

EPWORTH

1. OVERVIEW

1.1 Study area

The area under study is part of the Harare Metropolitan province. It is a peri-urban set-up with seven council wards. Six of the seven wards voted for the former opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change. The MDC enjoys good support amongst the locals. Researchers managed to cover the whole constituency of Epworth.

Prominent ZANU-PF officials have vested interests in the constituency. Former energy minister Amos Midzi and Harare South legislator Gilbert Nyanhongo frequently visit the area.

Residents of Epworth are mostly self-employed. ZANU-PF has taken advantage of this by supporting youths who are then used to perpetrate violence. Some youths have market stands in Mupedzanhamo market in Harare whilst others have been given open spaces to use for firewood projects. When Epworth was part of Hatfield constituency the MDC legislator Tapiwa Mashakada managed to convert these youths to join the MDC through income generating projects that benefited the youths.

1.2 Summary

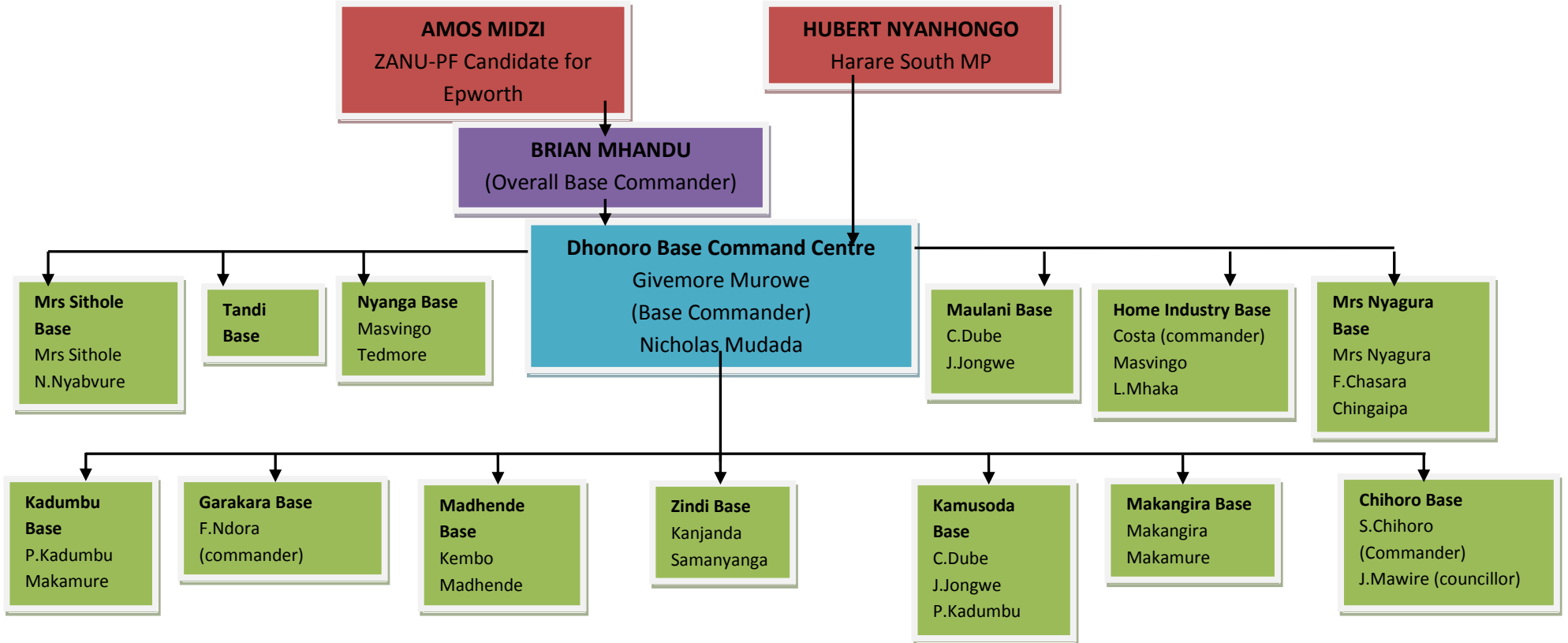
- **Organisation of violence**

The losing ZANU-PF candidate for Epworth constituency (Amos Midzi) was at the helm of the structure of violence. He financed the overall commander, Brian Mhandu, to set up bases. Brian Mhandu created the bases and identified the base commanders at each base. Brian Mhandu passed on orders to the commander (Givemore Murowe) at the main base or command centre - Dhonoro base. These orders were then passed on to other commanders at smaller bases. The commanders at smaller bases would then identify the victims, set dates, and assign the militia to take action.

