

A VISION FOR A NEW ZIMBABWE: *Call for An All-Stakeholders National Conference*



PREAMBLE

Zimbabwe stands at a critical crossroads. For more than four decades since political independence in 1980, our beloved nation has been trapped in cycles of electoral contestation, political violence, and economic decline. Each election, rather than healing national wounds, has deepened our divisions and intensified our collective suffering. What began as a political crisis has metastasized into a comprehensive national emergency touching every aspect of Zimbabwean life.

The time has come to acknowledge a difficult truth: another election alone cannot cure what ails Zimbabwe. We need a pause - a moment of national reflection and reconstruction led not by partisan interests but by the collective wisdom of all Zimbabweans committed to a shared vision of prosperity, dignity, and peace.

THE CRISIS WE FACE

Our nation confronts challenges unprecedented in their severity and scope:

- * **Political Paralysis:** Both ruling and opposition parties have demonstrated their inability to transcend sectional interests. The ruling party has proven incapable of uniting the nation, while the opposition have succumbed to debilitating internal divisions.
- * **Economic Collapse:** Rampant inflation, de-industrialization, and the absence of a stable national currency have devastated our economy. Unemployment has reached catastrophic levels, forcing millions into precarious informal employment or economic exile, as well as unfair labour practices.
- * **Social Disintegration:** Our social fabric tears further each day, evidenced by alarming rates of drug abuse, teenage pregnancy, and the mass exodus of our most talented citizens who would rather perform menial jobs abroad than face destitution at home.

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- * **Institutional Decay:** Once-proud national institutions have been systematically undermined and personalised:
 - o A judiciary politicized and subordinated to executive power
 - o A parliament reduced to rubber-stamping executive decisions
 - o Security services deployed as partisan instruments
 - o Traditional leadership structures co-opted into ruling party machinations
 - o A civil service manipulated to serve political rather than public interests
 - o Media transformed into propaganda instruments rather than platforms for truth

The evidence is incontrovertible: Zimbabwe's challenges can no longer be addressed



through conventional politics or by any single individual or party. We require a comprehensive national reset - a transitional arrangement that transcends partisan interests and places Zimbabwe's future above all else.

THE PATH FORWARD

We propose a bold, citizen-centred approach to national renewal:

An All-Stakeholders National Conference

We propose the convening of like-minded citizens from across political, social, and economic divides to initiate a process of nation building, national healing and reconstruction. This All-Stakeholders conference must draw participation from Zimbabwe and its global diaspora, uniting all who share the dream of a prosperous, democratic Zimbabwe.

It must be inclusive and consultative and therefore define the framework and goals for transition. This dialogue must ensure that, unlike previous transitions, Zimbabwe's renewal will be shaped by its citizens rather than narrow elite interests.

THE NATIONAL TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITY (NTA) – Putting Zimbabwe First

The centrepiece of our proposal is the establishment of a National Transitional Authority (NTA) with a clear mandate to:

1. **Restore Constitutional Governance:** Ensuring strict adherence to our constitution and institutionalizing the principles of rule of law and constitutionalism.
2. **Reform Key Institutions:** Rebuilding the independence and professionalism of the judiciary, security services, electoral commission, and other vital institutions.
3. **Transform the Electoral Framework:** Creating conditions for genuinely free, fair, and uncontested elections that truly reflect the will of Zimbabweans.
4. **Stabilize and Revitalize the Economy:** Implementing a comprehensive Economic Reform Agenda focused on:
 - o Resolving our crippling national debt and recovering misappropriated assets
 - o Establishing sound macroeconomic fundamentals
 - o Ensuring policy consistency to restore investor confidence
 - o Building an inclusive economy
 - o Developing clear land policy and property rights frameworks
 - o Reviving productive sectors across the economy
 - o Mobilizing the skills, resources, and networks of our global diaspora

5. **End Corruption** – Corruption is a tax on the poor and a hindrance to economic development. It drives away local and foreign investors and needs urgent attention.

