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The Zimbabwe Soaring Unemployment Rate of 85%: A Ticking Time Bomb not Only for Zimbabwe but the Entire Sadc Region (2014)

By Dr. Silas Luthingo Rusvingo

Abstract- The mission in this Paper is to carry out a Literature Review and Research Methodology on the Zimbabwe unemployment rate of 85% which is a ticking time bomb not only in Zimbabwe but in the Sadc region as compared with its regional peers of Zambia to the north, South Africa to the south, Mozambique to the east and Botswana to the west of the country. The related and relevant Literature Review and the Research methodology to expose the Research Findings will take the Author to Mhlanga (2014) of Newsday whose contribution on the topic in this Paper is on youths spending time crushing stones to make a living as the job market in Zimbabwe crashes. The second respondent to give his contribution on the stratospheric unemployment rate in Zimbabwe is Nleya (2014) of Newsday. His contribution is on the promised 2,265 million jobs to be created by ZANU PF once voted into power in the 31 July 2013 harmonized elections. To make yet another contribution on soaring unemployment in Zimbabwe is Mawire (2014) of Newsday who argued that more people were turning to real estate to earn a living as unemployment soared to unbearable stratospheric levels in Zimbabwe.

Keywords: *unemployment, bomb, sadc, zimbabwe.*

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Keywords: unemployment, bomb, sadc, zimbabwe.

With the Abstract and key words conveniently out of the way up next is the ignition key to the discourse, please don't go away before the Introduction coming your way in just a moment.

I. Introduction

Given the heart-wrenching statistics in Table 1 below, the Introduction in this Paper is a good prospect to the beloved Reader. That Zimbabwe is a cursed country in a Sadc region of modest economic growth is an undeniable fact in a Sadc region of 4 purposively and judgementally sampled countries of Zambia to the North, South Africa to the south, Mozambique to the east and Botswana to the west.

Author: e-mail: srusvingo@yahoo.com

Table 1 : The unemployment rates in Zimbabwe and its 4 neighbouring regional peers of Zambia, South Africa, Botswana and Mozambique.

Country	Unemployment rate %	Source
Zimbabwe	85	Staff Reporter (2014)
Zambia	12	Staff Reporter (2014)
South Africa	25	Staff Reporter (2014)
Mozambique	17	Staff Reporter (2014)
Botswana	17,5	Staff Reporter (2014)

Zimbabwe has a whopping unemployment rate of 85% in a sample of Sadc countries with an average unemployment rate of 18% as in Table I above. What does that mean to you?

Zimbabwe is obviously in a planet of its own and miles away from its peers judged only in terms of the unemployment statistics given in Table 1 above. The next pertinent question to ask in order to solve the jigsaw puzzle is: Why only Zimbabwe is cursed and not South Africa, Zambia, Mozambique and Botswana who are all close neighbouring countries to Zimbabwe as far as the Sadc region is concerned. To provide an answer to this searching question is a statement on the related and relevant Literature Review and relevant and related Research Methodology which are coming your way in just a moment in case you decide to go away.

II. Statement on the Related and Relevant Literature Review, the Relevant and Related Research Methodology and the Discussion of the Research Findings

In order to expose the Research Findings which the Author will employ to discuss and study, the Summary, Conclusion, and Recommendations a Literature Review and Research Methodology to expense and discuss the Research findings.

The first to confront the Author with his side of the story is Mhlanga (2014) of the Newsday who argued that many people in Zimbabwe are out of desperation

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forced to crush stones for a living as the job market in Zimbabwe crashes. Details on this coming your way in just a moment.

a) Crushing stones for a living as job market crashes (Mhlanga 2014)

Mechanically and seemingly without feeling the burden of the hammer's weight a woman stone crusher pounds to the solid surface of hard quarry stone in an effort to break the rock into manageable pieces. The first strike yields no result and so does the second and third. But Musasa who had a baby strapped on her back was as stubborn as the rock that resisted her pounding and in equal measure it gave in and broke. She was just one of the many women who were earning a living from crushing rocks into quarry stones for sale to the construction industry which against all odds appeared to be flourishing while the Zimbabwean economy was no different from that story told by many poor and suffering Zimbabweans. The job market in Zimbabwe was shrinking each day while today's husbands were not as responsible as they ran away from their families soon after siring an offspring (Mhlanga 2014).