Information and responses were also passed from the bottom up. The coordination and planning of activities was done at bases by base commanders in consultation with Givemore Murowe and Brian Mhandu. People at the base were given support in the form of finance, weapons, food and vehicles by Amos Midzi for carrying out the assigned duties. Midzi also supplied the youths with marijuana and bought beer for them to keep them motivated.

There has been a struggle between Gilbert Nyanhongo and Amos Midzi for the control of the 'command centre'. Nyanhongo who is the ZANU-PF Member of Parliament for Harare South constituency claims to be the rightful leader of the youth at this base since the base is in his constituency. The two are reported to have been issuing conflicting orders which has led to growing tension and division among the youth, with some being loyal to Midzi and others to Nyanhongo. Researchers managed to identify 11 dormant bases and 3 active ones.

- **Organisational structure**



2. DATA ON BASES

2.1 Table of bases

Name of base	Place (Building?)	Address	Status	Used			
				02	05	08	10
Sithole Homestead	Mai Sithole's home (Ward 1)	At the back of Muguta store	Dormant			√	
Dhonororo/Masasa	House under a big tree (Ward 2)	98k –Harare south	Active	√	√	√	√
Nyanga	House (Ward 2)	Was mobile	Dormant			√	
Epworth Home industry	(Ward 2)	1169 Munyuki	Dormant			√	
Zindi/Dombo	House (Ward 3)	Dombo bus stop	Active			√	√
Nyagura Homestead	Felistus Nyagura (Ward 3)	8074 Domboramwari	Dormant			√	
Kamusoda	Kamusoda shop (Ward 4)	2024	Dormant			√	
Maulani	House near Maulani Primary (Ward 4)	Maulani P School-stopover	Dormant			√	
Makangira	A Tuckshop (Ward 5)	2988 Garan'anga	Dormant			√	
Tandi	Tandi house (Ward 5)	1942 Solani	Dormant			√	
Kadumbu	Kadumbu home (Ward 5)	2619 Salani	Dormant			√	
Madhende/Chinamano	House near Chinamano school (Ward 6)	923 Chinamano	Active			√	√
Garakara	Garakara (Ward 7)	64 Overspill	Dormant			√	
Chihoro	Chihoro Shepherd's home (Ward 7)	1585 Overspill	Dormant			√	

Notes: Most of these bases, notably those marked 'dormant' emerged towards the June 2008 runoff elections when they operated for less than one week. These bases were disbanded soon after the runoff elections. The Dhonororo/Masasa bases started operating in 1999 soon after the formation of MDC and it is still active to date. The three bases that are indicated active have been activated ahead of the COPAC outreach programme which has not yet taken place.

2.2 2008 Violence

- 2008 incidents of serious violence (for each base/place)

DHONORO BASE (WARD 2)					
Incident	Description of Incident (Date, Time)	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	House destruction (06/06/ 08, 0000hrs) Violence was ordered by Brian Mhandu (overall ZANU-PF base commander) under the instruction of Amos Midzi. Two rooms destroyed, roofing sheets destroyed using iron bars, stones and sticks, 5 doorframes and blankets taken around 12 midnight. Perpetrators are still in the area.	MK GS	The researchers observed the destroyed house and the roofing sheets.	-Moses - Evika -Masvingo - Alice Charovedza (Mai Aaron) and a group of nearly 200 people.	MK
2	GBH (06/06/08, 0000hrs) Violence was ordered by Evika, Brian and Masvingo. Jonathan was axed on the neck at parents' house. The victim survived the attack but sustained a deep cut. The case was reported to Dombo police station but no arrests were made. The perpetrators are still in the area.	MK GS		-Moses -Alice Charovedza (Mai Aaron) and a group of nearly 200 people.	JC
3	House destruction (24/06/08, 1200 hrs) Violence was ordered by Masvingo and Tedmore. Five rooms were destroyed; food, a TV set and blankets were looted while police watched from a distance of about 150m away (Makomo Primary school). Weapons used included iron bars, stones and large sticks. No docket was opened and perpetrators are still in the area.	Mr &Mrs NG (victims)	The researchers saw the destroyed house which has since been reconstructed.	-Moses -Billiard and a group of more than 100 people.	Mr &Mrs NG (victims)
<p>Notes: Incidents 1 and 2 occurred on the same day, at the same time and in the same place. The victims were targeted because they are local MDC leaders. In both incidents, the perpetrators came from Dhonoro base and the cases were reported to Dombo police, but no arrests were made. Mrs NG was abducted by ZANU-PF youths and she was forced marched to Dhonoro base where she was beaten and later taken to hospital for treatment by fellow MDC supporters.</p>					

