko described His Excellence President Mugabe as a “mountain of mountains”, heads above heads and a “cistern” of wisdom, among other fawning terms (Marwizi 2015).

The reality, however is the opposite. His Excellence President Mugabe is very old, someone terrified to leave office, fearing possible retribution. If His Excellence President Mugabe was the cistern of wisdom as alleged, he would have realized by now that it was time he packed his bags from State House and head for retirement either at rural Zvimba near Roman Catholic Kutama College or in Mazowe Valley where his wife, First Lady Grace is building an empire. Tending to cattle and having a drink or two of milk from the Gushungo dairy farm could be a nice pastime for a 91 year old who has achieved all that he wanted in life – ruling Zimbabwe continuously for an uninterrupted 35 years, owning several farms etc. His Excellence President Mugabe who had been plagued by reports of ill health in February 2014 revealed that eye cataracts and a knee problem were giving him endless troubles. His Excellence President Mugabe had cleverly skirted talk about the widely rumoured prostate-related problem but frequent trips to Singapore pointed to something more serious (Marwizi 2015).

Pretending that he is a “young old man” will not help His Excellence President Mugabe, as people witnessed on 4 February 2015 at the airport. And many thanks to the advances in information communication technology, Zimbabweans and the rest of the world got to see through the naked eye how the “mighty” had fallen, never mind how Honourable Information Minister Jonathan Moyo and others tried to downplay the dramatic incident. His Excellence President Mugabe is not that infallible leader that is often portrayed by Zimbabwe’s own Comical Alis. Due to old age and ill health, his body is now severely weakened and he may do well with a walking stick by his side like the late former Malawian President Dr Hastings Kamuzu Banda. More importantly His Excellence President Mugabe would do himself and Zimbabweans a great favour by retiring which is jolly good for him and his failing health. You can’t cling on to the leadership of a ZANU PF party facing deep divisions and remain not only president of a country facing an economic crisis but a very punishing role of chairperson of SADC and AU. It is too much for you, Mr President given your advanced age and failing health. Dealing with these matters surely is His Excellence President Mugabe’s undoing. Instead of taking a deserved rest, the ageing President wants to be in the driving seat of a ramshackle constantly requiring push-starts. Under these circumstances, the logical thing for His Excellence President Mugabe is to scale down on his demanding and punishing duties associated with head of State and Government, Commander in Chief of the armed forces, chancellor of all State Universities, Chairman of SADC and now the African Union with all its

headaches such as terrorism, internecine tribal conflicts, starvation, penury and deprivation etc. His Excellence President Mugabe should let his two Vice Presidents appointed and not elected at the damp squib of an “elective congress” of December 2014 take a more prominent role in running the affairs of the country. But regrettably he is not doing that, (Marwizi 2015).

So much about the long ignition to this discourse which according to an old African proverb is : *Hanzi nevavakare vedu akupa dhende kana kuti akubayira zanzi ndowako*, (meaning ignorance can lead to potential danger, its vital to be informed and alert, as it is said, “A hippopotamus can be made invisible in the dark”) (African proverb). With the stressful Introduction now conveniently out of the way, up next is the statement of the relevant Literature Review and Research Methodology adopted for the research.

STATEMENT ON RELEVANT LITERATURE REVIEW AND RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Various stakeholders in the Zimbabwean political and economic arenas have all gone ballistic about His Excellence President Mugabe’s continued stay in power. One section has complained about his old age while the other section has complained about his continuous ill health both of which have militated against His Excellence serving the Zimbabwe electorate in a manner that is satisfactory not forgetting the people who have angrily spoken their minds. After this come the consequences or weaknesses of old age and ill health of His Excellence President Mugabe while on national duty. But before all this it is time for the praise singers and lickspittle propagandists to entertain the Reader in case he or she is short of entertainment wherever he or she might be. So it is over to you, the praise singers (Nyamutata 2015).

Manufacturing Mugabe’s triumphs (Nyamutata 2015)

In normal circumstances, His Excellence President Mugabe ascension to the chairmanship of Southern African Development Community (SADC) and lately the African Union (AU) would have been a source of pride from the width and breadth of Zimbabwe. But the local reactions have since shown that people are divided, disinterested and at worst rubbish the development as inconsequential to their lives most of whom live in penury and deprivation. Unsurprisingly the lickspittle state media comprising print and electronic have always sought to project that His Excellence President Mugabe’s chairmanship of both SADC and AU as a remarkable feat. When it comes to news frames the local lickspittle state media is rabidly subjective, assigning all favourable news frames to ZANU PF and its leader, His Excellence President Mugabe while assigning all unfavourable news frames to the opposition parties and the West. The news frames on manufacture of frames that deliberately distort reality e.g. starvation in Zimbabwe

being caused by the punitive Western imposed sanctions when the agonizing truth is the underutilization farms by black farmers most of whom are cellphone farmers (meaning absent landlords), (Nyamutata 2015).

Recent news frames have assumed a celebratory tone suggesting His Excellence President Mugabe had beaten the punitive sanctions spearheaded by Britain and America but ironically the same punitive sanctions are blamed for causing starvation stalking Zimbabwe ever since the chaotic Land Reform Programme of 2000. To the lickspittle state media fronted by the print and electronic media project His Excellence President Mugabe as an all-conquering victor. His Excellence President Mugabe is in a “movie” projected as an actor who never dies come rain or sunshine, the Incredible Hulk; that man who morphed into a muscular green beast, smashing everything in its path. It is a well known fact of life that movie scripts are the products of creative minds of their producers. In the build up to his ascension to the SADC and AU chairmanship, lickspittle script writers in the equally lickspittle state media placed some obstacles in His Excellence President Mugabe’s path. Emphasis was placed on unscrupulous state media reports that some Western States fronted by Britain and America were reportedly influencing African governments to block His Excellence President Mugabe from assuming the AU chairmanship (Nyamutata 2015).

Foreign Affairs lickspittle Minister Honourable Mumbengegwi went at pains to explain that His Excellence President Mugabe had beaten insurmountable odds downplaying the well known rotational nature of both SADC and AU chairmanship.

“I know that there are some who may believe that the notion of chairing the AU is rotational, that is not correct”, said praise singer Honourable Mumbengegwi.

The whole nauseating idea of placing insurmountable obstacles in his path falls within the familiar news frame of lionizing the “Incredible Mugabe” conquering the militarily stubborn imperial West. The paranoid ZANU PF party and its lickspittle and pet media both print and electronic have been given to concocting incredible internal and external plots. News frames about beating sanctions and vanquishing the West are merely manufactured triumphs primarily to bootlick His Excellence President Mugabe (Nyamutata 2015).

The same bootlicking and lickspittle public media had publicly and unashamedly landed His Excellence President Mugabe as the remaining embodiment of the original values of the founders of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) now AU. This is true but to some extent, sadly so, because, for all their noble achievements these founding fathers had an aversion to multi-party democracy and good governance. His Excellence President Mugabe’s suppression of the opposition, electoral authoritarianism and lack of transparency make him yesterday’s man in an organization seeking normative trajectory. His Excellence President Mugabe’s

predecessor Mauritanian's Mahamed Ould Abdul Aziz was barely visible up until the authoring of this Manuscript. One would assume Aziz was conducting diplomacy quietly. On the other hand, His Excellence President Mugabe is given to playing it to the gallery instead of private diplomacy; he seems to relish hostile public rhetoric which is certainly unproductive given the modern world of increasing complexity (Nyamutata 2015).

Investor spooking mantras such as “African Resources belong to Africans” are simply vacuous because no one has ever envisaged foreigners invading the African continent with drilling rigs without the consent of the respective African government “Shaming” the West in repeated fashion at United Nations (UN) forums is unlikely to produce desired result than diplomatic rapprochement. If His Excellence President Mugabe's chairmanship of the AU is to be productive, he should forthwith dispense with the “Incredible Hulk” politics of an all-conquering superhero of this global village. He will not register any positive results except in the minds of script writers of fictitious triumphs, (Nyamutata 2015).

While bootlickers and praise singers take turns to praise-sing His Excellence President Mugabe as if for good governance the sad picture of Zimbabwe coming last in the SADC race for foreign direct investment (FDI) is a nerve wrecking shocker as in Table 1 below with comparative figures for neighbouring Zambia and Mozambique of the SADC region.

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

Country	Fdi in Billion US\$	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)

To expose the praise singers for not stating the truth as it is on the ground, Zimbabwe once touted as the food basket for the SADC region comprising, among others, the lowly Mozambique and Zambia came a distant 3rd on the race for the FDI in the SADC region. While the lowly Mozambique and Zambia won gold and silver respectively, Zimbabwe was contend with winning a wooden spoon for all her running. Shame, shame, shame, on you the bootlickers who praise sing not because you like His Excellence President Mugabe but because you want to continue feeding from the national feeding trough (Staff Reporter 2015). Another deplorable ZANU PF praise singer and shameful bootlicker is none other than Kasukuwere, the new ZANU

PF National Commissar. Masekesa (2015) has more on this story in details coming your way in just a second.