It is no secret that company closures and retrenchments in what was once known as the industrial hub of the Zimbabwean economy, Kwekwe to be precise, had forced thousands into illegal gold mining, flea market, vendoring and scavenging to eke a living. Gold panning is however not for the faint-hearted with the law enforcement agents, but only for the brave enough to risk life and limb everyday by remaining in the game which sometimes rewards very little. Illegal gold panners known as *Makorokoza* have been sent to prison- a mandatory 5 years for illegal possession of gold and 2 years for prospecting without license. Musasa's husband was doing jail time after being caught with five grams of gold without a license living his young wife to fend for herself and their three year-old son.

> "I have been left with no choice but to ensure I put food on the table for myself and the child. My relatives are also struggling and they cannot help me", she said (Mhlanga 2014).

Joining the once lucrative gold panning industry is a complete no because she had seen and heard some of her husband's colleagues who are not in jail had been buried alive as they worked in unsafe mine shafts while others are maimed for life. These risks had led to a new craze in the hunt for the elusive US dollar- the hand crushing of stones to quarry for the construction industry. Quarrystones were now the new gold not only in Kwekwe but elsewhere around the country's major urban centres, sustaining over hundreds of families, who now rely on quarry-crushing which now provides an alternative to both employment and product. Spiwe Njanji (45) also sat on under a small tree crushing small stones into quarry with a four pound hammer after Musasa's 14-pound hammer had done its bit. Njanji's left hand had missing finger nails wounds from the trade because as she crushed the quarry into three quarter pieces which are used for concrete mixture, her fingers without any protective clothing met the wrath of an angry hammer.

> "I do not cry, it is the hazard of the trade. My son knowing that if I do not crush these stones I will be left with no money to pay rentals is medicine enough to heal the wounds", she averred.

Not far away is her three year old Tapiwanashe playing with his friends, some of them old enough to be in school but because of the hardships that their parents face owing to the economic meltdown they wonder aimlessly while their mothers concentrate on the work at hand (Mhlanga 2014).

Tapiwanashe had his eyes stitched after being hit by a flying piece of stone which had escaped the wrath of the hammer. His mother Musasa said she had to spend a few weeks away from work nursing her son at home but now she was back with her child to face the same vulnerabilities. Twelve wheelbarrow loads of what is known as three quarter quarry stones cost US$120 and it takes an entire week for one person to crush and almost a month to get customers who are now scarce because of tight competition. They also sell by products like quarry dust which sells for $1 for a 20 litre tin. Some of the stone crushers normally work in gangs with women saddled under some trees which divide shade against the harsh sun while a few men go up the little hills dotted in the suburbs to haul boulders down to the women (Mhlanga 2014).

John Maturo who led one such gang of mostly female members, said he lost his job when explosive manufacturing company Dyno Nobel collapsed and had failed to secure a job in the formal sector forcing him into crushing quarry for a living.

> "I have five children, a wife and other siblings who need school fees, food and other basics like shelter and I have to provide for them", he said.

Rentals for a room in Mbizo, Kwekwe, range from US$50 to US$70 per month excluding utility bills while school fees at primary level in nearby schools attract US$40 per term and US$80 for secondary levels. Maturo said he would need over US$300 a month to afford his close and extended families just the basics such as food and shelter accommodation. But Maturo is not alone as many people lost their jobs when sole ammonium nitrate fertilizer producer Sable Chemical embarked on voluntary retrenchment exercise aimed at streamlining operations at the loss making firm. Hundreds others will join the long list of unemployment from Zimasco following another offer of voluntary retrenchment as the mining company was also shedding jobs. Alice Levi a widow with children to look after laughs at suggestions that instead she should go

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out there and hunt for a formal and safer job. She even feels sorry for people who report for formal work every single day saying even after toiling for a whole month some don't even get their salaries.