NYANGA BASE (WARD 2)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>GBH (16/06/07, 2300hrs) Violence was ordered by Masvingo and Evika. Mr Malitinyu was beaten and his legs were burnt with molten plastic papers at Nyanga base. Blankets, clothes, a sewing machine, and a radio were taken in addition to a solar panel being destroyed. The case was reported at Dombo police on 19th of August 2007 but no arrests were made. The perpetrators are still in the area.</p>	MM	The researchers spoke to Mrs Malitinyu, the wife to the victim, and efforts to meet the victim were in vain. During the visit, the victim had gone to work.	-Alice Charovedza -Likomba, -Tedmore -Moses	DM

ZINDI/DOMBO BASE (WARD 3)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>GBH + House Destruction (06/06/08, 1900hrs) Violence was ordered by Farai Chasara, Kanyimba and Samanyanga. Victim was assaulted using fists and logs and she suffered head, hand and leg injuries. The victim fought back with the assistance of neighbours and the perpetrators fled. No docket was opened and perpetrators are still in the area. During the attack, a group of unidentified youths destroyed two rooms. Roofing sheets for two rooms were broken into pieces and all windows were shattered. The case was not reported to the police.</p>	MU (Victim)	The researchers saw the scars on the victim. In addition, the researchers saw the destroyed house which has now been partially reconstructed.	Not identified	MU
2	<p>GBH + Property destruction (05/06/08, 1000hrs) Violence was ordered by Farai Chasara. The victim was severely assaulted and windows, door and water tap were destroyed. In addition all house hold goods except the wardrobe were looted.</p>	ET (Victim)	The researchers saw the destroyed house.	-Hazvinei (late) and others	ET

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Notes: Evelyn Tshuma left Harare after the incident and went to Bulawayo. In her absence her house was used as a base by ZANU-PF supporters for about one week. Police later disbanded the base but no arrests were made.

KAMUSODA BASE (WARD 4)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>GBH 13/0608 1900hrs Violence was ordered by Charles Dube (Border Gezi youth trained officer) The victims were beaten at Mr Chilimanzi's house and Carol, who was pregnant, had a miscarriage after the assault. The perpetrators are still in the area.</p>	CC Mrs. C HC	The researchers spoke to the victims and saw some of the now permanent scars on their bodies.	-Kayaman -Chris -Quinton Mabaya	CC Mrs C

MAI SITHOLE BASE (WARD 1)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>House destruction (11/06/08, 0000hrs) Violence was ordered by Mai Sithole (base commander). The victim's house was destroyed by a group of nearly 200 youths using petrol bombs, iron bars and other tools. Mai Sithole is still in the ward and no docket was opened.</p>	JN (brother of victim)	The researchers saw the destroyed house which has undergone partial reconstruction.	Not identified	FN

Notes: The victims failed to identify any perpetrators since they ran away and it was dark. However, it is understood that the perpetrators came from Mai Sithole's base because they were heard singing on their way from that base.