Mugabe a God-given leader – Kasukuwere (Musekesa 2015)

In the usual madness by senior ZANU PF members who have the irresistible and irritating habit of falling over each other to bootlick and praise sing His Excellence President Mugabe, Honourable Saviour Kasukuwere was reported to have said that His Excellence President Mugabe should be given an endless mandate to lead Zimbabwe as he joined the bandwagon of those notorious for bootlicking the 91 year old politician. In madness that is unparalleled in modern times Kasukuwere described His Excellence President Mugabe as “God-given” and that people should join hands to pray for His Excellence President Mugabe to ensure that he carried his “God-given” mandate endlessly. *Imimi Mwari zvimwe dai muchirambawo!* (meaning God forbid!).

“We should know that President Mugabe is God-given and those trying to mislead you in not following him are more like saying you should pray idols in destabilizing the party and the nation at large”, Kasukuwere said. “I want to remind those that are power hungry that there is no vacancy in the Presidium. Let President Mugabe do his work freely because we agreed as Zimbabweans to give him a new mandate in 2013 (Masekesa 2015). Kasukuwere went on to urge the party’s youths not to be selfishly used to try to topple His Excellence President Mugabe.

“You should not be used by individuals for selfish gains because of your love for money. Some of you were part of the infamous Tsholotsho, meeting and you were also part of the Gamatoto crusade, why?” He asked “We have one leader in Mugabe and why should we follow individuals? There are no godfathers in politics”

Kasukuwere has expressed concern at ZANU PF divisions in Manicaland.

“We do not want to keep ZANU PF Manicaland divided. Let us bury our differences and reunite (Masekesa 2015).

Kasukuwere called on the Manicaland province to respect the new Manicaland provincial leadership led by the ZANU PF game changer in the name of Oppah Muchinguri who led the ouster of the former Administration Secretary in ZANU PF, Dydimus Mutasa and former Vice-President Joice Mujuru. ZANU PF officials had been falling over each other bootlicking and praise singing His Excellence President Mugabe after the damp squib of the December 2014 “elective congress” which saw the purging of many of those perceived to be aligned to the Mujuru faction, who became the main loser while Vice-President Munangagwa became the main winner (Masekesa 2015).

To expose Kasukuwere for being the shameful bootlicker he is the rising job losses and company closures in Zimbabwe between 2011 and 2014 is as in Table 2 below is a sign of recession coming to Zimbabwe anytime soon. If His Excellence President Mugabe was “God given” why would company closures and job losses occur under his watchful eyes?

Table 2: The number of company closures and job losses in Zimbabwe between 2011 and 2014.

Year	Number of Companies that Collapsed	Job losses
2011	2130	19 191
2012	1464	20 825
2013	878	14 499
2014	134	9 280
TOTALS	4 606	63 795

Source: Muleya 2015

In a properly functioning democracy His Excellence President Mugabe deserves the sack and not the praise singing by the likes of Kasukuwere (Muleya 2015).

So much about the praise singers and bootlickers in ZANU PF who have the habit of falling over each other in praise singing for His Excellence President Mugabe not because he is improving the well being of Zimbabwean most of whom are living in penury and deprivation, but to keep their positions in the ZANU PF party and continue to feather their nests at the expense of the rank and file in the sunset party. There are certain vociferous people in Zimbabwe who have ceaselessly complained about His Excellence President Mugabe’s advanced age and failing health amid ballooning concerns about his ability to continue as President of ZANU PF party and Zimbabwe, chairperson of SADC and AU, Commander-in-Chief of the armed forces in Zimbabwe and Chancellor of all State Universities in Zimbabwe. More details on this coming your way in just a moment.

MUGABE’S ADVANCED AGE AND FAILING HEALTH: A CAUSE FOR GREAT CONCERN

To any normal person with Zimbabwe at heart the advanced age of His Excellence President Mugabe, 91 on 21 February 2015 and his failing health is a sign His Excellence President Mugabe needs a rest now more than anything else. Apart from his failing health his wife First Lady Grace Mugabe is seriously ill away from home in the Far East for two months now (Matenga 2015), his ZANU PF party like Zimbabwe and its economy is burning with sorrowful cries, “Please help me. I am suffocating. All this is overwhelming evidence Zimbabwe will not

see better days with His Excellence President Mugabe at the helm. *Mwari wetsitsi tibatsirei* (meaning Lord of mercy please help us!).

All said and done, it is the vociferous complaints about His Excellence President Mugabe's old age whose details are coming your way sooner than later.

Mugabe losing battle against age (Gwede 2015)

On 21 February 2015 the world's and not Africa's oldest President His Excellence President Mugabe is turning 91 years old. Throughout the facets of our society, there is always an acknowledgement of age as a strong factor in one's abilities. There is an age below which one cannot go to school e.g. less than five years of age in the case of Zimbabwe who happens to be the host to this research, marry, enter a job, consent to sex, enter binding agreements, drive and vote in modern day Zimbabwe. Below that age which is 18 years of age which is called the legal age of majority one is still considered a minor and cannot perform some duties of citizenship despite one's place of birth and parentage having all the ingredients of being a Zimbabwean. It is not senseless discrimination against His Excellence President Mugabe, but an objective understanding of the scientific limitations of age in carrying out certain undertakings e.g. an acceptable age by which one should remain and continue to be a president of a country (Gwede 2015).

As a nation we have pegged at 40 years above the life expectancy, the age at which adult Zimbabweans can contest to become national president. This implies an age restriction which ironically and for self serving reasons has not been given an upper cap, but still places value on age in effective leadership e.g. the ripe age of 65 years of age. The absence of this upper cap on the President's age is not supported by any scientific reasoning. Elsewhere in the public service jobs less demanding than the President of a country has a compulsory age of 65 years beyond which one is legally employable in Zimbabwe. Out of respect people of this age are called "senior citizens" and enjoy a lot of freebies and privileges for a restful life. The idea is not just to rest these senior citizens, but an acknowledgement of the economic law of diminishing returns. The older the less capable of doing or accomplishing a task of similar magnitude. In other words there are menial tasks that they can now simply no longer carry out primarily owing to their ripe age (Gwede 2015).

Despite their public protestations which are as delusional as they are stupid, it is increasingly as obvious and clear that the sun rises in the east and sets in the west that ZANU PF insiders of average intelligence are now aware of the limitations of His Excellence President Mugabe's old age. Instructively, he, at 91 years of age is 25 years shy of ordinary public retirement age of 65 years of age. According to the old Zimbabwean proverbs, fortune is

dynamic, for a village laugh at shack and shack laugh at village (meaning by whatever argument it no longer makes any sense any more to expect an ailing President of 91 years of age to continue in productive employment). And this is why in Africa we are not only backward but a dark continent. What is a loss for backward Africa is a gain for a technologically advanced Europe. It will be grossly insincere on our part as Christians to pretend the veteran Zimbabwean President's age at a ripe age of 91, is not a national issue especially given that the so called once robust ZANU PF party and the country, Zimbabwe are going through trying times. *Mwari we Nyasha tibatsireiwo!* (meaning Lord of mercy please help us!). Age wise His Excellence President Mugabe is now beyond redemption. *Chinobhururuka chikagomhara wani. Kana kuti hapana chisingapere. Chisingapere chinoshura* (meaning on the night of 20 February 2015 the Reds (Liverpool Football Club) won a thriller at Anfield after Spurs had twice equalized. But whether we the spectators liked it or not the entertaining soccer match came to an end at midnight on the same day. But it was a thriller. And no one wanted it to go on and on simply because it was a thriller). What is even more is that His Excellence President Mugabe has been in power for an incredible 35 years! He has seen it all. If so what more does he want? (Gwede 2015).

Everything said about Zimbabwe nowadays is atrocious to say the least not because of anything else but bad governance by His Excellence President Mugabe – stolen elections, gross human rights abuses, throwing brickbats at USA and Britain for wanting to bring regime change in Zimbabwe etc. Table 3 below compares Zimbabwe, Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa in terms of unemployment rate as measured in 2014.

Table 3: Unemployment rate for Zimbabwe and South Africa, Zambia and Mozambique as measured in 2014

Country	Unemployment Rate %
Zimbabwe	85
South Africa	24.3
Zambia	15
Mozambique	24.5

Source: Staff Reporter (2015)

In South Africa, Zambia and Mozambique there is constant change of political leadership and there are no reports of such things as stealing of elections, gross human rights violations, throwing brickbats at USA and Britain on allegations wanting to bring regime change to Zambia, Mozambique and South Africa respectively (Staff Reporter 2015).

Through the internecine intra-party factional and succession wars, if not struggles, it has only emerged that a huge number of ZANU PF officials were only concerned about this burning issue behind closed doors. *Kurova imbwa takaviga mupinyi* (meaning avoiding a straight talk but resorting to beating about bush fires). During the damp squib so called “elective congress” of December 2014 that was never “elective” Zimbabweans got to witness rather sorrowfully how His Excellence President Mugabe frequently made howlers that are consistent with dotage. “*Pasi ne ZANU PF*” (meaning down with ZANU PF) His Excellence President Mugabe would incorrectly sloganeer much to the surprise of his bemused audience. In the midst of this, is a disturbing suggestion from his comrades that the increasingly frail and senile His Excellence Mugabe should rule in perpetuity so that the marauding vultures would have more time to feather their nests. *Imimi Mwari dai zvimwe muchiramba!* (meaning God forbid!) (Gwede 2015).

