



Movement for Democratic Change United States of America (MDC-USA)



From the Office of
Secretary

December 23, 2013

PRESS RELEASE

MDC-USA CONDEMNS SECRETARY GENERAL TENDAI BITI FOR REPRESENTING GEDION GONO

Recent revelations that the MDC Secretary General Mr. Tendai Biti has agreed to be the defense Counsel before the Constitutional Court for the former Governor of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe and Zanu PF bag man Dr. Gideon Gono in what seem to be very serious allegations of corruption and other impropriety are very disturbing.

The allegations of shady and corrupt practices leveled against Dr. Gono by a former confidante and advisor, Dr. Munyaradzi Kereke before the Constitutional Court are of a very serious nature that a senior MDC leader let alone its Secretary General should stay as far away from this accused as possible. If anything Mr. Biti should be the one urging the Court within the legal means permissible to expeditiously look into the allegations against Dr. Gono.

The MDC-USA wishes to recognize Mr. Biti's right to represent whom so ever scoff law, murderer, thief and shady client he so chooses. We want at the same time to make it absolutely clear to him that the MDC-USA as a legitimate arm of the MDC, also have a right to let Mr. Biti know that he has no carte blanche right to drag the party and its name into the murky corrupt waters of Zanu Pf.

The Secretary General is a very senior member of our party. His actions of commission and omission have serious and direct bearings on the fortunes of the party, its existence and future. The SG represents what the party stands for and this latest incident is hardly in keeping with the decorum and expectations of this office, let alone the aspirations of the party members.

We are also horrified that Mr. Biti whose name has been mentioned as a potential future leader of the MDC would choose to align himself with this known ZPF architect of the country's economic collapse and other ill advised monetary policies that reduced Zimbabwe to a basket case. The litany of allegations is of such serious magnitude that as a party the MDC and leadership, SG included should be pressing the Constitutional Court to expeditiously look into these allegations. How we long for the Secretary General and Finance Minister of 2009 who

rightfully called Dr. Gono the quintessential embodiment of corruption and that in his own words “was suitable for the firing squad,” What prompted the change, we may ask?

The MDC is still smarting from the stolen July 2013 elections and here we have our Secretary General and MDC Chief Negotiator in the GPA and the creation of an environment conducive for free and fair elections, suddenly cavorting with the sponsor of terror, financier of shock troops, NIKUV and other nefarious activities ZPF has concocted over the years in order to stay in power.

No one is denying Mr. Biti his right as a lawyer to represent whom so ever he wants, but we are strongly against him doing so while he also represents the brand of our party. The two are not compatible.

We also note from the same rap sheet that Mr. Biti as Finance Minister allegedly did certain things that may require him to testify. It is those allegations and the simple optics of it, an MDC SG side by side with a corrupt former governor of RBZ hoping to let him walk scot free when the country is looking for justice and restitution accompanied by a very long residency at Chikurubi Maximum prison.

To sup and dine with the accused even at this stage when these are mere allegations is demeaning to the office of Secretary General of the MDC. Mr. Biti should be forewarned that the MDC sees a clear instance of conflict of interest and would expect him to reconsider before he wades himself knee deep into this scandal.

We are also informed that the MDC is financially insolvent; the party needs new partners from around the globe. In his capacity as SG, Mr. Biti will lose all credibility among international friends and foes alike. Mr. Biti can no longer have the moral high ground to represent our party anywhere in the world except in the Constitutional court now that his interest and that of corrupt Dr. Gono are inseparable. To think otherwise would be to under estimate the international community intelligence that a person who tries to extricate Dr. Gono from the law is a capable alternative the new Zimbabwe desires.

If providing counsel to Dr. Gono is more important than representing the party and people of Zimbabwe, we challenge SG Biti to come out and categorically declare where his allegiance lie, his pocket or the aspirations of the long suffering people of Zimbabwe through the MDC. We are calling on the National Council to immediately convene and chastise Mr. Biti for this ill advised counsel job.

There is nothing in the MDC Constitution that prevents an elected member from recusing themselves from party activities while they pursue private interests that have a negative impact on the same party. Mr. Biti cannot have his cake and eat it too. It is either party interest first or he be advised that we the people cannot have our leaders blatantly engage in some heck activities that put the party name into irreparable disrepute. END.

Contacts: MDC-USA Secretary Andrew Chaponda at mdc-usa.secretary-2011@mdc-usa.org or +12695014379 or MDC-USA Chairman Den Moyo at mdc-usa.chairman-2011@mdc-usa.org or +15712213858 for further comments.