> "A part from the fact that I don't have any academic qualifications I feel sorry for these who are formally employed because these days most companies are not paying, you work and get nothing at the end of the month" she added (Mhlanga 2014).

Tendai Yagondo who calls stone crushing the new women industry is a bitter woman because for a very long time she had participated in council, parliamentary and presidential elections as a voter yet none of the people she had voted into power seemed to remember her plight or even care to come and help the poor after getting into office.

> "I won't stop voting though because the councillors have left us in peace doing our work. Nobody has come to stop us from doing our work and may be that is the reason I will be in queue to vote in the next elections" she said

Yagondo hoped that at least one day the government would fund them to ensure that they get machinery which will see them crushing stones in a healthy and safe environment.

> "This business is lucrative because the construction sector is growing and we have clients everyday coming to buy from us. Things will only be better for us if government funds us so that we can get stone crushing equipment" she added (Mhlanga 2014)

Kwekwe Municipality Councillor Weston Masiya also believed that stone crushing was big business which should be supported to alleviate poverty.

> "I can tell you that over a thousand of our people are supported by this business. You have those crushing the stone then some who transport and others who use quarry dust to mould bricks. These people after getting income from stone crushing then manage to pay their water bills" he said.

Council had deliberately turned a blind eye on the stone crushers who do not pay any operating licences to the local authority. Building inspectors had also allowed the use of homemade quarry stones for construction especially to the popular high density area. Through physical counting Newsday counted 95 individuals involved in stone crushing in Mbizo alone all with an average of six family members to look after (Mhlanga 2014).

Another 40 individuals who also had families benefiting from stone crushing 'industry' by using wheel barrows and man-powered scotch carts to transport the quarry stones at US$30 per load depending on distance. Garikai Matutu who was constructing a house in Mbizo 15 said it would have been difficult for him to do his slab had it not been for the help of hand stone crushers.

> 'Their terms are flexible and you can negotiate the price unlike say buying from big companies who are by the way a distance from the construction site' he said.

Independence means little to them because they have remained stuck at the bottom of the food chain dangling and hoping one day the ruling ZANU PF party's much touted economic blueprint the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-economic Transformation (Zim Asset) will also cascade to them. Sadly Vice President Joyce Mujuru dampened hopes of a quick fix to Zimbabwe's faltering economy through ZimAsset warning it could take a life time to achieve the programme's objectives. The ZANU PF government was under pressure to deliver on its election promises which include some 2 million new jobs at a time the economy is widely expected to be going south. A liquidity crisis that had held the economy back since dollarization in 2009 shows no signs of easing with cash-squeezed companies forced to shut down throwing hundreds into the already jobless heap (Mhlanga 2014).

Aware of the potentially explosive situation the government now has decided to dampen expectations.

> "Five years is too soon to achieve the objectives of ZimAsset. It is the beginning of a lifetime and can take up to 30 or even 40 years" Her Excellence Vice-President Mujuru told a gathering in Victoria Falls in early June 2014.

After winning a new five year term in office in July 2013 ZANU PF launched ZimAsset-October 2013-December 2018- vaunting the plan as the curse for Zimbabwe's economic woes. So called quick wins under the five year programme were to be implemented between 2013 and 2015 whilst the second phase would cover the period 2016-2018 by which economic growth was expected to top 9.9%. But some hardly 10 months later i.e after the 31 July2013 vote it was clear for all to see that Zanu PF was in a tight corner by failing to stimulate the faltering economy, hence diversionary politics. Hence while some mothers enjoy the comfort of manicured finger nails and flowers from their children on Mother's Day this rare breed of women with no finger nails to talk about toiled like slavesto put food on their tables. It is really sad! (Mhlanga 2014)

