1. Introduction

The MDC believes that peace and political stability are the absolute cornerstones in the construction of a viable state. The party is determined to maintain its non violent approach to a democratically driven transition which will allow the establishment of a new democratic state that is set on a sustainable growth path under an inclusive environment established by the leadership of the party. The immediate objective of the MDC is the transformation of Zimbabwe into a democratic developmental state that serves the interests of all Zimbabwean citizens.

At independence Zimbabwe inherited a small but highly diversified economy anchored on mining, agriculture and the manufacturing industry. The period after independence was marked by significant growth of the economy coupled with expansion in the delivery of social service such as education and health.

The late 1990s saw Zimbabwe going through a significant economic downturn characterized by policy inconsistencies, corruption, uneven development, international isolation and the closure of democratic space. Economically, Zimbabwe’s economy shrank by over 60% between 1997 and 2008 and was characterized by hyperinflation reaching over 240 million percent, a worthless currency, collapse of social service delivery and chronic food shortages. Politically the country regressed into an autocratic state characterized by closure of democratic space, an increase in politically motivated violence and gross human rights abuses, the breakdown of the rule of law and negation of constitutionalism.

Following a disputed election in 2008, political parties formed an inclusive government whose mandate among other things was to put in place a framework to ensure economic stability, craft a new constitution, enunciate a programme of national healing and put in place mechanisms to level the political playing field. Although the formation of inclusive government resulted in a modicum of political and macro-economic stability, the economy remains depressed and new investment is at very low levels. The economic collapse has resulted in high levels of unemployment particularly among the youth, increased levels of poverty and failure of the state to provide adequate basic social services. This has been compounded by policy inconsistencies in government.

The MDC is committed to restoring the political and economic integrity of Zimbabwe and putting the country back on a sustainable development path. As a social-democratic party, the MDC’s values and principles require a development path that overcomes the established pattern of marginalisation and exclusion and establishes social justice for all the people of Zimbabwe.

At the epicentre of this developmental matrix is the enunciation of a broad policy framework, which is forward looking and seeks to genuinely uplift the people of Zimbabwe. The MDC’s experience gained by being part of government in the past four years has enabled the party to fully appreciate the complexities of state management as well as understanding the magnitude and nature of challenges that Zimbabwe faces. This policy document thus presents the course of action an MDC government will take to ensure economic growth, peace, prosperity and sustainable development in Zimbabwe.
The other major change that is represented by this new policy handbook lies within the MDC itself. In September 1999 the MDC was a fledgling movement comprising elements from several hundred civil society organisations and the trade unions. It is now a sophisticated and substantial organisation on its own with membership and branches in every part of the country. In fact it can legitimately claim to be the only truly national political party at this time. In addition, the party has benefitted from the experience it has gained, both in the struggle and during its time as the largest party in the inclusive government.

This handbook has taken two years to produce and is a product of extensive consultations across the length and breath of the country. It is also the work of many who have contributed their time and expertise to the effort. The MDC is deeply grateful to all who were involved and we trust that this work will help create the foundations and superstructures we require for a new Zimbabwe.

2. Our Vision for Zimbabwe
The MDC’s vision for Zimbabwe is:

A modern, healthy, functional, integrated democratic developmental State with a vibrant, socially just green economy that takes pride at leaving no one behind.

3. National Governance
Over the past three decades Zimbabwe’s record in the areas of democracy and governance has steadily declined. Today, corruption is widespread at all levels of the state. Impunity has become deeply entrenched and the justice system has deteriorated to the point where citizens have lost confidence in key state institutions because of their subversion and perversion. The state has become highly centralized and autocratic and our democracy, the result of a hard fought liberation struggle, has become totally compromised.

The MDC is fundamentally committed to the creation of a state that will consult all stakeholders on all aspects of the management of the country that affect them. It will hold itself accountable to the people at all times and will ensure that all elections are open to all who want to monitor them and witness the procedures and the outcome. We will ensure that Zimbabwe becomes a constitutional democracy in which the rule of law is applied fairly and objectively to all. We are committed to total transparency in leadership and will require all MDC leaders to declare their assets on a regular basis.

Gender will be mainstreamed in all areas of the State and the government administration.

Correcting this state of affairs is not going to be easy or quick. It will also not happen by itself. The people of Zimbabwe, our development partners and the government at all levels, are going to have to systematically commit themselves to this task. Hopefully, this handbook will help with that process by outlining what actions need to be taken in all spheres of government and society to make sure that our governance is raised as quickly as possible to an acceptable level and complies with global best practice.
4. Constitutionalism and the Rule of Law

The MDC has for many years demanded a new constitution for the country. The MDC was born out of a long history of struggle for a constitution that would fully protect first and second generation rights in every way. The Party fully supports the new constitution and will ensure that the fundamental principles it outlines form the basis of the new government. The MDC is committed to the following key principles:

- An Executive that is fully accountable to the people and to Parliament.
- A Constitution that fully recognises the rights of all Citizens including the right to dual citizenship.
- A Bill of Rights that will protect the fundamental rights of all citizens.
- The reform of the Public Service to make it leaner, more efficient and accountable.
- The creation of Defence and Security services that are fully accountable to the people and the civilian leadership of the nation.
- A range of independent Commissions that will oversee the State.
- A fully devolved State with an equitable distribution of resources.

The other fundamental commitment the MDC is making is to fully and faithfully observe and enforce the rule of law. Zimbabweans have come to appreciate that the rule of law is an essential foundation stone and one that almost all forms of social and economic interaction depend on. The MDC is firmly committed to establishing and maintaining a world class Judiciary with complete professional independence and the resources to do the tasks that their position in our society demands of them.

5. The Structure of Government

With almost 70 Ministers and Deputy Ministers, a President and two Vice Presidents, a Prime Minister and two Deputies, the Inclusive Government has been top heavy and expensive. At the same time, Zimbabwe has become highly centralized and the principle of shifting decision making to as close to the people as possible is hardly observed.

To remedy this state of affairs, the MDC has endorsed the provisions in the new Constitution that provide for an executive Presidency, two vice Presidents and a smaller Executive or Cabinet.

In addition, the new Constitution, for the first time, provides for a devolved State in the form of a number of Provincial Assemblies that will comprise representatives of all democratically elected representatives in each Province. The MDC is also committed to supporting all established local authorities that will be granted considerable autonomy, additional functions and resources. In this way government administration and decision-making will be devolved downwards to where people live and make their livelihoods.

Extending this principle, all state funded institutions in all spheres will be given greater autonomy, their own budgets and will be managed and controlled by locally elected and appointed Boards. This will give communities the ability and the capacity to control the institutions that teach their children, provide health and other services and maintain the infrastructures that meet their needs.
6. Institutional Transformation
It is extraordinary that many ministries and departments of government, 33 years after independence, show little or no transformation from their colonial roots. The administrative culture established during 90 years of Colonial occupation is alive and well in Zimbabwe. What is also sad is that government departments, often, although not always, reflect the arrogant and self centred character of the post independence regime that has done so much harm to the country.

MDC has learned while it has been in government, that institutional transformation is not easy. However it starts with leadership at the highest levels of the state who must be required to be open, accountable and responsive to the people’s needs. MDC is committed to these principles and will hold all leaders, in all spheres to such standards. In addition the principle of service delivery, client needs and integrity in all areas of public and private life will be demanded of all public servants.

The MDC is committed to retraining and reorientating the Civil Service so that it becomes more efficient and lean and serves the people with integrity and to the best of their ability. In line with the new constitution all senior civil servants will be appointed on term limited contracts that can only be renewed once.

Ministries that serve the public directly such as Home Affairs, the Police Service, licensing agencies and others will receive in depth training in all aspects of customer relations and service standards. Many government departments have such standards posted on their walls in public places but do not take any heed of their content or values.

7. Role of the State in the Economy
In the past three decades the State has vacillated from neo liberal principles to state control and direction. This has had a disastrous effect on the economy. Business has not known where it stands, the economic policy environment has been characterized by uncertainty and private enterprise has come to live with complete insecurity.

The MDC commits itself to a democratic developmental state that that respects market forces but also ensures that all citizens evenly share economic growth. It will ensure fair and transparent regulation under clearly stated conditions and standards as well as total security of property rights.

The Banking system will be both supported and regulated so as to provide business and individual customers good, cost effective, banking services and security at all times. The Reserve Bank will be restructured and reconstituted so that it can provide support to the banking system while ensuring that banks operate with prudence in all their dealings.

Under the MDC the state will be a facilitator and not a player in the economy. It will act as a referee between the consumer and the private sector, which will become the primary engine of growth and expansion and job creation. The products of such an engine of growth and development will then be used to construct a socially just and caring society that meets the people’s needs in every sphere.
1. **Introduction**

The MDC will transform Zimbabwe’s economy from the ‘dual enclave’, to one that is democratized and where every citizen fully participates and achieves their full potential. This will be achieved through strengthening and sustaining macro-economic stability, leveraging the country’s potential in order to attain efficient, inclusive and pro-poor growth that is capable of generating jobs and uplifting the standards of living of our people.

Economic growth on its own does not ensure human development and poverty reduction unless it is accompanied by rapid growth of productive and remunerative employment. It is not just the size and pace of economic growth that matters, but also the quality and pattern of that growth. The MDC government will ensure that the economy accommodates every citizen, enabling them to participate as an active player whether in the rural, urban or informal sector. This will be made possible by creating value and reaping the benefits of shared growth for a better life.

We believe in the creation of a social democratic state underpinned by democracy, honesty, transparency, accountability, rule of law and constitutionalism, obedient or servant leadership, freedom, non-racialism, non-sexism and solidarity. These values are sacrosanct, indivisible and non-negotiable.

We are a Social Democratic Party that will pursue a social market economy where we will prioritize the use of resources in order to grow the economy and increase the national GDP. The state will intervene strategically in order to achieve equity and social justice in the way that economic and social benefits are delivered to all in our society.

The MDC’s economic vision is born out of a desire by the people of Zimbabwe to achieve genuine transformation and has its origins in the 1999 People’s Convention and has been enunciated in subsequent party policies that include RESTART, RESTORE and JUICE. The central idea is that wealth creation should come before distribution.

To this end, our people’s aspirations are captured in the new Constitution, which promotes “a just, free and democratic society in which people can enjoy prosperous, happy and fulfilled lives.” This will require “rapid and equitable development” and genuine empowerment (including the improved status of women, the disabled, elderly, youth, war veterans and other special groups), through the following specific Constitutional mandates:

(a) A Government that promotes private initiative and self-reliance;
(b) A Government that fosters broad based agricultural, commercial, industrial, technological and scientific development;
(c) A Government that fosters the development of industrial and commercial enterprises in order to empower the citizens of Zimbabwe;
(d) A Government that brings about balanced development of the different areas of Zimbabwe, in particular a proper balance between the development of rural and urban areas; and
(e) A Government that rectifies imbalances resulting from past practices and policies.

These are the requirements of the new Constitution, and in carrying them out an MDC government will “involve the people in the formulation and implementation of development plans and programmes that affect them,” and will ensure that, “local communities benefit from the resources in their areas.” Due to inherited colonial power relations and subsequent neo-colonial, repressive systems, there is a need to restructure Zimbabwe’s economy so as to meet these constitutional obligations.

2. Vision
Our economic vision is that of the creation of a developed, prosperous, inclusive and socially just green economy.

3. Mission
To create an enabling, inclusive, environmentally sustainable economy that delivers food security, happiness, social services, eliminates poverty and creates wealth.

4. Key Deliverables
- Inclusive growth and poverty reduction
- Macroeconomic stability
- Job creation
- Infrastructure development
- Food security and social services delivery

4.1 Inclusive Growth and Poverty Reduction
Economic growth is a necessary but not sufficient condition for social-economic development. The MDC government will seek high-quality, pro-poor, shared growth, which results in poverty reduction, job creation, and socio-economic development with a bias towards women and youth participation. Fundamental changes will be made to achieve pro-poor growth, and to create jobs needed to accelerate human development, especially given our country’s inherited race, class, gender inequalities and environmental problems. All policies and projects will be judged by the extent to which they are genuinely pro-poor and capable of creating jobs, improving women’s lives, and nurturing our ecology.

The MDC will target a double digit growth rate. The principal drivers are going to be mining, tourism, manufacturing, agriculture, infrastructure, consumer-oriented industries and small and micro enterprises and the informal sector. These will be the key sectors responsible for raising output, each growing in excess of 10% per year.

4.1.2 Cluster based development
This economic policy is driven by inclusive (shared) and pro-poor growth, which leads to economic transformation and improves people’s livelihoods. Under MDC, growth will be generated from nodes and economic clusters, based on regionally specific economic activities. Prosperous growth nodes will be created across Zimbabwe to reduce the geographical distance between the enclave and the informal economy and especially communal areas.
These clusters will be transformed into activities that assure backward-forward linkages that benefit all Zimbabweans. Job creation is the most direct way to ensure prosperity. A balanced development trajectory will be created to better connect the different sectors using strategic infrastructure investment.

The main sources of national economic growth between now and 2018 will be agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism, information and communication technology, while other consumer services and construction will make an increasing contribution. Cluster based development will mean that when these clusters start to be economically active, there will be a competing demand for services such as improved transport infrastructure which will create jobs in the peri-urban areas and growth nodes.

4.1.3 Rural Transformation
The MDC acknowledges that a majority of the Zimbabwean population resides in rural or communal areas. The challenges affecting the rural areas are poor infrastructure, financial exclusion, lack of essential social services, food insecurity, unemployment, lack of markets and extreme poverty. Socio economic indicators remain negative for the Rural Population 33 years after independence.

To address these challenges, the MDC government will;

- Treat agriculture as a business and give all who use the land to make a living the security of ownership.
- Encourage and incentivize the establishment of rural based industries to create employment and to spur rural transformation.
- Resuscitate rural infrastructure such as roads, bridges, veterinary services, schools, and telecommunication.
- Ensure the provision of essential services such as healthcare, education, financial services, electricity, for households in rural areas, clean water and sanitation.
- Ensure the provision of adequate clean and piped water and proper sanitation facilities.
- Improve access to markets for agriculture products.
- Introduce wider development initiatives targeting rural communities.

4.1.4 Genuine Upliftment Model and Poverty Reduction
It is evident that since independence, the essential needs of Zimbabwe’s poor have not been met, nor has poverty been treated as a serious constraint to human upliftment. One reason is the overarching focus on Gross Domestic Product (GDP) that has motivated economic policy here and across the world. The MDC will develop a genuine developmental state which will move beyond rhetoric and begin calculating ‘genuine progress,’ in a way that takes seriously ecological and social values.

People’s livelihoods will be improved, starting with food security, decent jobs, affordable primary healthcare and education, access to clean water, sanitation and adequate shelter. These social and economic rights are indivisible and the MDC has advocated for them to be enshrined in the new constitution. The greatest social and economic upliftment of citizens will be achieved through wealth creation associated with investment and the creation of gainful employment. The democratic developmental state will be the catalyst for creating wealth for the benefit of all Zimbabweans.
The current indigenization programme is an accumulation model which does not guarantee the growth of the economy nor the upliftment of people from poverty and underdevelopment. The MDC believes that a genuine upliftment model is ‘a multi-dimensional social process that helps people gain control over their own lives. It is a process that fosters power (that is, the capacity to implement) in people, for use in their own lives, their communities, and in their society, by acting on issues that they define as important.’

Our pro-poor growth approach will be anchored on the following:
- Improved economic governance, which includes the extent to which growth contributes towards social development in health, education, housing and social security.
- Improving the relationship between pro-poor policy and economic growth, mediated through employment creation.
- Creating an enabling environment that encourages wealth creation and entrepreneurship.
- Creating an environment that attracts foreign and domestic investment.
- Creating an environment where security of tenure is uncontested.
- Creating forward, backward and spatial linkages in the economy.
- Ensuring sustainable access to capital for our people.
- Promoting and deepening the role of SMEs.
- Giving incentives for the formalization of the informal sector.
- Investing in education and training in particular vocational areas such as science and technology.
- Redefining agriculture so that it operates on a business model based on productivity.
- Promoting of localization of the economy through genuine community participation, employee ownership schemes.
- Establishing a statutory Sovereign Wealth Fund.
- Enacting legislation of corporate social responsibility.

We believe that the high levels of inequality in the country are largely a result of unemployment and the skewed distribution of wealth. An increase in the income of the unemployed no matter how small will reduce the gini coefficient (a measure of the income gap). This is why creating sustainable jobs is the central strategy in MDC.

At the epicenter of the MDC’s upliftment model is the creation an enabling environment for entrepreneurship to flourish and to extend the right for citizens to own property and claim the protection of the state for their civil, socio-economic and property rights. These rights permit people to enjoy the confidence needed to develop their own capacity. Their activities lead to their improving prosperity and the expansion of the whole economy. Government then more easily collects the taxes needed to invest in infrastructure development and social delivery. It is through this social democratic system that a good government serves its citizens, including the redistributive activities that are required to address inequality.

4.1.5 Mainstreaming Gender and Group Interests
All development policies and programs will reflect gender equality, with the objective of achieving 50% participation in all institutional power positions by women, as well
as the development of Zimbabwe’s infrastructure, housing, land ownership and social services with women’s needs as a priority.

4.1.6 Social Dialogue and Social Contract
The MDC recognizes that it is critical to have institutionalized and legalized dialogue amongst all partners: labour, business, government, women, youths and civil society. We believe that government does not have a monopoly of wisdom to make decisions on behalf of its citizens. Participatory democracy recognizes the importance of putting citizens first. In this regard, the MDC government will establish structures for broad based participation and stakeholder participation. The MDC government will create a legal framework for social dialogue that is inclusive and binding on all parties including the state as opposed to token consultative forums or talk shows that Zimbabweans have previously experienced.

4.2 Macroeconomic Stability
4.2.1 The Financial Sector
The Reserve Bank Zimbabwe will further be reformed to better equip it to deliver on its core mandate of the regulation and supervision of the financial sector and to efficiently play its intermediation role. Monetary policy will be limited in the initial stages in the absence of a domestic currency. The MDC will maintain the present policy and use a multi-currency system as basic means of exchange and with it near total suspension of exchange controls. A close watch will be maintained on both the COMESA and SADC groupings to determine the stage which the MDC government will take Zimbabwe into the Union and adopt the common currency with all the attendant fiscal and monetary restraints and disciplines that are required.

The financial sector will be strengthened, given its very weak performance in recent years. The availability of credit is limited and amongst the most expensive in the world, with a large spread between saver deposit rates and borrower loan rates.

With such high interest rates, it is not surprising that many banks have an increasing number of bad loans on their books, with the loan loss ratio rising from below 2% to nearly 10% in the past three years.

A number of banks remain weak, with high credit risks, deteriorating asset quality and a high percentage of non-performing loans. The uneven distribution of deposits also compound the liquidity challenges in the banking sector. Current vulnerabilities in the sector have eroded confidence, particularly in smaller banks, resulting in a flow of deposits to bigger banks, which are perceived to be more stable. The recent bank failures also call for strengthening of governance in the sector.

In order to maintain and improve financial sector stability, an MDC Government will improve the operations of the financial sector, through:

- Higher liquidity levels;
- Establishing interest rates on a market driven basis;
- Better corporate governance; and
- Good risk management.
4.2.2 Public Enterprises Reform
There are over 75 State controlled public enterprises. Nearly all are operating at a loss or close to collapse. 10 of these institutions have been selected for privatisation in some form and restructuring and reorganization is required for many of the remaining institutions. This exercise will restore the capacity of State enterprise to service the public and provide goods and services.

4.2.3 Opening Zimbabwe for Business
Zimbabwe will become an attractive and secure destination for investment of all kinds. All unnecessary barriers to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) will be dismantled. Focus will be directed towards improving the ease of doing business and improving the investment climate enabling high growth rates making Zimbabwe a preferred investment destination. To facilitate FDI, we will transform immigration, company registration procedures, simplify taxation, visas, residence and work permits, approval of plans, issuance of licenses and permits, allow the free movement of capital, and repatriation of dividends. All laws that discourage or slow the flow of both domestic and foreign capital will be reviewed and aligned to international best practices.

An MDC government will uphold property rights and will not nationalize or expropriate private assets. It will enact an Investment Code that will, among other things, specify certain requirements on the part of investors. To foreign investors, the code will promote transfer of skills to locals; procure locally; transfer technology; commit investors to good corporate citizenship; and respect for our ecological inheritance. Zimbabwe will ratify and uphold all relevant international investment promotion protocols and be affiliated to regional and international investment promotion bodies.

4.2.4 Debt Sustainability and Debt Relief
The current debt burden is not sustainable, and has to be resolved as soon as possible. The MDC government will work with the international community and international financing institutions (IFIs) to accelerate negotiations on debt cancellation, rescheduling, restructuring and forgiveness with a view to reducing the debt service burden on the state to acceptable levels.

When contracting new debt, the MDC government will make sure it will be inclusive, transparent, stakeholder driven and with full parliamentary oversight. New debt will be used to fund development priorities and recurrent expenditure will be funded from the normal fiscal revenue base.

4.2.6 Tax Reforms
The main sources of government revenue will be income taxes (on businesses and employees, Value Added Tax, land taxes, levies, customs and excise duties, royalties and miscellaneous licensing fees). The MDC will carry out a tax review in order to make the tax regime simpler, flatter and less burdensome. It is the intention of the MDC government to use the tax regime to attract major FDI and to make Zimbabwe a hub of investment through a competitive tax regime. Zimbabwe’s current taxation rates are high, which leads to tax evasion. To improve tax compliance, lowered taxes and revised thresholds for PAYE will be required.
4.2.7 Sovereign Wealth Fund
A Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF) will be established. This will be funded from royalties on minerals, shareholding in aluvial diamond mining, budget allocations and other revenue from depletable resources. The SWF will be used to create new industries to replace the depletable resources. A portion will be used to resolve the environmental issues and community socio economic problems.

4.2.8 Fiscal Reforms
Fiscal responsibility will be the foundation of our economic policy. An MDC led government will live within its means. The absence of a credible fiscal framework could undermine the broader macroeconomic policy framework. Government’s level of domestic borrowing will have to be consistent with monetary policy targets.

The capacity of the fiscus to finance social services will be expanded by:
- Growing the economy by attracting new investment.
- Strengthening tax administration.
- Rationalization of government expenditures.
- Increasing accountability in the diamond sector
- The civil service will be reviewed and restructured to ensure that all posts are justified and productive.
- Abolishing the system of revenue retentions by some government departments.

Unless specifically authorized through legislation all revenue collected by or on behalf of government including all fines and license fees, will be remitted to the Consolidated Revenue Fund. No funds from the Consolidated Revenue Fund will be spent without the approval of Parliament.

4.3 Decent Jobs and Labour Market Flexibility
It is our firm belief that every Zimbabwean has the right to employment and equal pay regardless of gender. The greatest economic scourge that afflicts Zimbabwe to date is high unemployment especially among women and young people. An MDC led government will adopt labour market and job creation policies that are aimed at rapidly reducing the unemployment rate. The MDC government will target to create 1 million jobs in the first five years.

4.3.1 Entrepreneurship
While geared towards pro-poor development, MDC will also emphasize the role played by business in the economy. Zimbabwe’s entrepreneurs are the strong drivers of innovation and economic growth. Their success is vital to securing economic growth, creating jobs and ensuring we remain competitive in a global market. Talented entrepreneurs will be supported and given the opportunities they need to establish their businesses. Our support for entrepreneurs will include the following:
- Encouraging a more entrepreneurial approach to economic growth by actively seeking and attracting foreign direct investment, links with small and medium sized local business and direct support for Zimbabwean entrepreneurs.
- Women and youths will be financially supported to start their own businesses, contributing to economic growth and employment.
Launching a ‘Make it in Zimbabwe’ campaign where ‘Proudly Zimbabwean’ products will be showcased to encourage consumption of locally produced goods.

Establishing enterprise and support networks to help unemployed people set up their own businesses. These will offer support and help them make the most of local knowledge and resources while representing their interests to both local and national government.

Promoting growth and innovation, and providing active support to venture capital firms to encourage innovation and new business ideas.

4.3.2 SMEs Development

In Zimbabwe, SMEs are the main source of employment, income, skills and consumable products. As such, the constraints to SMEs growth and productivity can directly contribute to poverty. The elimination of these constraints will be a priority.

Our SMEs policy thrust will aim at a variety of incentives and inducements to assist SME development by eradicating barriers to entry and a level playing field as much as possible for SMEs.

Tax incentives will be offered to businesses and firms outsourcing or sub-contracting their operations to SMEs.

Lack of access to credit remains a major problem for SMEs. With help from financing organisations, we will ensure that the financial sector is able to provide the credit system that the economy needs to grow.

The MDC will work on the establishment of a secondary stock exchange within the next 5 years.

Reducing the tax burden for new businesses and SME sized companies will be a priority. There will also be effective use of the competition regulations to reduce the power of monopoly organisations and to encourage innovation.

4.3.3 Formalizing the Informal Sector

Given the size of the informal sector, there is need to promote formalization and transition to the mainstream economy. To achieve this requires a comprehensive and integrated strategy that eliminates the negative aspects of informality while preserving the significant job-creation and income-generation potential of the informal economy.