As has been the norm through human history the world over, there is rapidly growing tendency among the people in general to try to fight off age but in vain in the majority of cases. Many pharmaceutical companies the world over rake in millions of dollars in commercial medical products that purport to slow down ageing. They come in the form of a cocktail of facial creams, pills and injections. But the billion dollar question is: Can we successfully fight off age? (Gwede 2015).

Saidi (2015) refused to be outdone by script writers from the rival Newsday such as Gwede (2015). Writing from his rival Daily News he chose to be a straight talker as opposed to a praise singer and bootlicker, whose mission on the podium is primarily to sing for his supper from his master. Coming your way just now are the sumptuous details of his contribution on the contentious issue of old age and its adverse effect on leadership, in particular His Excellence President Mugabe.

Watch out as you get older (Saidi 2015)

Citing from an old Chinese proverb, Saidi (2015) had made a storming start to his contribution: When you want revenge on the road dig two graves, one for you and the other for your accident victim. This was a sign the Author would expect nothing short of fireworks from the straight talker (Saidi 2015).

According to him anyone who believes that the older they get the wiser they become had to be warned seriously. You could be kidding yourself into an early grave – you are not Methuselah. Saidi (2015) might not have been referring to someone he knew in particular. But being a citizen of Zimbabwe where he is a voter he was referring to a leader who is well past 90 years of age and had been in power for 35 years i.e. since independence from Britain in April 1980 to date. Against this background the country’s jobless statistics hovers around 80% of the

able-bodied population in a SADC region where the average figure for unemployment is +/- 25%. But the paranoid government of His Excellence President Mugabe has vehemently denied this saying instead that the figure for unemployment in the country is 11%. But all you have to do is walk any sizeable city and there are more people walking the streets, rather aimlessly than those working for a living. While this is the case on the ground the clueless ZANU PF government will say there is no need for panic – everything is under control. The Adolf Hitler of history had said the same thing when the allies were a few yards away from his bunker in Berlin (Saidi 2015).

Age is something one can marvel at yet it can endow a man or woman with intellect but can also inflict massive responsibilities on that same machine. Some people say this could effectively lead to overloading. Others say and in fact insist that the human brain is capable of sorting out these proportions equitably. Yet so far, no scientist alive has been able to tell us that such an old brain is not susceptible to brain failure. In other words, it is believed that it can suddenly become dysfunctional without warning. Is there any credible suggestion that there is some kind of warning bell in the brain? When that bell rings, is the owner of the brain expected to suddenly realize it is time to stop everything – and let nature take its course? Or is the scientist supposed to call out to the wife, who is in the kitchen making supper: “Would you call chief and tell him that I am at my wits end. I have no idea which lever to pull next. People can laugh at all this as a hinge joke on elderly people who are today’s politicians (Saidi 2015).

But Saidi (2015) had previously quoted the apparently genuine and realistic case of Habib Bourguiba one time president of Tunisia. There is documented evidence that the former leader ended up losing his marbles. Something weird had happened to him but the general idea was that he just lost the plot altogether and had become mindless as a leader. Some – or even most of us – may insist that His Excellence President Mugabe is different. Reliable sources say His Excellence President still has an intelligent mind and has never displayed an evidence of mental dysfunction. But one jaw dropping incident which to any person of average intelligence was a serious display of mental dysfunction on the part of His Excellence President Mugabe is to allow his young wife First Lady Grace, Hurricane Grace, Grace Calamity, Grace Typhoon, Grace Cyclone – to enter the political arena with a bang which has a real reverberating bang (Saidi 2015).

To any Zimbabwean of a sober mind like the then grieving Author had no choice but to conclude that His Excellence President Mugabe had allowed himself to be a victim of *Kutongwa ne mukadzi* (meaning allowing himself to come under “petticoat” government). Unfortunate for her First Lady Grace Mugabe or “Mrs. Stop it” – as she is now referred to in ZANU PF circles after she successfully led the hostile crusade that caused the dramatic fall of former Vice

President Joice Mujuru – ended up having to have her appendix removed altogether, although no doctor pronounced publicly that her condition had been brought about by her intensive and extensive political campaigning around the country. A point that had been made by many political analysts was that: *Isisu vanhu vemu Zimbabwe ngatichenjerere kuchengetedza hutano panyama nepapfungwa dzevatungamiriri vedu* (meaning we the people of Zimbabwe must care for our leaders very seriously – this must include our concern over their physical and mental health). Once as Christian Zimbabweans we are concerned the leaders' travels or campaigns may be leading them to an inevitable decline in their physical and mental health. We as concerned Zimboz (Zimbabweans) must care enough for the men and women to hastily bring this to the attention of all those responsible for their mental and physical health (Saidi 2015) (Staff Reporter 2015).

Hard times had unfortunately descended upon Zimbabwe which is unfortunate for all of us its citizens ever in ceaseless mourning. “We are suffocating. Please help us”. The Zimbabwean economy is probably at its worst since independence from Britain in 1980. The people everywhere in the country, are in what might be called “mental disarray”. They cannot for certain pinpoint which direction is going – left, right or centre? What everyone of us seems to very well understand is that we the Zimboz are in real trouble simply because the clueless ZANU PF and His Excellence President Mugabe have dismally failed the once touted “bread basket of Africa” into a hopeless basket case feeding its people on handouts from the philanthropic donor community most of whom come from the Mugabe much maligned West. People in perpetual penury and deprivation have like animals threatened to kill each other or themselves for a living! While the country and the economy is crying for attention the self serving ZANU PF party, notorious for reaping where they did not sow are engaged in ceaseless internecine factional and succession wars. What the perpetually grieving Author can safely say is that the animal has become too small for the many marauding vultures. This is a highly undesirable state of affairs and all of us men and women, boys and girls, with the help from the country's Ancestral spirits must act without delay to halt this slide into total anarchy (Saidi 2015). *Imimi Mwari dai zvimwe muchirambawo!* (meaning God of mercy please forbid!)

Deflation in Zimbabwe since about November 2014 to date points to a dying country and its economy. The decrease in prices and aggregate demand as in Table 4 below means the country is in the grip of a serious and unrelenting liquidity crunch. In other words no money is coming into the economy because of the country's investor spooking policies such as the indigenization policy.

Table 4: Deflation in Zimbabwe for the period November 2014 to February 2015

Month	Inflation / (Deflation)
November 2014	0.09
December 2014	(0.08)
January 2015	(1.28)
February 2015	(1.40)

Source: Staff Reporter (2015)

While old age was taking its toll on His Excellence President Mugabe his failing health was pestering him to listen to his elders. Citing from an old Swahili proverb the spiking health problems for His Excellence President Mugabe are continuously coming back to haunt him with this pertinent advice: “If you refuse the elders’ advice you will walk the whole day”. Another Kenyan proverb is circulating in the sky with this message for His Excellence President Mugabe “Leaders have to sometimes take orders from their subordinates. Hence even a haplocromis (a small fish) employs a tilapia (a large fish). *Akupa dhende ndewako* (meaning ignore wise counsel at your peril). For more details on His Excellence President Mugabe’s failing health sumptuous details coming your way in just a moment. Please don’t go away.

Failing health plagues Mugabe Veteran ruler no longer fit to govern as he turns 91 (Gagare 2015)

According to Gagare (2015) His Excellence President Mugabe who turns 91 on 21 February 2015 is battling prostate cancer not to mention persistent eye problems giving him restless days and nights. Beside this he is widely seen as no longer fit to govern with close government officials and aides chorusing that old age and health problems are taking a heavy toll on him. His Excellence President Mugabe’s precarious situation was clearly reflected by his shock and dramatic fall at the Harare International airport on 4 February 2015. He made headlines for tumbling while getting off from a podium after addressing ministers, security service chiefs and ZANU PF supporters upon his arrival from Addis Ababa, Ethiopia where in pomp and fanfare, he had taken over the rotational chairmanship. Government officials and aides close to His Excellence President Mugabe had in confidence said that they had closely observed in recent years that the ailing His Excellence President Mugabe had been fast deteriorating in terms of physical stature, mental alertness and health (Gagare 2015).

One official close to him had said that Zimbabweans were grossly underestimating how old age, prostate cancer, eye problems and other opportunistic infections also associated with elderliness had ravaged and taken their toll on the veteran politician.

“Mugabe has been battling these problems, prostate cancer eye cataracts and other problems associated with old age for some years now”, the official said.

“If you are close to him you would have noticed by now that compared to the past few years he currently has reduced reflexes and co-ordination and serious difficulty with balance. That is why his wife (Grace) always keeps close to him in public these days just in case he falls. He also has decreased visual acuity or sight and apparently some hearing complications. His legs are sometimes swollen making it painful for him to walk”.