The opposition MDC-T party did not take the disappointment of a high unemployment lying down. In case you wanted more details on the story, these arecoming your way in just a moment.

b) Create Promised Jobs(Nleya 2014)

On 31 July 2014, exactly one year after the Zanu PF resounding victory in the 31 July 2013 vote MDC-T[1] youths defied the deployment of anti-police with water canon trucks and staged a demonstration demanding

[1] MDC-T formed in 1999 is the main opposition party in the mainstream politics in Zimbabwe having resoundingly lost in the 31 July 2013 harmonised elections it was widely expected to resoundingly win.

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His Excellence President Mugabe's Zanu-PF government to deliver on its 2013 election promises. The Zimbabwe Republic Police had deployed two canon water trucks on anti-police trucks and other police vehicles near Harvest House, the MDC-T headquarters in Harare (Nhleya 2014).

Police officers armed with truncheons had kept watch and vigil and monitored the protesting MDC-T youths. The MDC-T youths said yesterday marked the launch of a series of countrywide protests to force the government to deliver on the Zanu PF promise to create 2.2 million jobs (Nleya 2014)

Interim MDC-T national youth Chairperson Costa Machingauta told the opposition party supporters that a year after the 31 July 2013 elections government had failed to resolve the economic crisis in the country.

> 'The youths of Zimbabwe will not keep quiet anymore' Machingauta said (Nhleya 2014)
> "They said they will give us 2 million jobs, so we are saying give us the promised jobs, we want a healthy living"
> " The only solution we must provide is action if the South Africans can do it, what can fail us? The time is now no one will liberate us. They were young like us, oppressed like us. The time is now no one will liberate us. Mugabe stole our hope and we are angry" he said (Nhleya 2014)

Mawere (2014) of Newsday made a stunning revelation that many Zimbabweans were turning to "real estate" in the face of soaring unemployment. Details coming your way in just a second from now.

c) More turn to real estate as unemployment soars (Mawere 2014)

Many Zimbabweans were turning to 'real estate' as hardships increased in the face of economic decline that have seen thousands of jobs lost in a space of time with no sign that the 2million jobs promised by ZANU PF in its 2013 elections' manifesto will ever come, jobless Zimbabweans are looking for all sorts of ways to survive. Many unemployed Zimbabweans including university graduates have turned to vending, selling all sorts of wares while some enterprising individuals have turned to their real estate business mostly without proper registration papers. The accommodation agents' business that had hit Harare did not come with risks and losses like vending where vendors had been forced to play cat and mouse with municipal police who confiscate their merchandise and also arrest them (Mawere 2014)

The agents charge various amounts of fees to home seekers ranging from US$5 to US$100. They insist on payment first before the home seekers can see the available houses. Amos Gudyanga who runs a typing and printing business and accommodation agents in the same office said low business had driven him onto real 'estate'.

> "It's good business because the landlords call us and give us the houses to let out. We register home seekers for US$1. So before we show them the available accommodation we are the middlemen between the landlords and home seekers.

Abgail Muteyiwa said the new accommodation agents were rippling off customers as they did not incur any costs in conducting their business.

> "We appreciate that they are providing a service but some of their fees are out of this world."

Tsungai Dembeza concurred and said that some of the agents were charging too high and at times they did not deliver

> "I paid US$30 last month for a house to an agent but all the houses he had did not meet my requirements", she said (Mawere 2014).

A snap survey in Westlea by the Newsday showed that many of this kind of agents were making a killing just by showing home seekers potential accommodation. Merjury Takawira an agent said many people were opting for this line of business as it was easy.

