

ZANU PF PATRIOTS GROUP



PRIME TIME

THEME: THE IMPACT OF MDC-T LED COUNCILS
GUEST: *CDE LGvtExpert*
DATE: 8TH SEPTEMBER 2016
TIME: 1930HRS CAT
MODERATOR: ADV. KJMzenda (ZANU PF PATRIOTS GROUP INFORMATION COMMISSIONAIRE)

the Godfather: Good Evening Patriots and welcome to PRIME TIME
Tonight we take a look at the impact of the opposition led Councils on service delivery and the electorate.
To help us this complex local Government Issue is Cde LGvtExpert who will be our technical guest.
Our lead moderator will be rookie Cde Michael assisted by Adv KJM who is our Information Commissionaire.

Adv KJM: Gentleman, good evening and welcome to Prime Time
GodFather
Good evening

Cde Michael: Good evening Cdes

the Godfather: Right...
Cde Michael
Let's get started...

Cde Michael: Its Michael Mhlanga here.

I am on my way to Plumtree so network might be a challenge here and there. The issue I would like us to discuss this evening is...

- 1) First and foremost came in as a movement that was concerned about transformative development of local governance. From the transition of ZANU to MDC majority led Local governance in Zimbabwe what are the notable milestones between the transition phase
- 2) what are the pitfalls of ZANU PF that were eradicated by MDC in Zimbabwe's local governance
- 3) What notable infrastructural developments can be noted

from the time opposition has led local governance factoring in that roads are bad, vendors are harassed and no innovations in water and sanitation and waste collection

How far has opposition managed to urbanise rural district councils because the issues that ZANU PF was attempting to decolonise are still plunged in primitivity as far as administration processes are concerned.

Adv KJM:

LGE

Let's get into it. We want to assess the impact of the opposition in Local Governance in Zimbabwe.

Has the MDC T advanced our local authorities? They branded themselves as being champions of transformative development of local governance. What milestones can we note from the entrance of MDC T in local governance?

LGvtExpert:

Thank you.

It is imperative at this inception to note that from 1980 to 1999 zanu pf had total control of local authorities in Zimbabwe and the 2000 elections changed a lot of things and it is this period that require analysis. MDC has in the past decade presided over councils in regression since 1980 and nothing worth celebrating has ever happened since their take over

Harare moved from being a sunshine city between 1980 and 1995 into one of the dirtiest cities in the world. Garbage is now seen in streets, sewer burst increased during their era as leaders of local authorities

Chitungwiza municipality has even denigrated into a huge burden under mdc watch and citizens in 2016 still rely on Harare water which they are given on specified days

From the above analysis it is worth concluding that the past zanu pf control of local governance in Zimbabwe was probably active and development oriented as opposed to the post 1999 mdc administration that brought in corruption, mismanagement and poor prioritisation of council resources

Adv KJM:

LGE

Given the economic challenges Zimbabwe faced in the period MDC T led these councils as marked by sanctions and limited disbursements from Central Govt, can the MDC T not say they have done well given that backdrop

LGvtExpert:

Their emergence brought in more harm than good. Redcliff municipality is in direct state due to

incompetence and corruption hence the emergence of mdc controlled council was disastrous

No. The mdc says there are no sanctions therefore let's treat them as such

What is important is to note that their policy has affected citizen's more....they spent 70% of their income on expenditure and less 30% on services. If we look at Elias Mudzuri led Harare city council in 2005, they were fired from council and replaced by the Makwavarara commission because of over spending and corruption although they say the minister had a political mission to accomplish in Harare

If we look at housing provision, they city relied on cooperatives and it failed even to service stands for residents and the housing backlog continued to increase exponentially

The city even failed to look into the future and invest its little money into water services and upgrading of water plants. If it was not of the Chinese 144 million loans Harare could be dry

Let go to Midlands province, the case of the Gweru city council

Between 2011 and 2015 water was rationed in a small town like Gweru. Gwenhero water works is failing even today to provide water in the whole of Gweru town especially Senga and Nehosho.