MADHENDE BASE (WARD 6)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	Rape (09/06/08, 0100hrs) Victims were taken from their home around 0100hrs and taken to Madhende base where they were repeatedly raped by five men till 1700hrs when they were released. The perpetrators are still walking free in the area.	BA KM MA	The researchers talked to the victims who confirmed the rape incident.	-Alfred Goveyi -Chabata, - Madhende -Muneka and an unidentified war veteran from Overspill.	YM MA MJ
2	House destruction (08/06/08, 2300hrs) Violence was ordered by Madhende and Chabata. Three roomed house destroyed using iron bars, large sticks and stones among other weapons. Sofas, blankets, radio and window frames were also looted. The perpetrators are still in the area.	KM MA)	The researchers saw the house which has since been reconstructed.	-Phinias, -Daniel Jack -Alfred Goveyi -Kembo -Mai Konde -Matare	BA

Notes: The rape victims: YM, MA and MJ wanted to report the case to Dombo Police Station but they were turned away.

GARAKARA BASE (WARD 7)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	Rape + GBH (08/06/08, 2300hrs) Violence was ordered by Joanna Mawire (ZANU PF Ward 7 Councillor). The victim was gang raped and beaten by ZANU PF militia at Garakara base. No arrests were made and the perpetrators are still in the area.	SP (victim) MA	The researchers spoke to the victim and her husband who confirmed the	-Newlink Mapondera -Mai Chipuriro -Langton Mhaka -Reward Mutsoto -Silas Muchapesi	SP

			case.		
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2	House destruction (08/06/08, 2300hrs) Violence was ordered by Joanna Mawire (Ward 7 Councillor). House was destroyed and property burnt using petrol bombs. The perpetrators are still in the area.	SP MA (Victim)	The researchers saw the house.	-Langton Mhaka -Silas Muchapesi -Peter Madzorera	MA
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Notes: ID numbers of victims were not easy to access.

2.3 Current Intimidation and violence

- **Incidents of current violence and intimidation (for each base/ place)**

MADHENDE BASE (WARD 6)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	Intimidation and Threats (07/08/10, 1400hrs) Following the introduction of COPAC, ZANU-PF called for a meeting at the base. Madhende, the base commander, lead the programme. The meeting was addressed by Madhende and Alfred Goveyi. They used the platform to issue threats and intimidation. They warned MDC members against participating during COPAC meetings. They have threatened them with the past violence of June 2008. They were targeting MDC members. The perpetrators vowed that they would come after MDC members who have defied their orders and abduct them for persecution at their bases. No report was made and the perpetrators are free in Epworth.	The victims BA	The researchers witnessed the gathering from a distance	-Alfred Goveyi - Madhende	BA KM MA other MDC activists

2	<p>Enforced participation (17/07/10, 1500hrs) When the researchers were on their way to Mr Mabika's house they met a ZANU-PF group of youth toyi-toying at Overspill shopping centre. The group was forcing anyone they met during the process to join them. They issued threats to those who defied their order. The group was singing and chanting ZANU-PF slogans in preparation for an up-coming COPAC meeting. They went door to door forcing targeted MDC members to join the toyi-toyi. They went to Beauty Alfas' house and forced everyone to join them. They were carrying whip sticks and they were wearing ZANU-PF regalia. The group was led by Daniel Jack and Alfred Goveyi and a report was made at Dombo police station, but no arrests were made.</p>	Observation by the researchers.	The researchers witnessed the event.	-Daniel Jack - Alfred Goveyi	Ward 6 community Researchers BA)
3	<p>Terror and intimidation (03/08/10, 1100hrs) Peter Kadumbu (war veteran) and a group of ZANU-PF youth from Epworth, Mufakose, Chitungwiza and Mbare disrupted a proposed agricultural show that was organised by an MDC councillor which was supposed to be held at Epworth Local Board. Peter Kadumbu (war veteran) was coordinating and commanding the violence. They used sticks and iron bars to destroy agricultural commodities that included pumpkins and avocados and turned down tables, killed chickens and dispersed everybody. They made the accusation that the occasion was MDC oriented. Peter Kadumbu was arrested by Dombo police and later transferred to Chitungwiza and was released without any charge. Kadumbu and other perpetrators are still free in Epworth.</p>	TN		-Peter Kadumbu (war veteran)	JU -Epworth community