> 'We charge US$20 per room that we would have shown a tenant, but for a full house we charge US$100' Takawira said. (Mawere 2014)

A recent report by the Poverty Reduction Forum Trust noted that many people were now opting for informal trade. Independent economists say unemployment in Zimbabwe is above 90%. However, government statistical agency say unemployment rate is at 11% (Mawere 2014)[With the source of this being a government agency it is not surprising that the information given above is propaganda and not the truth]

Kwinika (2014) from Newsday argued in very strong language that the government should take the stratospheric unemployment rate in Zimbabwe very seriously. Let us give him audience as he prepares to give his presentation coming your way in just a second.

d) Unemployment rate a ticking time bomb (Kwinika 2014)

According to Kwinika (2014) Zimbabwe educational symptom is the envy of many countries in Africa and beyond the African continent. The searching question that all Zimbabweans of average intelligence should ask the policy makers in Zimbabwe is: Is the country not sitting on a time bomb when every year universities and other institutions of higher learning churn out graduates in their thousands who have slim chances of getting employed? We can take pride in the celebrated achievements but for the country to have a litany of grumbling and unemployed graduates is not a good idea at all. What hope is there for any graduate to get a career job when companies are closing down and capacity utilization of our industries is shrinking day in

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day out? When all these things are happening our Universities seem to be churning out more and more graduates to join the ranks of the unemployed. Are we not creating a time bomb by increasing enrolments at university when the labour market is bone dry? The people voted into power do not seem to have an answer to unemployment creation for years to come.

The country's labour market is tottering on the edge of a financial precipice. This is shattering so many dreams and aspirations. People should forget about the official and unofficial national statistics on the rate of unemployment in Zimbabwe and check the reality on the ground. If we buy newspapers and add the vacancies that appear in a month you will realise that they are just grains of sand in an ocean. So what is the solution? If the problem is caused by sanctions for how long should we sing the same song without getting an answer to the problem? It is a shame as a country when degreed people roam the streets joblessly all day and of everyday without hope of ever doing what they studied at University. Our education is slowly losing meaning for so many graduates. The challenges that Zimbabwe faced in implementing the Zisco steel deal makes people wonder if promises made by the Russians and Chinese will ever see the light of day. It is sad to see our country creating a world of highly educated zombies. After the dog eat dog factional and succession wars within the ruling ZANU PF party unemployment would still be there in front of our policy makers with a frozen gaze (Kwinika 2014).

So much about the relevant and related Literature Review and Research Methodology employed to expose and discuss the Research Findings as above. Up next is the Summary of the Paper coming your way in just a moment.

III. Summary

The ignition key to the discourse in this Paper is Table I giving a comparison of the unemployment rates as measured in Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa, Mozambique and Botswana. With 85% unemployment rate in the Sadc region Zimbabwe emerges the country with the highest unemployment rate in the region compared with the regional average of an unemployment rate of 18%. After this Table, comes a statement on the related and relevant Literature Review, Research Methodology and the discussion of the Research Findings exposed following the said Literature Review and the Research Methodology.

Mhlanga (2014) reports that many Zimbabweans are turning to stone crushing to earn a living as the job market crashes in the face of many companies closing shop because the liquidity crunch bedevilling commerce and industry since the announcement of a resounding ZANU PF election victory after the disputed 31 July 2013 harmonized elections.

According to a story reported by Nleya (2014) MDC-T youths in Harare take to the streets to demonstrate against the non delivery by ZANU PF of the promised 2.2 million jobs in the face of many companies closing shop to add to an already high unemployment rate in Zimbabwe.

Mawire (2014) reports that more Zimbabweans turn to real estate business as unemployment soars to stratospheric levels in the country.

And finally Kwinika (2014) argued that with so many university graduates roaming the streets jobless in a country with the highest unemployment rate in the Sadc region the question is what next. Kwinika (2014) warns of Zimbabwe sitting on a ticking time bomb and called on the country's authorities to address the country's unsustainable unemployment rate of 85%.

With the Summary of the Paper done and out of the way up next is the Conclusion of the Paper.