Adv KJM:

LGE

Some have said that the officials in Management positions within Local Authorities are Zanu PF functionaries who have sabotaged Efforts by MDC T councilors to advance ratepayer interests

LGvtExpert:

That interesting...

Let's start with Bulawayo city council. The management is there to implement resolutions of councils which are deliberated within the council chambers by councilors and appointed officials usually advices on matters of technicality and to imply that a few zanu pf comrades in top management can stall decisions made in full council meeting is just malicious.

Adv KJM:

LGE

Do these management officials have any power that they

can use to sabotage council resolutions?

LGvtExpert:

It is not that the directors override decisions of a full council. The managements are there to implement what is agreed by the elected officials in most cases and on matters of technicality appointed officials gives direction.

For example council committees during regularisation of housing cooperatives made decisions and the various department officials input their ideas to committees who in turn agree to regularise or refute and appointed officials then takes over those decisions In simple terms appointed officials implement decisions of committees of council

Management can influence or twist decisions to suit their aims but in agreement with minutes of councils.

Adv KJM:

LGE

What are the pitfalls if any that Zanu PF had that have been eradicated by MDC in Local Governance

LGvtExpert:

In housing provision....

Zanu pf gave comrades underlined stands in the same way mdc councils did but Zanu pf style was primitive in that mdc used its power to facilitate fast approval of layout plans and connection of water as well as facilitation of paper work. Our zanu pf stands remained undeveloped for years, with no hope of ever having tarred roads. An example is the Glen north A pay scheme of the city of Harare as compared to Hatcliffe gari kaiser hlalani khule programme

Garikai hlalani khule

Zanu.pf through its statutes always did out maneuver mdc policies. The minister powers made this possible. And that's why the mdc was angry with the legal diction contained therein

For example the minister shall and the minister .may concept in local government legislation allowed zanu pf to bring back mdc councils into line, otherwise the situation could have been worse.

Zanu pf gave comrades unserved *****

Although mdc councillors are too many, zanu pf through its minister has shaped most current policies that are taking Harare city council forward.

The minister's directives form zanu pf policy within council and appointed officials implement directives upon liaising with council committees and their full councils

A good example being the youth stands in all major towns like Harare Bulawayo Masvingo Gweru and Mutare. Mdc cannot say we have reduce housing backlog because the directive is from zanu pf

Adv KJM:

LGE

Has the opposition initiated and overseen any major infrastructural developments since its entrance into Local Governance

LGvtExpert:

The first photo depict Harare city center and the below photo is of Kigali city, Rwanda

We credit them for the rest surfacing of roads in urban areas especially the high Glen road from Marimba round about to spaceman in glen Norah Harare

We give credit to them for initiating Street lighting project along Simon mazorodze road along Masvingo highway...

Adv KJM:

LGE

We have seen the multi donor trust pump money into water, sanitation and sewage works in Zimbabwean Councils. Is the MDC T part of the lure effect that brought these funds?

LGvtExpert:

Bulky sewer and water rehabilitation programmes. The mouton Jeffrey water works upgrading underway is a positive development

Yes mdc mayor in conjunction with government have approached organs such as unicef for urban boreholes however due to ignorance and the reactive nature of mdc councils the urban borehole project suffered still both as more boreholes are no longer functional and council is failing to repair them

Adv KJM:

The Chinese 144 million loan is a collective effort

LGE

How far has opposition managed to urbanise rural district councils..because the issues that ZANU PF was attempting to decolonise are still plunged in primitivity as far as administration processes are concerned.

LGvtExpert:

Most rural district council are zanu.pf

However, by bringing in businesses to the growth points and expansion of social services through the

rural electrification programmes, most growth point have gained a better status eg mverechena in goromonzi mashonaland east

Provision of residential stands close to growth points and rural service centers has improved most rural communities and gave them an urban flavour. Eg

Beatrice in mashonaland east.