ZINDI/DOMBO BASE (WARD 3)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>Intimidation and threats (26/07/10, 1400hrs) ZANU-PF called on for a meeting at the base. Mai Nyagura (2008 base commander) and Farai Chasara (ZANU-PF District Council Chairman) commanded the meeting. There were various items on the agenda including coaching people how and what to contribute on the COPAC meetings. They chose people to make contributions on COPAC meetings, specifically in support of the Kariba draft. At that time they issued death threats against those who went against their wishes. No report was made to the police and the perpetrators are still in the area.</p>	DA	The researchers witnessed the meeting.	-Mai Nyagura (2008 base commander. The base was situated at her homestead)	
DHONORO BASE (WARD 2)					
Incident	Description of Incident	Source of info	Verification	Names/IDs of alleged perpetrators	Names/IDs of victims
1	<p>Intimidation and threats (14/07/10, 1300hrs) The ZANU PF militia have erected a structure at the base. They are using the building for holding their meetings and intend to use it for torturing purposes. It is at this building that they called for a meeting to prepare for COPAC consultative meetings. They issued death and torture threats against MDC members who will participate during the COPAC meetings still to be held in the area. Nicholas Mudada (ZANU PF ward 2 committee member) and Zimunhu led the programme.</p>	GS	The researchers witnessed the meeting.	- Baiso Zimunhu (ZANU PF activist) -Nicholas Mudada (ZANU PF Ward 2 committee member)	Ward 2 community; MK SK

2.4 Description of bases

MADHENDE/CHINAMANO BASE						
PERSONNEL						
<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Rank/ID</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Source of information</i>
Kembo		M	ZANU-PF	Chairman	Administration	BA
Peter Kadumbu		M	ZANU-PF	District Chairman	Administration	YM
Matare		M	ZANU-PF	Base Commander	Commanding	MA
Mai Konde		F	ZANU-PF	Informer	Informing	MJ
Madhende		M			Administration	KM
Zibwe (late)	27	M	ZANU-PF		Administration	MA
Alfred Goveyi	25	M	ZANU-PF		Administration	
Debra Chikerema	25	F	ZANU-PF		Operations	
Egesta Jeke	25	F	ZANU-PF	Youth Member	Operations	
Farai Muneka	45	M	ZANU-PF	Youth Member	Operations	
Mutsena	28	M	ZANU-PF	Youth Member	Operations	
Gibson Fraser	19	M	ZANU-PF	Youth Member	Operations	
Phinias	25	M	ZANU-PF	Youth Member	Operations	
Daniel Jack	26	M	ZANU-PF	Youth Member	Operations	
Egness		F	ZANU-PF	Member	Operations	
FINANCE AND SUPPORT						
<p>Most of the youths are being paid by Amos Midzi and Tendai Savanhu, the losing ZANU-PF candidate for Mbare constituency, in cash. We believe this because some youths are not employed but are still able to pay for accommodation and rates. Some of the youth are said to be on the government payrolls as ghost workers. The researchers investigated and found out that Debra Chikerema, Gibson Fraser and Farai Muneka are on government payrolls as civil servants.</p>						
WEAPONS						
<i>Name of owners/users</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Display(Yes/No)</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>		
Militia	Stones Whip sticks Iron bars	Several	Yes	These weapons are used to instil fear in the public. They are displayed whenever there is an event or a rally.		

ACCOMODATION AND EQUIPMENT		
<i>Description</i>	<i>Use</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>
They operate from their homes but the commander resides at the base, which is his house.		The perpetrators use stones and sticks, which is the only equipment that they use, and which they dispose of afterwards.

Notes: The base is located within residential stands and its influence is felt in Epworth as a whole. The base is disguised as Madhende's residential house. Madhende is always at home with his family. The perpetrators of political violence at this base were responsible for disrupting the proposed agricultural show in 2010. In 2008 they were actively involved in the destruction of BAI's house. No vehicles have been observed. In 2008, the house was used as for torture.