IV. Conclusion

According to Rusvingo (2008), Kenkel (1994) 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 the Research Hypothesis testing is to choose between two of the conflicting Research Hypotheses about the value of a population parameter or parameters. The two conflicting Research Hypotheses are the Null Research Hypothesis, denoted H_o and the Alternative Research Hypothesis denoted, H_I. 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_o and Alternative Research Hypothesis H_I are that:

> 'The Null Research Hypothesis $H_o$represents an assumption or statement that has been made about some characteristic (or parameter) of the population being studied. The Alternative Research Hypothesis, H_I specifies all possible values of the population parameter that were not mentioned in the Null Research Hypothesis (H_o).'

Therefore for this Paper whose title is the Zimbabwe unemployment rate of 85%is a ticking time bomb not only in Zimbabwe but in the Sadc region (2014) the Null Research Hypothesis (H_o) and the Alternative Research Hypothesis (H_I) in respect of this Paper title or topic shall respectively be:

H_o

From a partisan and bureaucratic ZANU PF government perspective the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe is in a relentless southward march to stagnate at 11%. (Mawire 2014).

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H_I

From a non-partisan Independent economist perspective the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe is on a relentless northward march to stagnate at 90% (Mawire 2014).

Given the overwhelming evidence given in this Paper including the Summary which was loud and clear for all to see and hear the Alternative Research Hypothesis namely:

From a non-partisan Independent perspective the unemployment rate in Zimbabwe is on a relentless northward march to stagnate at 90% (Mawire 2014) is to be resoundingly accepted while the Null Research Hypothesis as articulated above is to be resoundingly rejected for lack of supporting evidence (Mawire 2014).

With the exciting Conclusion of the study conveniently out of the way up next are the Recommendations of the study which are primarily designed to address what was not done right vis-à-vis the soaring unemployment rate in Zimbabwe. The Author promises another 'not to miss' part of this Paper. So please do not go away as more details on the exciting Recommendations coming your way in just a moment.

V. Recommendations

Before the Author takes a somersault to address the Recommendation section of this Paper the pertinent question to ask himself is;What is it that Zimbabwe did not do right to create the problem of stratospheric unemployment which is out of sync with the Sadc norm of which Zimbabwe is very much an integral part.

Going back to basics will at least help solve the problem in a way that does full justice to both the offending ZANU PF government and the offended job seeker in Zimbabwe.

- As the genesis to its problems, Zimbabwe, unlike its regional peers such as South Africa and Mozambique, among others, has a horde of unattractive investment policies which are quite user-unfriendly to the foreign direct investors who come to do business in the Sadc region but do not look at Zimbabwe twice but concentrate on our regional peers like South Africa and Mozambique, to name just a few.
- The Table 2 below does not help the cause of Zimbabwe at all. Of the US$10.4 billion brought to the four Sadc countries of Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe it was shared as below:

Table 2 : Zimbabwe share of US$10.4 billion of foreign direct investment brought to the four countries of Zimbabwe, Zambia, South Africa and Mozambique.

Country	Foreign Direct Investment in billions US$	%	Ranking
Mozambique	5	48	1
South Africa	4	38	2
Zambia	1	10	3
Zimbabwe	0.4	4	4
Totals	**10.4**	**100**	

Source: Staff Reporter (2014)

The true but painful story from the data in Table 2 above paints a picture of doom and gloom for Zimbabwe. While Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia were with gold, silver, bronze, respectively as prize money Zimbabwe unashamedly walked away with a wooden spoon as prize money to confirm Zimbabwe was alone in the wilderness while Mozambique, South Africa and Zambia were on cloud nine with happiness and excitement for rich prize moneys thankfully received from the donor community.