Adv KJM:

LGE

Can we attribute these developments such as rural electrification to MDC T?

LGvtExpert:

The same has happened in nyanga, rusape in Manicaland as well as zvimba in mashonaland west

It's zanu pf.....most rdc are zanu.pf and oppositions do not have total control

And we're opposition took over was in 2008 but. They continued ridding on zanu.pf agenda

Adv KJM:

LGE

Is there anything that Zanu PF should learn from MDC T and should we modify our approach in local governance in any way?

LGvtExpert:

Yes....

We learn that we should always follow the law in giving our people land

Adv KJM:

LGE thank you for your frankness and expertise. As a last question:

As a local governance expert what is your take on the allegations that Land earmarked for the youth was sold to Prophet Magaya by Hon Kasukuwere?

LGvtExpert:

What happened between 2000 and 2014 of taking over farms and giving cooperatives to subdivide caused the emergence of land barons as opposed to what mdc councils were doing

If we say he sold we will be offside...

Adv KJM:

Allocated?

LGvtExpert:

Stateland is for free, one will only pay for land intrinsic value at a cost of not more than \$4.60 inclusive of vat.

However the Magaya saga is true

Magaya has a company to sell stands and service them and unfortunately the ministry gave him 300 h of land on the 2000 h farm disregarding what the president has earlier on said

Magaya was once given land of over 200 h in hydron, Westgate and failed to develop and his allocation was

withdrawn.....aaaaaahh

He might have been allocated at chishawasha British as compensation for his loss previously

Chishawasha B

However we do not agree with the allocation and we call for its withdrawal

the Godfather:

Cde LGvtExpert

Thank you very much for such a well polished Prime Time. To our moderator Information Commissionaire Adv KJM, you keep shining and proving that your selection by TeamAdmin wasnt misplaced

To all Patriots who followed this session, thank you very much

This session will be on soft copy before 1000hrs tomorrow and will feature in this week's national newspaper The SundayNews

Tete Mandy:

(clapping hands) interesting so is it better for us Zanu pf to be in charge with council. Isnt the council fall under local government.

LGvtExpert:

It falls under ministry of local government

Zanu pf is better placed to deal with local affairs than mdc

Tete Mandy:

So why cant the local government intervene and improve the state of our roads, delivery service e.g. rubbish Are they not allocated money by the ministry to develop

LGvtExpert:

Government used to give loans and grants but due to the economic situation it's now hard

Councils therefore rely on their sources of revenue such as rates and taxes

Tete Mandy:

And people are not paying rates

LGvtExpert:

They are paying and millions of dollars are collected

Tete Mandy:

Even if we take over when people dont pay nothing will change

LGvtExpert:

Irrespective of the huge debt that is unpaid

Tete Mandy:

So where is the money going to

Why cant they audit

LGvtExpert:

A lot will change. Zanu pf say 70 % is for services and 30 % expenditure.

Mdc does the opposite

Tete Mandy:

Thank u cde Local governancr

the Godfather:

Cde LGvtE

If you are still in the studio, there is a question asked by Tete Mandy, maybe you can address it of the cancellation of

accrued rates. How much impact did that move had on the current status quo of local gvts

LGvtExpert:

Million of dollars were scraped over night by the minister but what was important was that the money was not forthcoming and there was no basis upon which such debts could have continued to be kept. The urban councils act empowers councils to scrap rate of over 4 years and above.

Tete Mandy:

Like now the council is attaching assets such as sofas fridges if one fails to pay n auction those goods. If they had used the same strategy wouldn't they benefit than to cancel completely. Like Zesa didn't cancel they are still collecting the debt via those meters. If you buy zesa for \$10 they take \$4

LGvtExpert:

That saved a political purpose

Tete Mandy:

Thank do u think the introduction of water prepaid meters will do good to the public

LGvtExpert:

Prepaid water prevents leakages of revenues but cannot bring clean water

Tete Mandy:

It's like forcing the public to use unsafe water on top of that we buy those water purification tablets