DHONORO BASE						
PERSONNEL						
<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Rank/ID</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Source of information</i>
Givemore Murowe		M	ZANU-PF	Commander		MK
Nicholas Mudada		M	ZANU-PF			GS
Moses		M	ZANU-PF	Harare South District chairman		TN
Brian		M	ZANU-PF	Epworth base commander		
Masvingo		M	ZANU-PF	Ward 2 chairman		
Evika		M	ZANU-PF	Ward 2 political commissar		
FINANCE AND SUPPORT						
Some of the youth are paid as ghost workers on government payrolls. These include Oripah (from Chipangano; she is also a member of the police special constabulary), Mutsena and Alfred Goveyi. Amos Midzi is also paying the perpetrators in cash and supplies them with drugs. The allocation of residential stands in Epworth is via ZANU-PF influence. People then commit violence in support of ZANU-PF in order to protect their properties or to be allocated stands. ZANU-PF forced their supporters to contribute money towards the construction of ZANU-PF structures at the bases. They also force people to contribute food occasionally.						

WEAPONS				
<i>Name of owners/users</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Display(Yes/No)</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>
Militia	Stones Whip sticks Iron bars	Several	Yes	These weapons are used to instil fear in MDC supporters.
ACCOMODATION AND EQUIPMENT				
<i>Description</i>	<i>Use</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>		
House	Holding meetings and torture	Construction of the building (base building) has just been recently completed. The perpetrators are intending to use the building as a torture house.		

Notes: The base is located within residential stands. It is a controversial base which borders Harare South and Epworth constituencies. Nyanhongo (Harare South) and Midzi (Epworth-losing candidate) fight over control of the same base. The influence of this base is felt all over Epworth. There is no one who stays permanently at the base but persons come to the base for meetings. No vehicles have been observed at the base.

Sources of information: MK, GS, MA, TN and DA

ZINDI/DOMBO BASE						
PERSONNEL						
<i>Name</i>	<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>	<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Rank/ID</i>	<i>Role</i>	<i>Source of information</i>

Kanjanda	40	M	ZANU-PF	Base Commander		TN
Samanyanga		M	ZANU-PF			Mai MU
Farai Chasara	38	M	ZANU-PF			ET
Givemore Murowe	23	M	ZANU-PF			EJ
Yoram Imedi	29	M	ZANU-PF			
Mai Nyagura	50	F	ZANU-PF			
Mai Chirikure	50	F	ZANU-PF			
Mai Bizeki	50	F	ZANU-PF			
Mai Makwanda	50	F	ZANU-PF			
Kanyumba	40	M	ZANU-PF			
Bhuda	26	M	ZANU-PF			
Alsta		M	ZANU-PF			
Leornad 'Zhingas'	23	M	ZANU-PF			

FINANCE AND SUPPORT

Midzi is reported to be paying the youth who are threatening MDC activists. The payment is in the form of cash, beer and marijuana. The base commanders offer protection to illegal settlers who stay in the Magada area who are within their militia structures.

WEAPONS

<i>Name of owners/users</i>	<i>Type</i>	<i>No.</i>	<i>Display(Yes/No)</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>
Militia	Stones Whip sticks Iron bars	Several	Yes	These weapons are used to instil fear in the public.

ACCOMODATION AND EQUIPMENT

<i>Description</i>	<i>Use</i>	<i>Notes and comments</i>
House	Holding meetings	The house is said to have been built by Irene Zindi during her time as the ZANU-PF candidate for Epworth.

Notes: The base is about 200m from residential homes and its influence is felt across Ward 3. Weapons such as stones and iron bars are openly displayed. Threats have been spread from this base, warning MDC supporters against participating in the COPAC meetings that are still to be held in the area. There is someone (name not supplied) who stays at the base. No vehicles have been observed at the base. **Sources of information:** TN Mai MU, ET, EJ, DA.

2.4 Summary of means of control

- **Denial of access to food , resources and benefits**

Residents who are allowed to dwell on informal settlements are forced to take part in ZANU-PF activities. Most of the residents are victims of the 2005 Operation Restore Order (Murambatsvina) that evicted many inhabitants from the high density suburbs in Harare. Shelter is therefore used as a tool to whip residents into the ZANU-PF line. Allocation of market stands is another issue that has been used to make sure MDC sympathisers will feel the pinch of segregation in the allocation of resources. ZANU-PF sympathisers are awarded market stands in Mupedzanhamo near the CBD of Harare.

- **Raiding resources and destroying property**

ZANU-PF activists also raid MDC activists' houses stealing property, food and other household goods. In addition, vendors in the area have their goods looted by ZANU-PF activists. Destruction of houses is a common occurrence in Epworth. To protect their properties residents have to comply with militia demands.