We propose that the NTA replace both the executive and legislature for a defined period of three to five years. It will be composed of individuals manifestly above partisan interests, untainted by accusations of violence or corruption, and committed solely to national renewal. **To ensure their motivations remain pure, members will be disqualified from holding political office for five years following their service.**

THE URGENCY OF NOW

Fellow Zimbabweans, we cannot afford to wait. Our nation bleeds while we deliberate. Every day of inaction means:

- * Another young person lost to drugs or despair
- * Another family separated by economic migration
- * Another opportunity for national development squandered
- * Another step toward the complete collapse of the Zimbabwe we love

Previous initiatives - from the Unity Accord of 1987 to the Global Political Agreement of 2008 to the promise of a "New Dispensation" in 2017 - have failed because they prioritized elite accommodation over genuine broadbased national transformation. This time must be different.

A CALL TO ACTION

We call upon all Zimbabweans of goodwill to join this historic effort:

- * **To our youth:** This is your moment to reclaim your future from those who have mortgaged it for personal gain. Your purity, energy, innovation, and courage are indispensable to Zimbabwe's renewal.
- * **To our diaspora:** You carry Zimbabwe in your hearts wherever you go. Now is the time to channel your skills, resources, and international connections toward rebuilding the homeland you were forced to leave.
- * **To civil society:** Your tireless advocacy for human rights, good governance, and social justice must now translate into practical support for a genuine national transition.
- * **To business leaders:** Your voice, entrepreneurial vision and productive capacity are essential to economic revival. Help us create the conditions where honest enterprise can flourish.
- * **To peasants and workers:** As the backbone of the economy your voices are critical to developing a pro-poor and inclusive economy.
- * **To religious leaders:** Your moral authority and spiritual guidance must help heal



our national wounds and foster reconciliation across all divides.

- * **To our security services:** You swore allegiance to Zimbabwe, not to any party or individual. Stand with your people in their hour of need.
- * **To war veterans:** It is time for you to come together as one non-partisan constituency for the good of the country.
- * **To political actors:** Place Zimbabwe's future above partisan advantage. History will judge harshly those who cling to power while the nation collapses around them.

Zimbabwe has always been a nation of immense potential - blessed with abundant natural resources, a temperate climate, strategic location, and most importantly, resourceful, resilient people. What we have lacked is not potential but a governance framework that unleashes rather than constrains our national gifts.

The time for half-measures and incremental change has passed. Zimbabwe requires nothing less than fundamental transformation. We must build a nation where:

- * Elections unite rather than divide us
- * Institutions serve citizens rather than rulers
- * The economy creates prosperity for all, not wealth for a few
- * Our children can dream and achieve without leaving our shores

This vision is within our reach if we have the courage to grasp it. The journey begins with you. Join us in building the Zimbabwe we want - the Zimbabwe we deserve - the Zimbabwe our children must inherit.

Steering Committee Background

A decade ago, there was a call for a National Transitional Authority (NTA) which has gained national momentum in recent times. A series of SAPES Trust Policy Dialogues have injected new purpose to the Platform for Concerned Citizens (PCC). The PCC has constituted a National Steering Committee to play a role in giving birth to an All-Stakeholders National Conference with the objective of a political settlement and NTA.

This initiative has been informed by national dialogues that have involved the Church, civil society, business and indeed the unions. The document "*The Zimbabwe We Want*" and *Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition* are such efforts which this initiative fully embraces.

Members of the steering committee are as follows:

1. **Ibbo Mandaza**
2. **Janah Ncube**
3. **Karen Mukwasi**
4. **Joy Mabenge**
5. **Kaka Mudambo**
6. **Obert Masaraure**
7. **Mwandibhuya Kennedy Mutepfa**
8. **Tony Reeler**
9. **Trevor Ncube**
10. **Church Representative**

The future cannot be built by divided hands. It will take all of us, working together, to rebuild our beautiful nation. The time for action is now.

For more information on this initiative, please contact:

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