

## Review

# The initiative of a grand coalition to upstage ZANU PF: Another pipe dream for opposition parties in Zimbabwe (2014)

Associate Professor Dr. Silas Luthingo Rusvingo

### Abstract

Great Zimbabwe University,  
Masvingo, Zimbabwe in the  
Accounting and Information Systems  
Department, Faculty of Commerce

E-mail: [srusvingo@yahoo.com](mailto:srusvingo@yahoo.com)  
Tel.: +263 772 410 607

The objective of this Paper is to explore whether a project of a grand coalition against the ruling ZANU PF (Zimbabwe African National-Union Patriotic Front). The party is notorious for bad governance which was in contrast with the democratic trend in neighbouring peer countries such as South Africa, Mozambique and Zambia, among others, famous for good governance. ZANU PF has been the ruling party in Zimbabwe since independence from Britain in 1980, led by His Excellence President Mugabe, first as prime minister and then as president from 1988 after the merger with ZAPU and retaining the name ZANU PF (Makurumidze, 2014) in Zimbabwe is a viable project for the opposition parties. After a successful literature review and a research methodology, it is the author's tradition to proffer a summary, conclusion and some recommendations to wrap up the discourse in this paper after which follows a statement on the key assumption and a short prayer for Zimbabwe so that the country embraces good governance to earn a certain measure of respect from the West (West as used in this context refers to the United States of America, European Union, Canada, Australia and New Zealand).

**Keywords:** Grand coalition, opposition parties, pipe dream, Zimbabwe

## INTRODUCTION

Spain the once invincible world champion was ruthlessly and painfully eliminated from the 2014 World Cup tournament after reigning over the beautiful sport of soccer for six years. The world soccer journalist's Jonathan Clegg told Michael Arnold how Spain was dethroned in reckless fashion in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Traditionally soccer does not take kindly to dynasties as is the case in politics. Even the most invincible champions never reign over this beautiful sport for long. And when the end game comes, it is usually announced with all the respect and solemnity of a soccer cleat to the face. And so it was for Spain in June 2014 as fate would have it. The nation which had ruled over world soccer for six straight years and which might reasonably be considered the greatest team in this sport's history, was

stunningly eliminated from the 2014 tournament with a humiliating 2 – 0 defeat by Chile. (Sports Reporter, 2014).

Like the fall of Spain at the 2014 World Cup tournament held in Brazil, it was with much amazement that the once robust ZANU PF party was headed for split as the largely comatose economy tailspined. From reliable sources both within and without, ZANU PF could be headed for a devastating split at its explosive elective congress set down for December 2014 with none of the factions fighting to succeed His Excellence President Robert Mugabe willing to make concessions that could save the 51 year party from disintegrating (Kunambura, 2014).

The internecine succession battles pitting Vice Presi-

Dent Joyce Mujuru against Honourable Emerson Munangagwa that had rocked the once robust ZANU PF had stalled government business to damage the frail economy and hurting prospects for economic recovery. The ZANU PF party was grid locked in a bitter succession war that had engulfed its senior officials some of whom had been accused of threatening to unseat His Excellence President Mugabe who turns 91 in February 2015. His Excellence insists he will complete his term of office which ends in 2018 after re-election on 31 July 2013 but there had been manoeuvres within the faction ridden party by members to position themselves or their preferred candidates to succeed him in the event that he unexpectedly quitted which according to analysts was a far-fetched guess (Nyakuzeya, 2014).

Assuming the faction-ridden ZANU PF party is not headed for the rocks is the idea of a grand coalition to upstage ZANU PF not another pipe dream by the opposition parties in Zimbabwe? Please do not go away to miss a circus of drama and theatrics coming your way in just a moment.

To expose the research findings to the said topic in this paper is the statement on the proposed literature review and research methodology which is up next.