- **Coercion, threats and violence**

Control is also exercised through the issuing of threats and the perpetuation of violence on MDC activists. Most of these threats were issued in public at bases so as to instil fear in the public. Known MDC activists were also subjected to violence in the form of assault, grievous bodily harm and death.

3. COMMUNITY STRATEGIES AND TACTICS FOR VIOLENCE FREE ELECTIONS

3.1 Background

- **Community assessment**

Level of fear

Able to speak freely

1	2	3	4	5
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Unable and unwilling to speak freely

Willingness to resist violence

Strong will to resist violence

1	2	3	4	5
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No will to resist violence

Capacity to resist violence

Well organised, strong leadership

1	2	3	4	5
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Weak organisation and leadership

Comments

The general public is generally free to express their political views but are equally careful as to whom they speak to. Epworth residents believe that it is better that they do not show their support for MDC openly since this exposes them to the ZANU-PF supporters who can cause harm and loss of property. They are therefore unwilling to speak freely for fear of their own safety. Because of this, most people have lost the will to resist violence and they say the only way is to keep their opinions to themselves. There are however some youths who have the capacity to resist violence.

- **Non Governmental Organisations**

ORGANIZATION	MANDATE	LEVEL OF INDEPENDENCE
WOZA	A pressure group also fighting for democracy and justice	The organisation is independent and it works closely with the MDC structures in the area.
National Constitutional Assembly (NCA)	Educate people on the Zimbabwean constitution and human rights.	The organisation works closely with the MDC structures and MDC activists. Members are however subject to police attacks and arrests just like the MDC.
MSF (Medicines Sans Frontiers)	Responsible for treatment of local residents regardless of their political affiliation.	This organisation works independently and does not show any political affiliation. No cases of political interference have been reported.
MSF (Medicines Sans Frontiers)	Cure and prevention of cholera	Independent
Oxfam	Drilling of boreholes	No cases of political interference have been reported
Care International	Distribution of food aid	No cases of political interference have been reported
Mvuramanzi	Drilling boreholes	Independent

Notes: There is scope for VFD and MSF to cooperate in terms of treatment of victims of political violence. This will ensure more safety for the victims as compared to general hospitals where victims can be easily followed by the perpetrators.

3.2 Organisation

- **Establishment of committees and operational unit**

Peace committees were set in Wards 3, 4 and 7. Each committee is made of 10 people who are willing to initiate peace projects in the area. Defenders of Peace have also been selected in each ward and their mandate, among others, is to monitor perpetrators on a daily basis so as to establish any warning signs of impending danger.

- **Building membership**

In Wards 3, 4, 6 and 7 membership is close to 20 per ward. In Wards 1, 2 and 5 membership is around 10 per ward. The established committees are poised to drive membership. Community rallies are also a viable option to recruit more members. An official invitation has already been issued to the leadership of the organisation by residents from Ward 6 and 7. T-shirts and fliers are also an important resource to drive membership through visibility programmes.

3.3 Information and communications

- **Methods of gathering information**

Defenders of Peace will participate in ZANU-PF meetings and gather information on what they are planning. The gathered information will be used for planning peace initiatives. It is known that there are some people within the ZANU-PF structures who are sympathetic to the cause of peace. These people will also be an important resource in information. The history of the constituency has shown that conversion is possible. Therefore sympathisers will with time be co-opted to take active role in the peace matrix. Defenders of Peace who have been tasked with the mission of monitoring the movements of key perpetrators will also use observation as a method to gather data.

- **Methods of relaying information**

The use of cell phones is a viable way to pass information amongst members of the peace committees as network coverage is good in Epworth. Printing and distributing fliers is also important and this will serve to alert those who are not active in the peace initiatives. Publishing of stories and information in the print media is also necessary in terms of relaying information.