The eight key policy areas for enabling transition to formality are:

- Implementing an enabling legal framework.
- Facilitating entrepreneurship and enterprise upgrading.
- Increasing access to finance.
- Reducing costs associated with formalisation.
- Developing skills and vocational training.
- Extending social protection coverage.
- Strengthening the organization and representation of workers and entrepreneurs in the informal economy.
- Extending apprenticeship and work placement opportunities to improve and strengthen ties between businesses and education and training providers.
4.3.4 Enhancing Skills Development
The dearth of relevant skills and the lack of fit between labour demand and supply is a serious development challenge in Zimbabwe. The necessary reforms have to transcend all the levels of education, from early childhood development to tertiary education. Given the critical role of education and training in promoting employability and in enhancing productivity and competitiveness, in gender equity and in poverty reduction, the MDC government will:

- Broaden the scope of early childhood development and care to cover every child.
- Improve the quality of education and training by promoting a partnership and shared approach.
- Foster a pathways approach that caters for the various aptitudes and interests of the students.
- Improve the match between skills demand and supply by encouraging stakeholder participation in the design and provision of education and training curricula.
- Establish a National Training Authority as recommended by the Nziramasanga Commission of 1999, to create a more demand-driven and flexible system at the tertiary level.
- Develop a comprehensive National Skills Development Policy Framework for Zimbabwe.
- Develop a manpower recovery plan for the public sector and undertake sector-based human resource audits.
- Adopt and implement the migration and development policy for skills framework.
- Promote return migration and utilization of Diaspora skills.
- Adopt immigration policies that make it easier to attract skills.
- Engage in co-development programmes with countries with a high concentration of Zimbabweans.
- Improve the teaching of science, maths and technology to enable the country not adopt modern technology, but to join other advanced nations in technology innovation.

4.3.5 Value Addition
Economic transformation can be achieved through adding value across commodity chains. Our minerals should be processed and refined locally where there is a sound business case. Agro-processing must be encouraged in both the agriculture and manufacturing sectors. The MDC government will facilitate investment in entities that promote value addition as an avenue to boosting capacity utilization, increase exports and create employment.

4.4 Infrastructural Development
Under an MDC government infrastructure development will be central to economic development and there will be a special focus on the poor. While the number of cranes in the skies can be one indicator of economic take-off, the MDC believes that it is the duty of a democratic developmental state to build infrastructure in areas that are beyond Zimbabwe’s skyscraper enclave, especially where women’s status can be improved (e.g. in community-oriented projects). Our infrastructure development programme will focus on upgrading and maintaining the country’s physical infrastructure. The programme will be an important source of permanent job creation.
and will also provide the government with a basis to stimulate industrial activity and spur economic growth.

4.3.1 Public – Private Partnerships to Deliver Infrastructure  Our strategy in infrastructure development programmes will increase private sector participation in the provision of infrastructure services to reduce stress on scarce public resources. In the short to medium term, we will focus the following:

♣ Roads – All existing roads will be repaired and upgraded. Improving the state of the roads is important to improve and influence private sector investments. Tolling will be enforced on major roads.

In this regard, it will be critical to employ PPPs and BOTs for the development of our major highways. Examples of major roads that require upgrading are the Beitbridge to Chirundu, Plumtree to Mutare, Harare to Nyamapanda, regional trunk roads.

♣ Energy – For Zimbabwe to develop and compete, we urgently need to address our energy crisis. We need to double our existing capacity to generate sufficient electricity to supply local needs within the shortest time possible. The targets agreed provide for investments to raise power generation to 6,000 Megawatt capacity in the next 5 years. We will also focus on improving efficiency and revenue collection mechanisms at ZESA.

Alternative energy sources such as solar and bio energy will be implemented to increase our power generation capacity. Government will also attract independent power producers through BOTs to boost energy generation.

♣ ICTs– Our telecoms systems will be improved through private sector initiatives. Priority will be placed in infrastructure, development and management (e.g. connectivity, optic, fibre, VSAT, wireless, wireline, VoIP). Our goal is to develop, establish and optimise sustainable ICT infrastructure and broadband to so as to expand cross boarder interconnection and access to internet and to improve the country’s connectivity.

♣ Railways– Our railway network has been neglected with no meaningful investment in the sector since 1980. Under our economic policy, the National Railways of Zimbabwe (NRZ) will be restructured, non-core services will be shed, and concessioning of rail transport will be introduced. Modernization of our rail network will be critical with special emphasis on the provision of quick, safe and efficient rail transport for bulk transportation.

♣ Water– Our water infrastructure needs urgent attention. The Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) will be restructured to address the current challenges. An audit of our water requirements will be carried out and resources will be channeled towards upgrading the water network system to reduce losses and improving the quality of our water supplies. In particular, it is urgent that major dam capacity in all provinces be created including the completion of the Tokwe/Mukosi, Nyangombe, Kondo, Mutange, Sengwa dams. It is also
imperative that a further water pumping, purification and urban storage system be constructed in the urban areas to improve water supplies.

As a result of global warming and the growing insecurity of rain fed agriculture a national plan to increase the area under irrigation will be implemented. To facilitate this, a national programme of dam construction and maintenance will be implemented and a Farm Irrigation Fund will be established by the Ministry of Agriculture.

**Housing** – Democracy starts with a decent roof. An MDC government will prioritise investment in housing with a view to eliminating the backlog in urban housing within the first five years. This programme will create job opportunities and generate significant multiplier effects downstream.

**Air Transport** – The MDC government will privatise Air Zimbabwe and adopt an open skies policy towards other operators with the support of an efficient and low cost aviation system.

### 4.5 Food Security and Social Services Delivery

#### 4.5.1 Agriculture Reform

The MDC will prioritise the attainment of food security for all through a programme to provide support to all farmers, access to markets and sound pricing policies, drought mitigation and through increased irrigation capacity. The MDC government will do the following:

- Give security of tenure to all who use the land to make a living and establish the right of every Zimbabwean to own land.
- Restoration of the land market.
- Equitable and sustainable maximum land size depending on the region.
- A drive to raise yields and productivity across the whole industry.
- Promotion of research and technology adoption.
- Promote the use of GMO technologies where appropriate.
- Promote conservation and sound land management.
- Recognise agriculture as a business.
- Adequate financial support to the industry.
- Ensure easy access to markets.
- Promotion of infrastructure – roads, dams and energy.
- Ensuring women and young people participate fully in agriculture.

#### 4.5.2 Contract Farming and Irrigation

Support to small farmers from state agencies will be resuscitated, and a new generation of skilled farmers will be trained by revitalized Agricultural Colleges and Universities. Efforts will be made to ensure input supply, irrigation development and provision of adequate extension services. Contract farming for strategic crops like maize and wheat shall be given priority and drip irrigation projects for household consumption will be explicitly targeted.

#### 4.5.3 Communal Lands - Status of Communal Lands

The social function of communal land will be protected, while the state revokes its control of communal lands and instead grants communities the power to manage land
under their own jurisdiction. The state shall confer Traditional Freehold rights as
follows in all Communal Areas;

❖ Deed of Grant should be to the family for arable and residential land and should
be given in favour of joint ownership by both spouses; Inheritance will be to the
surviving spouse and then surviving children who can anoint an heir or form a
family trust or company to control the property.

❖ For grazing land and other common land the Deed of Grant should be made in
the name of a Community Trust which may or may not coincide with Village
Development Committees (VIDCOs) who will look after the natural resources
and pass appropriate by-laws with the power to exclude other communities
encroaching on their common property.

❖ The Traditional Councils from village to District level should be incorporated
into the National Judicial system with certain powers including powers to sit as a
Land Board or Administrative Court assisted by Government officials from
Land and Agriculture Ministries.

4.5.4 Model A1 and A2- Leasehold Land (Old Resettlement, A1 and A2)
Subject to the land audit by the Land Commission, any person occupying a piece of
land shall be entitled to the continued occupation and use of such piece of land in
accordance with the lease or other agreement with the State. The State shall give
security of tenure to every person lawfully occupying any piece of agricultural land
on such conditions as may be determined by the Land Commission.

In accordance with the constitution, the MDC government shall ensure that every
person has the right to acquire, hold, occupy, use, transfer, hypothecate, lease or
dispose of all forms of property, either individually or in association with others.

Targets for the Agriculture Sector:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Output</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Current</th>
<th>2014</th>
<th>2018</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
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<td>700</td>
<td>2150</td>
<td>3000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>‘000 MT</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small grain</td>
<td>‘000 MT</td>
<td>300</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>000 MT</td>
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<td>200</td>
<td>400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>‘000 MT</td>
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<td>315</td>
<td>450</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soybean</td>
<td>‘000 MT</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>300</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugar</td>
<td>‘000 MT</td>
<td>400</td>
<td>450</td>
<td>800</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Herd</td>
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<td>5 300</td>
<td>5600</td>
<td>7000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dairy Herd</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>Tea</td>
<td>Tonnes</td>
<td>50 000</td>
<td>70 000</td>
<td>100 000</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

### 4.5.5 Social Service Delivery

The MDC believes that a democratic developmental state has the responsibility to provide affordable and quality healthcare, education and welfare services to its citizens. Where appropriate, communities and the private sector will partner the state in the delivery of social services so as to improve quality and availability. The ultimate aims include free universal primary and secondary schooling; the re-introduction of tertiary education grants; access to free primary health care; free maternity treatment; free treatment of the physically and mentally challenged; free treatment and hospitalization of senior citizens (60+ years); and National Health Insurance to be augmented by private medical aid societies for top-up coverage.

The education system will be transformed to emphasize not only traditional skills and Zimbabwean cultural and historical values, but also the learning of science, technology and ICTs, with education increasingly relevant to the society’s economic aspirations. The welfare system will gradually rebuild grant programmes to ensure the society’s many vulnerable groups, particularly women, children, the disabled and the elderly, are accommodated by a comprehensive and carefully managed safety net.
INDUSTRY AND COMMERCE

1. Introduction
It is generally recognised throughout the world that no nation can eliminate poverty or foster sufficient economic growth without a strong industrial base. In Zimbabwe this creates a special set of problems which have yet to be defined or dealt with and as a consequence, Zimbabwe is still locked into a downwards spiral of deindustrialization that is destroying jobs and making it increasingly import dependent.

The industrial sector has forward and backward linkages with other economic sectors and impacts on economic growth and poverty reduction. The MDC government will prioritise the growth of the industry and commerce sector in order to create increased demand for raw agricultural output. This has the potential to increase output and employment in agriculture, provided the prices are right. Increased agricultural output will lead to increased incomes for the rural poor and, thus, reduce poverty levels. Higher levels of productivity in agriculture provide opportunities for manufacturers of agricultural inputs such as fertilizers and crop chemicals for example. Similar linkages exist to various degrees with other primary sectors such as mining.

The sector is expected to play a critical role in propelling the economy to grow at a rate of more than 10 percent per annum and this will form the bedrock of the country’s social developmental agenda through the creation of jobs, accumulation of national savings and by attracting foreign direct investment.

To meet those goals, the sector has to become more efficiency driven, raising productivity per unit of input (especially of labour and capital). In turn, the MDC government will work on a reform programme to give the country an internationally competitive business environment. The industrial sector is expected to use state-of-the-art technology that is both efficient and environmentally friendly in an effort to make Zimbabwe a dynamic industrial base.

2. Vision
An economy with developed, robust, diversified and competitive industrial base.

3. Mission
Creating the enabling environment for sustainable and equitable economic growth and opportunity for all citizens by promoting private sector development in a socially responsible economy.

4. Key Policy Priorities
   ✶ Industry financing
   ✶ Industrialization, cluster development and devolution
   ✶ The Promotion of SMEs and formalization of the informal sector
   ✶ Value addition and beneficiation
   ✶ Technology and skills development

4.1 Industry Financing
The absence of adequate funding systems that are well resourced and specifically targeted to the manufacturing sector is the biggest drawback for Zimbabwe. The
MDC government, will harness and provide the required resources for the successful implementation of the industry resuscitation programme. Institutions like the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC) will be restructured or remodeled to allow them to provide funding to the productive sectors of the economy. All the funds that the Government will source both domestically and externally will be centralized and not fragmented to ensure visible impact, monitoring and evaluation.

The MDC government will also set up a special Industrial Resuscitation Fund (IRF) aimed at re-establishing Zimbabwe’s position as an industrial hub of the region. This will be financed from proceeds from government revenue and will be carefully managed to curtail leakages.

4.2 Industrialization, Cluster Development and Devolution

The challenges confronting the Zimbabwean economy are rapid de-industrialization, low capacity utilization, obsolete equipment, skills flight, power shortages, lack of funding, infrastructure decay and policy inconsistency. This has resulted in low capacity utilization or total closure of companies. In Bulawayo for instance, many companies closed operations resulting in loss of thousands of jobs in the last decade. Previously economically active towns such as Kwekwe, Redcliff, Zvishavane, and Kadoma have lost their status as economic hubs.

To respond to these new challenges and to effectively participate in the global economy, an MDC government will foster the development of specialized clusters of industrial and commercial firms to help meet local needs. Some of these will be as follows:

- **Railway Cluster:** Centred on Bulawayo this will seek to revive Bulawayo as a major regional hub for equipment and rolling stock maintenance, the supply of essential spares and other materials for track maintenance and operational needs throughout the region.

- **Steel Industry Cluster:** Centred on the new steel works at Redcliff and Chivhu, this cluster will seek to establish both upstream and downstream industries and commercial firms to support the core investments and to diversify end products and enhance beneficiation of the major steel industry resources in the area.

- **Chrome Cluster:** Based on the 10 billion tonnes of chrome reserves, this will target the supply of 25 per cent of world demand for ferrochrome products (3 million tonnes per annum) and the future development of a stainless steel plant in the Kwe Kwe district.

- **Cotton Cluster:** Based on the 300 000 tonne annual production of farmers, this will seek to foster the establishment of ginning, spinning, weaving and dyeing industry so as to enhance the value of the product going into global markets.

- **Clothing Industry Clusters in Harare and Bulawayo:** Based on regional and international demand for high quality finished products, this cluster will respond to market opportunities created by trade policy and will foster the backwards integration with the Cotton Cluster.

- **Tourism Clusters:** These will be located in areas with tourism potential and then integrated into a national system for staff training and development based in Bulawayo. A major cluster will be located at the Victoria Falls as the centre of the Five nations Park.
Motor Industry Cluster: Based in Mutare and Harare this will seek to exploit the regional market for road transport, niche market opportunities for locally assembled vehicles and an ethanol based motor industry.

Fuel Industry Cluster: The region has the potential to import and distribute 1 billion litres of liquid fuels per month to supply 6 regional markets with their essential needs. This will be reinforced by the development of the ethanol industry in the lowveld where up to 120 million litres of fuel will be produced monthly. This cluster will embrace services to distributors, transport and safety industrial products.

Timber Industry Cluster: Based in Mutare this is expected to deal with the potential for 300 000 hectares of plantation forest in the eastern highlands, the products of 3 million hectares of indigenous hardwood forests in Matabeleland and the upstream and downstream needs as well as specialized training at Mutare Forestry College.

This programme will be based on the need to respond to growing identified demands for industrial capacity. All the associated industries will be incorporated into this program if they can demonstrate commercial viability, ability to compete with other players in the region and abroad and comply with tough market quality and delivery standards.

Firms being accepted into this programme will be required to sign up to standards for transparency and good corporate governance principles. In return they will be given specific and targeted support for access to low cost, medium to long term financing, technical support, tax and other start up benefits on an individual basis as well as support for special concessions such as access to energy and other inputs under special negotiated conditions. For example a commodity price index linked power supply agreement with the ferrochrome industry will be established.

One of the key aspects of this cluster driven approach to industrialization will be the development of the whole market chain supporting and taking products from core industrial activities. Gaps and shortcomings will be systematically identified with industry or cluster players and addressed. It is recognised that this programme cannot be implemented without access to low cost financing for all operations and an MDC led government will use its authority and power to secure such facilities and make them available to clusters on an investor friendly basis.

4.3 Promotion of SMEs and Formalization of the Informal Sector
In Zimbabwe, as is the case in many other African countries, SMEs are the main source of employment, income, skills and consumable products for the poor. As such, the constraints to SMEs growth and productivity can directly contribute to poverty. The elimination of these constraints will be a priority under an MDC government.

Our SMEs policy thrust will aim at a variety of incentives and inducements to assist SMEs development by eradicating barriers to entry and a level playing field as much as possible for SMEs.

Tax incentives will be offered to businesses and firms outsourcing or sub-contracting their operations to SMEs.
Lack of access to credit remains a major problem for SMEs. With help from international funding organisations, we will ensure that the financial sector is capable of supplying affordable credit that the economy needs to grow, especially to the SMEs.

The MDC government will establish a SMEs Exchange as a secondary stock exchange.

Given the extent of informalisation, there is need to promote formalization and transition to the mainstream economy. To achieve this requires a comprehensive and integrated strategy that eliminates the negative aspects of informality while preserving the significant job-creation and income-generation potential of the informal economy. The key policy areas for enabling transition to formality are:

- Developing pro poor and job-rich growth.
- Implementing an enabling legal framework.
- Facilitating entrepreneurship and enterprise upgrading.
- Increasing access to finance.
- Developing skills and vocational training.
- Extending social protection coverage.
- Strengthening the organization and representation of workers and entrepreneurs in the informal economy.
- Extending apprenticeship and work placement opportunities to improve and strengthen ties between businesses and education and training providers. To improve the employability of Zimbabweans the MDC government will encourage:

### 4.4 Value Addition and Beneficiation

Value-addition or beneficiation is one of the foundations of this Industrial Policy. Zimbabwe is abundantly endowed with natural resources, which include many industrial minerals and agricultural resources. The challenge facing the country is to transform the economy from being raw resource-dependent to one that enjoys beneficiated products being knowledge-driven, dynamic and diversified.

The MDC government will seek to maximise revenue deliverables from the exploitation of our natural resources through the enhancement of investment in the sector. This will lead to increased capacity utilisation in local processing and value-addition, thus enabling greater integration of the country’s enterprises into the relevant global value chains.

Our minerals should be processed and refined locally. Agro-processing must be the buzzword in agriculture and manufacturing sectors. The MDC government will invest in entities that promote value addition as an avenue to boosting capacity utilization, increase exports and create employment.

### 4.5 Technology and Skills Development

The MDC government, recognising the importance of science and technology to Zimbabwe’s future industrialisation prospects, will seek to restore the country’s capacity for scientific research and technological development and to develop strategies to enhance the adoption and application of science and technology in all spheres of production. The private sector will be encouraged to work with research
and innovation centres to achieve the sort of product and production process advances that help sustain rapid industrial growth in the newly industrialised countries.

Government will thus embark on sustained public-sector building of competitiveness through supportive policies in the area of education, training, science and technology, human-resource development, industrial relations and taxation. Some of these measures include;

- Facilitating technological transfers through enabling foreign direct investment;
- Providing fiscal support to science and technology research and development activities of the private sector;
- Promoting the teaching of Mathematics and Science at all levels of the education system;
- Facilitating teaching and learning at the National University of Science and Technology, Chinhoyi University of Technology and other Science teaching Universities; and
- Enabling SIRDC to commercialize research outcomes.
- Developing a supportive and attractive socio-economic environment to attract back into the country skilled human resources lost to other countries;
- Strengthening the apprenticeship scheme and advanced crafts training;
- Encouraging and promoting pre-employment training schemes and in-service training.

5. Appropriate Trade Policy and Export Promotion

Trade policy and export promotion are key to the expansion of markets for domestically manufactured goods and ensuring international competitiveness in local production. In international trade, government will pursue a policy that will foster fair trade on a competitive basis in global markets, free trade within the SADC region, and full co-operation with any existing and future pan-African trade institutions.

To this end, the Government will deal with matters of access to markets, dumping, or export subsidies from major trading partners. In order to further encourage exports, bilateral, regional, and multilateral trade regimes will be used to ensure that reciprocity is observed in leveling the playing field. The following will be done to boost exports of manufactures;

- Government will continue lobbying for increased market access both regionally and internationally by continuing negotiating agreements which provide for preferential duties on exports to various countries;
- Pursue export opportunities under COMESA and SADC Free Trade Areas, as well as exports into the EU and the Far East;
- Train trade attachés and other staff involved in trade matters in market identification techniques and trade negotiation skills;
- Encourage establishment of private sector testing and calibration facilities to ensure our products meet international standards; and
- Create an enabling environment for quality assurance for goods meant for both domestic and export markets.

The MDC government will maintain Zimbabwe’s membership of the World Trade Organization (WTO) and participate constructively in all its deliberations on world trade arrangements. In particular government will support efforts to reduce subsidies to agriculture in the developed states and the establishment of a more open world
trade system for agricultural products. At the same time the government will seek to strengthen WTO regulations against unfair trade practices such as dumping and non-tariff barriers to trade.

The government will also maintain and strengthen its relations with the COMESA region and ensure that its own import regulations are in compliance with the COMESA regulations. However, the primary regional trade relationship for government will be the one with the SADC region as a whole, and the regulations and market arrangements for SADC will take precedence. In the context of SADC, government will support regional efforts to establish a free trade zone in this trading bloc.

Zimbabwe has special bilateral trade agreements with many countries. These will be subjected to mutual review, and existing agreements will be respected until such review is completed and new agreements signed.

The activities of Zimtrade will be reviewed with the objective of making it autonomous, with local exporters represented on its board and advisory panels, although it will have to operate within the policy objectives of an MDC government. Zimtrade will be funded by a small levy on all foreign trade, and its annual report will be made available to Parliament and all exporters.

6. Conclusion
Implementation of the policy interventions articulated here will see Zimbabwe’s industry and commerce sector contributing significantly to turning around the economy and building towards a $200 billion economy by 2040, becoming the second biggest player in the region after South Africa. Zimbabwe has all the competitive advantages and endowments, which if combined with good and responsible governance from the MDC government, will see the nation, reclaim its dignity and prosperity.
MINES AND MINERALS DEVELOPMENT

1. Introduction
The State controls all Zimbabwe’s mineral resources, according to the Mines and Minerals Act No 38 of 1961 (and Act No 22 of 2001) and allows various leases for exploration and mining. But this legislation will not be sufficient for constructing a social-democratic developmental state, in which mining plays a very different role than it has to date and in which minerals are part of Zimbabwe’s ‘commons’ heritage. Good laws, strong regulation, new taxes and a much more directed policy framework are needed. Our new Constitution provides a clear mandate for the Movement for Democratic Change Mining Policy, specifying “An Act of Parliament must provide for the negotiation and performance of … concessions of mineral and other rights to ensure transparency, honesty, cost-effectiveness and competitiveness.”

The Constitution’s broader ‘Development and empowerment’ mandate is also explicit: “The State must ensure that local communities benefit from the resources in their areas.” The developmental-state mandate is given at both national and provincial levels; each of the ten provincial councils has the responsibility of “planning and implementing measures for the conservation, improvement and management of natural resources in its province [and] monitoring and evaluating the use of resources in its province.”

The so-called ‘Resource Curse’ – in which a small clique monopolises the benefits of natural resource extraction and passes on the costs to society, the political system, the environment and the broader economy must be avoided. According to the Constitution, “The principles of good governance, which bind the State and all institutions and agencies of government at every level, include… the equitable sharing of national resources.” This is also a matter of gender equity: “State institutions and agencies of government at every level must take practical measures to ensure that women have access to resources, including land, on the basis of equality with men.” Finally, there is the ecological dimension to mining in the Constitutional mandate: “to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation; promote conservation; and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting economic and social development.”

In constructing our social-democratic developmental state, the policy measures the MDC Government will follow are also based on the Constitutional values of transparency, honesty, cost-effectiveness and competitiveness. These values motivate the MDC Mines and Mining Development Policy, and they require a profound change in the way our minerals are owned, extracted, taxed, processed, transported and consumed, both within and outside Zimbabwe, so that we transform our rich resource base into sustainable development. Zimbabwe is blessed with considerable resources of strategic minerals.

2. Vision
A transparent, environmentally friendly mining sector that attracts investment and meaningfully contributes to community and national development for the benefit of current and future generations.
3. Mission
To utilize minerals resources for the benefit of Zimbabweans through technically sound, economically efficient and environmentally sustainable methods.

4. Zimbabwe’s Contemporary Resource Curse
In 2009, the mining of diamonds, gold, and platinum represented only a reported 10% of Zimbabwe’s GDP. This represents a profound challenge, because the share of GDP should be much higher given the ongoing world commodities boom. The reported leakages of raw unprocessed minerals and illicit cash, through ‘transfer pricing’ to foreign corporate headquarters have also reduced revenues. Limited beneficiation and value addition activities further reduce revenues from Zimbabwe’s natural resources.

An example can be found in the diamond mining sector. Diamonds were discovered in Marange in 2006 and were taken over by a consortium of local and international companies in 2008. Since then, diamond extraction is estimated to be reaching $3.5 billion per annum. Only a tiny fraction of these revenues reach the Treasury.

Funds from diamonds are being used to finance a parallel government and to support the elements in Zimbabwe that are opposed to a democratic transition. This is a clear example of the resource curse.

Another example of the resource tragedy can be found in gold mining. As the gold price hit a low at $250/oz in 1998, Zimbabwean production was at its peak, and then, as the gold price rose, local production plummeted, only to finally pick up in 2009 after the MDC formed the Inclusive Government and ended the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe’s manipulation of the gold market and foreign currency accounts.

### International gold price, 2000-11

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Price (US$ per Ounce)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2001</td>
<td>250</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2002</td>
<td>275</td>
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<td>600</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>650</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: ZimStats*

### Zimbabwe gold production output, 1997-2010
However, the most striking comparative feature of our minerals exports is that so few revenues revert to the state, or are reinvested, or show up in our GDP (Table 1). These lamentable statistics confirm that Zimbabwe is indeed Resource Cursed as a result of its failure to collect adequate royalties and assure reinvestment. Indeed the State’s current take from resource extraction is the lowest of all 20 resource-dependent African countries. Considered together with capital flight statistics that put Zimbabwe behind only Angola and Nigeria in Africa’s long-term illegal outflows, these are grounds for enormous concern and an entirely different approach to mining policy.

5. Understanding Minerals as ‘Natural Capital’
To make that particular correction, and to further understand the sometimes uneconomic role of resource extraction in Sub-Saharan Africa, a World Bank methodology considers ‘Adjusted Net Savings.’ If, by all accounts, GDP should ideally be corrected to incorporate ‘natural capital’ and ‘human capital’ (traditionally ignored by economists), then four straightforward steps can be taken to measure the genuine health of an economy, an exercise conducted for Sub-Saharan Africa in 2008.