### **Statement on the relevant and related Literature Review and Research Methodology adopted for the study**

To expose the research findings the Author had to adopt a relevant and related literature review and research methodology. The strategy employed was to survey prominent personalities from the private media (Private media from the print media comprise the dailies the most prominent of which circulating in the Harare region are Newsday and Daily News. The weeklies from the print media are the Standard, Financial Gazette and the Zimbabwe Independent. The emphasis on the private media is for strategic reasons ie they are famous for balanced reporting meaning they state facts and figures as they are on the ground without fear, favour or prejudice. Whereas the public print media such as the daily Herald and weekly Sunday Mail owned by government are notorious for not stating the truth but propaganda in false praise of the government eg people in Zimbabwe are dying of starvation because of Western imposed punitive sanctions on Zimbabwe when the brutal truth is the under utilisation of land after the much hyped fast track land resettlement programme in Zimbabwe of 2000.) to share their thoughts on the day's topic in this Paper titled 'The Idea of a grand coalition, to upstage ZANU PF: Another pipe dream from opposition parties in Zimbabwe (2014). The objective is to come up with a series of research findings from which are derived the Summary, Conclusion, Recommendation, Key assumption and a list of references.

Without much ado the Author will call upon the Staff writer (2014) from the Zimbabwe Independent to give us his contribution. So please do not go away before the details on this coming your way in just a moment.

### **Grand Coalition faces a still birth (Staff Writer 2014)**

Plans to establish a grand coalition of all opposition political parties excluding the MDC-T (The MDC is an acronym for Movement for Democratic Change, a party which had suffered two splits in less than 10 years. The two break away parties are the MDC-N led by Welshman Ncube and MDC Renewal Team led by Tendai Biti) leader Morgan Tsvangirai could suffer a still birth as the parties negotiating are not agreeable on the way forward. While Tendai Biti's MDC Renewal team which met for a strategic retreat in Bulawayo in September 2014 and Welshman Ncube's MDC were for a coalition, the Mavambo Kusile Dawn party led by Simba Makoni and Dumiso Dabengwa's ZAPU had requested more time to consult with their members, a sign that the party was not amenable to the idea of a grand coalition to upstage ZANU PF. Reliable sources in the coalition said: 'With Dabengwa we are not sure where he stands exactly but he is indecisive and we suspect he is watching how the ZANU PF succession unfolds while Makoni has been insisting that Tsvangirai should be part of the coalition. It seems Makoni has some kind of agreement with Tsvangirai.'

Mavambo spokesperson Evans Sagonda said Mavambo initiated the grand coalition initiative in 2008 where Makoni had called for a national authority after he disputed March 2008 election.

Sagonda said: 'This formation of a coalition started way back. We have been part of the negotiations of a grand coalition that includes everyone. As soon as anything is tangible we will give you the right position.'

Efforts to get comment from Dabengwa were fruitless as his two mobile numbers were unreachable for most of the time (Staff Writer, 2014).

The National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) party which in earlier media reports had in August 2014 distanced itself from the grand coalition to upstage ZANU PF had attended the first meeting of the coalition. It however, had insisted that it would only be part of the coalition if it had addressed the myriad of economic challenges faced by Zimbabweans whatever that meant. NCA spokesman Madock Chivasa in an interview said: 'We were invited to that meeting. We don't want to be arrogant to attend anything formed by Zimbabweans where we can also be useful. We will talk to anyone forming a coalition. Coalitions are a good thing if reasons are given (Staff Writer, 2014).

Concerned (2014) of the Zimbabwe Independent sounded equally unforthcoming to the idea of a grand coalition as his predecessors from the same Zimbabwe

Independent newspaper. More details on his contribution coming your way in just a moment.

### **Grand Coalition offers us nothing (Concerned 2014)**

The so called grand coalition of political parties in Zimbabwe to upstage ZANU PF monopoly of power in Zimbabwe was just another group of political clowns. Its leaders are power hungry clowns and it was not surprising they will waste time jostling for posts in the proposed grand coalition of political parties in Zimbabwe. The likes of Tendai Biti of the MDC Renewal Team were not serving any purpose except disturbing a movement for change that had already gained momentum. Theirs will remain imaginary power because Concerned (2014) sounded sceptical the proposed grand coalition to upstage ZANU PF would never get the required support from the ordinary masses. Why should the proposed grand coalition exclude Morgan Tsvangirai of the MDC-T who commanded more grassroots support? Why should these people ever think they will get more popular when most of them were simply riding on his back to get known not only by donors but by the ordinary masses (Concerned 2014).