3.4 Strategic Objectives

- To build the capacity of locals to prevent violence through peaceful means
- To facilitate confidence building and morale so that locals can cast their votes freely
- To produce an election outcome that is acceptable by international standards
- To facilitate the registration of voters and the cleaning of voters' roll
- To facilitate the holding of an election that is violence free

3.5 Key Strategies

- **Conflict avoidance: getting out of harm's way**

Evacuation: After information has been gathered about ZANU-PF's planned actions and targets, the targeted and vulnerable people will have to be moved to safe houses and homesteads of other members living in less violent areas. The safe houses have to be out of Epworth. As soon as conditions are calm, or if voting days are near, these people have to be moved back to their constituencies so that they can exercise their democratic right to vote.

- **Neutralising key points in structure of violence and control**

Neutralising personnel: The key personnel in the structure of violence in Epworth are Amos Midzi, Peter Kadumbu, Brian Mhandu, Shepherd Chihoro, Garakara and Madhende.

Neutralising source of funding for violence: Their key resources include the residential stands in the form of informal settlements called Magada, market stands in Mupedzanhano and Siyaso market area which were used as a reward for perpetrators. Other resources include businesses of ZANU-PF people that were allegedly the source of income used to sponsor base activities.

Neutralising the major base: The key base in Epworth is the Dhonhoro base, which was the command centre for all other bases in Epworth.

3.6 Tactical Action

- **Conflict avoidance: getting out of harm's way**

Targeted people like candidates for council elections and parliamentary seats have to be transported to safe houses. Thus, resources are needed to cover expenses. When moving out of Epworth they should avoid moving in groups as this raises suspicion.

In cases where people have moved out of constituencies there is need to protect their property. To protect the property of the people who have moved out, defenders of peace will make sure that movable property is stored in safe places within the constituency. Mass mobilising of locals partnering Defenders of Peace is necessary to prevent the destruction of immovable property.

When the situation is normal there is need to ensure that evacuated people go back to their constituencies to vote. Defenders of Peace will facilitate a peaceful entry of these people back to the constituency.

- **Neutralising key points in structure of violence and control**

Continuous exposure of key individuals such as Brian Mhandu, Peter Kadumbu, Shepherd Chihoro, Garakara and Madhende can demoralise perpetrators. Posters and fliers may be printed and distributed in Epworth linking perpetrators to their crimes committed in June 2008. Some of the stories may be published in newspapers. This will kill the morale and confidence of perpetrators.

Criminal cases: Madhende can be tried for the rape of YM, MA and MJ. He raped these women on 9 June 2009 at Madhende base. The perpetrator was also involved in the destruction of BA 3-roomed house.

Psychological methods can be used against key personnel in the structure of violence. Rumours can be spread that perpetrators of violence in June 2008 are being haunted by the spirits of those they killed. It can also be said that it is that same spirit that is causing the illness of Madhende who is currently ill. It can also be said that the same spirit is responsible for the death of Zibwe of Ward 6 who was a serious perpetrator of violence. It will be claimed that the spirit of the dead will rest only if all perpetrators are brought to justice.

Conversion of perpetrators can also be effective. It has to be noted that the previous Member of Parliament Honourable Tapiwa Mashakada managed to convert perpetrators. The challenge with this method is that the youths need some form of income generating projects so that they will not be tempted by ZANU-PF money. Alternatively church crusades centring on confessions might help. The example of Apostle Paul, who according to the bible was once a killer who repented, can be the central message during these crusades.

Disabling perpetrators' source of income (smart sanctions)

Shepherd Chihoro, Emmanuel Kamusoda and Run'anga are reported to have used their businesses to sponsor violence in June 2008. Shepherd Chihoro owns a construction company in Ward 7; Emmanuel Kamusoda owns a shop in Ward 4, whilst Run'anga owns a shop in Ward 3. To disable these businesses residents should be mobilised to stop buying from them. It will be claimed that goblins were used to acquire human blood to run these shops and that the owners are using the blood of those killed in the run up to the June 27 election.

Negotiations among the MDC MP Elish Jembere, the police, National Healing Ministry, loosing ZANU-PF candidate Amos Midzi and Harare South MP Hubert Nyanhongo may also be used to destroy Dhonoro base. This base is the main base and its destruction will bring peace to Epworth.

4. Support

- a) Legal representation in pursuing civil cases
- b) Safe houses to cater for the evacuated people
- c) Printing facility to produce fliers and pamphlets
- d) Transport funds for those to be evacuated.