



Migrant Zimbabweans seek lasting solution to permits issue



- **Zimbabweans speak on EU Ambassador's remarks**
- **Government must engage other stakeholders**



Midlands community demand alignment of laws

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African government to regularize the stay of an estimated over 2 million Zimbabwean migrants in the country.

South Africa, Johannesburg -- A dark cloud of fear, anxiety and uncertainty continues to hang over Zimbabwean migrants living in South Africa following the announcement of new immigration rules and regulations by the South Africa Department of Home Affairs in June 2014.

A large number of Zimbabweans were undocumented and have been entering the country through undesignated illegal areas along the border, fleeing from political instability and poverty caused by an economic meltdown, to do menial jobs over the past decade.

Although the new immigration rules and regulations affect all foreign nationals living and wanting to live in South Africa, their introduction coincides with the expiry of most permits issued to Zimbabwean migrants under a special consideration by the South African government.

ZDP was crafted with the active involvement of civil society organizations (CSOs) in South Africa -- including the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) -- and in the latter stages, the government of Zimbabwe.



Zimbabwean migrants living in South Africa attending the CiZC meeting

Permits issued under this dispensation are beginning to expire as most were for a four-year period. This has however sent affected Zimbabweans into panic.

During a public meeting held by various CSOs, including (CiZC), on Saturday, June 14 in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, concerns were raised that the expiry of permits and the introduction of new regulations was likely to derail the ZDP and force affected Zimbabweans to device ways of avoiding a return to Zimbabwe by still remaining in South Africa illegally.

The Zimbabwe Documentation Project (ZDP) was introduced at the end of 2010 following successive attempts by the South

This is because little has changed on the economic front back home where a dramatic swing from higher inflation to deflation still means industrial collapse and high unemployment.

South Africa Home Affairs Minister, Malusi Gigaba, is expected to communicate the position of his government regarding permit holders under ZDP as this has been left vague.

Zimbabwean migrants who attended the public meeting urged the South African government to consider providing amnesty and extensions on permits, arguing that the situation in Zimbabwe was not yet conducive for them to return.

"We want to assure South Africans that we are not in their country to cause chaos.

"We come in harmony, please accept us," said one participant.

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, together with like-minded organisations, has pledged to engage the governments of South Africa and Zimbabwe on the issue of permits for migrants.

Zimbabweans speak on EU Ambassador's remarks

Harare -- DISTRAUGHT Zimbabweans have broken the silence on the current re-engagement efforts between Zimbabwe and the European Union (EU), which is poised to see more friendly relationship between the bloc and individuals and entities that are accused of human rights abuses and impunity in Zimbabwe.

The hyped reconciliation has publicly taken a new turn in the aftermath of a recent think tank meeting organized by Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) on Tuesday after EU Head of Delegation to Zimbabwe, Aldo Dell' Ariccia, although emphasizing that he was speaking in his personal capacity unexpectedly declared that Zimbabwe had *"no leadership crisis"*.



Ambassador Head of European Union Delegation to Zimbabwe, Aldo Dell' Ariccia.

The envoy said the bloc was re-engaging with Zimbabwe, although he did not outline the benchmarks guiding the process,

while his overtures to government were seen by many Zimbabweans, including civil society as inaccurate, especially about the quality and state of national leadership in the country.

Although civil society almost agreed that the restrictive measures/ targeted sanctions should be removed, they said this did not mean that the failings of the government should be glossed over.

CiZC Spokesperson Mfundo Mlilo said the re-engagement efforts should be painstaking and a step-by-step approach informed by clear democratic and human rights principles to safeguard the moral point the previous disengagement and targeted measures sought to communicate.

"Our position on US and Western restrictive measures is very clear," he said.

"We demand an objective assessment of the human rights situation that led to the imposition of these moral disapprovals.

"We contend that there must be a principles-and-milestones based engagement framework between the international community and the Zimbabwe government."

Mlilo said the measured approach could strengthen the direction towards better governance as opposed to a blind embrace of Zimbabwe's leaders.

Mlilo said the new Constitution which is an important bank of human rights and social justice was a long way from being implemented by the government.

The government has been slow to set up constitutional institutions such as the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) that are tasked with healing wounds left by a string of gross human rights violations or reform laws that limit basic freedoms.

This also comes after Zimbabwe held an election which all observers said were not fair and hence a violation of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

Pedzisai Ruhanya, Director of Zimbabwe Democracy Institute (ZDI) said on social networking site Facebook that the leadership void in the country was palpable.

“A failed economy and failing to pay government workers meaningful salaries on predictable dates is a leadership crisis,” said Ruhanya.

As the EU softens its moral stance on Zimbabwe, there have been questions on what other considerations have come into play, but with the answer difficult to pin down.

Government must engage other stakeholders

Harare -- CIVIL society has said that the government must consult other various stakeholders when coming up with national development policies and plans.

