



**MANIFESTO**  
**OF**  
**THE ZIMBABWE AFRICAN PEOPLE'S UNION**  
**(ZAPU)**

**ZAPU 9th Congress August 2010**

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## 1 Mission Statement

ZAPU's mission is, together with the people of Zimbabwe, to develop a democratic state, a state that respects, promotes and protects human rights without distinction of any kind, such as ethnicity, race, language, sex, religion, and political or other opinion,. It is a state which is owned by all its citizens, and who are its supreme authority.

### **Restoring hope, dignity and progress**

The Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) has a long history of spearheading the fight for those rights and has resumed its autonomous existence outside the Unity Accord of 1987. The revived ZAPU will restore the people's hopes and provide a platform for installation of a truly democratic, accountable government built on the founding principles of equity, civil liberties and dignity for all and unflinching commitment to the rule of law.

## 2 Constitutional Issues

In order to build secure foundations for a democratic state for a country like Zimbabwe, issues that need to be tackled are: the founding principle of the state; a bill of rights; devolution of political power to the provinces; proportional representation; election of the country's President and Prime Minister, and creation of a National Executive Authority.

### **(a) Founding Principles of a Democratic State are:**

- i. Respect for the inherent dignity and worth of human person;\
- ii. Supremacy of the constitution and rule of law;
- iii. Respect, promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms;
- iv. Citizens the supreme authority of the state;
- v. Principle of equal rights;
- vi. Devolution of political power;
- vii. Peace and national unity;
- viii. Multiparty system of governance and regular, free and fair elections based on adult suffrage.

### **(b) Bill of Rights**

Incorporate, not by reference but by inclusion of the following:

- i. UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights of 1948;
- ii. African Charter of Human Peoples' Rights; and

iii. SADC Basic Human Rights Protocols and Instruments.

These instruments, to which Zimbabwe has subscribed through participation in relevant international forums, should be domesticated in order to serve as benchmarks for human rights alongside national aspirations for human dignity and security.

### **(c) Devolution of Power to the Provinces**

Excessive centralization built on the colonial "control" model has enabled the construction of an extensive patronage system in which political connection became an economic tool for the post-independence elite. ZAPU will remove the stranglehold of bureaucratic centralization, and work for devolution of political power and requisite economic responsibility to five viable provinces: Manicaland, Mashonaland, Masvingo, Matabeleland, and Midlands.

Devolution of Power to the Provinces means the following:

- i. Provinces to have their own government elected by the people in the Provinces;
- ii. Provincial government to have control over natural resources and environmental issues within its geographical jurisdiction;
- iii. Provinces to have Provincial Parliamentary Assembly;
- iv. Provinces to have Provincial Judiciary system;
- v. Provinces to have their own Provincial revenue raising system;
- vi. People in the Provinces to be responsible for their economic, social, cultural and political development.

### **(d) Proportional Representation and the First-Past-the-Post**

Proportional representation will be used at the national level, because it promotes the right to participate in the governance of one's country. It accommodates diverse interests and promotes consensus. It enhances power sharing and allegiance to the political order of the day by leaders of different political parties because they have a stake in the arrangement.

The first-past-the-post electoral system will be used in the election of members of the Provincial Parliament/Assembly. It is important to ensure direct representation and accountability at the local level.

### **(e) Election of Country's President, Prime Minister and Creation of National Executive Authority**

The National Assembly (Parliament) which will be elected through a proportional representation system will elect the President. The President after consultation

with leaders of political parties in Parliament will appoint the Prime Minister. The national Executive Authority will include President, Deputy President, the Speaker of the National Assembly, the Prime Minister and the Governors of the 5 Provinces. The National Executive Authority will be the supreme decision making body of Zimbabwe. Its duties will be as follows:

- a. Advise the President on the meaning and implication of old and new legislation before he signs it into law;
- b. Advise the President on all matters of national interest and concern; and
- c. Advise the President on all senior national government Appointments, including appointments of people to constitutionally entrenched institutions

### **3 Corruption**

Corruption is wide spread, both in the public and private sectors. It has become a cancer in the Zimbabwean society. It exacerbates economic and social difficulties. Corruption takes various forms, such as bribery, embezzlement, patronage and nepotism. ZAPU government will put in place various legal instruments and measures to deal with corruption. It will strengthen the independence of the Anti-Corruption Commission including members from the civil society organizations and encouraging the development of monitoring capacity in civil society organizations.