Every year when he goes for his annual holidays in the Far East His Excellence President Mugabe has a habit of passing through Parkway Eye Centre at Gleneagles Hospital in Singapore which offers hormonal therapy and surgery to prostate cancer patients. Over the past few years His Excellence has been shuttling to Singapore, suggesting serious health problems even though officially he is said to be suffering from eye cataracts,

“If you saw the photos of him and his family posted on social media during the festive holidays (Christmas 2014 to New Year 2015) you would have noticed how frail and unwell he looked. It is due to old age and poor health”, a close aide had said. “Age and health problems have caught up with the old man. He might give the appearance of being sprightly in public but he is now vulnerable such that his medical team is always close by, especially when he has a tight schedule. His fall on Wednesday (4 February 2015) was therefore not surprising at all (Gagare 2015).

Insiders insist that His Excellence President Mugabe had a prostate cancer laser operation in Singapore while on annual vacation in 2014 despite official denials after which he went to recuperate in Dubai, United Arab Emirates before coming back home. The operation was reportedly done before Christmas (2014), giving him enough time to recover. This is the reason why he had delayed coming back home besides that his wife was also operated on as he confirmed upon his return. His Excellence President Mugabe had previously tripped up and fallen, at one time in Malaysia where he hurt his eye after the tumble. Pictures of him falling and on his knees on 4 February 2015 went viral on social media, re-igniting debate about his fitness to continue ruling.

“Look, for his age he is still relatively strong, but the real question is: “is he fit to govern? I don’t think he is because there are so many indications he can no longer cope with his demanding duties, taxing schedules and attendant pressures” another official said. “That is why there are no other heads of state and government of his age anywhere in the world. It is because no one can defy the laws or realities of old age and mortality” (Gagara 2015).

His Excellence President Mugabe’s lickspittle spin doctors had since 4 February 2015, the fateful day of his dramatic fall, been working overdrive to contain the domino effect of his

dramatic fall as the situation increasingly deteriorates amid intense denials which are sometimes contradicted by his physical appearances, hospital shuttles and the dramatic tumble of 4 February 2015. Presidential spokesman lickspittle George Charamba who in early February 2015 had vehemently denied that the ailing President had an operation in Singapore, stating he had gone on an annual review of his eyes had on 5 February 2015 said his boss (His Excellence President Mugabe) was fine and energetic as he reported for duty at his Munhumutapa offices at 9.30am (Gagare 2015).

While Charamba wants to paint a picture of His Excellence President Mugabe of a decade ago or so, the ailing and frail looking president no longer energetically runs up the steps while boarding a plane as he used to do a clear sign he had lost his fitness and energy to do so,

“The reality is that Mugabe is increasingly frail due to old age and health problems. As a result his power and influence are diminishing as he continues to lose control of his ZANU PF party and government”, one official said.

“Remember he publicly admitted at congress last year in December 2014 that his wife had filled the vacuum around him and she is running the show at home and now in the party. That is why she was giving instructions in public at congress. This poses a serious threat to the stability of ZANU PF and the country because he is no longer really in charge” (Gagare 2015).

Due to illness and pressure of work as President of ZANU PF, President of Zimbabwe, Chairperson of SADC and AU, commander-in-chief of the armed forces and chancellor of 12 state owned universities, His Excellence President Mugabe has been out of Zimbabwe +/- 10 times between mid December 2014 and mid April 2015 to earn himself the nickname of an absent President. Given that Zimbabwe is now a dying country and its economy the 24/7 presence of a President to put out the flames is a must for Zimbabwe and its dying economy.

As further evidence of His Excellence President Mugabe's increasingly failing health Moyo (2015) and Mangudhla (2015) had made a stunning revelation that His Excellence President Mugabe had a major cancer operation apart from admitting having medical exams in the Far East while on his traditional annual holiday in the Far East. Jaw dropping details of this coming your way in just a second away from now.

Mugabe has major cancer operation; Admits having medical exams (Moyo and Mangudhla (2015))

His Excellence President Mugabe had undergone what was said to be a major prostate cancer operation during his annual holiday in Singapore, hence his delayed return to allow him time to recuperate, government and close family sources had revealed. Returning to a planned rousing welcome by ZANU PF supporters brandishing T-shirts bearing statements like “In support of our

supreme leader Cde R G Mugabe” he had disclosed he and his family had undergone medical check-ups during their holiday. However, His Excellence President Mugabe had said Grace whom he referred to as “Amai Stop it” in reference to her repeated attacks on party factional leaders, was admitted in hospital and only discharged on Tuesday. He said the First Lady was still recuperating and would return in mid-February 2015. The President apologized for his delayed return saying,

“I am sorry we took a long time outside. We were not there during the Christmas holiday. “Mai Stop” it was feeling pain on her side and so we went for medical examinations. It (the holiday) is time for us all with the kids to be examined, to see if we are healthy”, he said.

“But the First Lady was in so much pain and doctors established that it was appendicitis. It was removed. Doctors say it is not useful although from time to time it can cause harm. She did not know what was causing the pain but the operation was successful. She was discharged the day before yesterday (Tuesday)”. (Moyo and Mangudhla 2015).

His Excellence President Mugabe appeared quite fit despite evident signs of old age such as struggling for balance while walking and slurred speech. A close family relative said:

“The President had surgery for prostate cancer while on holiday in Singapore and it was a major procedure. That is why he delayed his return. What I can say is he has recovered and is now quite well”.

Another senior government official confirmed this saying: “We had been informed the President had an operation while in Singapore but is fit now”.

His Excellence President Mugabe had been visiting Singapore regularly for treatment since 2011, but his trips have been increasing with each passing year, suggesting deteriorating health due to advanced age. He has been treated before at the exclusive hospital, a world class institution frequented by the rich and famous where high end (rich) patients like His Excellence President Mugabe pay a minimum of SGD 10 000 (Singapore Dollars) which is equivalent to US\$8 000 (Moyo and Mangudhla 2015).

According to Gleaneagles’ website, the hospital, part of which used to be a deluxe hotel, was founded in the 1950s and was progressively upgraded, including undergoing a massive US\$150 million three year expansion which ended in 1994. The expansion turned it into a multi-disciplinary state of the art medical facility. The Gleaneagles hospital houses more than 300 on site doctors from over 30 specialties and subspecialties. It offers a wide range of medical and surgical services. The hospital also has a cancer treatment centre, Parkway Cancer Centre, which offers comprehensive cancer treatment with highly skilled multi disciplinary team. It offers the latest technology in cancer treatment for various types of the ailment including prostate cancer which His Excellence President Mugabe has been battling for years. Prostate cancer is a

virulent tumor that grows in the prostate, a walnut sized gland below the bladder in men. (Moyo and Mangudhla 2015).

Most prostate cancer are slow-growing but there are aggressive cases, and the cancer can spread to other parts of the body especially the bones and lymph nodes. Senior government officials revealed in Wikileaks cables that His Excellency President Mugabe's prostate cancer had metastasised, spreading to other parts of the body. The hospital also has a state-of-the-art eye clinic, Parkway Eye Centre where His Excellence Mugabe, who had cataracts removed from both eyes was apparently attended to last year. His Excellency President Mugabe's right eye gave him serious and visible discomfort last year (2014), including during the Independence Day celebrations as shown on the lickspittle and state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC). And finally the eye centre is run by Dr. Lee Hung Ming, the first eye surgeon in Singapore to perform the all-laser no blade lasik surgery (Staff Writer 2015, Moyo and Mangudhla 2015).

Analysts say the more His Excellence had travelled outside the country the more money he had gobbled. On his more than 10 travels outside the country between mid December 2014 and mid April 2015 he had gobbled US\$10 million on travel alone minus hotel bills costing Zimbabwe money which it does not have as evidenced by government's failure to pay civil servants on time including university lecturers. To add salt to a festering wound the Finance Minister Honourable Patrick Chinamasa had in mid April 2015 made an unsavoury announcement that he was going to suspend bonus payments to civil servants in 2015, 2016 and 2017. All this coming as sign that the financially hamstrung Zimbabwe government had no money because of a shrinking tax base attributed to massive company closures and job losses since 2011 to date.

So much about the poor and failing health of His Excellency President Mugabe which had gone viral on the social media WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook. To add icing on the cake is the compelling need to wade into the bad and the ugly consequences of his combination of old age and failing health. Details on this coming your way in just a moment.

Rivals feast on Mugabe's fall. Critics say his time is up (Phiri 2015)

For the long suffering His Excellency President Mugabe it never rains but pours. A day after He fell off a podium at Harare International Airport, in a worrisome incident that elicited loud gasps of concern among gathered senior government officials, service chiefs and ZANU PF supporters his critics say it is now time for the nonagenarian to either resign or retire due to not only advanced age but increasingly failing health. *Uchikufirei ? Vanhu vanozvivunza mubvunzo* (meaning with all what you have achieved in life what do you want to die for, people have more

often than not queried?) Leading opposition figures in Zimbabwe had out of the great concern for the ailing His Excellence President, said after an incredible 35 tumultuous years at the helm of Zimbabwe and nearly 40 years at the helm of the faction-riddled ZANU PF party and the ripe age of 91 it was time for His Excellence President Mugabe to clear the way for a new leader at government and party levels to chart a new era for the perennially struggling but resource-rich country. To the perennially grieving Author of the unfortunate incident of the fall of His Excellency was the most cruel thing to see happen to a serving president who is not only at the helm of ZANU PF party and Zimbabwe but also at the helm of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU). And the Author's first port of call with his truck loads of blame is none other than the greedy and self serving ZANU PF members who praise sing His Excellence President to rule until infinity so that they selfishly continue to feather their nests or to continue feeding from the national feeding trough. *Imimi Mwari neVadzimu vose venyika ino zvimwe munachirambawo!* (meaning God and the country's Ancestral spirits please forbid!) (Phiri 2015).