- With her paltry 4% share of the US$10.4 billion cake from the donor community Zimbabwe was soon to find herself quagmire in a serious liquidity crunch which gripped Zimbabwe like an Ebola outbreak. The liquidity crunch like Ebola spared no one except itself. The government, industry and commerce, banks and individuals were not spared in the Ebola outbreak.
- As a direct consequence of this humanitarian crisis which spared no one in its wake there was an unprecedented massive closure of companies countrywide resulting also in unprecedented job losses. Hence the stratospheric unemployment rate in Zimbabwe which is out of synchronisation with the Sadc norm. Period. Nothing more nothing less. And this liquidity crunch or crisis had been buffeting Zimbabwe left, right and centre since the ZANU PF resounding electoral victory in the 31 July 2013 harmonized vote.
- But another pertinent question that again begs an answer is: Why only after a resounding ZANU PF government victory announced after 31 July 2013? The answer from the Author is that it is all about the confidence that the foreign direct investors have in a ZANU PF government given its long history of acerbic and unattractive investment policies such as the yet to be finalised 14 year Fast Track Land Reform Programme of 2000 and the controversial Indigenisation and Economic empowerment programme of 2007, chief among others.
- To make matters worse for Zimbabwe which now looks more of a cursed country than any other in the Sadc region is that economy ye Zimbabwe *yaa*

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nherera mwana asina vabereki pakapinda Amai mu politics *dze Zimbabwe mwedzi wa Gunyana* (meaning the trials and tribulations facing the comatose Zimbabwean economy now in its 14th year of economic meltdown have been overshadowed if not worsened by the explosive factionaland succession wars to succeed the overstaying His Excellence President Mugabe. Since August 2014 vultures had been circling in the sky in anticipation of a blood bath sparked by these battles coming ahead of the 2 December 2014 elective congress. More casualities are anticipated and death relief companies like Doves and Moonlight funeral services should be on standby for more burial business during the month of December 2014 going forward).

With the heart shopping Recommendations now conveniently out of the way good customer care and hospitality demands that the Author gives the beloved Reader peace of mind after taking him/her through the rough ride terrain provided by the Literature Review and Research Methodology in this Paper from Introduction to Recommendation. In case you wanted to go away please wait until after the Key Assumption coming your way in just a moment.

VI. Key Assumption

In presenting the Paper to you the Author would, right from the outset, wish to reassure the beloved Reader through and through 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 is to allay any fears by the Reader and to give him/her peaceof mind on the factual contents of this manuscript in the wake of the sombre and solemn atmosphere painted by the footprints of this manuscript.

Therefore, it is as obvious as the sun rises in the east sets in the west that Zimbabwe more than anybody is very much in need of prayers for not only the paralysed industry and commerce and the financial services sector but the multitude of University graduates not only roaming the streets unemployed but forced to do dehumanising menial jobs such as street vending etc. Coming your way in just a moment is this short prayer for Zimbabwe. And the Author[2] being a practising Christian will take the responsibility to lead the prayer for our beautiful country once touted as the bread basket of Africa but now reduced to a hopeless basket case through nothing else but bad governance by the Zanu PF party.

[2] The Author Dr Silas Luthingo Rusvingo is a member of the Church of Province of Central Africa (CPCA), Avondale Parish Church, Diocese of Harare.

VII. Short Prayer for Zimbabwe

Ngatinamatirei Zimbabwe nyika yedu yakaisvonaka samare. Mwari wamasimba ose vanorarama nokusingaperi tinokumbira kuti muyerise nekutonga mwoyo nemiviri yedu munzira dzedu nebasa nemitemo yenyu kuti nemukuchengeta kwenyu, zvino narini tichengetedzwe mumuviri nemumweya, kubudikidza na Tenzi wedu Jesu Kristu. Amen.

(meaning Let us pray for Zimbabwe. Almighty Lord and everlasting God, we beseech you to direct, sanctify and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of your laws and the words of your commandments; that through your most mighty protection, both here and forever, we may be preserved in body and soul through our Lord and saviour Jesus Christ, who is alive and reigns with you; in the unity of the Holy Spirit, the God, now and forever) Amen (Pew Paper 2014).

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