In the fight against corruption a ZAPU government will put in place measures that promote accountability and transparency, and it will also encourage investigative journalism to expose corruption. A policy of zero tolerance for corruption will never succeed without an independent judiciary that can fearlessly enforce the law without fear or favour. Therefore a ZAPU government believes in the entrenchment of that independence and staunch defence of a firewall between the Executive and the Judiciary.

### **4 Poverty Reduction and Eradication**

Poverty is a violation of an adequate standard of living which includes adequate food and non-food items (clothing, housing, education, health services, transport and communications). Poverty reduction and eradication leads to the expansion of the economy, by increasing the productivity of most citizens.

ZAPU government, in its effort to reduce and eradicate poverty, will put in place policies which increase productive investment, skills development for gainful employment, and fairer distribution of national income, among other strategies.

## 5 Gender Equality

ZAPU government will go beyond window dressing in getting rid of constraints and historical barriers to equality between men and women. In addition to increasing women's equal access to opportunities, areas in which improvements are urgent include ending all forms of violence against women, providing for safer motherhood, and better representation in managerial jobs and leadership. More still remains to be done, fifteen years after the Beijing **Platform for Action** and halfway towards the 2015 gender equality target under the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) agreed by the governments of the whole world through the United Nations. A nation that tolerates the deprivation of half of its citizens can never be truly free.

## 6 More and Better Opportunities for Youth

Thousands of boys and girls leave school every year. ZAPU government will ensure that all youths who leave school and start to work will be provided with wider opportunities for apprenticeships and part-time education. There will be deliberate and targeted needs-based training for career development and self-employment through a Youth Employment Service.

## 7 Social Development: Education, Health, Social Security and Housing

Social development, in terms of education and health services (including sanitation, nutrition and other elements), is aimed at the realization of the right to education and the right to health. Education and health play an important role in economic and social development of a country and affect enjoyment of other rights. ZAPU believes that provincial governments should have clear powers and responsibility for education and health service development in their areas. At the same time, all Zimbabweans should ultimately be guaranteed basic social services and decent shelter.

### 7.1 Education

ZAPU government will:

- i. Restore the education system to the best levels attained since independence and improve the quality of education;
- ii. Introduce and support compulsory school education for all children between the ages of 5 and 16 and ensure the necessary facilities and modalities;
- iii. Put emphasis on skills development education;
- iv. Introduce human rights education. Human rights education will include democracy, development, peace and social justice. Country's constitution will also be

included as a subject in the education curricula; and

- v. Promote realignment of teacher's training programmes to meet present and future staffing needs.

## **7.2 Health**

ZAPU government will:

- i. Restore public health service and improve its quality, and maintain a conducive environment for health provision by the private sector;
- ii. Promote training programmes to meet the needs of the health service, and create an attractive environment to retain trained medical personnel in the country;
- iii. Make it compulsory for those who are employed to contribute to medical aid schemes;
- iv. Work towards comprehensive medical coverage through a National Health Service that can provide a reliable safety net for the poor, long-term unemployed and vulnerable groups. Such a service will also ensure maintenance of public health, through disease monitoring and prevention.

## **7.3 Social Security and Safety Nets**

A government formed by ZAPU will review the problems of social security for all persons. The state will provide subsidies. ZAPU government will ensure provision/development of the following:

- a. Old age pensions
- b. Sickness benefits
- c. Maternity benefits
- d. Orphans benefits
- e. Liberation war veterans pensions
- f. National scheme of compulsory contributory pensions

## **7.4 Shelter and housing**

Under a ZAPU government, shelter and healthy urban environments for the poor and middle-income groups shall also receive attention, because urbanization is a growing trend that requires proactive and pro-people planning. While rapid population growth and movement may present challenges, our people are also an important economic and social resource, and they should be involved in seeking solutions rather than become targets for high-handed bureaucratic fiat. Forced removals and destruction of dwellings reminiscent of colonial treatment of "natives" must be a thing of the past.

## **8 Economic Development**

The main aim of economic development is to realize economic and social that constitute the economic and social composite indicator of a democratic state. The failure to realize these rights usually leads to the violation of political rights. Therefore a ZAPU government will put in place economic policies (e.g. fiscal, investment, trade and regional integration policies) to promote economic development and growth as to ensure the realization of economic and social rights. ZAPU believes in the devolution to provincial government the responsibility for the development of provincial economies. No part of the country should be left or become an economic backwater yet resources abound all over.