Photographs and videofootage of His Excellence President Mugabe's nasty fall had gone viral on social media – WhatsApp, Twitter and Facebook and also made headlines news in international media in the first week of February 2015 amid bizarre claims by the lickspittle State media – print and electronic that His Excellence President Mugabe had not fallen but had merely tripped and remarkably managed to break the fall on his own. In other words and colloquially and in the language of the ZANU PF poodles the body language of the falling episode was: "Look, for the umpteenth time, the President did not fall. Let's agree to disagree. Okay the President fell, but he did not fall".

This desperate spin was despite the wide availability of self-evident photographic and video evidence of the mortifying fall (Phiri 2015).

Empathetic opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai had said: "It is very unfortunate even though it is understandable at his age. I hope he gets the medical attention he deserves".

Sibongile Mgiijima, deputy national spokesperson for Welshman Ncube's MDC, said His Excellence President Mugabe must resign.

"There is everything wrong with a 91 year old man who wants to pretend that his emaciated body is not succumbing to the natural process of ageing. Most 91 year olds use canes to assist them to walk. If President Mugabe had done the same he could have prevented his nasty fall. It goes to show that he now lacks co-ordination with his brains. He can no longer continue to deceive Zimbabweans that he is both mentally and physically fit. It is time to leave office, stay home and tell stories to his grandchildren if he has them, that is", Mgiijima said. (Phiri 2015).

Obert Gutu, of the mainstream opposition Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) weighed in saying, His Excellence President Mugabe was an “old man”, who now needed to seriously consider stepping down.

“He is now 91 and at that advanced age, a person’s health and general physical fitness become severely strained. As the MDC we have repeatedly stated on account of his increasingly failing health, as well as advanced age, that Mugabe is no longer fit for the purpose of being a country’s president. Here is a geriatric who gives himself an extremely punishing schedule as a husband to a relatively young wife, a father to children young enough to be his grandchildren, a president of a country whose economy is virtually comatose, chair of both SADC and the African Union, as well as being the chancellor of more than 12 State Universities! His plate is rather too full for an ailing nonagenarian”, Gutu told the print media, in particular the Daily News adding that it was regrettable that more often than not His Excellence President Mugabe was hoping from one aeroplane onto another. He loves travelling and the Far East is his destination of choice. The man is just too old, frail and sickly. The best thing that he can do for himself, his family and his country is to immediately resign as the head of State and retire to farming at Gushungo Estates. He could also utilize his time in retirement to pen his memoirs. Anything short of that will simply mean enhanced socio-economic suffering for the majority of the people of Zimbabwe who are now living in penury and destitution”, said Gutu to convince even his detractors in the ZANU PF party (Phiri 2015).

Evans Sagomba a spokesperson for Mavambo/Kusile/Dawn had said that given the heart stopping events at the Harare International Airport, it was high time His Excellence President Mugabe called it quits.

“It’s a big sign. It is time for the old man to rest. Everyone was there and it is a clear sign they should let the old man rest. What more do you want? Everybody was there and it happened in front of them, even the generals. We are not gloating over this. We can’t laugh at it because he is an old man. But it happened in a public place. They should have a meeting to say the old man must rest. It’s a clear message”, Sagomba eloquently said (Phiri 2015).

Dewa Mavhinga, a senior researcher at Human Rights Watch had said that His Excellence President Mugabe’s dramatic but awful fall was a sad development.

“His party and family should seriously talk about Mugabe’s overdue retirement and not scapegoat the fall as resulting from a poorly laid out carpet”, Mavhinga could not have said it any better than that, referring to the spin by lickspittle State media about the alleged cause of the fall. The President’s upcoming 91st birthday (21 February 2015) is a good opportunity to seriously reflect on calling it a day”, said the straight talking Mavhinga without beating about bush fires.

Analyst Maxwell Saungweme had eloquently said there were more important things Zimbabweans should focus on rather than the tripping of “a 91-year-old man”.

“It should not be news as this is a reaffirmation that he is old and like any one at his age, deserves a rest”, Saungweme said much to the nodding in total agreement of his audience (Phiri 2015).

Although His Excellence and his lickspittle aides had consistently claimed that he is “as fit as a fiddle, he has in recent years shuttled frequently between Zimbabwe and the Far East for nothing but medical attention, a sign that the health service delivery at home is just not good enough.

“I am here for as long as I am still sane, with good memory and will power” the boastful His Excellence President Mugabe had said in his closing remarks at the damp squib ZANU PF so called “elective” congress that was held in Harare from 2 – 7 December 2014. But even ordinary Zimbabweans while commiserating with His Excellence President Mugabe over the unfortunate but dramatic fall, had said it was high time the long suffering Zimbabweans saw his back on his long awaited way out as Zimbabwean leader.

“His age doesn’t allow for all this, SADC Chairman, AU Chairman, domestic affairs. *Hezvo akoromokaawa*” (meaning he has fallen), said Mike Moyo a Harare cell-phone recharge card vendor in obvious sympathy with the ailing His Excellence President Mugabe (Phiri 2015).

How the dramatic fall came about was that the increasingly frail His Excellence President Mugabe fell after he had just finished addressing his supporters after returning from Ethiopia where he took over the rotating ceremonial chairmanship of the African Union (AU). Although he appeared unhurt after the nasty fall, the jaw dropping incident – which occurred in full view of bigwigs, ZANU PF rank and file members and journalists – triggered visible panic among senior government officials and security chiefs, who all scrambled to help him get on his feet and ensure that he was alright. In a move that is synonymous with interfering with press freedom in Zimbabwe, aggressive security personnel immediately moved unsuccessfully to try and force all the gathered photo journalists including a crew from the Daily News to delete pictures of the fall. Turning 91 years on 21 February 2015, His Excellence President Mugabe was officially to become Africa’s oldest leader and the continent’s third longest serving leader (Phiri 2015).

Beside, His Excellence President Mugabe is also the only leader Zimbabweans have known since the country’s independence from Britain in 1980 in a region where most of the neighbouring countries have had up to six different leaders during the same time. His Excellence President Mugabe had come under increasing political pressure at home – both from within and outside his ruling ZANU PF party – and is subject to travel bans for more than a

decade in the European Union and in the United States of America (USA) because of allegations of gross human rights violations and stealing elections leveled against him and his ruling ZANU PF party. This is a big contrast to the scenario when he initially took power at independence from Britain in 1980. His Excellence was widely feted both at home and abroad, and was celebrated as promoting reconciliation among the warring factions prior to Independence (Phiri 2015).

Cephas Msipa, formerly a ruling ZANU PF senior member had blasted his fellow party members for wasting precious time “politicking” and fighting each other instead of addressing the current economic challenges facing or tormenting Zimbabwe left right and centre. In an exclusive interview with Newsday at his base in Gweru on 10 April 2015 Msipa said ZANU PF was economically clueless and bankrupt and had no capacity to remedy the free-falling economy”, because of its divisive tendencies”, saying the ruling ZANU PF priorities were wrong.

“It is sad that the politburo is spending so much time to oust cadres from the party. Even during my time in there (politburo), we spent so much time politicking and never dedicated much time to tackling economic and development issues” Msipa said. “I look back and it is a pity that we have never spent even a single night discussing how best we can turn around the collapsing economy. Our priorities are wrong”.

The ruling ZANU PF party is currently swimming in the middle of a storm, with several top party members including Mujuru booted out on allegations of plotting to oust His Excellence President Mugabe (Staff Reporter 2015).

But the much talked about human rights abuses and chaotic land reforms that forced out white commercial farmers from their farms from around 2000 onwards drew the ire of the West and cost and lost him much political capital and mileage both at home and abroad. Meanwhile, lickspittle State media – print and electronic – which sought to downplay the dramatic fall at the Harare International Airport despite embarrassingly going on to cite a number of global cases in which other leaders had suffered the same indignity – reported His Excellence President Mugabe’s aides saying that the nonagenarian was well (Phiri 2015).

For His Excellence President Mugabe, it never rains but it pours. For about a week or so before the dramatic tumble on a podium at the Harare International Airport in Harare on 4 February 2015 demonstrations had rocked Lusaka demanding His Excellence President Mugabe “to go”. Details on this coming your way in just a moment.