Calculation of Adjusted Net Savings in Sub-Saharan Africa, 2008

Source: ZimStats

The first step is to depreciate fixed capital (wear-and-tear), which reduces Africa’s total savings by 10% of Gross National Income (GNI). The second is to add back investment in the society’s education, which is 3% of GNI. The third is to deplete non-renewable natural resources extracted over the course of the year, which in 2008 was worth 16% of GNI. The final step is to subtract damage done by pollution, which is another 1% of GNI. This leaves Sub-Saharan Africa with a genuine Adjusted Net Savings of -6.5% of Gross National Income, suggesting that a fully-fledged transformation of the entire continent’s economy is in order, given the preponderance of resource dependency. Although precise data are not available for Zimbabwe due to lack of diamond industry transparency, it is surely amongst the worst cases on the continent by this measure. Sub-Saharan Africa’s net negative wealth has been getting worse during the recent commodity boom, with 2003 the point at which extraction of natural resources began generating a net negative impact, according to the World Bank.


As discussed in more detail below, an MDC Government will take great pains to calculate Adjusted Net Savings and other measures of the impact of natural capital extraction on our economy, in order to judge the true value of the mining sector and thus better plan our country’s use of the minerals commons. In order to discourage speculation, for example, there is merit in a ‘use it or lose it’ approach, which has been discussed as the basis for recent mining law and policy, especially in relation to the granting and renewal of prospecting and mining leases. However, as discussed below in detail, the Gaborone Declaration of May 25 2012 offered a different strategy, namely to first measure the full extent of a society’s natural capital so that planning for a more advantageous extraction strategy can occur, not simply extraction as quickly as possible.
Although a great deal more transparency is needed, especially in relation to the billions of dollars that have been smuggled out of Zimbabwe in the form of Marange diamonds and gold, the existing data available about resource benefits and costs confirm the overall concern that mining remains very poorly governed in Zimbabwe, and that urgent changes are required to solve the dual problems of excessive crony-capitalist control of major mineral reserves by politically-connected and military forces on the one hand, and inadequate reinvestment and appropriate extraction by corporations on the other hand. After all, minerals are exceptionally valuable natural resources, being finite and non-renewable, and suffering from fluctuating prices depending upon international market conditions. Prices for metals, for example, were at historic highs in the early 1970s, then collapsed so far that even the 2002-08 commodity boom restored only a small fraction of the earlier price level (Figure 9). Yet in terms of backward and forward linkages, minerals and metals constitute vital raw materials for many of our basic industries and are a major resource for development. Management of mineral resources must therefore be closely integrated with the overall development strategy, given the pros and cons of minerals extraction looked at in broader context.

6. Priorities for Sustainable Development in Mining
6.1 ‘Sustainable Development’, Transparency and Measurement of Natural Capital

There is increasing evidence to suggest that when extracting minerals without systems to capture revenues, mining’s long-term costs may outweigh its short-term benefits. Under an MDC Government, the exploitation of minerals will be guided by long-term national economic goals of improving the standards of living of Zimbabweans and nurturing our minerals commons as an ecological inheritance, including preservation of natural capital so as to pass along opportunities to future generations. The simple phrase used to capture these goals is ‘sustainable development’.

Sustainable development contains within it two key concepts: 1) the concept of ‘needs’, in particular the essential needs of the world’s poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and 2) the idea of limitations imposed by the state to protect the environment’s ability to meet present and future needs.”

Although the Resource Curse presents a severe and often fatal threat to sustainable development, the MDC Mining Policy is nevertheless committed to the proposition that when planned and managed well, the development of the state’s mineral commons can result in much-needed employment, rural development, secondary industries providing services to mining operations, and downstream processing industries. A much stronger state role will be necessary, though not the kind of crony-capitalist state facilitation of the Resource Curse that characterised the past decades. Existing state agencies, including the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe as presently constituted, will need extensive restructuring so they may play a constructive role in the sector.

The criteria for ‘sustainable development’ the MDC Government will bear in mind, are the rights of future generations to the natural resource wealth of Zimbabwe; the overriding priority that we will give to poor people’s needs and interests; and the recognition of environmental limitations to the way we generate economic
development. The prior era of production without respect for natural assets, or without regard to pollution and its consequences is definitely over.

As the discussion on natural capital and socio-ecological problems above demonstrates, the MDC Government aims to achieve the best use of available mineral resources through scientific methods of extraction, beneficiation, pollution abatement, social development, and economic utilization. The objective is to prospect, extract, produce, add value, and utilize mineral and metal products in an efficient, competitive, socially-sensitive and environmentally responsible manner, while respecting the needs and values of other resource users and maintaining or improving environmental quality for present and future generations.

The four Constitutional mandates for legislating changes to mining practices in Zimbabwe are critical. The first two, transparency and honesty, are paramount given the extent to which Zimbabwe suffers from cronyism and resource leakages. To these ends, the MDC Government will take a lead in promoting both the Gaborone Declaration and the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative. The first was adopted by host government Botswana, as well as nine other signatories – Gabon, Ghana, Kenya, Liberia, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, South Africa, and Tanzania – in May 2012. The Gaborone Declaration sets out three strategies which are the first step towards transparency in resources management that our Constitution requires of us to:

- Develop institutional arrangements to strengthen the implementation of natural capital accounting.
- Develop science-based methodologies on an experimental basis for ecosystem accounting as a complement to GDP and corporate performance.
- Pilot and demonstrate the economic, social and environmental aspects of scaled up and integrated approaches to natural capital accounting.

An MDC Government will immediately move to endorse and implement the United Nations system of natural capital accounting.

The other high-profile initiative for responsible mining that Zimbabwe has endorsed for diamonds is the Kimberley Process. Although there remain concerns that the Kimberley Process does not have adequate systems to monitor the proceeds from diamond mining, and Zimbabwean civil society still alleges that Marange diamonds are ‘blood diamonds’ in view of the violence and dispossession associated with their extraction, the MDC Government will continue to make the Kimberley Process a more rigorous tool, not only for Zimbabwe but everywhere.

The MDC Government will ensure that there is no future abuse of natural resources for political purposes. Transparency also requires that both mining companies listed on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange, as well as many of the others operating in Zimbabwe, open their books in the manner EITI recommends, as a part of genuine Corporate Social Responsibility, so that the entire society can better understand the full range of resource extraction benefits and costs.

The most difficult of these corporations include those involving politically- and militarily-linked figures in Zimbabwe, privately held companies, Chinese joint investment partners and their allies in Israel, India, Dubai and other sites where Zimbabwe’s Marange diamond wealth is being illicitly benefited.
As a result, firm legislation governing the granting and renewal of mining leases will be issued in which the MDC Government makes explicit our mining criteria. An MDC government will immediately review all mining claims, rights grants and concessions in a systematic and transparent manner. It will only give permission for the exploitation of mineral resources in order to:

- Support sustainable development, as defined above.
- Generate revenue for the state, to be held in part within a sovereign wealth fund.
- Ensure that the extraction process is cost-effective, efficient and not wasteful.
- Assure that resources extraction leads directly to human and social development in areas from where minerals are being exploited.
- Integrate the mineral resources strategy with developments elsewhere in the economy, with particularly strong linkages to the manufacturing sector that make it more competitive through lower-priced raw materials and the supply of equipment and services to the industry.
- Guarantee transparency and accountability in the reporting of activities and results by all stakeholders in order to create a culture of good governance of this national resource.
- Underpin the development of the mineral industry with international norms of best mining practices and good governance.

These are the essentials of the MDC’s Mineral Policy, which must be established and maintained in order to create an environment where the mining industry grows and contributes to economic development at levels commensurate with its potential.

7. MDC Mining Policy Priorities

The MDC Mining Policy aims to transform the mining sector to become the key engine of sustainable economic development. This is especially as the mining industry is considered the sector that will provide much of the initial impetus for the growth of the economy.

In the short term, an MDC government will enact new legislation and issue directives that will include the following priorities:

- Join the Gaborone Declaration and Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative immediately so as to establish leading-edge provisions for transparency and honesty in natural resource measurement, planning and management.
- Formulate laws that will encourage FDIs. FDIs will ensure that all minerals are mined at a much larger scale. The presence of Foreign Direct Investment will also increase the chances of local value addition and other forward linkages. Apply the measurements of natural capital in a manner that assists state decisions on the leasing and renewal of mining rights.
- Inaugurate the Sovereign Wealth Fund (SWF). Every mining company will be obligated by law to contribute a certain percentage of their profit to this fund. It will essentially be used for infrastructure development and provision of other social amnesties at a national level. The actual percentage will be stipulated in an Act of Parliament.
- There shall also be the establishment of Corporate Infrastructure Support Programme. Every mining company will be obligated by the law to contribute to this community fund which will be used specifically for community
development. An Act of Parliament will be put in place to set its parameters and its modus operandi.

- Develop a competitive regulatory system and tax regime within a two-year period.
- An MDC government will provide support to the small-scale mining industry and also regulate and formalize the operations of the increasing number of illegal panners.
- Increase the contribution of the mining sector to the fiscus, through more appropriate taxation and royalty measures. Provide investment opportunities to Zimbabweans who intend to participate in the minerals industry.
- Ensure all large and medium scale operations have adopted internationally recognised Occupational Safety and Health provisions.
- Increase environmental protection oversight at each mining operation.
- Assure the maximisation of community welfare in areas subject to mining.
- Provide forward linkages so that the economic benefits of mining are explicitly passed along through beneficiation and more competitive supply of raw materials to upstream producers.
- Re-establish the human resource development capacity for Zimbabwe within the next two years.

8. Additional Mining Policy Measures

8.1 Basic State Responsibilities

The right and power of prospecting for and mining all minerals (as well as mineral oils and natural gases) is vested in the state. In considering this inheritance as a commons, the state has a duty to:

- Calculate the full benefits and costs associated with minerals as non-renewable natural capital, including the full panoply of social, environmental, economic and political consequences of mining in particular settings.
- Generate an overall plan in each province for mining based upon the latest available geological and cartographic information, analyses of benefits and costs, as well as social surveys and mandatory environmental impact assessments.
- Preserve mining rights based on a life-of-mine model for large and medium scale mines, and offer small-scale mining titles on the basis of minimum work requirements that are supervised and assessable.
- Establish systems for transfers of mining titles through the mining commissioners’ offices in a simple and efficient manner.

8.2 Additional state interventions

The MDC Government recognises the investor’s need to recover exploration and development capital, achieve a return on investment commensurate with the risk, and in the case of foreign investors, repatriate profits. The last comprehensive exploration of national resources was done in 1968 and as such the MDC government will provide incentives for the private sector, in partnership with government, to conduct exploration that will determine the quantum of Zimbabwe’s minerals. The following measures shall be put in place immediately;

8.2.1 Gold

Fidellity Refineries will be recapitalised within the first 3 years of an MDC led government so that all refining is done locally. Specific measures will be put in place
to prevent environmental damage often caused by illegal gold panners, *(makorokoza)* whose activities will be regularised through the issuing of licenses.

### 8.2.2 Platinum
A conducive investment climate will be created to attract foreign investors with a clear plan for spatial development and the local processing of platinum that will result in equitable sharing of proceeds.

### 8.2.3 Diamonds
A Diamond Act will be enacted whose objective will be to give ownership of all diamond concessions to the state, the creation of a diamond agency, a diamond regulator, and which also defines the diamond stream- beneficiation, compensation for communities etc. A school of diamonds will also be immediately established under an MDC government. Measures will be put in place to curtail the smuggling of diamonds and the establishment of a credible and transparent international marketing framework.

### 8.2.4 Methane Gas
The MDC government will reassert total ownership and the right to finding a suitable partner for the exploitation of methane gas with a view to spurring spatial development.

### 8.2.5 Iron Ore
Zimbabwe is endowed with rich iron ore resources with Mwenezi having the world’s biggest iron ore reserve. The MDC government will create concessions to attract investment that will generate spatial development and jobs through beneficiation of iron ore.

### 8.3 Granting of Mining Leases
Exploration permits and mining leases may be obtained by any Zimbabwean of 18 years and above or their agent on payment of the appropriate fee. Any company registered in Zimbabwe may also acquire exploration and mining leases. The participation of Zimbabwean nationals in economic activities including mining shall be encouraged. This will be achieved through initiatives that enhance the achievement of social-democratic development objectives for government and investors without compromising the growth and development of the sector and the economy.

### 8.4 Indigenous, Small-Scale Mining
The MDC Government will especially encourage the participation of Zimbabweans in the minerals sector. The MDC is committed to the growth and development of the small-scale mining sector and will develop programmes to enhance the commercial and technical viability of small-scale mines. This will entail partnerships between small-scale miners, the large-scale private sector, and academic and research institutions.

### 8.5 Gender Equity
Because of traditional patriarchal barriers to women’s meaningful involvement in all aspects of mining, gender equity will be a crucial priority for state encouragement of sustainable development of mining.
8.6 Minerals Beneficiation
There are sectors such as gold where beneficiation is at the level of production of the mineral, and some have greater benefits after processing and value addition. The MDC government will thus strongly push for local value addition as it will have spin-off in terms of employment creation, circulation of cash locally, development of service related sectors including public infrastructural developments. At the same time, mineral producers are not necessarily the same investors in value addition enterprises. The linkage between minerals industry and the manufacturing industry must be strong to allow for down-stream processing industries to develop. Therefore the desire of the MDC government will be to:
- Increase the benefits derived for mineral exploitation through beneficiation and value addition before export.
- Ensure that the electricity is reliable and competitively priced to support the mineral beneficiation industries.
- Encourage private sector and tertiary institutions to undertake and commercialise applied research in mineral beneficiation and value addition.
- Provide support services and promote the establishment of central custom processing facilities to ensure growth and development of the small-scale mining sub-sector.
- Develop a mineral beneficiation and value addition framework for each mineral within a two-year period.

8.7 Minerals Marketing
Currently, the marketing of minerals is regulated by the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ) Act Chapter 21:04. Once it is restructured and transformed, the MMCZ has an important role to play in the marketing of minerals in sectors where there is no capacity to market the products on their own.

In addition the MMCZ will have the responsibility of monitoring global markets for all minerals and precious metals and for advising the Government on market trends and conditions. It will also have responsibility for supervising the market activities, export proceeds and receipts of all mining companies.

8.8 Human Resources
The minerals sector has a great potential to create employment through mine development and the secondary industries that service the mines and mining communities. The MDC Government will promote the development of local capacity to handle all aspects of the minerals industry, and will work towards a harmonious working relationship between employers, employees, communities and environmentalists so as to improve industrial and community relations. Support will be given to human resource development initiatives that stress the additional skills that a sustainable-development approach entails. Part of this is the essential human relations task of eradicating barriers to gender equity. There shall also be a revival of the apprenticeship method that will ensure the continuous availability of skilled personnel. Government is committed to the total eradication of the use of child labour in the minerals industry and will establish decisive, prohibitive penalties.

Immigrant workers can be a source of both invaluable expertise and the source of local grievances if local, qualified Zimbabweans are passed over for employment. In general, the mining industry will utilise local labour before engagement of expatriates is
considered. In cases where local expertise is not available, an application to engage expatriates should be accompanied by a training programme for Zimbabweans to understudy the experts, with a specific time frame for the locals to take over. Government will continue to review conditions faced by migrant workers with a view to minimise adverse social implications to Zimbabwe and other Southern African countries.

9. Regulation of Mining Health, Safety and the Environment
The MDC Government will be responsible for inspecting mines, including close cooperation with a reformed National Social Security Authority on occupational health and safety. The MDC Government will:

- Partner with employers, employee representatives and environmentalists to promote world-class occupational safety, health and environmental initiatives.
- Work closely with employers, labour organisations and women’s groups to address HIV/AIDS at mining locations.
- Regulate workplace compensation for disabilities sustained at work, in tripartite collaboration with employers and labour.
- Provide incentives to the mining industry for the provision of acceptable housing for employees and their families close to mines, so as to prevent migrant labour.
- Ensure employers establish sound working environments, including the provision of protective clothing, proper tools and equipment, and adequate training for the workforce.
- Apply a polluters-pay principle in the management of the environment, as well as prohibitive fines to prevent pollution, using international best practices and where for historical reasons, those responsible for pollution cannot be identified, the state will assume responsibility for environmental rehabilitation.

10. Conclusion
The MDC Government is committed to the transformation of Zimbabwe’s rich mineral potential into genuine sustainable development. This entails several critical shifts from the prior government’s crony-capitalism and also from the even longer history of colonial and corporate abuse of Zimbabwe’s people and environment. The critical steps the MDC Government will take forward in policy thinking, are too:

- Move to transparency and honesty in mining, so as to achieve a more efficient and competitive system for mineral resource management.
- Put in place measures to eradicate leakages of resources and revenues, which are being adversely affected by the current mining regime.
- Advance the notion of sustainably-developed mineral commons in which Zimbabwe’s resources are not only owned by the State for the benefit of the society as a whole but are also considered as the sacred inheritance of future generations.
- Measure natural capital so as to better protect our social and ecological heritage, which may entail temporarily leaving resources in the soil or increasing state regulation to ensure broader objectives are respected.
- Address a variety of related policy needs associated with making Zimbabwe a world leader in sustainable mining development.

To take these steps, an alliance is needed between the MDC Government, responsible mining businesses, organised labour, communities, women’s groups and
environmentalists, along with regional and international supporters, to ensure that the extensive new policy commitments above are respected.

The residual unsustainable, under developing features of Resource-Cursed mining in Zimbabwe can only be addressed in a unified way, with the full commitment that comes from a social-democratic developmental state committed to sustainability.
TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY

1. Introduction
The MDC acknowledges the relevance and contribution of tourism to the economic and social life of the country. To that end, an MDC government will support the development of tourism as a key economic sector, which contributes to the economic growth of the country and the quality of life of its citizens in a sustainable manner.

An MDC-led government will seek to develop and market Zimbabwe as a tourism destination of choice. It is common cause that uncontrolled and unplanned growth will have negative social, economic, cultural, and environmental impacts on the country’s natural heritage and as such, the MDC government will implement a comprehensive policy to bring about positive economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits to the country.

The MDC government will strive to position tourism as a pillar of economic growth that embodies eco-tourism and culturally sensitive tourism management practices.

To attain maximum benefit from the tourism sector, the MDC government will ensure that the country enjoys peace, stability and development and will work towards the restoration of Zimbabwe’s image regionally and internationally.

2. Vision
To make Zimbabwe the Eden of Africa.

3. Mission
To build a tourism industry that embraces the authenticity of the community, celebrates its local distinctiveness, and contributes to the overall sustainability of the Zimbabwean economy.

4. Key Policy Deliverables
- Establishment of a safe and secure environment.
- Aggressive Tourism Marketing.
- Liberalization of the visa system for easy access into the country.
- Modernization of tourist infrastructure and other facilities.
- Promotion of eco-tourism.

5. Policy Interventions
5.1 Promoting Robust Marketing of Zimbabwean Tourism
The MDC government will comprehensively promote tourism in and beyond Zimbabwe and will:
- Ensure that the message of Zimbabwe being a safe and peaceful destination is recurrent in all the material generated to market the country.
- Establish Zimbabwe tourism information centres in major markets in the EU, Africa, US, and Asia.
- Use embassies as tourism promotion and information hubs.
- Enhance the role of the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority to enable it to play a leading role in marketing Zimbabwe.
- Enhance partnership with the private sector in the marketing of Zimbabwe through the Zimbabwe Tourism Authority.
Develop and market tourism in ways that reflect and celebrate the cultural and social diversity of Zimbabwe

5.2 Promoting Social and Eco-Tourism

The MDC government will apply social democratic principles to actively involve the local community in planning and decision-making. Of major importance is to ensure social equity in tourism. To this extent the MDC government will:

- Ensure that tourism does not limit access to public areas or areas of cultural relevance for local communities.
- Promote tourism that maintains and encourages social and cultural diversity.
- Ensure that the tourism sector uses cultural heritage resources in a way that maximises the benefit to all, while ensuring that those resources are protected for the use of future generations.
- Ensure that all large scale tourist ventures contribute to a Corporate Infrastructure Support Programme that will be utilized for community development.

5.3 Safety and Security Issues for Tourists and Hosts

The MDC strongly believes in the security of persons. For this reason an MDC government will put in place mechanisms to guarantee security of tourists and their hosts. It will ensure that:

- There is thorough security provided in all tourist zones.
- Hospitality best practices in the tourism industry are adhered to.
- There is sound infrastructure that ensures safety of tourist such as road and rail and air transports services.

5.4 Tourism for Economic Development

The MDC government is committed to maximizing the economic benefits of tourism to Zimbabwe particularly for those communities in the vicinity of resort areas, as entrepreneurs and suppliers of goods and services to the tourist industry, and as customers of tourism. This will be achieved through maximising local economic benefits by increasing linkages and reducing leakages, by ensuring that communities are involved in, and benefit from, tourism by adopting pro-poor strategies. The MDC government will:

- Plan initiatives and investment to enable tourism to contribute to the broader national economic development strategy.
- Exercise a preference for business and land tenure arrangements that directly benefit local communities and/or conservation.
- Liberalize the visa system to ensure easy access to Zimbabwe in the hope that the number of visitors into the country increases.

5.5 Promoting a Business Approach to Tourism

Recognizing the opportunity for the tourism sector to contribute to overall GDP growth, it is essential that capacity development to identify and encourage commercial responses to this opportunity be put in place. The MDC government will:

- Provide appropriate and sufficient support to tourism businesses, especially micro, small and medium enterprises.
- Encourage business partnerships between foreign entrepreneurs and local and emerging entrepreneurs.
Ensure the growth of the tourism sector as one of the major sources of employment in the Zimbabwe particularly in the resort towns.

5.6 Elimination of Negative Tourism

The MDC government will continuously assess the social impacts before developing tourism and throughout the life cycle of operations in order to minimise negative impacts and maximise positive ones. This means that the MDC government will:

- Establish guidelines or a code of behaviour for visitors and tourism operators in order to minimize visitor impact and maximize enjoyment.
- Combating the exploitation of human beings, particularly the exploitation of children and vulnerable residents, through abusive forms of tourism (e.g. sex tourism).
- The exploitation of human beings in any forms, particularly sexual and when applied to women and children, should be energetically combated with the cooperation of all concerned.
- Negative social and cultural impacts associated with tourism, such as increased crime, drug and alcohol abuse, youth delinquency, should be monitored and be proactively addressed in cooperation with the community.

5.7 Promoting Environmental Sustainability, Enhancement and Conservation

The MDC government will assess environmental impacts prior to developing tourism and throughout the life cycle of tourist operations. A priority will be to ensure that negative impacts are reduced to the minimum and maximising positive ones. The following principles will be followed:

- Ensuring that the tourism sector conserves biodiversity, ecosystems and landscapes, and where appropriate restore it. Agencies in tourism will discourage the purchase of products that exploit wildlife unsustainably or contribute to the destruction of species or habitats (e.g. some handicrafts; bush meat).
- Considering the volume and type of tourism that the environment can support there is need to examine ways in which hotels and guests can assist with the conservation of natural heritage, for example through limiting litter.
- Respecting the integrity of vulnerable ecosystems and protected areas.
- Promoting education and awareness for sustainable tourism for all stakeholders.
- Ensuring that the tourism sector uses resources sustainably particularly energy, water and natural materials.
- Managing waste responsibly by providing compatible disposal facilities. Avoid pollution by using environmentally friendly chemicals, and by using biodegradable soaps and detergents.
- Encourage visitor behaviour that respects natural heritage and has a low impact upon it.

6. Eco-Cultural Tourism

The MDC government will market tourism in ways which reflect the natural, cultural and social integrity Zimbabwe, and which encourage appropriate forms of tourism. The MDC government will facilitate local authorities to identify cultural heritage resources in local areas and where there is sufficient demand from tourists and will work with the local community to develop them as sustainable tourism attractions. Consider mission settlements, sites of slave occupation, festivals, struggle-related monuments and places, rock art sites, cultural monuments, food, drink, arts and crafts, music, dance and storytelling.
The MDC government recognise that our cultural heritage should not only be assessed in economic terms, and that tourism can create revenue from cultural heritage, traditional ways of life and wildlife and habitats. We will encourage the use of local guides, and encourage them to continually improve their knowledge and ability, to ensure that the community speaks for itself and to increase the revenues going into the local community (by higher fees for quality tours). The government will also ensure that communities are involved in monitoring and reporting on tourism's economic contribution to the community and to plan for its expansion. The MDC government will also facilitate the development of a local social contract for interactions and behaviour between the local community and tourists (including responsible bargaining), developed with the participation and contributions from the community.

7. Resort Tourism
7.1 Promoting Zimbabwean Resorts
Zimbabwe has world-class resorts such as Victoria Falls, Great Zimbabwe Monuments, Mana Pools, Eastern Highlands among others. The MDC government will create a framework for investment in the maintainance of these resorts in order for them to continue to attract both domestic and international tourists. Infrastructure development, safety, health, and conservation will be given priority.

7.2 Promoting Undiluted Cultural Tourism at Resorts
The MDC government will promote diversification in cultural tourism, community based tourism, and township tourism as well as investment in wildlife based supply chains. Zimbabwe has rich cultural history that is depicted in its various cultures such as Tonga, Ndebele, Karanga, Ndau, Manyika, Shangaan, etc. Investment in these products and related services that depict undiluted original cultures, and link to other Ubuntu cultures in the region, to create a regional package is most likely to be a value chain of the future.

7.3 Curio Development and Sales to Tourists
The MDC government will support the production of curios in an environmentally friendly manner and tourists will have the opportunity to purchase locally produced crafts and curios. The MDC government will support the development of sustainable local handicraft enterprises by assisting with improvement of design, marketing, and production and packaging skills for craft workers in relation to market demand.