### **8.1 Technology Development for Economic and Social Development**

Technology development is the key to economic and social development. It is the foundation of sustainable industrialization and economic growth, high productivity and economic competitiveness. ZAPU government will put in place education, research and development, and industrial development policies to promote technology development for economic and social development.

### **8.2 Industrialization of the Economy**

Industrialization of the economy can be attained through development of the domestic manufacturing sector, based on technology development. It is the engine of economic expansion as well as economic and social development.

- Economic expansion will create productive employment
- Productive employment will enable many Zimbabweans to earn a living
- Economic expansion will also expand the tax base.
- The expansion of the tax base will provide the state with revenue to finance the development of economic and social infrastructure (telecommunications network, roads, dams, schools, health facilities, and so on).
- Industrialization of the economy will enable the country to produce some manufactured goods (technologies, intermediate and consumer goods) and reduce the country's dependence on imported manufactured goods.
- ZAPU government will formulate trade, fiscal and other policies to promote industrialization of the economy. It will also support a training programme for small and medium-scale enterprise development.

### **8.3 Private Sector Development**

ZAPU government, through appropriate policies, will promote the development of a

vibrant private sector to be the engine of economic and productive employment growth. It will institute initiatives and reforms to reduce the risk for investors and make Zimbabwe an attractive investment destination.

Some of the measures for promoting private sector development include:

- a. Improving legislation for the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe to have relative autonomy and a clear objective of attaining and maintaining price stability;
- b. Set in train greater accountability in the public sector and cut gravy trains, nepotism and other manifestations of economic indiscipline in state enterprises;
- c. Pursuing improved access to international markets starting with regional markets in SADC and COMESA,
- d. Improving conditions for the development and growth of small and medium scale enterprises (S.M.Es); and
- e. Developing production skills (entrepreneurship and technological-know-how).

#### **8.4 Land Policy, Rural Development and Agriculture**

Land is a finite productive resource upon which human livelihood and welfare depend. It must be conserved and used productively. This strategic resource has been a bone of contention from the beginning of colonial rule, hence the need for a lasting solution, based on clear principles, that permits its productive use.

ZAPU believes that there should be an Independent Land Commission whose functions will include the following:

- i. Land audit and determining productive farm size;
- ii. Equitable land distribution and its utilization;
- iii. Ensuring that resettlement and communal farmers use the land productively;
- iv. To work out land tenure system that is appropriate for the development of commercial farming in the resettlement and communal areas, and
- v. To work out modalities for compensating farmers whose improvements and movable property were appropriated without promised compensation during the chaotic land reform process.

The main components of ZAPU's land policy include the following:

- a. Equitable distribution of land taking into account the agro-ecological endowment of the region;
- b. Putting a limit to an amount of land owned by private individuals or companies;
- c. Utilising the land to its fullest potential;

- d. Conservation and sustainable use of land for the present and future generations;
- e. No foreigners and foreign companies will permanently own land in Zimbabwe, but they will be permitted to lease land for a given period;
- f. Reduction of reliance on subsistence farming by creating productive employment in non-farming sectors; and
- g. Compensation of farmers for improvements to lands and for movable property that was forcibly taken during the chaotic land reform process.

### **Rural development: closing the rural-urban divide**

A big proportion of Zimbabwe's population (some estimate as much as 90%) still resides in rural areas. Historically the settler colonial system herded black Zimbabweans into "native reserves" which also served as labour reserves for industry and commercial agriculture.

- Rural areas should move beyond subsistence agriculture and generate local employment opportunities for young people and reduce rural-urban drift
- Rapid development of infrastructure and basic services should be expanded to make growth points more attractive for business. This will enable the extension of "value chains" into the rural areas, so that these areas do not produce raw materials only but can have local capacity to transform agricultural produce into higher value inputs to the larger urban areas as semi-processed and finished products.
- Among the elements needed for narrowing the gap between rural and urban areas are educational and skills training as well as health, rural electrification (including non-grid sources like renewable energy), communication and other services. These measures will help youth avoid migrating to major towns and cities and even neighbouring countries.

### **Agriculture**

Agriculture is a very important economic sector. ZAPU government will put in place appropriate policies which will ensure the revival of the sector, so that it can produce enough food for the country as well as raw materials for the manufacturing industry.

Under ZAPU government most of the raw materials produced by the agricultural sector will be processed in the country in order to create some employment in agribusiness and in the manufacturing sector. Provincial governments should have responsibility for aspects of land policy, rural development and agricultural development affecting their areas, consistent with the intent of devolution of government.