“Mugabe must go” demos rock Lusaka (Staff Reporter and Sapa 2015)

On 24 January 2015, His Excellence President Mugabe had come face to face with how the neighbouring countries feel about his continued 35 years grip on power in Zimbabwe. Huge

crowds of Zambians had on this fateful day chanted “Mugabe must go” at the Radisson Blu Hotel in the capital Lusaka. A video of the demo showing hundreds of people waving hands in the air and chanting their protests had gone viral on social site *You Tube*. It was not clear what had sparked the demonstrations or who had organized them. It could not also be established if the demonstrations had managed to get His Excellence President Mugabe’s attention or if the President had responded in any way. His Excellence President Mugabe had been hosted to a dinner by the Zimbabwean embassy in Lusaka on Friday evening 23 January 2015 upon his arrival. His Excellence President Mugabe - who is chairman of SADC and incoming AU chair – was in Lusaka where he had gone to attend the inauguration of Zambia’s new president. This was despite the fact that ballots were still being counted and no winner had been declared. Radisson Blu Hotel was then the current base of the opposition candidate Hakainde Hichilema of United Party for National Development who appeared the loser in the said Zambian general elections held on 20 January 2015 following the death of the incumbent President Michael Sata. His successor will serve the remainder of the 5 year term until the next general election in September 2016 (Staff Reporter 2015).

Zambia Patriotic Front candidate Edgar Lungu was set to be inaugurated on 24 January 2015 as Zambia’s 6th President. His Excellence President Mugabe – Zimbabwe’s only president since independence from Britain in 1980 had arrived in Zimbabwe on Thursday 22 January 2015 from a five week long holiday in the Far East and had proceeded to Lusaka on Friday 23 January 2015 for the inauguration of the new Zambian president, Edgar Lungu. This action by His Excellence President Mugabe had attracted furore from many quarters in Zimbabwe who questioned the rationale of His Excellence President Mugabe given his extended leave in the Far East and the burning issues in his ZANU PF party, the economy in its 15th year of continuous melt down which clearly required his urgent attention at home (Staff Reporter and Sapa 2015).

While the anti-Mugabe demonstrations were rocking Lusaka on 24 January 2015 what could be bad news for His Excellence President Mugabe and his rented crowds of praise singers but good news for the long suffering masses political and economic analysts at home were chorusing that the much hyped Indigenization policy was not only dogged by inconsistency but unworkable in Zimbabwe and should therefore be scrapped from the statute books. The ear bashing noise from the Indigenization Policy of 2007 is that its implementation by the clueless ruling ZANU PF party government was off the rails as the 10 years reveal the liquidity crunch buffeting the country left right and centre had made it unworkable, experts had said. This unworkability associatable with the Indigenization policy requires a radical policy shift that would entail acknowledgement that the existing policy in its present format is unworkable, and

should be followed by an amendment to the statutory instrument. According to the Indigenization Act of 2007 at least 51% shareholding in all companies operating in Zimbabwe should be in the hands of locals in a SADC region which is highly competitive. The Vice President Honourable Emmerson Munangagwa and the Indigenization minister, Honourable Chris Mushowe are always contradicting each other. Hence the unworkability of the Statutory Instrument (Sandu 2015).

So much about the bad and ugly consequences of His Excellence President Mugabe's continued over stay in power despite many factors militating against that. To round off the discourse in the Paper is the compelling need to sound out what the various stakeholders in general have said about His Excellence President Mugabe overstaying his welcome in both the ZANU PF party and government. Details not far away and so please do not go away.

DECLARE MUGABE UNFIT TO RULE (MATENGA 2015)

The “anti-Mugabe crusade” had by February 2015 reached fever pitch, a sign that it was proving unstoppable. Below was how the debacle had raised its ugly head.

Opposition members of parliament (MPs) were by early February 2015 reported to be warming up to a possible unity with disgruntled ZANU PF MPs in an unprecedented move aimed at impeaching His Excellence President Mugabe who they argued was now incapacitated and unable to continue at the helm of both ZANU PF party and government given his advanced age and ill health. The move, according to MPs interviewed was now necessary particularly coming after His Excellence President Mugabe fell at Harare International Airport upon arrival from Addis Ababa where he had been made AU chairman. Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) Renewal Team spokesperson Jacob Mafume had said that it was the duty of current MPs to consider the move and ensure His Excellence President Mugabe is “saved” from the “abuse” by ZANU PF for wanting to keep him in power at that advanced age in his sunset era.

“I do believe we have maintained that State House is not an old people's home and we should find other places to accommodate him and if Parliament is toothless in that regard, someone can approach the High Court to seek that Mugabe be checked medically if he is still fit to be on the job”, Mafume had protested to nodding in full agreement by his audience.

“We see now there has been lapse in concentration on his part and we should understand old age is illness humanity can't cure” (Matenga 2015)

Mbizo MP Settlement Chikwinya had said that given immediate past experiences where His Excellence President Mugabe's lapse in concentration e.g. dosing off in meetings had been exposed to pave the way for Parliament to act. Chikwinya's argument was raised from three instances where His Excellence had shown signs of old age and lapse in concentration which

observers attributed to old age. The first one was when His Excellence President Mugabe said Tsvangirai had won the 2008 elections by 73% while addressing war veterans in Harare during the 2 – 7 December 2014 damp squib of an “elective” congress. He also unconsciously chanted “*pasi ne ZANU PF*” (meaning down with ZANU PF) during the same ZANU PF congress just after revealing that the First Lady Grace was now controlling him even at home (Matenga 2015).

The debate was also ignited earlier this year with fears expressed by Mashonaland Central ZANU PF Chairman Dickson Mafios who said that all MPs aligned to fired former Vice-President Joice Mujuru should be recalled from parliament amid fears they would gang up with opposition counterparts to impeach His Excellence President Mugabe.

“There are also rumours that they want to impeach President Mugabe if they unite with the MDC-T so right now we are not sure if their allegiance is towards the President and how loyal they are to government”, He said.

The MDC-T has 91 seats in House of Assembly and Senate while ZANU PF has 234. But ZANU PF fears that more than 100 of its ZANU PF MPs were aligned to Mujuru and could form an alliance with the MDC formations to pose a threat to the ruling ZANU PF party (Matenga 2015).

While the anti-Mugabe, crusade had reached boiling point because people want a new leader with fresh ideas to steer the country away from more turbulent skies it is the lickspittle praise singers who are spoiling the agenda for change for self-serving reasons. While the country is economically crying – “I am suffocating, please save me”, the praise singers want a continuity of the status quo so that they have more feeding time from the national feeding trough while the long suffering rank and file masses wanted change yesterday. People want change not for the sake of it but *maveji parakava raMwari muyedzo chaiwo* (meaning too much of vegetables in a human diet is not health wise, so say the dieticians)

As the anti-Mugabe crusade reached ceiling point Madanhire (2015) had cited the old African proverb that charity begins at home for His Excellence President Mugabe. If he has dismally failed the people of Zimbabwe at home how does one expect the same failed leader to add value to the continental African Union (AU). Details on this are on their way coming to you sooner than later.

Mugabe won't add value to AU (Madanhire 2015)

His Excellence President Mugabe was set to take over the rotating African Union (AU) leadership on 30 January 2015. Because he is the current SADC Chairman nothing barred him from simultaneously taking the helm of both while also running the troubled Zimbabwe.

Although human rights groups argued that His Excellence President who turned 91 on 21 February 2015, will send the wrong message to Africa's citizens, it is likely his peers will vote for him to lead the African Union (AU) for the next 12 months, during which his meticulously planned political come back will be one of the most complete in modern history. Regarded as a pariah in the West and in human rights circles, His Excellence President Mugabe remains a sung liberation hero in some parts of Africa. But regrettably His Excellence President Mugabe's biggest problem has been his indifference to Zimbabwe's economic meltdown now in its 15th year. He seems to understand the gravity of the challenges that the country is going through. He is far removed from reality and with 10 elections in Africa this year, His Excellence President Mugabe who has trampled on people's human rights in Zimbabwe during the greater part of his 35 years rule will definitely not add value to any society (Madamombe 2015).

His Excellence Mugabe has stayed in power largely through election rigging and the arrest and intimidation of opponents. His re-election in the disputed and violent 2008 poll was especially controversial. But he has company in the AU. Hence his appointment simply shows that the AU is a "dictators' club" given Equatorial Guinea President Teodora Obian Nguema Mbasogo and Angola's Jose Eduardo dos Santos have been in office longer than His Excellence President Mugabe himself. Besides, Mugabe is also surrounded by the most decorative First Lady Grace, who is always amassing wealth for her family and gallivanting than to develop Zimbabwe, itself is a sad development for a person who prefers the moniker "Mother of the Nation". The combination of His Excellence President Mugabe and his wife has no doubt damaged the Zimbabwe brand. By their actions Mugabe and his wife are determined to milk Zimbabwe dry while millions of people suffer immeasurably from their misrule; and surely the ageing leader must be stopped one way or the other. How will he superintend free and fair elections in other African nations when he has failed in that regard himself? Does he have the moral ground to push for violence-free elections yet his own elections at home have been seriously questioned? (Madanhire 2015).