8. Wildlife Tourism
8.1 Hunting and Fisheries
It is recognised that for many reasons Zimbabwe has become the centre of the hunting industry in Africa. A similar situation exists in respect to the game fishing industry and it is accepted that this has considerable potential if it is managed properly. To this end the MDC government will revisit the CAMPFIRE and Department of Fisheries to ensure that they are geared towards activities that benefit the industry and local communities.

In the past 30 years the hunting industry in Zimbabwe has become corrupt and dominated by crony operators. This problem will be dealt with by the adoption of an open, competitive and transparent system of the purchase of limited term leases for
hunting and tourism purposes on State land. The Parks and Wild Life Management Authority will manage this system.

It is recognised that the fishing industry, both for sport and recreation as well as commercial purposes is based on a limited resource, which must be carefully and scientifically managed. To this end an MDC led government will upgrade the Fisheries Research Centre at Kariba and extend its mandate to all water bodies and rivers in Zimbabwe. Based on advice from the Centre the State will adopt regulations to be implemented and administered by the Parks Authority.

8.2 Promoting Non-Consumptive Tourism
In order to allow for greater use of non-consumptive tourism, the MDC government will encourage nature based tourism such as walks, photography, mountain climbing, rafting, and bird viewing among other activities.

9. Special Niche Tourism
9.1 Urban Tourism
Much of the tourism is seen as rural and specific to niche sites. The MDC government will promote the development of urban tourism, through encouraging locals to form tourism companies to service this sector. This includes day tours in cities, as well as to encourage visitors to spend more money in the local economy, and to visit local bars and restaurants and participate in tours to local areas, bringing business to local communities. Tour operators will need to be more innovative in their itineraries, by for example including local museums, arts and craft shops and local ethnic restaurants and by doing so encourage visitors to spend money for the benefit of local communities.

9.2 Agro-Tourism
The MDC government will work towards the revival of agriculture, and tours of farms will be encouraged for urbanites and tourists.

9.3 Education Tours
The promotion of education tours will be part of the MDC government’s education system. This will provide scope for the promotion of a culture of touring by Zimbabwean families.

10. Environmental Reclamation for Tourism
Zimbabweans have been denied opportunities to appreciate own mineral areas because these tend to be securitized. It is essential for the MDC government to promote tourism into mining areas as part of appreciating Zimbabwe’s nature resources and the infrastructure. To this end, the MDC government will promote reclamation of dilapidated former mining areas to become tourist centres.

11. The Structure and Organisation of Tourism
11.1 Ministry of Tourism
The Ministry of Tourism will play a facilitator role through providing policy guidelines to tourism stakeholders. The Ministry will play an oversight role to ensure that tourism is not self-damaging through providing regular policy guidelines. In addition it will work with implementing agencies such as the ZTA and the Parks authorities to ensure that tourism players adhere to set standards. The Ministry will
liaise with other key ministries that have linkages with tourism e.g transport and infrastructure.

11.2 The Zimbabwe Tourism Authority

The Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) was established to represent the interests of the industry and to foster its growth and development. Up to now this function has been frustrated by the State’s inability to address the main national problems that have hindered tourism in Zimbabwe. The MDC government will ensure that the ZTA is adequately funded to carry out its mandate and is able to co-operate with similar organisations in the SADC region. Some of the major roles of the authority will include:

- Assisting in the development of local communities and emergent entrepreneurs in the tourism sector.
- Providing information on available opportunities offered by the tourism industry.
- Fostering the development of community-based tourism products by providing marketing and mentoring support.
- Promoting tourism fairs and occasions that provide mileage to marketing Zimbabwe, its resources and people internationally.

In seeking to reform and enhance the operational capacity of the ZTA, the MDC government will require that the Authority recognise its member subscribers as members and to arrange for the membership to elect its management Board at each annual general meeting in addition to reviewing the accounts and approving the Authorities programme for the following year. In this process the role of the Ministry will be limited to oversight and supervision.

11.3 Parks and Wildlife Management

The Parks and Wildlife Management Authority will control and manage all the national parks in Zimbabwe, operating them professionally in the interests of wildlife conservation. The department will also be responsible for fisheries and the licensing of hunting activities. The MDC government will encourage the Parks administration to sell off its accommodation and other commercial interests and to allow the private sector to take over this function under time limited leases.

12. Organisation and Management

12.1 Financing Tourism

Tourism has potential to be self-financing if it is well planned and managed. The MDC government will ensure that resources raised from tourism support the growth and development of the sector, with the spin-offs contributing to the overall growth of the economy. The strategies for raising resources include investing a percentage of profits or turnover in species conservation or habitat restoration and management.

12.2 Planning Systems

The MDC government commits to the following:

- Development and implementation of sound management systems in order to facilitate and enforce internationally accepted tourism practices.
- A commitment to the transparent and auditable monitoring and evaluation and reporting of progress towards achieving responsible tourism targets and benchmarking, in order to ensure compliance to international standards.
A commitment to, in the spirit of collective responsibility, work in partnership with civil society and business to take responsibility for achieving the economic, social and environmental components of sustainable tourism.

A commitment, in the spirit of collective responsibility, to facilitate industry cooperation.

A commitment to raising the capacity of all stakeholders to abide with industry regulations.

A commitment to ensure that best practice is followed, by means of information and education and awareness programmes.

13. Employment Functionality of Tourism

The MDC government will promote equal access to opportunities in the tourism sector. This will require implementation of equitable business practises, fair prices, and partnerships that minimise risk. Fair and equitable practices in the recruitment and employment of staff will be adhered to. This will encourage skills development in the tourism sector. The MDC will also build local capacity through the following:

- Programmes of education within school curriculums and higher level institutions such as Universities, and public awareness within communities, are needed regarding the potential positive and negative aspects of tourism.
- Post employment education and training programmes are required to educate employees regarding the potential pros and cons of tourism, and comparative costs and benefits of alternative enterprises in order to aid decision making.
- The Hotel School at Bulawayo Polytechnic will be upgraded to international standard and its capacity increased so that it can cope with the anticipated needs of the industry for skilled and well trained staff.
- All hotel and tourist resorts will be required to employ trainees every year to facilitate the development of local skills and experienced staff.
- The rating of all hotels and restaurants will be reviewed and upgraded and implemented by the ZTA and all such establishments will have their grading reviewed every five years.

14. Precautions

The MDC government will assess the economic impacts before developing tourism and exercising preference for those forms of development that benefit local communities and minimise negative impacts on local livelihoods. The MDC government recognises that tourism may not always be the most appropriate form of local economic development. The government will always consider the opportunity costs of tourism for local communities and their livelihoods, and be prepared to accept that there may be more appropriate economic opportunities for the area. The government will maintain and encourage economic diversity, avoid over-dependency on tourism, always assessing the economic impacts throughout the life cycle of tourism operations.

15. Strategic Alliances

The MDC government believes that the friendly nature of the people of Zimbabwe is critical to the attraction of tourists and will ensure the sustenance of this culture. The MDC will thus create strategic alliances regionally and internationally to attract tourists. Some of the actions include promoting transfrontier tourism enclaves and participating in international tourist conventions through embassies placed in strategic
locations. The MDC government foreign policies will promote this strategic objective.

16. Conclusion
The MDC government will develop tourism with dignity, respect and nurture local cultures (including religion), so that they enrich the tourism experience and build pride and confidence among local communities. Use of tourism, as a catalyst for human development, focusing on gender equality will be fostered. The guiding principle is that tourism development should not compromise respect for social and cultural and religious rights, or the essential human rights of people’s access to food, a safe and clean environment, work, health, and education.
LAND

1. Introduction
The land question has been at the epicentre of Zimbabwean society since the 1890s and has been on the state agenda since independence in 1980. While the radical transformation associated with dispossession from the blacks during colonialism and the historical imbalances associated with settler land ownership patterns were reversed during the Fast Track Land Reform Program (FTLRP), questions remain on whether it has managed to address poor agricultural productivity, property rights, and rural poverty.

At its inception the MDC identified access to land and the enhancement of agricultural productivity as being central to sustainable development and the eradication of poverty. As such, one of the resolutions of the Working People’s Convention of February 1999, which was reaffirmed by the Party’s founding manifesto of the same year, outlined a plan to acquire over 8 million hectares of agricultural land for resettlement purposes and to provide some sort of security to farmers in the communal areas.

In 2000, largely in response to the political challenge presented by the MDC, ZANU (PF) launched its “Fast Track Land Reform Programme” (FTLRP). After 10 years of chaotic land invasions and the illegal dispossession of the majority of commercial farmers, only a tiny proportion of the target of 8 million hectares has been lawfully taken over and the rest lies largely deserted and unproductive. The farms have been taken over by a political elite that has been unable to maintain production and has presided over the decimation of the capital infrastructure that had existed on the farms prior to the FTLRP.

As a consequence agricultural production has declined by nearly 80 per cent, exports have plummeted and nearly 70 per cent of all foodstuffs are being imported. Some 400 000 farm workers have been displaced with their families plunging nearly 2 million people into destitution and homelessness. Because of the synergy between commercial agriculture and other sectors such as manufacturing and banking, the collapse of the agricultural sector has had serious ripple effects on the Zimbabwean economy. The improvement of livelihoods and the eradication of poverty have remained unattained for the majority of Zimbabweans. This policy document thus seeks to address issues of equitable land ownership and security of tenure, the protection of property rights, enhanced productivity, food security and sustainable land use, to correct gender imbalances, establish workers rights, and create a framework for greater value addition and efficient marketing services.

2. Vision
An efficient, just and people driven land economy where land is treated with genuine stewardship.

3. Mission
To facilitate the establishment of an agricultural system that supports productivity through the use of modern agricultural technologies and innovation in order to meet the food requirements of citizens without damaging the environment.
Access to land is also a constitutional rights commitment;

“Every person has the right to have sufficient food, and the State must take reasonable legislative and other measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to achieve the progressive realisation of this right.” In addition, the Constitution enunciates that “the use of agricultural land should promote food security, good health and nutrition and generate employment, while protecting and conserving the environment for future generations” and that “no person may be deprived arbitrarily of their right to use and occupy agricultural land.”

In line with its vision of a sustainable economy that caters for the needs of all its citizens, an MDC government will facilitate the establishment of an agricultural system that supports productivity through the use of modern agricultural technologies and innovation and in so doing to meet the food requirements of citizens without damaging the environment.

The enhancement of livelihoods and job creation are at the core of the MDC government’s agricultural policy and our policy thrust is premised on the objective of restoring Zimbabwe’s status as an efficient agricultural producer and placing Zimbabwe on a firm road to economic recovery through growing self-sufficiency and the export of agricultural products. The alleviation of the effects of natural disasters such as droughts and floods will be achieved through a comprehensive programme of support to the development of irrigation, and extension services.

The MDC Land Policy is informed and instructed by the views expressed by the majority of the people and as captured in the new Constitution, which highlights the centrality of the land question in the peoples’ struggles for independence, sovereignty and equality.

In support of equality and equity and as captured in the new Constitution, the MDC government will ensure that women have access to resources including land, ensure food security, the provision of access to land and support for agricultural productivity as a key to poverty alleviation. To make this possible the MDC government will maintain the right of the state to acquire land for the purposes of resettling people, the right of every Zimbabwean to own and use land and the obligation of the state to give security of tenure to land and to entrench and protect such rights.

The MDC subscribes to the setting up of a Land Commission as enunciated in the new Constitution. The Land Commission will be accountable to Parliament and will be responsible for the following functions;

a. Ensuring accountability, fairness and transparency in the administration of agricultural land.

b. Conducting a comprehensive audit of the current ownership, occupation and use of agricultural land.

c. Investigating and determining complaints and disputes regarding the administration and allocation of agricultural land.

d. Making recommendations to the Government regarding;

- The acquisition of private land for public purposes.
Equitable access to and holding and occupation of agricultural land, in particular the elimination of all forms of unfair discrimination, including gender discrimination.

Land usage and the size of agricultural land holdings.

The simplification of the acquisition and transfer of rights in land.

Systems of land tenure.

Fair compensation for agricultural land and improvements that have been compulsorily acquired.

Allocations and alienations of agricultural land.

### 4. The Crisis That Zimbabwe Faces

The post-colonial state has failed to address the land question. Attempts to redress colonial imbalances in land ownership through the Fast-Track-Land-Reform Programme have only dealt with the race issue. The pre-colonial land ownership structure has been replicated with black ruling elites and their acolytes benefiting at the expense of genuinely landless peasants that remain on land that is exhausted, overcrowded and arid in the rural areas. Land allocations have been on the basis of patronage and clientelism, only benefiting Zimbabweans that are connected to ZANU (PF). This has resulted in the marginalisation of the majority and women in particular and has destroyed the productive and efficient farm system that existed prior to the FTLRP.

The programme failed to support the newly settled farmers with skills, equipment, finance and marketing opportunities resulting in the collapse of the industry. This has had serious ramifications for the entire economy as backward and forward linkages with industry, commerce and banking were destroyed impacting on employment, food security, poverty, and export earnings. Consequently, this had multiplier effects on agro-based industries such as textiles, food processing and footwear; thereby reducing the countries export earnings and increasing the importation of basic needs.

Widespread looting and the destruction of assets compounded by the absence of security of tenure has worsened the situation as it has created dead capital impacting negatively on productivity, food security, livelihoods and sustainable development in Zimbabwe.

As a result of the dual enclave nature of the Zimbabwe economy, rural communities remain congested and mired in chronic poverty. As of August 2012, according to the World Food Programme, an estimated 1.6 million Zimbabweans needed food aid. While this is lower than the 7 million in a similar predicament in 2008, vulnerability remains high among Zimbabweans.

An MDC government will seek to address the unfinished business of land ownership, poor productivity, property rights, and rural poverty, thereby putting finality to the emotive land question. The MDC government remains committed to the re-orientation of the land sector so that it fulfils not only its function of promoting food sovereignty and economic development, but also fulfils the social democratic values of the party. These include improvements in the environmental, spiritual, political, recreational, aesthetic, burial and gendered roles that land continues to play in our society.

This policy document focuses on overcoming on-going inequalities in land access and the potential for land to be made much more productive in part through improved
security of tenure, better state-supplied agricultural services, and the need to improve food sovereignty. In doing so, we pledge to implement a vision of broad-based land stewardship consistent with our guiding values.

In providing this land policy the MDC is guided by the following key principles:

a. *Equity* in access and distribution.
b. *Efficiency* in its utilization.
c. *Accountability* in its management.
d. *Transparency* in the conduct of its governance.
e. *Legitimacy* in the eyes of the Zimbabwean public.
f. *Participation* by Zimbabweans of all classes, gender and ethnic backgrounds.
g. *Security for all who make their living from the land.*

5. Policy Priorities

The MDC recognises the irreversibility of the land reform programme and that the land ownership pattern that existed pre-2000 was unsustainable. However, the land reform programme cannot be an end in itself. This policy seeks to ensure that Zimbabwe’s total land mass of 39 million hectares, 16 million hectares of which is under communal control, 10.8 million under the FTLRP, 3.7 million hectares under Old Resettlement Areas, 2.0 million hectares under commercial farms, 0.79 million hectares under Conservancies, 0.15 million hectares under institutional ownership and 0.76 million hectares are not formally settled, is made productive.

To achieve this, the MDC government will prioritise the following interventions:

- Establishment of a Land Commission
- Ensure security of tenure through issuance of title deeds.
- Enforce the one household per piece of land policy
- Establishment of a fund that will be financed by land tax under the Land Commission.
- Ensure protection of all land covered BIPPAS.
- Protection of conservancies
- De-racialisation of the land reform programme – every Zimbabwean has the right to land
- Full compensation for both land and improvements – farm indebtedness must be treated as part of Zimbabwe’s sovereign debt.
- The maintenance of a proper surveyed land register for all land rights.
- Re-establishment of a land market for land.
- Acquisition of all vacant, unused and under-utilized land to channel it back into the market.

The land policy will:

- Develop a new order of economically viable, market-directed commercial farmers, with the family farm as the basic model
- Broaden access to agriculture via land reform and accompanying agricultural support services.
- Focus rural financial systems on the resource-poor and beginner farmers, enabling them to access agricultural inputs and other services.
- Make the sustainable use of the land and water resources a top priority in state policy.
Give due respect to the many non-economic values associated with land, so that our best traditions of indigenous land management and our need for long overdue gender equity in land access are honoured.

Recognise and advance the spiritual, aesthetic and recreational uses of land.

For the majority of Zimbabweans to enjoy improvements in their current standard and quality of living, the objectives of the Lands and Agriculture Policy are;

To revive and sustain economic growth by:

- Achieving growth rates and stability in farm incomes, agricultural productivity and production levels that are higher than the population growth rate.
- Improving the profitability of agriculture and increase investment in agriculture.
- Increasing production of agricultural raw materials for industry.
- Creating employment opportunities, sustainable and viable livelihoods in rural areas in order to improve living conditions and services.
- To alleviate poverty by achieving self-sufficiency in basic food supply and the attainment of food security and improved nutritional status for all.
- To promote the development of rural industries, micro-enterprises, and income-generating activities within the rural areas.

The MDC’s priority will be to shift the emphasis to access to land with security of tenure for sustainable use and development by all who use the land to make a living. The policy therefore addresses the lack of co-ordination between land and other productive sectors, and also addresses the issue of our environmental heritage.

The management of the land heritage should involve every citizen. The role of the state should be to prompt and support the responsible use of land by guiding the behaviour of all land users. The government becomes the guarantor of the country’s land and environmental heritage and must ensure stewardship while taking into account the needs of present and future generations. This includes introducing clarity and certainty of land rights so as to avoid the current problems associated with tenure insecurity, not just in the commercial farming districts but also in communal areas.

6. Policy Interventions

There is a need to for the discourse on land reform to mature from its initial emphasis on just beneficiation of “indigenous” people, towards debate about the optimal form of development for rural residents. Land resources taken as a whole remain chronically under-utilized and inefficiently managed. The continued growth of the country will require a coherent and pragmatic approach to land use planning and management.

This can only be attained by confronting the following challenges:

a. As property, the challenge is to design and universalize a system of tenure that would instil confidence in individuals, communities, and institutions, which own or desire to accumulate land as an asset. This requires us to deal with multiple tenure regimes, encumbered with a complex web of interlocking and overlapping rights on land and tenure relations drawing legitimacy from both indigenous and statutory law.

b. As a development resource, communal area agricultural land has not always been optimally and sustainably used. The primary reason is that communal agriculture was
always and still is neglected by the state, a fact that continues to contribute to the under-development of that sector. Since the colonial period, it was assumed that communal area agriculture would be reduced to merely peasant farming (i.e., production for own consumption), rather than linking farmers’ growing capacity to service agro-industrial opportunities.

c. Zimbabwe accedes to international and regional conventions, treaties and declarations dealing with human rights issues, land and environmental governance and other trans-boundary resources, which require adherence to specific principles in the management of the land sector. These instruments establish an international framework for land use and land management and environmental governance, which Zimbabwe is expected to comply with.

Among issues identified by these instruments is the need to:
- Avert poverty and extreme hunger.
- Manage global climate change through domestic policies and strategies.
- Guarantee national food security.
- Conserve biodiversity, manage water resources, and ensure environmental sustainability.
- Resolve resource conflicts arising from trans-boundary movements of population and animal species.
- Ensure gender equality and equity.
- Respect and protect human and legal rights.

6.1 Policy Formulation and Management
The MDC government will ensure that the Ministry of Lands and Agriculture will retain policy formulation and management as one of its key functions. In order to achieve this, the Ministry will also be encouraged to develop and sustain partnerships with the private sector. The MDC government will provide support and create an enabling environment through its pro-poor policies, legislation regulations and information provision.

The Ministry will be expected to enhance its capacity in sector policy analysis and monitoring, evaluation and impact assessments. This will be achieved through regular review of policies, harmonisation of various policy frameworks monitoring and coordinating their implementation. In order to effectively implement policy;
- The Ministry will be encouraged to use the information obtained through monitoring and evaluation for policy development, review and refinement.
- The Ministry will articulate the priorities of the sector within the national policy framework.
- The Ministry will continue to involve the public and the private sector in policy formulation and review in order to bring about transparency and accountability.
- The Ministry will review relevant Acts and regulations in order to remove legal barriers and allow for streamlining procedures and make them transparent to all stakeholders.
- The Ministry will advocate both within government and with other relevant stakeholders for their support in identifying long term needs for enhancement of the agricultural sector and the conservation of natural resources.
The major areas of advocacy will be:

- Credit availability to meet the needs of the farmers.
- Land tenure rights.
- Water development and management.
- Conservation and sustainable use of natural resources.
- Development of electricity, transport and communication systems for rural areas.
- Access to training, low cost and environmentally friendly technologies, land and credit to women and the youth.
- Support of the agricultural sector by the financial sector.
- Encourage financial sector to establish insurance schemes for the agricultural sector.
- Reduction in the number and level of taxes and levies on agricultural and livestock products and inputs to enhance competitiveness and provide incentives in the sector.

6.2 Multi Sectoral Policy Linkages

The MDC will facilitate policy co-ordination amongst the various ministries. While the National Land Commission is central to land management, it cannot work on its own, and will need to co-ordinate its work with other executive arms of the state such as Agriculture, Natural Resources, Economic Planning, Finance, Labour, Justice, Industry and Commerce and Local Government.

Policy refinements will entail the design of new policies, changes to existing policies and improved coordination of land policy, agrarian reform and social support. This entails work on policies focused on land reform, agricultural policy, including agricultural trade policy aspects and macro-economic policies with special reference to their agricultural inputs and vice-versa, rural agro-industrial policy, social services and employment development policy, social protection and support policies.

6.3 Land and Economic Development

A majority of Zimbabweans reside on land that they use for their livelihoods. Land is therefore of paramount importance to their welfare and sustenance. It is for this reason that the MDC government will protect the people on the land, while it develops complementary strategies for non-farm economic activities that tap into agriculture. In past decades, Zimbabwe has had stronger linkages between agriculture and downstream industries, especially food processing. In the recent past a significantly larger share of the population has migrated from rural areas to urban centres. This is expected to continue or even accelerate in the future.

In turn, the rural areas will be expected to support bigger farms, which are required to feed the urban population, as well as generate surpluses for export, especially as climate change becomes a greater constraint. In this model, land and agriculture should support the urban economy, while agriculture receives services in the form of commerce and technology as a basis for developing and strengthening complementarities.

The MDC government will never uproot people from the land without their consent, but instead will work strategically to develop other sectors of the economy to attract the people from rural land to towns and cities and arrange for orderly and productive settlement of displaced people. The critical factor is having backward and forward linkages that provide incentives for increasing the number of Zimbabweans who have
the option of residing in places that make sense for them and their families, while still respecting every Zimbabwean’s right to have secure tenure over the resources they use for a living.

6.4 Sovereign Right of Land Ownership
The state has the sovereign right to all land in Zimbabwe. Citizens retain ownership rights, but subject to the land administration of the State through government agencies and the National Land Commission. The new constitution provides that “land ownership in Zimbabwe should be a fair representation of national racial composition so as to address once and for all the racial impact of colonialism”. A land law will be developed to honour this Constitutional objective by providing for systems and procedures to equitable access to land as a productive resource.

Trustees of public land: government is the guarantor of the country’s land and environmental heritage and must ensure its good management while taking into account the needs of the present and future generations. In this respect, the government will hold communal land and state designated land (for wildlife, tourism, etc.) in trust for the public. The land user (individuals and investors) shall retain usufruct rights. In land areas designated for investment, such land shall be leased in an open and transparent manner.

6.5 Facilitating Access for Citizens
The MDC government shall guarantee a constitutional principle of equality of all citizens of Zimbabweans who shall enjoy the same rights of access to land without any discrimination whatsoever. According to this principle, women, married or not, should not be excluded from the process of land access, land acquisition and land control. Every Zimbabwe boy and girl at attaining age of majority should qualify for a grant of a small piece of land in areas designated as “rural residential areas”. The size can vary from quarter of an acre to an acre. He or she can apply to any local land authority. However, the right to ownership and productivity must be complimentary in order to ensure sustainable development and improvement in livelihoods for the generality of Zimbabweans. Such a model recognises that agricultural productivity is the key to urbanisation and industrialisation.

6.6 Facilitating Access for Non-citizens
The MDC Government will allow foreigners to hold land subject to official approval through Zimbabwean laws and regulations. The size of the land and nature of its ownership shall be subject to the approval by the relevant state institutions. The ability of foreigners to own land based on Zimbabwe’s terms will facilitate foreign bank lending to businesses in Zimbabwe as a basis for growing the economy. Speculative land holdings and displacement of indigenous Zimbabweans by foreigners will be discouraged through strict administrative management of land resources through the National Land Commission.

6.7 Principle of Equity in Ownership
Guided by its social democratic values the MDC government will facilitate equitable land ownership in Zimbabwe for all its citizens. The government will not deprive its citizens of the God given resource, and neither will it prejudice those who by virtue of history benefited from it. In fact, the role of the government will be to acquire land in a judicious and negotiable fashion, using market principles for those who may still be
in possession of large sized land holdings for distribution to the poor, where the MDC government will meet the costs of the purchase of such land.

6.8 Multiple Land Owners
The ZANU (PF) government used land for political purposes, and at the same time used its control over government to allow for multiple farm occupation. Though individuals can acquire land on the market, the MDC will ensure that there is no speculation or land re-concentration in the hands of a few by placing measures such as the land taxation that are punitive to discourage such behaviour.

6.9 Land to the Poor
The priority in the redistribution of land will be to the poor, simply because Zimbabwe in the next 30 years will depend on agriculture for the livelihoods of the majority of the poorest people in the country.