Speaking at a think tank meeting on the economy and international re-engagement efforts hosted by Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) in Harare on Tuesday, June 17, Labour and Economic Development Research Institute of Zimbabwe (LEDRIZ) Director, Dr. Godfrey Kanyenze made the remarks.

Kanyenze said engagement was important for consensus and national ownership of key government programs by all local players, saying the architects of the economic blueprint Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-economic Transformation (ZimAsset) had failed on this score.

“It was clear that government highlighted that the blueprint came from the politburo.

“That is one of the problems, that ZimAsset is not nationally owned,” he said.

He said some members of the ruling Zanu-Pf had revealed to him at a recent economic forum that they did not support its unilateral nature.

When government cobbled the blueprint amid unveiled hype, it did not hide the fact had solely derived it from the election manifesto of the ruling party Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF).

Dr. Kanyenze urged stakeholders such as civil society to keep on demanding their space, despite the state being captured by military and political elites, who are seen as benefitting from the current state of affairs.

“Development is political so as civil society, we need to mobilize, organize and engage.

“Those who are benefiting do not want reform,” said Dr. Kanyenze.

He added that there was need to restart and rebuild the value chains that were destroyed by the chaotic and violent land redistribution, which dramatically started in 2000 without planning.

These detrimental land disturbances continue to manifest in evictions of hordes of black farm workers and unaudited land ownership patterns that are believed to be hindering agricultural productivity.

The economist said Zimbabwe should embrace a broad social contract that includes all stakeholders in crafting and implementing national programs.

European Union (EU) Head of Delegation to Zimbabwe, Aldo Dell’ Ariccia said the government formed after the elections in July 2013 did not have a development strategic document yet, but just an economic blueprint in the form of ZimAsset and “the work is not completed”.

Patrick Zhuwao, a Zanu-PF member said the new Constitution was a social contract that was indisputable to all political players, praising civil society for its role in coming up with the Supreme Law.

He urged civil society to push for government to adhere to the social contract which is inherent in it.



Dr G.Kanyenze

Midlands community demand alignment of laws

Gweru -- CIVIL society groups and other stakeholders in the Midlands Province met on Thursday, June 20 in the provincial capital to discuss the process of alignment of laws to the new Constitution.

The consultative meeting which was coordinated by Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) followed a successful national conference on constitutionalism and was part of efforts to scale up calls to encourage government to implement the new Supreme Law.

Participants at the meeting said the matter was an urgent one.

Advocate Reginald Chidavanyika said many laws were now in conflict with “the Supreme Law”.

“The Constitution is the source of all laws in Zimbabwe,” he said.

“That is what we mean when we talk about realignment. It’s basically a review of the laws vis-à-vis the rights that are there in the Constitution.

“If you look at what the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) presupposes when you want to demonstrate, what you are supposed to do. It is not in tandem with Section 58 and 59 of the Constitution.

“Unfortunately there are many laws that need to be reviewed.

“The greatest undoing is that there were no timelines within which to align laws.

“But government being government as we know they would be slow because certain laws would entail that there are

inconvenient to the government.”

He added: “If you litigate, it means the government will have to respond if they intend to oppose your application. That’s how you set the agenda for the government.

“When the Constitutional court strikes down any law, the government will have to make submissions before the order is final.”

He said this had worked in relation to the criminal defamation which was recently ruled unconstitutional by the Constitutional Court.

“If you trace the history of the striking down of defamation, the Constitutional Court had been inundated with applications,” he said.

Crisis Coalition Board Member, Mehluli Dube said the government was not being transparent about the alignment process.

“The government put up a team of drafters and it was a private process.

“We don’t even know the 450 laws that they want to align,” he said.



Gweru consultative meeting

More participants complained about the continued application of oppressive provisions of POSA.

Zimbabwe Organisation for Youth in Politics (ZOYP) Director, Nkosilathi Moyo said government continued to unconstitutionally bar freedom of expression and assembly or right to demonstrate.

“Most of the demonstrations are peaceful, but I am wondering why the police stop them,” he said.

A lawyer, Brian Dube said it was not justifiable for police to ask to be paid by organizers of citizens’ meetings that they forcibly attend and monitor purportedly in line with but in violation of the constitution, after one civil society representative revealed that police demand upwards of US\$100.00.

“The police are paid the P.A.Y.E (Pay As You Earn, a public tax contribution).

“But you are asked to allow them to disturb your meetings, and you say thank you with hundred dollars.”

Gweru Urban Member of Parliament, Sesil Zvidzai said civil society needed to strive to change the attitudes in the country.

“Will it not be a more meaningful expedition to change the attitudes,” said Zvidzai.

“We need to fight for the culture of respecting the rules of the game.”

He said the Constitution (Amendment 20) was a developmental document, but the government did not want a developed nation as it would be difficult to oppressively and unjustly subordinate.

A participant urged civil society to push for the implementation of constitution as it was a product of their struggle, not the free will of the government.