## **8.5 Mining and Tourism**

ZAPU government will formulate policies to promote the development of mining and tourism in support of decentralisation of the economy. The mining sector will produce minerals for the domestic manufacturing industry as well as for export. Exploration of minerals will be intensified.

Zimbabwe has abundant natural resources (wildlife and scenic venues like the Victoria Falls) and national monuments (Zimbabwe ruins and other heritage sites) that attract tourists. The tourism sector will be developed to its full capacity so as to earn foreign exchange and provide productive employment.

## **8.6 Economic Infrastructure**

Economies infrastructure plays a key role in the economic development of a country. At the present moment Zimbabwe's economic infrastructure is in a dilapidated state. ZAPU government will rehabilitate the following economic infrastructure:

- i. Roads, telecommunication network, railways, irrigation infrastructure, agricultural research stations and energy infrastructure;
- ii. Expand road network, telecommunications network, increase the generation of electricity by building more stations using various energy sources available in the country as well to build more dams for irrigation purposes, including the Matabeleland Zambezi Water Project.
- iii. Develop skills necessary for the above economic infrastructure;
- iv. Develop research and development institutions to service the needs of the manufacturing industry; and
- v. Devolve the responsibility of maintenance and development of road network and water resources to the provincial governments.

## **8.7 Investment and Employment Creation**

Resuscitation and further development of the economy and employment creation require new Investment. At the present moment the country is faced with critical shortages of local and foreign financial resources for investment. ZAPU government will put in place appropriate measures for the mobilization of local and foreign financial resources for investment (foreign direct investment - FDI - and joint venture investment in certain productive sectors of the economy such as mining). The government will also solicit for foreign loans as well as for build-operate-and-transfer schemes to resuscitate the economic infrastructure which has collapsed. Over and above all, predictability and reliability must characterize the country's dealings with all investors and partners and encourage nationals abroad to return or feel safe to invest their hard-earned money in their motherland. Indeed, remittances from relatives outside the country have kept many families alive in the harsh economic conditions experienced in the country over the last few years. The coun-

try should be able to pay its external debt which is estimated to be 7.145 billion dollars, as well as to generate financial resources for investment and employment creation.

## 9 Natural resources, climate change and development

Zimbabwe is blessed with abundant natural resources that have allowed our people to earn a living in diverse agro-ecological zones ranging from semi-arid grasslands to mountain forests. Climate change and climate variability may be changing the rhythm of life as manifested in extreme weather events. As a result of climate change and climate variability:

- Rain-fed agriculture may become more difficult in some areas as rains come late and in unpredictable quantity.
- Some areas may become warmer and wetter (more humidity), with mixed results such as greater crop yields but more vector-borne diseases such as malaria which were relatively unknown.
- There are likely to be more natural disasters, in the form of droughts, floods and wildfires.
- Levels in some dams may be frequently and increasingly too low for hydro-power generation and irrigation because of shifts in rainfall patterns.

### **Adaptation to climate change: climate-proofing**

Climate change will therefore, and may already be changing, the way we do business in natural resources management and in related sectors like agriculture (both crop and livestock farming), health and sanitation, and hydro-power generation. A ZAPU government will give more serious attention to climate-proofing of the economy and support populations so that they may cope with the immediate impacts of climate change and make long-term adjustments.

### **Mitigation of climate change**

The highly industrialised countries are responsible for the bulk of greenhouse concentration in the atmosphere that is causing climate change while Africa accounts for less than 3.8%. Countries like Zimbabwe should get support for cleaner development and credits for retaining forests and other carbon sinks, while developed countries should do more to curb their polluting activities in order to mitigate climate change.

## 10 Foreign Trade and Regional Integration

Zimbabwe's economy is highly dependent on imports of technologies and intermediate goods, as well as on exports of primary commodities (minerals and agricultural raw materials). The imports of intermediate goods and technologies are about 84% of total merchandise imports, and the exports of primary commodities are

about 58 percent of total merchandise exports. This structure of Zimbabwe's foreign trade is the result of the underdevelopment of the technology sector of the economy.

ZAPU government, through its strategy of technology development and industrialization of the economy will reduce Zimbabwe's imports of intermediate goods and technologies. It will increase the exports of manufactured goods. An increase in the export of manufactured goods will enable the country to earn more foreign exchange.

## **11 Foreign policy**

ZAPU government will honour Zimbabwe's international commitments and uphold the principles of the UN Charter, African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, Protocols and agreements.

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