The fact remains Tsvangirai is the only leader who can lead a formidable opposition to challenge ZANU PF's hegemony. The grand coalition is similar to COPE (Congress of the People, a South African Political Party formed in 2008 by former members of the African National Congress (ANC). The breakaway party was formed by former ANC members Mosiwa Lekota, Mbazima Shilowa and Muleki George to contest the 2009 general election. The party was announced after a national convention held in Sandton on 1 November 2008 and was founded at a Congress held in Bloenfontein on 16 December 2008 (Wikipedia, 2014) in South Africa. Its existence will not change the political landscape in Zimbabwe just as COPE failed to deliver in South Africa. The proposed grand coalition must realise that it is strengthening ZANU PF and MDC-T. By displaying that they are power hungry, they are likely to suffer from lack of support both from donors and the electorate. How can these people excited about the idea of a grand coalition when they have failed in the past to adhere to their party principles. This is another small party seeking relevance at a time Zimbabwe needs serious politicians to save them from the suffering they had endured for more than a decade. According to Concerned (2014) this is another useless idea and people will never be led by opportunists masquerading as politicians. The people of Zimbabwe should wake up and get rid of parties that sprout today and fold soon after reaping funds from donors. Leaders of the proposed grand coalition must respect the people before they open their mouths to say a word about the proposed project (Concerned 2014).

There is before you the literature review and research methodology on the proposed initiative on a grand coalition in Zimbabwe. With the literature review and the research methodology out of the way up next is a summary of the Paper.

### **SUMMARY**

The discourse kicks off with the worrisome Spanish dominance in world football just as is the ZANU PF dominance on the political landscape in Zimbabwe. The internecine succession battles in the once robust ZANU PF party are a sign that His Excellence President Mugabe could be riding a hungry tiger. The once lovely pet was now showing its teeth in readiness to pounce. The question asked is: Given a ZANU PF headed for a split at its December 2014 elective congress is the proposed idea of a grand coalition of opposition political parties in Zimbabwe not another pipe dream? Do not go away as below are the answers to this searching question. The opposition political parties in Zimbabwe live a cat and mouse life with each other. The one opposition political party is after the annihilation of the other political party such that the initiative of a grand coalition in Zimbabwe could face a still birth because both ZANU PF and the opposition political parties in Zimbabwe are spending most of their time and resources on internal squabbles rather than serving the people. So the idea of a grand coalition is a failure before takeoff (Staff Writer, 2014). Another equally concerned stakeholder by the name Concerned (2014) sounded equally sceptical on the idea of a grand coalition to upstage the ZANU PF monopoly on power in Zimbabwe. A grand coalition is like a political party that sprouts today and folds after reaping rewards from the unsuspecting donors. So the idea of a grand coalition in Zimbabwe politics is as delusional as it is stupid. In a nutshell the idea of a grand coalition has no takers at the present moment. With the summary out of the way up next is the Conclusion after the gruelling relevant and related Literature Review and the ensuing Research Methodology.

### **CONCLUSION**

According to Rusvingo (2008) Kenkel (1984) defines a Research Hypothesis from which a Conclusion is derived as: 'a statement about the value that a parameter or group of parameters can take.'

According to Kenkel (1984:343): 'The purpose of a Research Hypothesis testing is to choose between two conflicting Research Hypothesis about the value of a population parameter. The two conflicting Research Hypotheses are referred to as the Null Research Hypothesis denoted,  $H_0$  and the Alternative Research

Hypothesis denoted,  $H_1$ . These two research hypotheses are mutually exclusive so that when one is true the other one is false.

Therefore the definitions of a Null Research Hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) and an Alternative Research Hypothesis ( $H_1$ ) are that: 'The Null Research Hypothesis represents an assumption or statement that has been made about some characteristic (or parameter) of the population being studied.'

'The Alternative Research Hypothesis specifies all possible values of the population parameter that were not specified in the Null Research Hypothesis ( $H_0$ )'.

For this Paper whose title is: The idea of a grand coalition to upstage ZANU PF: Another pipe dream from opposition parties in Zimbabwe (2014) the Null Research Hypothesis ( $H_0$ ) and the Alternative Research Hypothesis in respect of the research title shall respectively be:

$H_0$

The initiative of a grand coalition to upstage ZANU PF is not a pipe dream by the opposition political parties in Zimbabwe.