6.10 Gender Equality and Closing the Gender Gap
The MDC notes that the majority of the land users in Zimbabwe are women, yet they precariously remain at the margins of benefitting from land. For instance before the FTLRP programme, there were a few white female farmers in the commercial agricultural sector. The FTLRP improved the land situation for women, but the achievements are dismal given that less than 20% of women benefitted, and those who benefitted were elbowed from accessing the means of using the land.

The MDC government will correct this anomaly by setting targets of achievement in land ownership such as the 50-50, through ensuring that future land redistribution will target women farmers. In addition, the MDC will prioritise the support of women farmers through skills development, gender sensitive extension systems, facilitating access to credit and ensure that they participate in the market space and get good returns for their labour.

The MDC government will also carry out extensive awareness campaigns for mindset change, so that land allocation institutions prioritise women in the allocations, and that the process be done transparently.

6.11 State Land for Strategic Enterprises
Statutory allocations are applicable to all state land, which by virtue of statutory provision has been allocated for the use of a statutory body in terms of an Act of Parliament. By virtue of statute, occupation and use rights are vested in the relevant statutory body. Falling under this tenure category are all state lands held by or allocated or under the administration, control or supervision (Forestry Commission, ARDA, National Parks, Cold Storage Company Farms etc.).

The MDC government will retain these strategic landholdings, and where possible will lease them to Zimbabweans, so that government has little obligation in running enterprises that are better managed by individuals or companies.

State land can be put to private use in terms of contractual arrangements with private individuals or institutions outside the framework of leasehold. In this way the state issues licences to individuals to enable them to occupy and/or use state land in terms of the conditions of the licence. These licences may be issued for fishing, safari and game parks. The rights and obligations between the state and the licence holder are
determined by the terms of the contractual agreement as reflected in the conditions of the licence.

6.12 Compensation for Acquired Land and Infrastructure
The MDC does not believe in economic or social deprivation of its citizens and investors alike. It is for this reason that the government shall pay compensation when the deprived persons, investors and companies prove entitlement and such compensation will include improvements on farms and infrastructure investment. Beneficiaries of all public land shall be required to contribute to the payment of compensation.

In order to address the chaos created by the FTLRP, the MDC government shall create a Compensation Fund, where government, beneficiaries and donors will contribute to paying compensation for acquired land for resettlement. This will assist in addressing land related conflicts that are limiting investments in land and preventing the establishment of a market for land in commercial farming districts.

6.13 Status of Communal Lands
The social function of communal land will be retained, while the State revokes its control of communal lands and instead grants communities the power to manage land in their own jurisdiction. In this regard, the MDC fully endorse the provisions of the Rukuni Commission of 1994 and as such the State shall confer Traditional Freehold rights as follows:

Deed of Grant should be to the family for arable and residential land and should be given in favour of joint ownership by both spouses; Inheritance should be with surviving spouse and then surviving children who can anoint an heir or form a family trust or company.

For grazing land and other common land the Deed of Grant should be made in the name of a Community Trust which may or may not coincide with Village Development Committees (VIDCOs) who will look after the natural resources and pass appropriate by-laws with the power to exclude other communities encroaching on their common property.

The Traditional Councils from village to District level should be incorporated into the National Judicial system with certain powers including powers to sit as a Land Board or Administrative Court assisted by Government officials from Land and Agriculture Ministries.

All individual citizens above 21 years of age are entitled to access to communal lands in Zimbabwe. Currently, title in all Communal Land vests in the President who shall permit it to be occupied and used in terms of the provisions of the Act. This suggests that the relationship between the President and the inhabitants is one of Trusteeship and that therefore the inhabitants are only entitled to occupy and use the land at the discretion of the President and not as of right. The MDC government will change this provision and facilitate that the communities own their land, but with oversight (management) being retained by the National Land Commission and committees at District level.

Transfer of land in communal areas is through three major processes, allocation upon acquiring legal age of majority, inheritance and allocation by traditional leaders. However, Rural District Councils (RDCs) also allocate land for development
purposes, especially at business centres. Though the formal legal authority to allocate occupation and use rights in communal areas is vested in District Councils, it is common cause that in practice a variety of authorities including kraal heads, headman, chiefs and VIDCOs chairpersons, in fact do allocate land occupation and user rights.

Household’s rights are allocated in a patrilineal framework, where males are considered as head of the family while women and children are defacto minors. While married women are dejure landless, the situation is even worse for those women who fail to marry and those who get divorced. Cultural norms encourage divorced women to return to original family homes, where cultural norms do not provide land rights for them. The MDC government will ensure that women are not prejudiced by customary systems in land ownership and use through working with traditional leaders.

The constitution and the land laws should protect the rights of the inhabitants of the communal lands. In fact, with the land vested in the communities, the MDC will ensure that the District Land Committees are accessible so that injured individuals have recourse to the justice delivery systems. In order for such protection to be provided, community and household land parcels should be formalized. The tenure relationships between the communities and the State should also be formalized. This is necessary to create transparency for effective administration, as well as create a formal and legalized basis for any evolution and transformation that may be taking place in customary value systems.

6.14 Private Land Holdings (Free Hold Titled Land)
The MDC will retain freehold title to land, as a basis for economic development through promoting land markets, and will have the National Land Commission have oversight in case of excesses that may develop in the market.

Private land ownership will be respected in Zimbabwe, but this system can only operate if land is used in socially and environmentally responsible and productive ways. The MDC will endeavour to correct the problems created by the chaotic land reform programme in order to maintain real agricultural growth, productivity and the sustainable use of natural resources. In this endeavour, the Government will fully implement the new land policy that it has developed and ensure adequate funding for the programme.

6.15 Leasehold Land (Old Resettlement, A1 and A2 settlers)
Subject to the land audit by the Land Commission, any person occupying a piece of land shall be entitled to the continued occupation and use of such piece of land in accordance with the lease or other agreement with the State. The State shall give security of tenure to every person lawfully occupying any piece of agricultural land as may be determined by the Land Commission. However such leaseholders will be required to contribute to the payment of compensation to the original owners in order to legalise such arrangements.

In accordance with the constitution, the MDC government shall ensure that every person has the right to acquire, hold, occupy, use, transfer, hypothecate, lease or dispose of all forms of property, either individually or in association with others.
6.16 Modernisation and Decentralisation of the Land Registry
Land registration and cadastral survey is today a pre-requisite and indispensable in order to attract investment in the rural areas. Through the use of GIS and GPS software and hardware systems, it’s now possible to collect, manipulate and store huge amounts of data that can be downloaded to small usable units for administrative purposes. An MDC government will invest in such modern systems that will be decentralised from national to provincial and district level in the first 5 years of government.

6.17 Coordination of Inter Divisional Processes for Land Registration
The use of GIS will be strengthened through the development of an e-government framework. This will be an important portal for information sharing, and also getting land information to the land users and investors. The MDC will ensure that all ministries that use land data have access to such data timely for their own planning and programme implementation processes.

6.18 Land Records Storage and Management
In order to establish an efficient land administration system the MDC government will put in place measures to ensure that farmers’ needs are taken into consideration and that new administrative systems are in place, land regulations are adhered to and new land data storing and processing procedures are in place.

6.19 Registration of Land Rights in Communal Areas
It is essential to establish the capital value of land in communal lands, while retaining its social functions. The MDC government will seek to register all holding in communal lands in a decentralised fashion, so that the communities retain the rights over land within their jurisdiction.

6.20 Land Dispute Settlement
The MDC government will put in place institutional mechanisms to address land disputes by the National Land Commission. Currently most disputes on land stem from lack of clear policies, multiple institutions with oversight on land matters, demand for land, and unbridled accumulation by some individuals. At the same time, the lack of a comprehensive registry of land rights creates further incipient disputes on land transaction matters.

6.21 Land Taxation
The MDC government will develop a range of options to ensure effective use of land and to curb rent seeking activities such as land hoarding, speculative holding of land and multiple farm ownership. This will be done through the tightening of the Land tax regime (in terms of the Justice Smith recommendations on Land), the enforcement of conditions on existing leases, tightening up conditions and the payment of ground rent on future leases, use of powers to acquire land for public purposes.

6.21 Policies to Facilitate Investments Across all Regimes
An efficient land market encourages transactions between individuals without direct government intervention, underwritten by the rule of law and registered service providers. MDC will underwrite tenure security by bringing as many transactions as possible within the ambit of the formal market. By providing inducements or ‘market-assisted’ incentives (e.g. subsidies, taxes) we can achieve economic and social objectives, without macro interventions such as the nationalisation of land or punitive
taxation. The MDC will set aside land for Cluster development to promote rural development and job creation. Investors setting businesses in these areas will be given title deeds.
AGRICULTURE

1. Introduction
The MDC agrarian policy is aimed at ensuring food self-sufficiency and food security while maintaining reasonable market prices. The MDC government will make maize, wheat, potatoes and small grains national strategic crops for food security purposes and will support farmers to be able to increase production of these crops. Strategies will be adopted to ensure that yield levels in tobacco, maize, other strategic crops, beef and livestock are improved to attain maximum productivity. The use of technologies such as drip irrigation, research and use of GMOs and mechanisation will be promoted to improve productivity. A National Grain Stock reserve will be maintained for strategic and food security.

A multi-sectoral and multi-disciplinary Food and Nutrition Policy and an associated Food Security and Nutrition Action Plan will be implemented. The MDC government will develop an incentive system for production of basic crops. Small grains will be promoted in the drier areas such as Masvingo and Matebeleland. In addition to balanced agricultural investment, the MDC government will prioritize livestock production in the drier areas, so that complementarities and synergies in agriculture are promoted. Government food monitoring agencies will maintain an accurate database on food production and consumption patterns throughout the country so that areas with deficits are quickly identified and food solutions proffered within the framework of a market driven system.

Household food security is not determined by total food availability but by individual and household access to food throughout the year. The MDC government will ensure that all people have adequate access to the food they require. The government will also provide support services to promote household food production, particularly to small-scale farmers and specific vulnerable groups, and will improve the efficiency of food supply markets, thereby ensuring adequate supplies at market prices.

Moreover, labour intensive public works and rural infrastructure development programmes and food aid schemes aimed at assisting the chronically food insecure and those communities that are vulnerable to food insecurity in times of drought will be designed and implemented. The government will focus on agricultural and rural development programmes that raise the income of poor households, which will contribute to ensuring food security at the household level.

There are no quick means of alleviating poverty and food insecurity. The key lies in raising the productivity of the poor through investment in human resource development, and in creating employment opportunities, which make efficient use of labour, their one abundant asset. The MDC government will therefore promote policies and strategies, which increase the demand for labour through a strategy of broad-based labour-intensive growth in agriculture, agro-industries and related sectors.

In order to develop more effective programmes to address the fundamental causes of chronic food insecurity, and to provide effective relief programmes, research will be undertaken into household food consumption patterns among vulnerable groups nationwide, and into related socio-economic parameters in the rural urban areas. This
research will not only establish the number and nutritional status of the vulnerable, their location and means of livelihood, but also will also consider such issues as population growth, migration, on farm and off farm income, age groupings, and gender structures. It will help identify the varied support needs of the rural and urban poor and the ways in which they are changing over time.

2. Vision
Fully productive and environmentally sound agricultural system that guarantees a food surplus and raw materials for industry.

3. Mission
To create a framework for investment in high agricultural productivity through food, sound public policy, cutting edge research, and efficient land management.

4. Agriculture Policy Priorities
4.1 Agricultural and Agro-Industrial Investment
The MDC government will strengthen the interdependence and complimentarily role between agricultural production and agribusiness and agro industrial sectors through relevant and linkages. Investment in agro industrial development will be prioritised.

The following principles shall apply:
- Issues pertaining to local and foreign investments in agriculture will be part and parcel of the investment code of Zimbabwe.
- A sound macro-economic environment supported by technological efficiency, tax and tariff incentives will support investment in agriculture.
- The MDC government will encourage investments that will promote the expansion of value added enterprises.
- Agricultural related investors will be assisted in order to boost the agricultural sector.
- Support will be provided to encourage the establishment of wholesale and retail agricultural produce markets in strategic production and consumption centres in the country.

4.2 Agro-Dealership Development
The MDC government will support and promote the development of agro-dealership network in order to ensure that markets are close to farmers, leading to a reduction of the cost of accessing inputs and increasing the knowledge on the use of productivity enhancing inputs.

4.3 Extension Services
The extension system will continue to be integrated into a simple delivery mechanism that will entail training and visits to small farmers in an endeavour to improve both livestock and crop productivity.

Extension services will be demand driven and will address the needs of the intended beneficiaries. The extension programmes will be well planned and systematic in a flexible manner in order to accommodate the intended beneficiaries. In this regard special extension programmes for women will be instituted in recognition of the critical role they play in the sector.
Provisions for the private sector to participate in the provision of extension services through collaboration with government will be instituted. The extension services will be provided based on research and verified under farmers’ management conditions.

Extension Officers will receive regular training through refresher courses to keep them up to date with new research findings meant to improve the sector. An effective monitoring and evaluation system will be instituted.

4.4 Farm Labour Policy Issues
Many former farm workers remain unemployed and residually insecure due to displacement under the FTLRP. The MDC government will campaign for and promote fair labour relations on farms to ensure that workers are justly remunerated and live under appropriate working conditions.

The MDC government will also strengthen the system of collective bargaining in in the agricultural labour sector. The needs of workers, their social security and other benefits will also be given attention.

4.5 Animal Health Services
The MDC government will put in place measures to engender effective control of animal diseases to achieve increased animal production in the country. The main objective of animal health services is to diminish the prevalence of animal diseases and mortality of livestock and to protect consumers and livestock against infections, pests and disease. The MDC government will ensure that:

- Farm level disease control is the responsibility of the farmer and she/he should purchase the services, drugs, vaccines and inputs from the private sector. The role of a government will be limited to the control of epidemic and infectious diseases, sanitary control and inspection and fighting pests and disease beyond the farm level.
- Government will provide effective and efficient livestock disease control including a national system of dip tanks in communal areas with staff responsible for local disease control and monitoring measures.
- Government will implement both developmental and regulatory activities in accordance with legislation and directives relating to the livestock industry.
- Animal health services will be strengthened through provision of adequate funds for the recruitment and further training of competent staff.
- Government will continue to control the quality of vaccines and drugs.
- Inspection of livestock and livestock products are strengthened in order to prevent the outbreak of exotic diseases from abroad at all ports of entry and their spread within the country.

4.6 Irrigation and Water Development
Due to climate change, Zimbabwe is expected to experience unpredictable rainfall patterns, droughts and floods on a more frequent basis. This makes rain fed agriculture more risky and uncertain. The MDC government recognises that drought is a regular feature of the agricultural sector, and hence there is need to develop responsive mechanisms for reducing vulnerability to drought and other natural disasters by instituting drought preparedness and management mechanisms at the national, provincial, community and farm household levels.
Adequate budgetary allocations will be provided to deal with the occurrence of drought and other calamities. This will strengthen joint government and private sector drought and disaster management mechanisms, and rationalize the use of relief and rehabilitation resources, particularly subsidies and donor funds, and to mobilize people’s participation and self-help initiatives in drought and disaster management systems. Relevant agricultural institutions will be required to incorporate drought risk management into agricultural production planning and financing systems.

The MDC government will encourage the use of irrigation methods that use low volumes of water to maximum effect, coupled with a pricing model based on the scarcity of water and long-term environmental sustainability. Public investment in irrigation for poor and food-insecure farmers may be provided where it is economically and socially justifiable to do so. The use of cost-effective and low-cost irrigation methods, such as, but not limited to, community-based mini-dams or catchment based water harvesting and micro-irrigation techniques including drip irrigation and mulching methods, will be encouraged.

To this end an MDC government will:
- Focus its support on the development of smallholder irrigation schemes in areas of high potential and sufficient demand.
- Minimise direct government intervention in irrigation schemes by encouraging private sector involvement, and by promoting the principle that water users themselves should pay for the operation and maintenance of irrigation schemes.
- Provide information on the issuing of water rights, water use regulations and monitoring of natural resource exploitation.
- Encourage farmers to form water users associations and irrigation cooperatives for the management of their schemes to encourage commercialisation and participation in the market economy.
- Increase the participation of women and unemployed rural youth in irrigated agriculture.
- Provide research, training and extension services to farmers using irrigation.
- Minimise any adverse public health consequences that might arise from irrigation development.
- Train planners and irrigation engineers to plan and implement sustainable irrigation projects.
- Ensure that drip irrigation is developed in all provinces.

4.7 Agricultural Subsidies
The impact of subsidies on production, food security, employment, income distribution and fiscal sustainability needs to be carefully reviewed and continuously monitored. The MDC government will ensure that subsidies that distort prices of farm inputs and outputs, and discourage private sector investment and participation will be phased out. Subsidies will only be used to achieve social objectives and will be budgeted and accounted for in a transparent manner. In such cases, they will be used cautiously in well-targeted programmes or poverty alleviation schemes. These will be designed particularly to address the needs of subsistence farming families, especially food insecure and chronically poor groups.
4.8 Financing
Access to agricultural finance is necessary to enable farmers with insufficient capital resources of their own to fund viable agricultural activities. Credit can enable farmers to obtain agricultural inputs, technology and infrastructure necessary to increase production and productivity. Farmers must be assured of access to efficient financial services and responsive financing instruments. The MDC government will put in place tenure conditions that will enable the use of land and other assets as collateral for borrowings from the financial sector. The Agribank will be privatised and strengthened to fund farmers in communal and farming areas.

An efficient and sound agricultural financing system will be established to:
- Use interest rates on loans and deposits linked with those prevailing in the commercial sector.
- Use of contract and private sector funding arrangements.
- Mobilize savings from the public for the generation of loan funds.
- Strengthen cooperatives and credit unions.
- Recognise and encourage informal sources of credit.
- Encourage competition among banks and financial intermediaries.
- Improve the financial discipline of agricultural financing institutions.

5. Agricultural Production Support Factors
5.1 Farm Input Supply
Agricultural input prices are of vital concern to the farming community, as they constitute a major factor determining the costs of production and ultimately the profitability of farming activities. Farmers must have ready access to farm inputs such as seed, agro chemicals, fertilizers, mechanical and animal power, animal feeds, licks, drugs and other materials and equipment.

The MDC government will actively promote the use of environmentally friendly farm inputs and technologies. These include the utilization of organic fertilizers, and integrated plant nutrition and protection schemes including integrated pest management. Supervision will be strengthened to ensure that dangerous chemicals which threaten the environment and human health are eliminated.

The MDC will support investment in research to improve seeds varieties, particularly drought tolerant and early maturing varieties, and safeguard genetic purity and variation in key crops. It will also encourage the use of GMO seed and crop varieties in the industry in order to maximise crop production.

5.2 Technology Policy, Farm Machinery and Equipment
The MDC government technology policy will address the need of the private, public, civic, farmer organisation research and development agencies as well as encourage farmer-to-farmer knowledge sharing. It will permit the development and use of GMOs and will encourage private sector research and extension activities.

6. Agricultural Pricing and Trade
6.1 Pricing
The MDC Government recognises that traditional instruments of agricultural pricing policy, such as output price fixing, guaranteed prices and price controls create market distortions. In addition, in many cases they are ineffective particularly as they affect
farm income and household food security. While price fixing may have improved incomes of commercial producers, they are considered to have adversely affected the conditions of communal farmers. The MDC government will place emphasis on improving factors which contribute to household food security.

6.2 Value Addition and Economic Clusters
In order to benefit from trade, the MDC government will encourage value addition in the rural areas where the raw materials come from. Economic clusters will be developed to encourage leveraging of materials on the basis of origin. This will promote job creation, facilitating complementary development in transportation, commerce and other services that are likely to boost the economies of those regions.

6.3 Information and Marketing
The MDC government will facilitate the creation of an environment that improves the efficiency of markets in order to reduce costs and increase demand. Such conditions are necessary for realizing the full potential of agriculture’s contribution to meeting the needs of society and achieving balanced economic development. Government support to agricultural marketing will be largely aimed at addressing shortcomings in the service structure, the market environment and market mechanisms. Direct intervention will be limited to the correction of market imperfections and socially unacceptable effects.

The major role of the MDC Government will be to develop an efficient market information collection and dissemination system. This will provide timely and accurate price information for the farming community, particularly the smallholder farmers, to enable them to respond more positively to market signals. In addition an MDC government will support the establishment of a Commodities Exchange to facilitate the marketing of agricultural products and efficient, transparent price formulation.

6.4 Agriculture Trade
The MDC government will put in place measures to enable exporters reduce market costs and reduce transaction costs of trade. It will also facilitate favourable bilateral agreements to ensure improved trade conditions for local agricultural producers.

6.5 International Trade Agreements and Tariffs
The MDC government will promote favourable bilateral, regional and other international trade agreements and comply with global trade regulations under the WTO and regional regulations under COMESA. The implementation of the WTO, particularly the Agreement on Agriculture (AoA) rules and COMESA agreements presents challenges and opportunities for the agricultural sector.

Tariffs, as a mechanism to provide protection to the national economy and particularly the agricultural sector, will be applied as uniformly as possible to different sectors and products so as not to bias resource allocation and thus cause inefficiency. Levels of protection will be high enough to encourage import substitution, but not so high as to discourage improvements in productivity and efficiency which would make domestic producers uncompetitive in world markets.
7. Water Resources Management
Groundwater resources are being depleted faster than they are being replenished. Water is common property and if the full economic costs of reducing water tables are not paid for by the users, scarce water resources will continue to be depleted. The MDC government will promote an integrated approach to agricultural development and water utilization. Water related policies already make provision for cost recovery from the users of bulk water supplies, which will encourage optimal use of water for irrigation and other uses.

8. Management of Wildlife Areas
Zimbabwe is a major tourist destination and has wildlife that is valued internationally. It is in this context that the MDC will promote the conservation of wildlife and will maintain the current wildlife areas. For the sake of future generations, wildlife will continue to receive the protection from the State.

The MDC government will implement wildlife-based land reform where wildlife concession areas are provided for the community for hunting and tourism enterprises. This provides opportunities for community economic empowerment through income generating schemes such as craft production and cultural tourism in the communal and resettlement areas outside the wildlife zone.

9. Agricultural Research and Services
The overall aim of agricultural research is to promote sustainable food security, income generation, employment growth and export enhancement through the development and dissemination of appropriate and environmentally friendly technologies. The MDC government will ensure:

- Sustainable use of resources.
- Research will be demand driven to meet clients’ needs.
- Research will also pay particular attention to natural and biological pest control methods, which can be applied by farmers.
- Agricultural research, extension and training services are carefully coordinated.
- That a cost effective national agricultural research system, with an appropriate institutional and coordinating structure focussing on decentralised adaptive research and on farm trials is in place.
- That research into livestock and high value crop production will be undertaken to enhance their viability in both communal and commercial areas. This will include research into agro processing and the identification of foreign and domestic markets for agricultural produce.
- That research to improve rain fed farming systems with emphasis on the restoration of degraded land and introduction of drought resistant crop varieties will be pursued.
- That research on indigenous food crops will also be supported.
- That access to technology will be improved through international research initiatives; collaboration will be employed in the conservation of genetic resources and the preservation of biodiversity.
- That government research is strengthened through provision of adequate funds for the recruitment and improving the capacity of qualified research staff.
- The Agriculture Research Council remains independent, non-political. The Council will advise government on all matters relating to agricultural research.
and will recommend the provision of grants for research by the central
government.

10. Rural and Agricultural Infrastructure
The development of market centres in communal and farming areas will be
encouraged in order to bring farming inputs and the market economy in general, into
closer reach of farming communities. By improving roads, grain silos, transport
facilities and communications to rural and farming marketing centres, access to
essential agricultural inputs and output markets will be facilitated. Given reasonable
prices for their products and improved access to input markets, more farmers will
engage in surplus production for the market, and so become more closely linked to the
monetary economy. The MDC government will accord priority to investment in rural
and agricultural infrastructure, which facilitates the integration of communal and
farming areas into the mainstream national economy. A labour-intensive approach to
infrastructure development will expand employment and income-earning
opportunities.

11. The Reform of Agricultural Parastatals
In the past the Ministry of Agriculture was responsible for many Parastatals – mainly
connected with marketing. These have now been either privatised (the Cotton
Marketing Board and the Dairy Marketing Board) or have virtually ceased
functioning (the Cold Storage Commission) or are now operating at very low levels.
The remaining Parastatals all require extensive review and restructuring.

11.1 The Grain Marketing Board
Previously a major organisation with responsibility for marketing food grains and
maintaining strategic stocks, the GMB has recently widened its scope of activity to
include grain milling, packaging and distribution as well as other non core business
activities. Poor maintenance and management of the network of bulk silos has
seriously affected its ability to perform its core function of handling the country’s
grain production and the holding strategic stocks. In addition the Board has been used
and abused by a partisan Ministry and Management to offer food aid and input
supplies on a partisan basis to rural communities. What little grain has been purchased
at great expense by the Board has either been lost through poor storage or disposed of
through the so called “grain loan scheme” which is just a cover for free food handouts
on a partisan basis.

An MDC government will take steps to institute an immediate review of all GMB
activities and to conduct a full audit of its accounts. Steps will be taken to unbundle
and sell off all non-core assets and business activities but to retain the Boards network
of silos and depots so as to act as both local markets for farm grain production and for
the supply of farm inputs. These functions will be put out to tender and operated by
the private sector using facilities leased from the Board.

Where necessary, the GMB will be required to secure and store strategic reserves of
grain where this is economically justified. Grain prices will continue to be determined
by market forces and using a newly established Commodity Exchange.
11.2 The Cold Storage Commission
This has been commercialised, unsuccessfully and is now legally in the form of a State owned company. It will be sold to the private sector as a going concern under agreed arrangements that will allow the State to gradually recover its investment.

11.3 Agricultural and Rural Development Authority (ARDA)
The MDC believes that the State has no business being in farming business and it will seek to dispose of all the ARDA estates to private sector interests at values that will recover at least some of the historical investment in this organisation.