Sadly, His Excellence President Mugabe, Africa's oldest Statesman, has even indicated his willingness to contest the 2018 general elections on his ruling ZANU PF ticket. Yet he will be 94. How very sad for poor Zimbabwe! It is time for His Excellence President Mugabe to show the long suffering nation his back to pave the way for others with fresh ideas to turn the country around for the benefit of its people, yet continues to be abused home and away. Presidential term limits are there for a useful purpose – to encourage fresh ideas and guard against any single leader becoming indispensable. *Imimi Mwari neVadzimu venyika ino zvimwe dai muchirambawo!* (meaning God of mercy and the Ancestral spirits of this country please forbid!) It is agonizing and unpalatable truth that His Excellence President Mugabe has, for self

serving reasons taken the presidency of Zimbabwe as a career than a job. And how can such a mean individual lead the whole of Africa? If anything leaders are culpable for whatever damage His Excellence President Mugabe continues to viciously inflict on his people (Madanhire 2015).

And finally Zimbabwe do not feed on radicalism, nationalism, sloganeering, revolutionarism and Zanuism, but must benefit from good policies. One wonders why His Excellence President Mugabe who appears to be living in the distant past, continues to hang on rubbing shoulders with younger leaders as if Zimbabwe with the highest literacy rate in Africa does not have capable leaders. He needs to be reminded that he should show the iconic Nelson Mandela maturity and follow the civilized South African democratic example of shunning violence and rigging. Isn't South Africa good enough an example for His Excellence President Mugabe given that from 1994 that country has had three presidents – thanks to term limits which only came with the 2012 Constitution which was already too late to stop His Excellence President Mugabe is surely a discomfiture for the Zimbabwe and Africa that people in general want (Madanhire 2015).

While his Excellence President Mugabe has failed to give value to Zimbabwe how do people expect the same failed leader to add value to SADC and the African Union (AU)? As earlier alluded to about his continued absence from an economically burning country so soon after the deadly food riots at Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison and at State Universities, a declining economy now in the fourth month of deflation and recession as earlier referred to and the impending food shortages spawned by a combination of drought, flooding and the 2000 chaotic Land Reform Programme which dispossessed +/- 6000 commercial farmers to resettle blacks who are not true farmers at heart had caused great anxiety among the country's citizens. Many people have to date questioned if His Excellence President Mugabe is really concerned about the welfare of the people who "elected" him to steer this nation to greater heights of glory to benefit its suffering citizenry. Old as he is people had believed that perhaps that the problem lies with his advisors who are self seekers and are probably misleading him about the real situation on the ground. His Excellence President Mugabe had given the Author a moment of anxiety when he stated that he was also struggling to survive on a whopping salary of US\$12 000 per month. This was confirmation that His Excellence was living in a different planet from his people. Surely how many of Zimbabweans are getting even US\$500? In fact the majority of able bodied people in Zimbabwe numbering 50 000 are eking out a living through a "street entrepreneurship" called street vending which does not bring much to the table and are into it because of devastating penury and deprivation in a country His Excellence President Mugabe and his ruling ZANU PF party had economically ruined in their 35 years of misrule. And looked at against the backdrop of how much it costs for His Excellence President Mugabe and his

bloated delegations of his hangers-on to travel across borders it is really heart breaking if not heart stopping. His Excellence President Mugabe had by mid April 2015 made close to more than 10 trips since mid December 2014 on personal and official business costing more than US\$10 million which the financially hamstrung Zimbabwe government does not have given its inability to pay civil servants on time (Madanhire 2015).

So much about this discourse – Mugabe under renewed spotlight in his new punishing roles of SADC and AU chairperson amid ballooning concerns about his old age and ill health. All having been said and done it is now time for the Summary of the Paper which gives a panoramic view of the highlights as contained in the Paper. Details on this coming your way.

SUMMARY

The introduction to the Paper features Marwizi (2015) urging His Excellence President Mugabe (91) to retire because it is good for him to do so given his ripe age of 91 years of age. After Marwizi (2015) comes a statement on the relevant Literature Review and Research methodology whose mission is primarily to source data in the form of Research findings for the study.

To open the discourse in the Paper is Nyamutata (2015) who devotes most of his time to the lickspittle praise singers for His Excellence President Mugabe which is dishonest propaganda by the praise singers so that they continue to feed from the national feeding trough while the majority of the people live in penury and deprivation.

Masekesa (2015) features Kasukuwere, the new ZANU PF National Commissar who boasts that His Excellence President Mugabe is a God-given leader which is propaganda designed to earn him more time in ZANU PF to enable him to continue feeding from the national feeding trough.

After Masekesa (2015) come the stakeholders concerns about the old age and ill health of His Excellence President Mugabe which are militating against his continued stay in power.

Gwede (2015) joins the discourse with his contribution titled: *“Mugabe losing battle against his age”* which as at 21 February 2015 was 91 years. Saidi (2015) wades into the discourse with his contribution titled: Watch out as you get older.

Gagare (2015) joins the discourse complaining that His Excellence President Mugabe was suffering from ill health which renders him unfit to govern at the ripe age of 91. Moyo and Mangudhla (2015) reveal that His Excellence President Mugabe had a major cancer operation in Singapore beside undergoing medical examinations.

On the bad and ugly consequences of his old age and ill health, Phiri (2015) reports that His Excellence President Mugabe had a nasty fall at the Harare International Airport on 4

February 2015. Another bad and ugly consequence of his old age and ill health, are the Lusaka “anti-Mugabe” demonstrations reported by Staff reporter and Sapa (2015).

Various stakeholders were given a chance to air their views on His Excellence President Mugabe’s continued stay in power despite his advance age and ill health. And the first to give his contribution was Matenga (2015) who urged the MPs to approach the High Court with an application to impeach His Excellence President Mugabe to the effect that he should be declared unfit to rule. Another stakeholder to contribute airing his views was none other than Madanhire (2015) with his contribution that if His Excellence President Mugabe had dismally failed to create value for the benefit of Zimbabweans how then do you expect the same failed President to add value to the AU?

So far so good about the Paper Summary which was short and to the point i.e. giving a panoramic view of the Paper and its major highlights. Following after this is the Conclusion of the Paper i.e. given the Research Findings after the relevant and related Literature Review and the Research Methodology what was the appropriate verdict reached? Details on this coming your way in just a moment.

CONCLUSION

According to Rusvingo (2008), Kenkel (1984) defines a Research Hypothesis from which a Conclusion is derived as: “A statement about the value of a parameter or a group of parameters can take”

According to the same Kenkel (1984), “The purpose of a Research Hypothesis testing is to choose between two conflicting Research Hypotheses about the value of a population parameter. The two conflicting Research Hypotheses are denoted as the Null Research Hypothesis, denoted H_0 and the Alternative Research Hypothesis, denoted H_1 . These two Research Hypotheses are mutually exclusive so that when one is true the other one is false.

Therefore the definitions of a Null Research Hypothesis, H_0 and an Alternative Research Hypothesis, H_1 are that:

“The Null Research Hypothesis represents a statement or an assumption that has been made about some characteristic (or parameter) of the population being studied. The Alternative Research Hypothesis, H_1 specifies all possible values of the population parameter that were not specified in the Null Research Hypothesis, H_0 .

Therefore for the study in this Paper whose title is: Mugabe under renewed spotlight in his new punishing roles as Southern African Development Community (SADC) and African Union (AU) chairperson amid ballooning concerns about his old age and ill health (2014 – 2015)

– the Null Research Hypothesis (H_0) and the Alternative Research Hypothesis (H_1) in respect of this aforesaid Research topic or title in this Paper shall respectively be:

H_0 Mugabe is not under renewed spotlight for old age and ill health which is confirmed false.

H_1 Mugabe is under renewed spotlight for old age and ill health which is confirmed true.

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: Mugabe is under renewed spotlight for old age and ill health which is confirmed true is to be resoundingly accepted while the Null Research Hypothesis (H_0) is to be resoundingly rejected in light of the evidence which is 100% pro the Alternative Research Hypothesis, H_1 and 100% anti the Null Research Hypothesis, H_0 .

With the exciting Conclusion of the Study now done and sealed up next are the Recommendations of the Study which are primarily designed to address what was not done right vis-à-vis His Excellence President Mugabe and his continued stay in power. Period. Details coming your way sooner than later.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Hanzi nevakare vedu kana wakwegura chigara kumba utambe nevazukuru (meaning like it or not everything never mind how thrilling has a necessary end. Period). Delusional and stupid as it may sound to His Excellence President Mugabe and his rented crowds the agonizing truth now facing His Excellence President Mugabe in the face, soon to be 91 years of age on 21 February 2015 is that he is looking more a man of yesteryear than today. He is now looking frail and senile from old age and ill health. The obvious thing to do now than later is to call it quits. As it is His Excellence President Mugabe is now a dead weight – an oppressive burden to the nation. If he wants to leave a rich legacy behind his back like the legendary world icon Nelson Mandela, the time to leave office is now or never. It is as certain as death coming after life that His Excellence President Mugabe is now riding a hungry tiger. The once lovely pet is now showing its teeth in readiness to pounce, kill and devour its rider. Hence the allegations that the former Vice President Mujuru and her allies wanted to assassinate or topple His Excellence President Mugabe leading to their brutal purge from the ruling ZANU PF party. While these internecine succession and factional wars have been fought on a daily basis the country and the economy have been crying “I am suffocating. Please help me!”