$H_1$

The initiative of a grand coalition to upstage ZANU PF is a pipe dream by the opposition political parties in Zimbabwe.

Given the overwhelming evidence as given elsewhere in the Paper including the Summary which is evident for all to see the Alternative Research Hypothesis namely: The initiative of a grand coalition to upstage ZANU PF is a pipe dream by the opposition political parties in Zimbabwe is to be resoundingly accepted while the Null Research Hypothesis: The initiative of a grand coalition to upstage ZANU PF is not a pipe dream by the opposition parties in Zimbabwe is to be resoundingly rejected in light of the overwhelming evidence which is pro the Alternative Research Hypothesis and anti the Null Research Hypothesis.

With Conclusion now conveniently out of the way up next are the Recommendations which are primarily designed to address what the opposition political parties in Zimbabwe did not do right.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

The biggest undoing to the opposition political parties in Zimbabwe is that the long time tradition is that they are enemies against each other instead of uniting against a common enemy which is ZANU PF. This state of affairs is against the popular slogan that divided we fall and united we conquer. A perfect example of this scenario is the rivalry between the MDC Renewal Team led by Tendai Biti and the mainstream MDC-T led by Morgan Tsvangirai. The two do not see eye to eye to resonate with the scientific theorem that like poles repels each other.

Another strategy used by ZANU PF to weaken the opposition political parties is to infiltrate them. Destruction of a political party from inside has for a long time been the effective weapon used by ZANU PF to its full advantage when it comes to the destruction of an enemy from inside. *Nyaya yezvipfukuto ndiyo yauraya ZANU PF mugore ra 2014* (meaning the concept of weevils destroying ZANU PF as the party heads for an explosive elective congress in December 2014). A ZANU PF member would join an opposition political party and pretend to be a member when his or her true colours are a spy on a spying mission. Opposition political parties should be in a permanent look out for such people who are weevils who destroy parties from within.

Parties have been known to spring up with a mission to siphon donor cash after which the party would fold up. For this reason the opposition MDC party was at one time renamed 'Movement for Donor Cash (MDC) to resonate with the donor community dumping the party out of donor fatigue soon after its defeat by ZANU PF in the 31 July 2013 harmonised elections. Opposition political parties in Zimbabwe are therefore strongly urged to guard against this donor cash siphoning trend.

All said and done the viable solution to strategise against the ZANU PF monopoly of power in Zimbabwe lies not in a grand coalition of parties notorious for breaching democratic principles but a new vibrant party like the MDC in the late 1990s to mid 2000s. Only that way can ZANU PF be upstaged from power. Except for Angola Zimbabwe is the only country in SADC with a long history of bad governance through a gaping dearth of democratic values. For today the Author will park his bus right here before he declares time for a statement on the Key Assumption which is up next.

## Key Assumption

In presenting this Paper the Author would right from the outset, wish to reassure the beloved Reader that all the facts and figures herein contained were stated as they are on the ground without fear, favour or prejudice. And the mission of this statement of Key Assumption is to give the Reader peace of mind on the factual contents of the manuscript.

From a Christian perspective Zimbabwe is obviously in need of a prayer to break away from the dynasty of His Excellence President Mugabe soon to be joined by the First Lady Dr. Grace Mugabe who is set to become the women's league boss after the December 2014 elective congress (Staff Reporter 2014). The Author will automatically shoulder the responsibility to pray for Zimbabwe. Please do not go away before the prayer coming your way in just a moment.

### The Short Prayer for Zimbabwe (Pew Paper 2014)

*Ngatinamatirei nyika ye Zimbabwe. Mwari munesimba rese musingagumi imi makatipa netsitsi mbesa dzepasi munguva yadzo: Tinokutendai nekuzvirereka pamusana pokunaka kwenyu kukuru, tichikutendai kuti mutipe grasia rokudzisevezesa nekufanira kumbiri yenyu, nerokubatsira Vanoshaya, nerokunyaradzwa kwedu; nokuna Jesu Kristu Tenzi wedu. Amen.*

(meaning, Eternal God you crown the year with your goodness and you give us the fruits of the earth in their season: grant that we may use them to your glory for relief of those in need and for our own wellbeing; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen) (Pew Paper 2014).

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