11.4 The Agricultural Marketing Authority
At one stage the AMA controlled 5 Marketing Boards and had a turnover of at least $2 billion a year. Its role was principally to manage the bulk finance needs of the Marketing Boards and to recommend policy and prices to the state through the Ministry of Agriculture. There is no longer any need for these functions since free market operations have stabilised prices and markets and the MDC government will take steps to close down the AMA up and to transfer what functions it has to departments in the Ministry. In addition, the Agricultural Commodity Exchange will play a key role in moderating prices.

12. Farmer Representative Organisations
In order to ensure that farmers’ views are properly and rapidly communicated to government the MDC will ensure that appropriate arrangements are made to support professional organisations representing the farm community. In doing so the MDC will insist:

- That all such organisations represent all the farmers in the sector that they purport to represent.
- That the leadership of these organisations is elected democratically at an annual congress attended by properly authorised representatives.
- That all such organisations maintain and prepare annual audited accounts of all income and expenditure and the accounts are made public at each annual general meeting.
- That the government will not recognise any farm organisation that is based on race or other minority interests.
1. Introduction
Zimbabwe is in a transition from authoritarianism to democracy. An opportunity exists to reorient the country’s foreign policy currently rooted in rhetorical ideologies of anti-imperialism, authoritarianism and non-alignment to one that places Zimbabwe on a firm path to leveraging its rich resource endowment to become a key player in regional and global affairs.

In today’s globalized world, no country can exist in isolation and an opportunity exists today to re-engage with the global community to the benefit of all Zimbabweans. The nation must move swiftly to restore normal relations with all other countries and multilateral institutions.

2. Foreign Policy Challenges Facing Zimbabwe
Violence and authoritarian political practices in Zimbabwe have resulted in the country’s political and economic isolation. Zimbabwe’s foreign policy over the years has made it difficult for the country to establish relations with the majority of other countries. This has been exacerbated by the imposition of restrictive measures and sanctions on certain individuals institutions.

The MDC is determined to launch a fundamental redefinition of Zimbabwe’s foreign policy strategies.

3. Vision
A democratic, developmental, prosperous and sustainable Zimbabwe that is fully integrated into a peaceful, globalized and equitable world.

4. Mission Statement
To create a framework for Zimbabwe’s full integration and effective participation in the international community of nations.

5. Foreign Policy Priorities
The MDC foreign policy primarily seeks the full integration of Zimbabwe into the regional, continental and international communities.

6. Key Policy Objectives
- To normalize Zimbabwe's political relations with the international community in a manner that protects and preserves the national interests of Zimbabwe.
- To normalize relations with multi-lateral and bilateral creditors with a view to agreeing a debt relief and debt rescheduling programme within the first year of an MDC Government.
- To normalize relations with multilateral Financial Institutions and bilateral agencies with a view to unlocking international credit lines and development assistance.
- To reposition Zimbabwe as "ready for business" by removing policy impediments to foreign direct investment, foreign trade and tourism.
- To ensure that Zimbabwe abides by its international obligations in terms of international law and any treaties concluded within the context of SADC, AU and UN by ratifying all outstanding treaties and protocols taking cognizance of
Zimbabwe’s national interests and sovereignty within two years of an MDC government.

7. General Policy Guiding Principles
Under an MDC government, Zimbabwe will promote regional and pan-African cultural, economic and political cooperation and integration and will support international and regional organisations that stand for peace and the well-being and progress of the region, the continent and humanity.

To that extent, the foreign policy of Zimbabwe will be underpinned by the following principles:

- Definition, promotion and protection of the national interests of Zimbabwe.
- Respect for international law and treaty obligations.
- Peaceful co-existence with other nations.
- The settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.
- Adherence to the principles of the United Nations Charter.
- Respect for the rule of law, promotion of human rights, good governance and democratic values.
- Protection and maintenance of international peace and security.
- Equality of all nations.
- Sustainable use of natural resources for the benefit of current and future generations.

8. Foreign Policy Interventions
The MDC government will conduct Zimbabwe’s foreign relations on the basis of an independent and active foreign policy committed to the national interest, in particular, supporting national development in all spheres of life. Internationally, it will prioritize the establishment of a world order based on development, freedom, sustainable peace and social justice.

The MDC government will seek to strengthen international and regional friendly relations and cooperation through various bilateral, multilateral and regional channels that support national interests.

The MDC government will position Zimbabwe to play a pivotal role in settling regional and international challenges, particularly those that threaten peace and are inimical to justice and humanity.

Any international developments and changes shall be observed carefully in order that appropriate measures can be promptly taken to protect national stability, cohesion and development from any possible negative impact. At the same time, international developments that provide windows of opportunities to assist and facilitate for Zimbabwe’s national development shall be seized and fully exploited.

In order to help in the establishment of a world based on economic growth, freedom, sustainable peace and social justice, greater efforts shall be made to strengthen solidarity and develop a common stand and cooperation among developing nations through various international organization, such as the United Nations, the Commonwealth, SADC, ECOWAS and the African Union.
In an endeavour to build an economically fair and socially just world, steps shall be continued with other developing nations, to speed up the realization of an international agreement on commodities, to remove trade barriers, and to broaden economic and technical cooperation among developing countries.

The MDC government will develop and strengthen cooperation among the public and private sectors with a special emphasis on economic, social and cultural cooperation. The MDC government will recognize and accept that foreign policy is inspired and influenced by the national interest of Zimbabwe, which incorporates the core values of individual freedom, democratic governance and the rule of law.

We believe that in the 21st century the world has become increasingly globalized, so much so that it has become imperative for the MDC to develop its communications capacity for the purposes of engaging in dialogue with the rest of the world.

The MDC government will ensure that Zimbabwe will be a participant in the resolution of intra-state and inter-state conflicts and in international measures to end the spread of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism as well as trafficking in illicit drugs and money laundering.

The MDC Government will subscribe to the equitable sharing and distribution of the world’s resources for the betterment of all mankind, leading to the globalization of opportunities for all and the raising of standards of living for all peoples across the globe.

The MDC government will ensure that Zimbabwe’s chances of fulfilling its priorities and national agenda will be greatly enhanced by working closely with its neighbours in SADC, as well as cooperation with the rest of the continental and international communities.

9. **Zimbabwe Foreign Policy Strategic Focus**

The Zimbabwe government will strive to ensure that Zimbabwe continues to play an active role in international relations for the benefit of the country. Principal emphasis in the pursuit of Zimbabwe’s foreign policy focus includes:

- Maintaining peaceful relations with all countries regardless of their ideologies, political system and adopting an independent and principled stance in regional and international diplomatic affairs.
- Forging close relations and economic partnerships with all nations through economic diplomacy particularly with SADC and other regional states to widen Zimbabwe’s economic base for the socio-economic development.
- Promoting peace and stability in the region through capacity building and conflict resolution measures.
- Participating actively and meaningfully in the United Nations, especially in the efforts to end injustice and oppression, and to uphold international law.
- Implement a regional foreign policy that recognizes the linkage between external prestige and internal strength, measured in economic terms.
- Pursue a “civilian” or a “commercial” approach to regional, continental and ultimately international affairs.
- Strive to establish Zimbabwe as a leading and economically powerful State within the region and ultimately the continent.
Play a leading role in moulding SADC to become a distinct community of nations that share prosperity, political stability, innovative social programmes and foreign policies that are supportive of global order, peace and justice.

Ensure that our foreign policy is in harmony with regional desires and ideals common to the countries of the region.

Work towards the strengthening of SADC not only as an economic grouping but also as a bloc of collective diplomacy on an international scale.

Support initiatives for the establishment of peaceful mechanisms for the settlement of regional, continental and international conflicts.

Play a critical role as a conciliator or bridge builder within the SADC and AU regions.

Recognize that peace is central to the protection of politico-economic interests and therefore assist in the implementation of a foreign policy that ensures the maintenance of regional peace.

Take steps to accelerate the process of regional integration. Government will also encourage cross-border initiatives in key sectors such as food security, climate change, infrastructure, ICT, renewable energy resources development.

Support the modernization of border controls and procedures to allow for the smooth transfer of people, goods and services.

Support initiatives to guarantee human security and dignity for migrants and refugees.

10. A Focused Perspective

10.1 Zimbabwe and SADC
Zimbabwe is an integral member of the Southern African Development Community, both politically and economically. The MDC government will strengthen Zimbabwe’s position in SADC by reviving and restructuring the economy, reviving and expanding our manufacturing base and improving the balance of trade with neighbors, especially South Africa.

10.2 Zimbabwe and South Africa
The relationship between Zimbabwe and South Africa can be best described as one characterized by indispensability, competition and cooperation. An MDC government will work towards creating a balanced trade relationship with South Africa by supporting Zimbabwean industry and securing favorable terms of access for Zimbabwean products.

10.3 Zimbabwe and COMESA
The MDC Government will work towards strengthening the strategic and effective position of Zimbabwe in COMESA.

10.4 Zimbabwe and the African Union
The MDC Government will play a positive role to enhance continental political and economic integration. The government will support all programs to deepen economic cooperation, democracy and the preservation of human rights, across the continent. In this regard, the MDC government will support and ratify African protocols, treaties, charters, statutes and conventions such as the African Human Rights Charter; the African Union Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance and other instruments that are beneficial to Zimbabwe.
10.5 Zimbabwe and the Commonwealth
The MDC Government will rejoin the Commonwealth and work towards deepening Commonwealth cooperation and strengthening the organization’s commitment to the Harare Declaration. In the same vein, Zimbabwe will also seek to normalize its relations with Britain.

10.6 Zimbabwe and the United States and Canada
Zimbabwe’s trade with the USA has been on the rise notwithstanding the existence of the Zimbabwe Democracy Act, which imposed travel bans on certain individuals and imposes restrictions on the conduct of American nationals sitting on the boards of the IMF and the World Banks on all issues pertaining to Zimbabwe. Zimbabwe under an MDC government will seek to speedily normalize relations with the USA including the repeal of all restrictive laws that militate against normal relations.

10.7 Zimbabwe and Central and South America
Under the MDC government, Zimbabwe will strengthen ties with all South American countries particularly Brazil in an endeavor to boost trade and investment.

10.8 Zimbabwe and Australia and New Zealand
Under the MDC government, Zimbabwe will strengthen ties with all Austral-Asia countries particularly Australia and New Zealand in an endeavor to boost trade and investment.

10.9 Zimbabwe and the European Union
Relations between Zimbabwe and the European Union have been suspended since 2002. Zimbabwe under an MDC government will seek to speedily normalize the relations with the EU under the Cotonou Agreement.

10.10 Zimbabwe, China and Asia
China is tipped to be the largest economy in the world in future. Zimbabwe under an MDC government will maintain sound bilateral relations with China. However, the relationship will be based on transparency and mutual benefit. Zimbabwe will strengthen its relationships with other Asian countries such as Japan, India, Indonesia, Malaysia and South Korea.

10.11 Zimbabwe and the United Nations
As a signatory to a number of United Nations Conventions, the MDC Government will ensure that Zimbabwe ratifies and implements all UN conventions. Policy forums will be sponsored by the Government, to debate on these conventions in order to enhance the country’s capacity to fulfill provisions of the conventions. Zimbabwe will also be involved in any peacekeeping work that has a strong bias towards African states. The MDC’s Government will equally support any efforts to strengthen the position of Africa in the United Nations Security Council.

11. Sectoral Considerations
11.1 Zimbabwe and Zimbabweans in the Diaspora
Millions of Zimbabwean professionals have left the country for Europe, America, Australia and South Africa, thus depriving the country of skilled and experienced human resources. The MDC Government will develop a human resource retention
program to lure these and other professionals back home. This will be through incentives packaged as part of Zimbabwe’s broader recovery program.

11.2 Zimbabwe’s Tourism and Investment
The MDC Government will pursue aggressive policies to boost the economy and strengthen local industry, tourism, and infrastructure and pursue aggressive marketing campaign of Zimbabwe as a tourist and investment destination.

11.3 The Diplomatic Corps
A country’s relationship with others is defined by the ability and capacity of its diplomatic corps. An MDC Government will be determined to ensure that an efficient, effective and professional diplomatic corps is put in place to serve the strategic external interests of the nation. Consequently the MDC Government will:
- Create a leaner, focused, effective and efficient diplomatic corps, targeted at countries where there is a proven and potential gain in trade, investment, technology transfer, education and tourism.
- Create a solid, professional diplomatic corps that is truly national and patriotic.
- Put in place a meritorious system of appointment to the diplomatic service to ensure that only competent people are entrusted with this onerous but noble responsibility.
- Strengthen the economic/commercial sections of our diplomatic missions abroad so that real benefits can accrue to ordinary Zimbabweans from the activities of the country’s diplomats.
- Review the number of our missions abroad to ensure economy and effectiveness.

12. Conclusion
International relations and foreign policy are pivotal in Zimbabwe’s developmental matrix. Zimbabwe is a country in transition and as such a sound foreign policy will be critical in opening Zimbabwe for trade and business to create jobs and sustainable development.
INFRASTRUCTURE CLUSTER

ENERGY AND POWER DEVELOPMENT POLICY

1. Introduction
Since independence the government of Zimbabwe has been operating on the basis of energy policies articulated in various policies and documents. This position remained until 2002 when the Government created the Ministry of Energy and Power Development (MOEPD); prior to this the power and energy portfolio migrated from one ministry to another. The President’s Office and the ministries of Transport, Industry, Water and Mines have all hosted the power and energy portfolio. Energy policies and programs were therefore not given the attention that is commensurate with the key role that energy plays in social and economic development. Consequently the development of energy infrastructure did not keep pace with the country’s population and economic growth.

As part of its efforts to increase investment and operational efficiency in the energy sector, the MOEPD recognised the importance of having a well-developed and clearly articulated policy framework. This led to the decision to develop a National Energy Policy (NEP) document to improve policy clarity and awareness, achieve consistency in policy implementation and identify and address gaps in policy development.

In 2007 the Ministry launched the process to develop the NEP through extensive stakeholder consultations. Provincial consultative workshops were held in November and December 2007 and were attended by people from government and non-government organisations, private sector, institutions of higher learning, community representatives and independent experts and consultants. The workshops were useful in identifying issues of concern and some recommendations on policy options. These recommendations were presented to a National Consultative workshop in Harare in January 2008. The proceedings of that workshop were summarised in the first draft NEP.

The process was then interrupted by political events leading to the formation of the Government National Unity in February 2009. A second National Consultative Workshop was thereafter held in June 2009 in Nyanga in order to review, update and validate the draft NEP. This led to a final draft NEP produced in January 2010. Cabinet approved this draft in March 2010.

Although the process of developing the NEP was a once off and ad hoc exercise it established a precedent that the MOEPD can use for its on-going policy and planning work. It is noted that the Water Act and the Environmental Management Act (ENV Act), define formal policy and planning processes that can be used as a model for a similar process for the energy sector.

Since the National Energy Policy has been developed by an MDC Minister in the Inclusive government, the MDC has accepted the policy as a basis for its own policy statement and review.
2. Vision
Efficient, clean and affordable energy for all Zimbabweans.

3. Mission
To develop an efficient and reliable energy supply system that powers a US$100 billion economy by 2030.

4. Guiding Principles
The policy framework of the NEP is based on generally accepted principles that can be summarised by the following five A’s which address the need for energy services to be applicable, available, acceptable and affordable, with clear accountability for each policy and program;

- **Applicability** – this is the principle that ensures responsiveness of energy policies and programs to stakeholder needs and expectations. Energy is not demanded for its own sake but as a means for enhancing economic productivity and quality of life.

- **Acceptability** – this is the principle that ensures that the production and utilisation of energy services is in accordance with acceptable standards. The technical quality and the social and environmental sustainability of energy products and services determine their acceptability to local and international stakeholders.

- **Affordability** – this is the principle that addresses the gap between policy rhetoric and reality. Energy pricing must be both cost-reflective and competitive in order to balance the need for investment viability and customer affordability.

- **Accountability** – this is the principle that addresses the need for every policy and program to have someone accountable for development, monitoring and implementation. It is critical that there are clear institutional roles and responsibilities to ensure accountability for all energy products and services and to avoid or minimise the conflict of interest inherent in policymaking, policy monitoring and delivery of energy services.

- **Availability** – this is the principle that addresses the key energy policy outcome, which is to increase access from traditional to modern energy services. Consistent with the focus on applications, the availability of energy services is measured in terms of access to a portfolio of modern energy services that are the least-cost to fulfil the different light, heat and power end-uses. The policies must ensure that the state of the market and the infrastructure is adequate for the production, transportation, delivery and utilisation of energy services.

The development of integrated energy resource master plans through stakeholder participation is the principal strategy for ensuring the practical application of the five principles.

The proposed Energy Management Act will formalise stakeholder participation and the adoption of these guiding principles in the development, monitoring and evaluation of energy policies and master plans. The ENG Act will create a multi-stakeholder forum, which could be designated the National Energy Advisory Council (NEAC) to facilitate stakeholder participation through relevant working groups.
5. Policy Objectives
The goal of the MDC government’s energy policy is to provide a framework for exploitation, distribution and utilisation of energy resources in fulfilment of the following broad policy objectives and principles;

Increase access to affordable energy services to all sectors of the economy;

- Stimulate sustainable economic growth by promoting competition, efficiency and investment in the sector.
- Improve institutional framework and governance in the energy sector to enhance efficiency and energy services delivery.
- Promote research and development in the energy sector.
- Develop the use of other renewable sources of energy to complement conventional sources of energy.

6. Policies and Strategies for Cross-Cutting Issues
The principal issues that cut across all sub-sectors concern regulation, institutional framework and governance. These issues address the acceptability, affordability and accountability for all energy services.

6.1 Regulation
Regulation of infrastructure services can be defined as “the combination of institutions, laws, and processes that, taken together, enable a government to exercise formal and informal control over the operating and investment decisions of enterprises that supply infrastructure services. It is necessary for government to intervene in order to protect investors and consumers from the consequences of market imperfections such as abuse of monopoly market power leading to the provision of poor and high cost products and services, collusion to fix prices and to engage in other anti-competitive activities.

In line with international best practice and as part of the electricity sector reform program defined in the Electricity White Paper of December 2000, the Government decided to address these regulatory problems by creating an electricity regulatory commission. The Electricity Act of 2002 subsequently established this. The Petroleum Act of 2006 created a similar regulatory agency for the petroleum sub-sector.

Recognising the scarcity of human and material resources and the similarity of function, the Government decided, through the Energy Regulatory Authority Act of 2011, to create the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (ZERA) to address these two sub-sectors and any other energy sub-sector to be defined by the Minister on the recommendation of the regulatory authority.

The Government has established the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority, ZERA, as an Advisory Regulator that operates within a clearly defined policy and legal framework. A policy decision will be made regarding the transition to an Independent Regulator once capacity has been developed and a satisfactory track

Although the Act defines a long list of functions for ZERA, the decision making role of the Authority is principally concerned with the development, monitoring and
enforcement of product and service standards, dispute resolution, and the issuing, enforcement, renewal, amendment or cancellation of licences.

On the recommendations and advice of ZERA the Minister makes decisions on the following:

- Licensing and other regulations made by the Authority in relation to any energy source or the administration of the affairs of the Authority.
- Appeals by anyone aggrieved by a decision to cancel a licence (although the aggrieved person still has a right to refer the matter to the Administrative Court).
- Deregulation of any service if, in the public interest, the service can be provided more efficiently through competition in the market.
- Energy prices and pricing principles and methodologies.
- Issuing of general policy directives in the national interest.

The MDC will take steps to build the capacity of ZERA in order to establish its credibility and legitimacy to key stakeholders, in particular the policy makers, investors, financiers and consumers.

6.2 Market Structure and Competition

The MDC government will demand that ZERA continuously monitors market operations to ensure that products and services are being provided competitively. Where there is evidence that a service can be provided more efficiently through competition within the market, ZERA shall recommend deregulation. Where there is evidence of anti-competitive behaviour, ZERA has to take appropriate corrective action, including referring the matter to the Competition and Tariff Commission.

Competition for the market rather than competition within the market is the policy option where there is a natural monopoly or where the number of market players is such that a competitive market is not feasible. The competitive bidding process must be explicitly defined and managed in a way that avoids conflict of interest and achieves least-cost outcomes. This situation prevails in a market with respect to large-scale power generation by Independent Power Producers (IPP).

6.3 Quality and Sustainability

The MDC government will guarantee the regulation of product and service quality that is essential to protect the interest of consumers and enable customers to receive value for money. Sustainability refers to the ability to fulfil present needs without affecting the ability of future generations to fulfil their needs.

The Environmental Management Act requires environmental impact assessments and environmental management plans to mitigate any adverse impacts of electricity generation and transmission and of petroleum production, storage and distribution. The MDC government will ensure that these requirements are enforced.

In Zimbabwe, as in most developing countries most of the households are in rural areas where the principal energy resource is wood fuel for cooking. Traditionally women and girls are the ones who have responsibility for fetching for firewood. As forests in communal lands are being depleted people have to walk longer distances to look for firewood. The MDC government will ensure that alternatives to wood are
developed and made available to lower income homes in all areas to curb demand and pollution.

6.4 Pricing
In a competitive market market forces of supply and demand determine the price. Market players are obliged to operate on the basis of the market price and adjust their supply and demand patterns accordingly. Suppliers who cannot cover their costs at the market price go out of business. Consumers who cannot afford the market price switch to alternative products or go without.

Since energy is an essential commodity that consumers cannot do without. When they cannot afford a specific form of energy, they switch to a cheaper alternative, usually the inefficient traditional fuels, or they steal. Energy thefts are a major contributor to non-technical energy losses and an indicator of unsustainable prices.

The MDC government will give effect to a system that fulfils the need for investors to have prices that reflect the costs of efficient operation and the need for consumers to fulfil their basic energy needs at competitive prices. Of particular attention are the basic energy needs for low-income groups, mostly the rural population and urban poor.

Where it is necessary to provide subsidies explicit principles need to be defined. International best practice demonstrates that most low-income customers have difficulty affording the costs of access infrastructure but can afford to pay prices that cover the operational and maintenance costs of providing modern energy services. Smart subsidies are therefore those that are targeted at facilitating access rather than consumption. Affordability measures are necessary in order to establish specific price levels and subsidies. The energy cost to income ratio or energy cost as a proportion of total production cost can assist in the objective determination of affordability.

The principles and procedures for pricing of electricity and petroleum products are articulated in the Energy Regulatory Authority Act, the Electricity Act and the Petroleum Act as follows:

a) To ensure that prices charged by licensees are fair to consumers in the light of the need for prices to be sufficient to allow licensees to finance their activities and to obtain reasonable earnings for their efficient operation.

b) The following principles shall be applied in determining electricity tariffs:
   ❖ To enable an efficient licensee to recover the full costs of its business activities, including a reasonable return.
   ❖ Provide incentives for the continued improvement of the technical and economic efficiency with which the services are provided.
   ❖ Protect consumers while keeping them informed about the cost of the licensee’s business.
   ❖ Avoid undue discrimination between customers and customer categories.
   ❖ Phase out or minimize cross subsidies to enable strategic industries to survive and operate.
c) The MDC government will support an electricity pricing methodology for determining the cost of supply associated with the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity:

- Electricity tariff setting is based on the rate of return methodology, which sets the utility’s revenue requirement on the cost of supply plus a fair return on the asset base.
- The cost of bulk supply (local generation and power imports adjusted for exports and wheeling) is expressed solely in terms of energy charges. The cost of capacity is reflected through both seasonal and daily time of use differentials of the energy charge.
- The costs associated with transmission infrastructure, including transmission losses, are shared equally between suppliers and distribution to transparently reflect the reliance of both supply and demand on the network. The costs are recovered in the form of a capacity based transmission-use-of-system (TUOS) charge plus a charge for losses.
- End-use customer categories are defined on the basis of the cost of supply to end users and the metering technology.
- Customers are not discriminated against by geographical location and there are no distance related parameters in determining charges.
- Consumption subsidies implicit in special pricing agreements with large industrial undertakings should be phased out or be transparently provided for;
- Consumption subsidies for low-income households (lifeline tariffs) should be provided for by cross-subsidies within the domestic customer category to minimise cross-subsidisation from other customer categories.
- Rural electrification projects funded from electricity levies must be transferred to ZESA at zero cost and excluded from the asset rate base for tariff determination in order to avoid double charges to customers. Rural electrification projects funded from government funds must be transferred to ZESA at current cost value and be included in the asset rate base in order for ZESA to recover costs and a fair return.

d) While the MDC government will support a market driven system of supply of refined petroleum products it will retain the ability to prescribe the price of any petroleum product. However when fixing the price of any petroleum product, the government shall take into consideration the landed cost of any petroleum products.

e) The MDC government will support the establishment of a Fuel Stabilisation Fund whose object is to stabilize the prices at which petrol and diesel fuel from fossil and non-fossil sources is sold to consumers.

The issue of pricing is critical because it ultimately determines the viability of investment projects and the affordability of the energy services. As these twin objectives are often contradictory, the Electricity Act used to give the Minister discretion to issue directives in the national interest to guide regulatory decisions in pricing. An MDC government will make this the responsibility of the independent Regulator.

6.5 Institutional Framework and Governance
At energy sector level this is achieved by separating the policy-making role of the Minister, the policy-monitoring role of the Regulator and the policy implementation role of the energy service provider. Appropriate capacity building should be
undertaken so that each institution is able to discharge its responsibilities without interfering with the roles of others.

6.6 Policy and Planning
Policy making and planning are fundamental roles of Government. The Ministry of Energy and Power Development is responsible for energy policy and planning. An MDC government will restructure the Ministry of Energy and Power Development to ensure accountability for policy and planning for all energy resources and deal with all cross-cutting issues.