The story about Zimbabwe narrated by Kachembere (2015) is not for people of a nervous disposition which is not an exaggeration by the Author. According to Kachembere (2015) it does not rain for the long suffering Zimbabweans, it pours. Following recent revelations by economists, analysts and pundits that average incomes in Zimbabwe are now at

their lowest levels in 60 years it has now emerged that more than 76% of the country's adult population has to make do with less than US\$200 a month. This means that for the first time ever the poverty levels in the poorly governed SADC country had reached numbing levels amid indications that the situation will worsen in 2015 and beyond as His Excellence President Mugabe, lately joined by his wife, First Lady Grace, demonstrated their inability to fix Zimbabwe and its comatose economy now in its 15th year of an economic meltdown. More and more cash-strapped Zimbabwean citizens are being forced to live without basic necessities such as food and water. The number of Zimbabweans living on the margins was increasing at an alarming rate, with access to clean water sharply declining in the past four years.

"The percentage of people who have had to skip a meal due to lack of money sharply went up to 44% in 2014 from 29% four years ago while 37% have gone without treatment or medicine because of lack of money compared with 20% in 2011. Obert Maposa of Finmark project said in loud protest (Kachembere 2015).

The deepening economic crisis was worsening the already high levels of unemployment now approaching +/- 90% in a SADC region with an unemployment rate of +/-25% is a compelling sign for the need for dialogue among the various political parties in an urgent effort to find lasting solutions to the myriad crises staring the country in the face. The massive company closures country-wide in recent months is a begging sign "it is only a matter of time before the country totally collapses.

"The information on the economy is a good sign of worsening poverty levels in the country. There is no way the current clueless ZANU PF government would be able to save the country's economy without extending a hand to the opposition, implored Finmark Project manager, Economist Christopher Mugaga. He said politicians now needed to swallow their pride and invite all stakeholders to the table as part of urgent efforts to revive the comatose economy which according to Finance Minister Honourable Chinamasa was in dire straits since 2011.

"The reason why most economies of developed countries perform well is a result of collective efforts in government. The opposition in Zimbabwe must be included in government so that they can play a pivotal role to revive the economy clutching on straws for survival', said Mugaga.

Regrettably for Zimbabwe and the SADC region the worsening economy crisis had sparked a fresh wave of a skills exodus to the neighbouring South Africa until recently, the second largest economy in Africa after the oil-rich Nigeria, in search of greener pastures. And the Author at the ripe age of 60 is also actively considering to join the great trek, south of the

Limpopo river. *Imimi Mwari wenyasha dai matibatsirawo!* (meaning God of mercy please help us!) (Kachembere 2015).

Longer queues of desperate Zimbabweans seeking passports had resurfaced at the Registrar General's office since the disputed 31 July 2013 harmonized elections. 600 people apply for passports daily compared with a paltry 300 people two years ago.

"They say there is no home in Zimbabwe, and they would rather go and look for a means of living elsewhere, South Africa included. This is the kind of pattern that we saw before the formation of the government of national unity in 2009", the official at the passport office said.

And with just two months into the new year many struggling ordinary Zimbabweans said that they had lost all hope in the political and economic course that the politically and economically cursed Zimbabwe was taking.

"After enduring one of the most difficult years of my life in 2014, I was hopping the year 2015 would bring good tiding, but I guess I was wrong", said a dejected Tabeth Moyo, 30, a qualified marketer who has been vending on the streets of Harare for the past 6 years.

"Honestly I don't think we are going to see any economic improvement this year. I have been hesitant to leave Zimbabwe for too long but this year I am more than ready to start a new life across our boarder", Moyo said ruefully.

Moyo is one of the tens of thousands of street vendors fighting for survival in Harare's congested streets, who were recently told by local government Minister Honourable Ignatius Chombo to move out of the central business district (CBD) as they were allegedly causing congestion and littering problems negatively afflicting the capital city.

"The time for action to ensure that all informal traders and *kombi* operators adhere to the city by-laws has come. I urge all of you to move to designated points vending sites as well as pick and drop off points for *kombis* designated by the City Council. There should be no vending on road pavements, traffic intersections, road islands, middle of the roads and infront of shops and offices", said Honourable Minister Chombo.

The Honourable Minister's move while noble, was ill timed amid massive company closures and a sharp decline in economic conditions. The country had witnessed a boom in "street entrepreneurship" – as vending was now colloquially referred to – in major cities and towns in the contrary (Kachembere 2015).

Informal traders in the Harare cbd area sell a variety of wares such as recharge cards for mobile phones, cigarettes, shoe polish, insecticide, socks, toothpicks, headphones, hair combs, sweets, fruits, vegetables and anything else that can be sold. But without licences, the street vendors are subject to frequent raids that sometimes cost them virtually their life savings . And as the ugly factional and succession wars continue to take centre stage in the ruling ZANU PF,

economic experts say there is little prospect of economic growth this year or the next. As a result they say the former liberation movement should stand down from government and allow a team with fresh ideas to take over and call the shots in order to fix the country.

“It is now 18 months after the 31 July 2013 elections and it is clearly beyond any reasonable doubt that the state is injured in a serious structural crisis reproduced in various forms including economic collapse, acerbic succession battles, weak and debauched institutions as well as a visibly tired and absent leadership”, one prophetic analyst said.

Another prophetic analyst had ruefully noted that the last 35 years after gaining independence from Britain in 1980 had seen the spectacular collapse, demise and destruction of anything functional in the politically and economically cursed SADC country who has known no other leader other than the celebrated His Excellence President Mugabe “*chete*” (meaning no other leader but Mugabe only). This is the intoxicating sloganeering and chanting by the lickspittle ZANU PF poodles who are themselves sloganeering and chanting on empty stomachs because of starvation stalking the poorly governed nation since the chaotic Land Reform Programme of 2000 responsible for dispossessing +/-6000 commercial farmers who for many years maintained Zimbabwe as a “SADC bread basket” and not the “Basket case” that we witness today.

“In 2015, no amount of spin will hide the fact that the economic growth under the new failure (new ZANU PF government re-elected in the 31 July 2013 harmonized elections) will be below 1%. The economy is clearly in recession, woefully” said another analyst.

According to the Inter Horizon Securities the country’s limping economy was coming under increasing stress characterized by depressed aggregate demand, high unemployment now approaching the +/-90% mark in a SADC region with an average unemployment rate of +/- 25%, high level corruption in government and pervasive structural problems linked to poor funding and weak commodity prices in Zimbabwe’s key sectors which are agriculture and mining (Kachembere 2015).

“The largest impediment to growth remains ingrained in policy inertia and the lack of a compromise solution to the obnoxious and investor-spooking indigenization policy”, the Inter Horizon Securities said.

The Research firm had said that despite the ruling ZANU PF reluctance to allow flexibility on investor spooking economic policies, the clueless ZANU PF would this year be compelled to take a more moderate approach to the obnoxious indigenization and continue to take more proactive measures to normalize relations with creditors and the foreign community more often than not maligned by His Excellence President Mugabe for driving a “regime change agenda” in Zimbabwe. Meanwhile suburban crime, especially house burglaries have hit

the roof over the past few years as the Zimbabwean economy and the unacceptable high joblessness among the general populace continues to worsen (Kachembere 2015).

All this is happening at a time that political and economic commentators say His Excellence President Mugabe and his long time ruling ZANU PF party have failed dismally to get Zimbabwe ticking and to implement a single one of the ruling party's 2013 election promises. In a normal democracy the ZANU PF clueless government would have long resigned to allow a new administration to try and pilot the country into less turbulent skies, given the extent of Zimbabwe's escalating political and economic crises (Kachembere 2015).

All said and done all the five fingers point at His Excellence President Mugabe and ZANU PF to either resign and pave way for a new team with new ideas to take over or call for an all party conference involving even non-governmental, church organizations and many others to a round table conference *izvozvi* (meaning just now now). *Chinono chinengwe bere rakadya richifamba* (meaning no time wasting given the urgency of this matter).

All said and done the Author is now duty bound to give assurance to the beloved Reader that all that was said and done in this Paper was above board. This can only be achieved via a statement on the Key Assumption the details of which are up and coming right away. So please don't go away.

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

In presenting this Paper the 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, without fear, favour or prejudice. And the Author will hurriedly add that the cautionary Statement coming late in the Paper presentation is to allay any fears and doubts by the Reader and to give him/her peace of mind on the factual contents of this Manuscript.

In any Paper authored and published there is always a problem which is the subject of investigation in the Paper. In this Paper the problem causer was His Excellence President Mugabe with his advanced age and ill health while the suffering masses of Zimbabwe were the victims of this identified problem. Therefore in keeping with his Christian tradition the perennially limping Zimbabwe, His Excellence President Mugabe and the suffering masses are in need of a short prayer to give them salvation revealed in the Holy Trinity of God the Father, Jesus Christ the Son and the Holy Spirit. Details of this short prayer by the Christian Author coming your way in just a moment.

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