The Energy Regulatory Authority Act appears to duplicate the Ministry’s responsibilities. For the avoidance of doubt the MDC government will ensure that the functions of the regulator relate to its fundamental role of monitoring and enforcing policy, subject to Ministerial approval where necessary according to the law, while the Ministry retains the role of deciding the relevant energy policies and plans.

6.7 Exploration
Potential investors under special mining grants in accordance with the Mines and Minerals Act will undertake exploration for energy minerals, mainly oil, natural gas and coal-bed methane.

6.8 Research and Development
At present research and development is undertaken on an uncoordinated basis by institutions of higher learning, the Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre (SIRDC). The MDC will ensure that research and development in the energy field is properly funded and coordinated.

6.9 Service Delivery
Energy service delivery is currently dominated by state enterprises in the electricity sector and by private enterprise in coal, petroleum, bio-fuels and small-scale renewable. Following the deregulation of the petroleum sector, the state oil company, NOCZIM, which used to be the main fuel importer, has been liquidated and replaced by two new unbundled State controlled companies that provides bulk transport by pipeline and holds strategic reserves. The MDC government will ensure that in the future service delivery will be the prerogative of public private partnerships so that the private sector becomes the engine for energy sector investments.
7. Primary Energy Sector Policies

7.1 Zimbabwe’s Primary Energy Resources

The country is well endowed with renewable and fossil energy resources, which are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1: Energy Resource Potential

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Energy Resource</th>
<th>Potential</th>
<th>Currently exploited</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RENEWABLE ENERGY</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Large scale hydro</td>
<td>50% share of Zambezi</td>
<td>3400MW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Small-scale hydro</td>
<td>Inland dams &amp; run of river schemes</td>
<td>430 MW</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biomass</td>
<td>Wood fuel</td>
<td>4.6 Mt/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Bagasse</td>
<td>1.5 Mt/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Forest residue</td>
<td>70000 t/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Liquid Biofuels</td>
<td>Ethanol</td>
<td>150 Bl/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Biodiesel</td>
<td>100 ML/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Animal</td>
<td>Draught power</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Waste (biogas fuel)</td>
<td>13 M m³/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Solar</td>
<td>PV</td>
<td>20 MJ/m²/day = 5.7 kWh/m²/day</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Thermal</td>
<td>No data; ~ 1% of potential</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wind</td>
<td>3 m/s</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geothermal</td>
<td>Unknown; ~ 50 MW</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other</td>
<td>Municipal waste, etc</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FOSSIL ENERGY</td>
<td>Coal</td>
<td>12 billion t/a</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Gas</td>
<td>Coal-bed methane</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Energy Resource</td>
<td>Potential</td>
<td>Currently exploited</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------</td>
<td>-----------</td>
<td>---------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Natural gas</td>
<td>Unknown; ~ 614 billion m³/a</td>
<td>Nil</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Petroleum</td>
<td>Local</td>
<td>Unknown</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Imported</td>
<td>Not applicable</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER ENERGY</td>
<td>Nuclear</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Electricity</td>
<td>Imports</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Although the table shows the need for more exploration and studies to obtain the missing data and information, it is very clear that the current rate of exploitation is insignificant compared to the potential, with the exception of wood fuel. This means that the country could be transformed from a net energy importer to a net exporter.

7.2 Primary and Electricity Energy Balance
According to the NEP the latest national energy balance is for the year 2000. Wood fuel provided the bulk of total energy supply at 53%, followed by coal (20%), liquid petroleum fuels (14%) and electricity (13%).

The dominance of Kariba Power Station and hydropower imports means that renewable energy provides the bulk of the country’s electricity energy. However the national power utility, on basis of the current and projected energy sources for electricity show a decline in the medium term in the contribution of renewable energy sources. This is not a desirable trend because it is in conflict with the policy objective for renewable energy, which is to increase usage and promote renewable energy as an environmentally friendly form of energy.

Renewable energy provides 55% of firm electricity capacity; fossil energy 49% and net exports comprise 4%. The mid-term mix is projected to be 47% renewable, 56% fossil and 3% net exports. By 2020, renewable energy drops to 42% and fossil energy increases to 58% due to the Hwange Power Station extension project adding twice the capacity of Kariba South Extension.

The net export of electricity is due to a special pre-purchase arrangement made with Namibia when that country provided a US$40 million funding facility for the refurbishment of Hwange Power Station. This situation is expected to continue until the end of 2013. The MDC government will increase power generation so that the country becomes a net electricity exporter. This can be partly fulfilled by prioritising renewable energy development through the development of the Batoka hydroelectric power station for commissioning before 2020.

As highlighted above the policy objective for renewable energy is to increase usage and investment. The legal framework for renewable energy development is very
weak. An MDC government will address this weakness and the following measures considered stimulating this sector:

- Feed-in tariffs: these are tariffs at which utilities and consumers are obliged to purchase power from renewable energy sources and are set at a level that encourages investment.
- Fiscal incentives: subsidies or tax concessions or other incentives for supporting renewable energy technologies.
- Renewable energy quotas: minimum targets of energy supplied from renewable energy are imposed on energy producers.
- Carbon credits: these are credits obtained for renewable energy projects that reduce carbon emissions which can be sold by developing countries to developed countries.
- The MDC government will propose the establishment of the Rural Energy Fund and Agency that will be established as the successor to the rural electrification agency and will become the coordinating agency responsibility for developing the energy industry in rural areas.

The main fossil fuels used in Zimbabwe are locally mined coal and imported petroleum products. At present all licenses for coal mining are the responsibility of the Ministry of Mines. All licences to import and distribute liquid petroleum products are the responsibility of the Ministry of Energy. The MDC government will maintain this position.

10. Other Energy Policies
In view of the important role of coal, oil, natural gas, coal-bed methane, uranium and other nuclear energy material as energy resources, it is necessary for ZERA to declare these as a regulated energy sources in terms of the ERA Act and to define the appropriate regulatory framework including in particular the pricing principles for power generation and general consumer prices.

11. Renewable Energy Market
Although renewable energy services constitute the bulk of total energy supply and consumption in Zimbabwe, they have the least developed commercial market.

11.1 Biomass
Biomass in the form of fuel wood provide the bulk of total energy supply and most rural areas are facing fuel wood shortages due to unsustainable harvesting. It is estimated that more than 6 million tonnes of wood fuel are consumed annually when the sustainable output of natural forests is 4.6 million tonnes. Demand for wood fuel already exceeds supply in Manicaland, Mashonaland East, Midlands and Masvingo, which are heavily populated provinces. Mashonaland Central and Matabeleland North are fast reaching the same situation.

For the foreseeable future wood fuel is likely to continue to be used for cooking and space heating for rural and low-income urban households. It is therefore necessary for Government to establish an institutional and funding framework for developing and implementing strategies to deal with the wood fuel crisis. Under an MDC government it shall be the mandate of the proposed Rural Energy Fund to develop and fund
strategies for resolving the wood fuel crisis in rural and peri-urban areas and developing alternative energy sources.

Commercial forests comprise 81000 ha of pine, 24000 ha of eucalyptus and 13000 ha wattle. Forest residue from commercial forests is estimated at 70000 tonnes and has potential for 150 MW power generation and creation of a more formalised fuel wood and charcoal market. Three companies, Allied Timbers, Border Timbers and Wattle Company, generate over 400000 m$^3$ of pine waste per year.

Bagasse from sugar cane processing has been used for electricity generation in the country for many years. The expansion of sugar cane plantations for ethanol production presents an opportunity for expanded use of bagasse for electricity generation. Hippo Valley and Triangle sugar estates generate 72.5 MW for own consumption and can sell up to 10 MW of this to the grid. Additional bagasse is coming on stream in the Chisumbanje and Middle Save areas where sugar plantations are being developed for ethanol production.

11.2 Hydropower
Large-scale hydropower on the Zambezi and small-scale hydropower on internal dams and perennial rivers represent a significant renewable energy resource for meeting local and regional electricity demand. Regional cooperation is essential for large-scale hydropower development, where there is excellent potential for export to countries with the demand but not the hydro resources.

11.3 Liquid Biofuels
In order to address the challenges of foreign currency shortages for importing petroleum products the country introduced 15-20% ethanol blending for petrol. Annual ethanol production capacity was 40 million litres a year before the recent additional investment in Chisumbanje.

A subsidiary of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe built a 100 million litres a year biodiesel plant. Unfortunately the country has not been able to produce sufficient feedstock to satisfy both food and fuel production requirements. As food needs take precedence over fuel, the Government has decided to promote the use of non-food crops such as jatropha and castor beans as feedstock for biodiesel.

An MDC government will stimulate and sustain the development and expansion of biofuels to meet the country’s liquid fuel needs. It will also make the blending of ethanol compulsory.

11.4 Solar Energy
The country’s solar energy potential of 16-20 MJ/m$^2$/day is greatly under exploited. At 3000 hours a year this can produce 10 000 GWh of electrical energy per year. Donor funded solar PV installations have been installed in many homes, businesses, schools and health centres since the launch of the Global Environment Fund (GEF) initiative in the early 1990’s. In addition to the Rural Electrification Agency, there are a lot of small and medium enterprises now involved in importing and installing these systems.
Solar water heating for urban households and businesses could save significant amounts of fossil fuel electricity. Its potential is greatly under exploited because so far only a few private sector businesses are in the market.

The MDC government, through the proposed Rural Energy Agency and the power utilities shall establish a fund to promote the use of solar energy as a strategy to address the short to medium term electricity crisis.

11.5 Other Renewables
Wind speeds of 3 m/s are too slow for significant power generation but can be used for water pumping. About 50 MW geothermal potential is estimated. There is significant but un-quantified for biogas production from municipal sewage treatment works and waste dumps. Solar cooking, solar crop drying and efficient fuel wood utilisation are other renewable options that are still at research and development stage.

NEP stakeholder consultative workshops highlighted the need to have end user driven research and development because so far a lot of stove ideas for example have not been commercial successes, as they do not fulfil stakeholder expectations and needs. The proposed Energy Research Council shall promote focussed research for use of renewable resources to meet end user needs and expectations.

12. Coal Marketing
The Coal market is dominated by the Hwange Colliery Company, in which the government is the biggest shareholder. In recent years a number of small-scale mining companies have entered the market.

At its peak the economy consumed 4.5 million tonnes of coal per year. About 3.5 million was used for electricity generation, 0.5 million for coking coal and the remainder for industrial heating and agricultural crop processing, especially tobacco curing. The market is currently down to 3 million tonnes that are mostly used for power generation. The challenge is the lack of clear principles for the pricing of coal. It is essential that the price is related to both quantity and quality, in particular the energy content. To this end the MDC government will expedite the declaration of coal as an energy source and establish clear pricing principles in order to guide investors and customers.

Besides the rail and road transportation bottlenecks there are also restricted port facilities for handling coal. If the country is to enter the coal export market in a significant way it needs to invest in a coal terminal at the coast in cooperation with Mozambican authorities.

The other challenge is to undertake exploration to establish bankable coal and coal bed methane reserves and the potential for coal conversion into fuels.

13. Upstream Petroleum Sector
The value chain for the petroleum industry comprises Exploration, Production or Drilling for Crude oil or natural gas, Refining, Importation, Transportation, Storage and Handling, Wholesale and Retail market. The upstream sector encompasses all activities from exploration to refining while downstream sector comprises importation to the retail market.
In the early 1960’s the country decided to construct a pipeline from the port of Beira in Mozambique for transporting crude oil to a refinery at Feruka near Mutare. The refinery is no longer operational and the pipeline is now used to transport imported refined product. The country has not yet discovered oil or natural gas after exploration undertaken in the Zambezi Valley. Consequently current energy policies and legislation does not focus on the upstream sector.

The country’s vast coal resources could be used for liquid fuel production and a petrochemical industry similar to Sasol in South Africa. The upstream activities require technology, skills and capital outlays that only large corporations are able to provide. It is therefore necessary to encourage public private sector partnerships.

14. Downstream Petroleum Sector
The main petroleum products on the market in Zimbabwe are diesel, gasoline (petrol), kerosene (paraffin), aviation fuel (jet engine fuel and piston engine fuel) and Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) and lubricants. The county currently imports 540 million litres of petrol and 630 million litres of diesel per year.

Prior to the formation of the Inclusive Government the fuel sector was characterised by monopoly rights and corruption. The MDC led Ministry of Energy has since restructured the industry and this is now dominated by private players who must compete on the local market. Bulk imports are achieved by road, rail and pipeline. The latter providing the bulk of all imports. The principle task of the MDC in government will be to ensure free supply of liquid fuels imported by pipeline and to ensure that there are regulations to prevent anticompetitive behaviour and to work in coordination with the Competition and Tariffs Commission to punish offenders.

15. Strategies for Fossil Fuels Market Development
The sector has demonstrated that de-regulation can generate innovative ideas for solving energy market crises. However a lot of the market participants are traders using facilities that have been developed by others. There is a need for investment to expand transportation and storage facilities, including extending infrastructure to serve rural areas. Current bulk storage facilities can handle 500 million litres and there are less than 500 service stations, located mainly in urban areas.

A major asset of the liquid fuels market is the underground storage facilities at Mabvuku in Harare where 290 million litres of liquid fuels can be held for limited periods of time. The MDC government will establish major new pipeline capacity for liquid fuels to be imported via Mozambique ports and these supplies will be used to meet the needs of all regional markets. This will make Harare a major regional hub for fuel supplies and also allow regional States to maintain strategic reserves.

There is unexploited potential for using LPG or kerosene to address the cooking fuel challenges for the majority of the population who either have no access to electricity or are not able to afford the cost of using it for cooking and heating. In order to preserve natural forests some countries, notably Mauritius in the SADC region, have successfully made a transition from fuel wood to LPG as a household fuel.

The electricity cost for cooking is subsidised for low-income consumers and yet the LPG cost, which is based on market prices, is lower. Electricity sector prices are set to
increase to reflect the cost of development of new facilities. Shortages of firewood are
evident in the significant increase in price.

Given the abundance of indigenous renewable energy resources for power generation,
and in the interest of addressing energy related gender issues, it should be the policy
to encourage low income families to use electricity for cooking by maintaining the
current 300 kWh lifeline consumption level. This is also a strategy to deal with the
wood fuel shortages and gender issues.

16. Electricity Energy Market
The generation and retail supply are competitive businesses while transmission and
distribution are natural monopolies. Because of the small size of the market in
Zimbabwe the generation and retail competition is for the market rather than within
the market.

Bulk supply can be sub-divided into competitive and monopoly elements – the
Wholesale Electricity Market (WEM) (which can be a single buyer, bilateral contract
market or competitive pool), System Operations and Market Operations (which are
monopoly activities).

The following table provides an indication of the generation infrastructure and the
capacity available currently and in the short to medium term.

Table 2: Generation Infrastructure (Source ZPC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Power Station</th>
<th>Installed Capacity (MW)</th>
<th>Available capacity (MW)</th>
<th>Comments</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kariba (hydro)</td>
<td>750</td>
<td>650-750</td>
<td>Varies with water and turbine availability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hwange (coal-fired)</td>
<td>920</td>
<td>500-750</td>
<td>Design constraints</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harare (coal-fired)</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>45-60</td>
<td>Units past retirement age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulawayo (coal-fired)</td>
<td>90</td>
<td>25-90</td>
<td>Units past retirement age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Munyati (coal-fired)</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>45-60</td>
<td>Units past retirement age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL</strong></td>
<td><strong>1945</strong></td>
<td><strong>1265-1710</strong></td>
<td><strong>Lower figure (short term to 2012); Higher figure (medium term to 2015)</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 3 summarises the transmission and distribution network infrastructure as at the
end of 2010.
Table 3: Transmission and Distribution Infrastructure (2010) (Source ZETDC)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Voltage level (kV)</th>
<th>Year installed</th>
<th>Line length (km)</th>
<th>Transformer installed capacity (MVA)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>400</td>
<td>1995</td>
<td>161.1</td>
<td>750</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>400/330*</td>
<td>1997</td>
<td>218.3</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>330</td>
<td>1959-1987</td>
<td>3014.1</td>
<td>4193 (excl 330/220)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220</td>
<td>1989</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>200 (330/2200)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132</td>
<td>1960-2010</td>
<td>2084.6</td>
<td>3027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>132/88*</td>
<td>1994-99</td>
<td>130</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>110</td>
<td>1965</td>
<td>62.5</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>88</td>
<td>1944-1988</td>
<td>1559.7</td>
<td>589 (excl 88/66)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>66</td>
<td>1961</td>
<td>52.5</td>
<td>40 (88/66)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Transmission &amp; sub-transmission</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>7408.8</strong></td>
<td><strong>8829</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>33</td>
<td></td>
<td>18244</td>
<td>2623</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>22</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
<td>47710</td>
<td>49361</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.4</td>
<td></td>
<td>53819</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL Distribution</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>119784</strong></td>
<td><strong>51984</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Notes: denotes lines constructed at the higher voltage but operated at the lower voltage

17. Electricity Sector Performance and Challenges

The major challenge facing the electricity sector in Zimbabwe is the inability to meet demand, operational inefficiencies and poor financial performance. The macroeconomic instability caused by the hyperinflation during the 2000’s to the end of 2008 was a major contributing factor as ZESA was forced to give away electricity at declining prices against real costs. It could not service foreign debt or pay for imports. It had to rely on Government interventions through the Reserve Bank to meet some operational expenses. Due to lack of adequate financial resources operation and maintenance suffered and there was a massive brain drain in response to declining real salaries and wages.
The dollarisation introduced in 2009 has restored the ability to charge real prices but revenue collection efficiency has declined from 30 days debtors during the parastatal days to over 300 days. Liquidity constraints have worsened the situation. The resultant cash flow constraints mean that the legacy debt and outstanding arrears remain unpaid and current operations and maintenance remains under funded. Daily load shedding and a slow-down in the rate of electrification are the main outcomes.

From a peak demand of just over 2000MW and energy consumption has declined but more slowly than available supplies. As a result in summer there is daily load shedding of 400 MW while in winter it goes up to 600 MW. Many customers with essential operations have had to resort to standby generators.

Electrification access levels have dropped in the face of a rising population without corresponding investment to meet demand. By the turn of the millennium it was estimated that 40% of the households in the country had access to electricity. ZETDC estimates that the level is now 31% nationwide, 80% urban and 10% rural.

The second major challenge is how to attract the investment required to increase generation capacity and extend and reinforce the transmission and distribution network.

The following are the key reforms thought essential to meeting the challenges in the electricity sector;

- How to enhance electricity sector operational efficiency and financial viability through separation of the natural monopoly transmission and distribution business activities and the potentially competitive generation and supply business activities.
- How to encourage private sector investment especially in power generation where significantly large financial resources were required which government, the traditional investor in the electricity power sector, did not have.
- Accelerate the electrification of the previously neglected rural areas using taxes and levies explicitly provided for a socially and economically viable rural electrification master plan.

After several years of experience in both developed and developing countries, the following ideal sequence of reform has emerged;

- Framework that takes account of international best practice but with modifications to suit local realities. Best practice at sector level is to separate the policymaking. Initial phase of reform is to have a well-developed policy and regulatory policy monitoring and policy implementation functions and vest these respectively in a Ministry of Energy and the Independent Regulator and Public/private sector service providers.
- At utility level the best practice is to unbundle into at least three separate business segments: Generation, Transmission and Distribution and Retail. In Zimbabwe this process has started but has a long way to go.
- The above changes should lead to accounting unbundling to set up the desired electricity market structure and test it. This would establish the policy and regulatory framework to be applied to the existing utility before it is physically unbundled. To facilitate regulation and prepare for transition to the next phases
of reform the utility should be required by law to create separate accounting units for generation, transmission network, system operations, market operations, bulk supply, distribution network and retail supply which all do business at arm’s length. In each business the accounts for the regulated and non-regulated activities must be separated.

The next phase in the reform process is physical unbundling on the basis of operational efficiency and financial viability. Experience has shown the need to have only one transmission network, system and market operator and several generation, distribution and retail operators in order to avoid abuse of market power, extract efficiency gains and distribute the gains equitably. In Zimbabwe the only physical unbundling that has been achieved is for the rural electrification agency.

Final phase of reform would be privatisation to expand the investor base and to extract further efficiencies. The regulator must now coordinate with the competition agency to regulate the sector, in particular to prevent abuse of market power.

18. Distribution and Retail Electricity Market

The following table summarises the current and proposed licensing framework following ZETDC unbundling:

Current and Proposed Licensing Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensed business</th>
<th>Licensed Activities as per Electricity Act</th>
<th>Current licensee and restrictions</th>
<th>Proposed licence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Generation</td>
<td>Construct, own, operate and maintain generating facilities; supply any licensed transmission, distribution, retail or bulk end users</td>
<td>ZPC power stations and IPPs; restricted to supply ZETDC, the designated Single Buyer</td>
<td>ZPC power stations and IPPs supplying distribution and retail companies and bulk users</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transmission Network</td>
<td>Construct, own, operate and maintain transmission facilities</td>
<td>ZETDC; transmission operations adversely affected by brain drain</td>
<td>NGSC (National Grid Services Company) &amp; secondary licensees e.g. ZETC</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>System Operations</td>
<td>Generation and transmission scheduling and coordination; congestion management; international coordination; procurement of ancillary services, system development</td>
<td>ZETDC; system development planning adversely affected by brain drain</td>
<td>NGSC (primary licensee); to revive role of technical advisor to Government on least-cost system development planning as the key policy tool to guide new generation licensing</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

18
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Licensed business</th>
<th>Licensed Activities as per Electricity Act</th>
<th>Current licensee and restrictions</th>
<th>Proposed licence</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Market operations</td>
<td>Energy accounting and settlement; standards and protocols for setting of prices; market prices and information dissemination</td>
<td>ZETDC; function dormant due to vertical integration</td>
<td>NGSC (primary licensee); facilitates multiple participants in a wholesale market</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bulk Supply</td>
<td>Purchase and sale of power in bulk from local and foreign generators</td>
<td>ZETDC; purchasing not open and transparent</td>
<td>NGSC (primary licensee); purchasing to be open and transparent</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Distribution</td>
<td>Construct, own, operate and maintain distribution facilities including customer connections, metering, billing and collection</td>
<td>ZETDC; function adversely affected by brain drain</td>
<td>ZEDC &amp; secondary licensees</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Retail supply</td>
<td>Purchasing, sale and trading of electricity to retail end users</td>
<td>ZETDC; purchasing not open and transparent</td>
<td>ZEDC &amp; secondary licensees; open and transparent procurement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Default service supply</td>
<td>Supply to customers with no supplier or whose supplier has failed to deliver</td>
<td>ZETDC</td>
<td>ZEDC (primary licensee)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The above licensing framework clearly shows the electricity market that will provide for investment and operational efficiency for the benefit of the end user.

This market structure implies the downsizing or dissolution of ZESA Holdings, the removal of the legal barriers to the privatisation of distribution and retail supply and expediting privatisation, thereby substantially reducing these overheads that are currently being carried by the electricity consumer.

This work requires substantial technical, legal and financial expertise and capacity building for the Ministry, ZERA and ZESA.

19. Strategies for Resolving Electricity Crisis

The above strategies need to be implemented while addressing the current electricity supply crisis. ZPC has engaged in the extension of power generation capacity at both Kariba and Hwange. The earliest that the new projects will be in service is after 2015. It is therefore necessary to have strategies for addressing the transitional period. The
The following table is a summary of the current and projected power supply and demand balance to 2020.

**Electricity Supply and Demand Balance (2011-2020)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>MW; GWh</td>
<td>MW; GWh/a</td>
<td>MW; GWh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renewable energy</td>
<td>665; 5005</td>
<td>798; 5157</td>
<td>1096</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fossil Energy</td>
<td>590; 4330</td>
<td>930; 4768</td>
<td>1530</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Firm Imports</td>
<td>100; 1595</td>
<td>100; 1581</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exports</td>
<td>150; 1074</td>
<td>150; 1314</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Net firm imports</td>
<td>-50; 521</td>
<td>-50; 267</td>
<td>No data</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-firm imports</td>
<td>600</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>700</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL Firm</td>
<td>1205; 9856</td>
<td>1678; 10102</td>
<td>2626</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL including non-firm</td>
<td>1805</td>
<td>1778</td>
<td>3326</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FORECAST</td>
<td>Historical trend – high case</td>
<td>2049; 11018</td>
<td>2440; 14962</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic Peak (1999)</td>
<td>2034; 12365</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformation Scenario</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2892; 17734</td>
<td>4450; 27287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SHORTFALL</td>
<td>Historic trend, firm</td>
<td>844</td>
<td>762</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
<td>----------------------</td>
<td>---------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Historic trend, non-firm</td>
<td>244</td>
<td>662</td>
<td>324</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transformation Scenario (towards US$100 billion economy by 2030)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1214</td>
<td>1824</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Options for managing peak shortfall (historic trend, firm)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DSM</th>
<th>Reserve capacity</th>
<th>50 MW</th>
<th>180 – 300 MW</th>
<th>300 MW</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Base load</td>
<td>60% of peak; &gt; 70% LF</td>
<td>506</td>
<td>457</td>
<td>614</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mid merit</td>
<td>25% of peak; 30-70% LF</td>
<td>211</td>
<td>191</td>
<td>256</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peak</td>
<td>15% of peak; &lt; 30% LF</td>
<td>127</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>154</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The key policy tool is the demand forecast because it determines the estimation of the load to be shed, and the supply shortfall to be managed using demand side management options and new supply projects.

The historical trend forecast is based on ZESA’s analysis of consumption patterns. GDP growth rates under an MDC government are expected to exceed 10 per cent per annum. The corresponding rate of growth of electricity demand is assumed to be two thirds of the rate of economic growth, or 7% per year. This is a relationship that has been observed in South Africa and it is reasonable it will be applicable to Zimbabwe.

The transformation scenario shows that the 2040 maximum demand will be 10 535 MW and the energy demand 60000 to 65000 GWh assuming 65-70% load factor. The corresponding 2015 and 2020 maximum demand figures will be about 2 900 MW and 4 500 MW respectively. The scenario indicates that the additional generating capacity required after the Hwange and Kariba extensions is less than 2000 MW by 2020. This should be compared to the over 4500 MW that has so far been licensed. The licensed generators will have to find an export market for their surplus energy.

An immediate option for reducing or eliminating off-peak load shedding is using non-firm imports and adjusting the tariff to incentivise the shift of demand to off-peak.
20. Regional and International Cooperation
The country is a signatory to regional and international agreements that have a bearing on the energy sector. Three key agreements are of particular importance: the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) signed in 1992, the SADC Energy Protocol, signed in 1996 and the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP) intergovernmental agreement signed in 1995 that established the first fully-operational power pool in Africa, with its coordination centre in Harare.

Through these agreements Zimbabwe committed itself to align its energy policies with regional and international objectives for mitigating climate change, integrated regional development and power pooling.

20.1 SADC and COMESA
Zimbabwe is at the centre of the regional grid and therefore well positioned to get maximum benefit from bilateral and multilateral power generation and transmission projects with its neighbours. Cooperation with Zambia and Mozambique in the development of the Zambezi hydropower resources can provide more competitively priced power for the country and for SAPP in the medium to long term.

Specifically the country needs to define the acceptable balance between local and imported or exported electricity and to commit resources for joint project development for generation and transmission interconnections. This is why a least-cost system development plan is such an important policy tool.

20.2 Global Obligations
Global obligations in terms of climate change will be achieved by the strategy of increasing the relative share of renewable energy in the primary energy balance. The country has not benefited from carbon funding and yet has the capacity to develop appropriate projects that can tap into this funding mechanism.

It is also a fact that the domestic money and capital markets are not able to provide the funding required for new power generation and therefore the country has to rely on international financial markets. This means that the country has to find a solution to the electricity and national legacy debt as part of the current efforts to raise new funding for power generation projects.

21. Nuclear Energy
Once bankable uranium reserves have been established the country needs a nuclear energy policy to enable the country to benefit from fuel exports or nuclear power generation. International cooperation through the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will allow the country to learn from the experiences of other countries.

22. Conclusion
This policy plays a critical role as it provides the impetus for production and supply of energy for the whole nation. Energy impacts on all sectors of society and the economy and energy activities relate to both the supply and demand. Energy is crucial to economic and social development, and to alleviation of poverty. Zimbabwe is party to a number of conventions and agreements at a global level. Globalisation, the new international environmental agenda, and market reforms are some of the new developments of recent years.
1. Introduction
The demand for housing and associated settlement services far outstrips supply. High rates of urbanisation, poverty, construction costs have made the provision of housing, infrastructure and offsite public utilities one of the major challenges affecting socio-economic development of the country. Shelter is one of the main basic human necessities and will be treated as a priority sector.

This housing policy is aimed at improving the quality of life and contributes towards the formation of a caring society. The objective of housing development will be to increase accessibility to adequate, affordable and good quality homes for all income groups in both rural and urban areas.

Priority by government will be given to low and medium cost housing. Both the private and public sector will intensify their efforts in the implementation of housing programs to meet increasing demand. The provision of social services will be continued and expanded with a view of improving the quality of life for all.

It outlines the key objectives of the policy, the focal areas namely the provision of both urban and rural housing. It also states the necessary inputs to achieve the set targets as well as managing the created estate for sustainability purposes.

2. Vision
A Zimbabwean society were every citizen has access to affordable and decent housing.

3. Mission
To create a framework for public and private participation in housing development in a manner in which every Zimbabwean is afforded decent and affordable housing.

4. The Current Housing Situation
In Zimbabwe the transition to majority rule in 1980 saw the lifting of decades of racial restriction to free migration within the country. Urban population rose rapidly from 23% to 30% by early 1990s to 39% in 2005 to 42.5% in 2010. This trend typical in many developing countries is described as the challenge of rapid urbanization. This trend has resulted in serious backlogs and is straining existing infrastructure. It is a reality that Zimbabwe’s urban areas have inadequate housing stock of good quality alongside dilapidated neighbourhoods serviced by collapsing basic infrastructure. The country has about 700 thousand housing units against a demand of 2 million units, meaning a cumulative housing backlog of 1.3 million housing units.

The fact that supplies lags behind demand is evidenced, among others, by overcrowding in major urban neighbourhoods and the proliferation of informal settlements. The other dimension of the housing challenge relates to inadequate maintenance of housing units, general settlement amenities and offsite public utilities.

Local authorities’ ability to maintain existing services is weak for a number of reasons. Available resources make it difficult to design and implement effective maintenance programmes let alone undertakes facility expansion programmes. The
provision of housing should be accompanied by the supply of other basic facilities like safe drinking water, good sanitation and accessible roads, schools and hospitals.

In the rural areas the housing challenge manifests itself in the poor quality of housing, built using sub-standard and non-durable building materials and often lack adequate lighting and ventilation and lack of basic services such as safe water supplies and basic sanitary facilities. The provision of housing not only uplifts the standard of living of people but also has multiplier effects on overall economic activity via the backward and forward linkages with the rest of the economy.

5. Policy Objectives
The MDC government will strive to achieve the following objectives:
- To facilitate progressive realisation of the right to decent housing for all Zimbabweans.
- Enabling the poor to access housing and basic services and infrastructure necessary for a healthy whole family living environment in both urban and rural areas.
- Promoting the development of housing that is functional, healthy aesthetically pleasant and environmentally friendly.
- To earmark and set aside land for public housing development in urban areas.
- To facilitate security of access to land and security of tenure for all socio-economic groups.
- To eliminate legal and customary barriers, where they exist, to women’s equal access and control of land and finance.
- To assist the low-income earners and economically vulnerable groups in housing improvement and development.
- To contribute in the alleviation of poverty by creating employment among the poor through building material production and construction processes as well as to promote income-generating activities within the building industry.
- To provide and improve infrastructural facilities in both the rural and urban areas so as to improve human settlements and living environment.
- Promoting and funding research and popularise the use of appropriate building materials that are locally available and low cost building technologies to reduce the cost of housing.
- To protect the environment of human settlements and of ecosystems from pollution, degradation, and destruction in order to attain sustainable development.
- To mobilise resources and strengthen capacity building in order to facilitate increased investments in the housing sector.
- To improve the quality of existing stock of houses.
- To promote inclusive participation of the private sector, public sector, CBOs, NGOs, cooperatives, communities and other development partners in planning, development and management of housing programmes.
- Creating a housing development fund to be financed through budget allocations and financial support from the private sector and development partners.
- To ensure that all local authorities have the technical means and the resources to provide adequate water, sanitation, solid waste, energy and road services.
6. Policy Intervention Measures
The areas that the MDC government will priorities are urban housing, rural housing and public housing.

6.1 Urban Housing
Rapid Urbanisation being experienced world-wide has brought about many challenges, in Zimbabwe, the problem of urban housing is characterised by an acute shortage in the number of dwellings leading to overcrowding in the existing housing stock. The acute shortage in housing supply has led to high rents being charged by landlords. The provision of infrastructural has not adequately satisfied the demands of the growing population. The MDC government will commit itself to address this situation through the development of urban middle-class and low cost housing, upgrading informal settlements and providing rental accommodation.

6.1.1 Urban Middle-Income Housing
Appropriate home ownership schemes for the middle-income groups will be introduced with a review of fiscal policies affecting housing delivery. There is need to provide middle-cost housing through the National Housing Corporation, Local authorities and the private sector. These will work closely with the Ministry of Local Government in formulating programmes that are appropriate and affordable to the target groups.

The MDC Government will set up a Civil Servants Housing Scheme to cater for their special housing needs under a Housing Fund. The government will assist civil servants to buy or build houses for home ownership. The government will further increase a Tenant Purchase scheme for civil servants to assist them to have homes to retire to.

The Government will encourage statutory pension funds, commercial banks, insurance companies and similar institutions to invest a certain percentage of their funds in housing development.

6.1.2 Low Cost Housing
The MDC government will put emphasis on providing houses for low-income earners who are the majority of urban dwellers. The MDC government will set up machinery, which will allow for the mobilisation of housing finance from the public sector, private sector, local communities and international agencies. In this regard the National Housing Corporation, local authorities and other agencies will facilitate the provision of planned, surveyed and serviced stands for new residential areas for allocation to low-income families on a self-build basis.

The MDC government will give tax incentives to individuals and institutions that invest directly or through an approved housing finance system in low-cost housing development.

6.1.3 Rental Housing
It is common knowledge that there is a need for rental accommodation in urban areas. A sound rental policy can stimulate investment in housing. The market forces of supply and demand should determine rent levels. The MDC government recognises that the solution to high rentals is the establishments of an adequate supply of new housing units.
6.1.4 Upgrading Informal Settlements
The upgrading of informal settlements will be given priority. Appropriate upgrading measures will be instituted for existing informal settlements. The MDC government will provide incentives to informal settlement dwellers to buy the land they occupy at subsidised rates for shelter development through waiver of fees for surveying, subdivision, change of user and transfer.

In addition, the MDC government will focus on the following to upgrade informal settlements;
- Security of tenure.
- The provision of basic infrastructural facilities.
- Improvement of the housing structure.
- The socio-economic status of the target community.

Appropriate compensation measures will be availed for displaced people if necessary. To curtail the spread of the informal settlements the MDC government will ensure supply of minimally developed but incrementally upgradable low-cost housing stands in all urban areas.

6.2 Rural Housing
Rural inhabitants have always provided their own housing using locally available building materials. The MDC government will aggressively promote the use of locally available building materials and the application of appropriate technologies. Rural housing construction will be encouraged to adhere to set out minimum standards related to ventilation and height. The Government will promote a sustainable process of shelter improvement and maintenance in rural areas.

6.3 Housing Delivery Inputs
To fulfil the already mentioned housing objectives the MDC housing policy recognizes land use and planning, on and offsite infrastructure, research and finances as the critical housing delivery inputs.

6.3 Land Use and Planning
Land is a finite resource. Land and land related matters including use, development and control and are sensitive issues with deep-rooted socio-economic and political impacts. Land holds a special position of an invaluable economic asset associated with an intricate choice of interests. The availability of land for different development initiatives including housing development in Zimbabwe is a significant asset.

In Zimbabwe a few people having recognised the special economic value in land engaged in public land grabbing for speculative purposes. Understanding this, an MDC government will make available serviced land at affordable prices in suitable locations as one of the critical inputs for housing development. The MDC government will provide following:
- Establishing a Housing Fund for the purchase or compulsory acquisition of land for housing development in peri-urban areas.
- Ensuring that legislative and regulatory instruments governing land use planning, administration and management are regularly reviewed and harmonised to facilitate housing development.
- Development control will be upheld and intensified to avoid illegal developments and construction.
Formulating comprehensive plans in land administration in order to develop and institute appropriate mechanisms to facilitate land market operations for sustainable housing development programmes in the future.

Encouraging increased involvement of licensed private developers in land development, construction and infrastructure provision with adequate safeguards to protect consumers and increase the supply of developed land for lower income groups by giving incentives to private developers.

Imposing a progressive tax over and above the current land rates on vacant urban land after a reasonable notification to help curb speculative activity and release land for development.

Increasing the accessibility to affordable and serviced land, while providing legal security of tenure to the poorer sections of society, women and vulnerable groups.

Providing incentives to informal settlement dwellers to buy the land they occupy at subsidised rates and support for shelter development through the waiver of fees of surveying, sub-division, change of user and transfer.

Re-planning and redevelopment of existing housing estates that do not provide the best use of land.

7. On and Offsite Infrastructure
The opening of new land for housing development or the upgrading of existing informal settlements requires the installation and maintenance of infrastructure such as water, sewerage, roads, electricity, social services and security. These infrastructural facilities therefore form a major and vital component of shelter provision. Accessibility to adequate basic services will greatly improve people’s economic capacities and quality of life.

To improve the infrastructural facilities the MDC government will:

- Embrace reforms in local government aimed at improving the financial capacity in local authorities and other local agencies, and enhancing their capacity to maintain and extend infrastructural services.
- Engage community groups willing to contribute their labour and resources towards the improvement of on-site infrastructure, for example, by community labour contracting for small infrastructure development and maintenance work.
- Ensure that private developers participate in developing infrastructure in rural and urban areas through their own initiative in collaboration with local authorities.
- Advocate for the use of construction technologies, which are cost effective, incrementally upgradable and environmentally sound with emphasis on labour intensive technologies.
- Ensure that local authorities will provide the main infrastructure.

8. Research and Innovation
The MDC government will promote research and innovation to produce cheaper building materials. To facilitate research and innovation the MDC government will:

- Increase allocation to research institutions to facilitate research on building materials and technologies.
- Promote the production of and availability of conventional building materials like cement and steel as part of the MDC industrial policy.
Periodically review taxation levels on building materials so as to reduce the cost arising from the building material component.

Promote and encourage small-scale enterprises to engage in production and application of researched material.

Encourage the public and private sectors to utilize the research materials in their housing and other development programmes.

Encourage production and use of fire resistant building materials.

9. Housing Financing
The provision of decent housing is being restricted by the general lack of finance. Inadequate fiscal policies for housing, low affordability due to poverty, scarcity of mortgages and the dearth of retirement benefit funds have also contributed to the lack of development of the housing sector. Government budgetary allocation including funds for housing loans is extremely limited. To improve housing financing the MDC government will:

- Increase the amount of public funds allocated to housing to strengthen its capacity to effectively play its role in the field of housing development.
- Employers will be encouraged to facilitate allocation of funds to their employees by way of loans directly or indirectly through the mortgage finance institutions for the purpose of acquiring residential stands and building homes.

10. Estate Sustainability
Lack of proper structural maintenance reduces the quality of housing stock. The MDC government will provide guidelines on estate management and maintenance. The guidelines will cover all modes of housing and will address such aspects as financial mobilisation, design and construction materials, management, and the required standards for maintenance of houses and buildings.

The MDC will launch a special project aimed at facelifting old houses in the country’s earliest residential areas. Houses throughout the country will be built and upgraded to meet certain minimum standards, all houses will be beautiful, functional, healthy aesthetically pleasant.

A procedure will be put in place to require all buildings to be inspected every 5 years by the local authorities. The MDC government will facilitate public education and sensitisation on the need to keep the environment clean.

11. Conclusion
Democracy starts with a decent roof and the provision of decent shelter is an alienable right. The provision of affordable shelter for all is paramount to the MDC government’s overall development agenda. This policy document enunciates the MDC endeavour to providing decent and affordable housing for all. It sets out the programme for providing houses and its multiplier effects of creating employment and providing decent standards of living.
TRANSPORT POLICY

1. Introduction
This transport policy provides a framework for managing, regulating, directing and facilitating the transport sector in Zimbabwe. It enunciates priorities and strategies for traffic and transport in various sub-sectors such as road, freight, rail, inland water and air transport. The policy recognizes the importance of transport infrastructure and the need for developing and the implementation of transport strategies and policies that will support all forms of economic activity and thereby enhance poverty reduction and improve the livelihoods of the majority in Zimbabwe.

It also emphasises the importance of private sector participation and consultation in traffic and transportation planning, monitoring and evaluation. The MDC government will implement strategies to ensure that Zimbabwe regains its position as a regional leader in the operation and management of transport networks that include road, air and rail. Transport is a key enabler for economic growth, be it in agriculture, mining, industry, tourism, and exports and imports across all economic sectors. Zimbabwe is a land locked country and will depend on regional and national transport systems to reach ports and markets and enable the speedy and efficient movement of people and goods for sustained economic growth.

2. Vision
An accessible, affordable, reliable, efficient, safe, regionally and globally integrated and competitive freight and passenger transport that drives sustainable economic growth

3. Mission
To provide a transport infrastructure and service through public and private partnerships that are people centered and environmentally friendly whilst meeting international standards

4. Transport Sector Challenges
Zimbabwe is in a key geographical position in the region, occupying a strategic role as a transport hub through which much of the region’s imports and exports must transit to the ports on the east and west coasts. However, the Zimbabwean transport network is in a deep-seated structural crisis and requires fundamental rehabilitation. While the country used to have one of the most developed transport networks in Africa, over the years the infrastructure has deteriorated due to lack of maintenance and investment.

The decline in agricultural and mining output and poor economic performance after 1998 undermined the viability of the transport sector. The deregulation of public transport brought about relief in commuter transport. However, the attendant challenges such as an increase in urban populations and the lack of investment in the road network and transport has resulted in traffic congestion, an increase in the number of accidents and pollution. There has been serious underfunding in mass transit public transport; this is compounded by mismanagement and corruption at all levels of administration.
5. Transport Policy Priorities
The MDC government will:

- Engage all stakeholders in establishing a viable transport network, which will serve all Zimbabweans.
- Prepare a National Road Network Development and Maintenance Plan for Zimbabwe and install a road network management system at Zinara and at all Local Authorities.
- Harmonise and integrate all transport planning, management, legislation, regulations, rules, standards and procedures.
- Create a single regulatory authority for the entire transport sector.
- Enforce competition between transport service operators.
- Create an environment, which will enable private sector investment in road, rail and air transport.
- Strengthen the policy, legal, regulatory and administrative environment applicable to the provision of infrastructure services.
- Strengthen government’s capacity to ensure that it plays an effective role in the management of the transport sector.
- Liaise with relevant ministries to promote environmental protection and energy conservation.
- Link up all commercial, mining and tourist hubs with an efficient, reliable and user-friendly transport network.
- Build a reliable and efficient urban mass transit system for all major cities and towns.
- Invest in human resource development and research related to the transport industry.
- Increase accessibility and mobility in both urban and rural areas through the promotion of the use of appropriate means and modes of transport.
- Reduce poverty through the creation of jobs in the transport sector.
- Create a seamless and harmonised regional and global transportation network for the promotion of trade and tourism.

6. Policy Interventions
An MDC government will;

- Fully rehabilitate the tertiary road network by 2015, giving priority to those sections important for access to markets and services by rural communities and rural business.
- Strengthen financial and institutional capacities for regular maintenance of the network and for oversight of the road transport industry.
- Implement reforms in the road sector in conformity with SADC protocols.
- Set up a Highway Management System for prioritising of work programmes and investment in the sector using road-use data based on instrumental surveys.
- Require that all major urban centres prepare long-term mass transit plans for their City and incorporate these in their overall master plans.

7. Road Transport Infrastructure
Zimbabwe has a classified road network of about 88,300 kilometres, of which about 15,000 km is paved. About 24 percent of the entire road network was estimated to be in good condition in 2005. About 50% of sealed roads are in poor condition, 28 % in fair condition and only 22% in good or very good condition. About 86% of the gravel
roads are in poor condition, 9% in fair condition and only 5% in good or very good condition. (Department of Roads: 2011)

The national paved road network has largely remained in fair or good condition but significant deterioration is occurring on urban and unpaved rural roads given weak capacity in most Urban and Rural District Councils to maintain roads. Furthermore, the effectiveness of the District Development Fund, which is responsible for maintaining the core unpaved tertiary road network, has declined in recent years due to inadequate funding, corruption and political interference. The Zimbabwe Infrastructure Assessment Note for the road sector found that deterioration of roads in Zimbabwe is most critical for the unpaved network. The MDC government will minimize total road transport costs and preserve assets in transport infrastructure through the following actions:

- Prioritize and speed up the rehabilitation: of the Harare – Masvingo road and the Plumtree to Mutare trunk road.
- Enforce axle load control on the paved road network; and minimize detrimental impacts on the environment.
- Maintain the lowest order roads, both in rural and in urban areas.
- Apply the principle of user-pays or cost recovery from direct users as far as possible.
- Seek and develop new sources for financing of transport infrastructure. Concessions for private financing, construction, and operation, such as the Build-Operate-Transfer (BOT) agreements for major national roads, railway and airports.
- Seek private sector participation in construction of tollgates on major roads on BOT arrangements.
- Adapt Zimbabwe’s economic growth policies to the requirements of environmentally sustainable development. Infrastructure should be provided and used in a way that is consistent with global standards of sustainability. The provision of infrastructure will take place within an integrated environmental management approach, and will include inter alia, the performance of environmental impact assessments (EIAs). Among the issues to be considered are environmental impacts, energy conservation, the transport of hazardous materials, and the conservation of scarce infrastructure construction materials.
- Develop and maintain liquid fuels and gas pipelines to meet the country’s energy needs and to help meet regional demand.

8. Urban Passenger Transport
The MDC government will not allow a monopoly of urban transport services. In fact to reduce transport costs and ensure that the economy is well served, the MDC government will encourage private sector participation all aspects of transport provision. While kombis have helped in alleviating transport woes, they have a very limited carrying capacity, which creates inefficiencies. A major outcome has been heavy traffic congestion, air pollution and a high accident rate due to reckless driving by many ill-trained drivers. Service and passenger care is very poor.

There has also been an increase in the number of private passenger vehicle in the past two years due to the importation of second hand cars. Traffic congestion in major urban centres and lack of parking space has been a headache for city authorities. Poor
traffic management, inefficient traffic signals (due to electricity load shedding), poorly designed road junctions and the absence of clear road markings have been cited as causes of road accidents.

The MDC government will:
- Develop a comprehensive mechanism for decongesting urban areas by ensuring that the public transport system is reliable, efficient and affordable.
- Provide a framework for private sector participation in the provision of urban transport in the form of buses, trains, trams and trains.
- Develop urban transport that encourages the usage of alternative transport e.g. bicycles, motorbikes.
- Remove duty on bicycles, bicycle components for local assembly and bicycle spares.
- Promote the use of public transport over private car travel.
- Reduce travel distances and times for commuting by linking settlement planning with transport networks.
- Construct ring roads to reduce traffic congestion.
- Construct parking bays for heavy-duty trucks outside the CBDs.

9. Rural Transport
The location of rural homes, farm fields, towns, growth points, shops, woodlands and water points in relation to rural road networks needs a revisit. The current arrangement encourages discrete journey trips and increases travel times and wastes energy and is expensive in financial terms. Existing physical transport planning legislation is not therefore appropriate and relevant to reducing the transport demand and burdens of rural area inhabitants, especially women.

The MDC government will:
- Refurbish all gravel roads.
- Open new roads that link resettled farmers with major roads and other transport modes such as railways.
- Protect all roads from animals by constructing security fences along them.
- Reduce duty on bus spares.
- Use labour based technology in road rehabilitation, new road construction and bridge repairs develop the capacity of the Rural District Councils to plan and implement sustainable transport infrastructure programmes.
- Dissolve the District Development Fund and integrate its remaining capacity to build and maintain the rural road network into the Road Departments of the Rural District Councils.

10. Urban and Rural Freight Transport
In order to build a reliable and efficient transport network an MDC government will:
- Adhere to SADC and COMESA standards of customs clearance, documentation and maintain a computerised database of all freight transport operations to assist the police, VID and ZIMRA in the discharge of their mandates.
- Work with relevant departments to speed up border clearance procedures.
- Enforce axle load limits at all Border Posts.
- Implement programmes to reduce carnage on the road and maintain safety.
11. Rail Transport
Over the years NRZ’s technical, operational, and financial performance has been adversely affected by the instabilities in the Zimbabwean economy, which has led to reduced revenues, the steady deterioration of infrastructure, aging rolling stock (locomotives and wagons), and further consequential loss of the networks capacity to carry all the traffic on offer. There is a critical shortage of funds, which are required for the procurement of essential items such as staff costs, fuel and spare parts. The major problem is the unclear government policy on either railway commercialization or Private Sector Participation (PSP) in the railway sector.

Additionally NRZ operates in a quasi-government environment, and because of this, it faces a lot of challenges in responding to the market dynamics, and in timely implementation of operational and investment decisions. Moreover, the declining state of infrastructure has resulted in some major accidents and derailments due to obsolete and heavily vandalised CTC and its signals and communication systems resulting in loss of life and property. This has caused safety concerns to the general public. The MDC government will:
- Rehabilitate and modernise the all major railway lines and in particular speed up the construction of the Harare-Chitungwiza and Lions den to Lusaka rail link.
- Invite the private players to participate in the commercialisation of the National Railways of Zimbabwe through Private-Public Partnerships.
- Upgrade cargo tracking and registration technology.
- Put in place mechanisms to deter vandalism, theft and sabotage of railway property.
- Recapitalize railway infrastructure to improve network capacity, efficiency and competitiveness.

12. Air Transport
Since 2000, Air Zimbabwe has been struggling financially and has been at the mercy of local and international banks. In February 2004, it was reported that Air Zimbabwe had been temporarily suspended by International Air Transport Association (IATA) over unpaid debts. As of May 2011, the airline was suspended from the international financial and booking system by IATA over unpaid booking fees and American General Supplies, a major supplier of aircraft spares to Air Zimbabwe, had warned that they could suspend services due to accumulating arrears. Currently, the airline’s fleet has been grounded several times by the Civil Aviation Authority, which condemned them as unfit to fly because of old age.

The MDC government will promote Zimbabwe as the hub for air transport in southern Africa. This means that the infrastructures required and a high level of ICTs will need to be promoted.

The MDC government will:
- Provide a national framework for airports and airspace management.
- Support and co-operate with international aviation bodies and regulations.
- Prioritise expenditure on air safety and communication equipment to lay the foundation for an early reclassification of Zimbabwe to Category 1 country with a good aviation oversight.
- Rehabilitate all airports to meet world class standards. Establish a coherent regulatory framework that promotes safety and efficiency Restructure the Civil Aviation Authority to improve service delivery.
Commercialize Air Zimbabwe in a partnership with another airline.
Adopt an ‘Open Skies’ policy and attract back some of the international carriers that have ceased providing services to Zimbabwe.

13. Water Transport
Numerous accidents happen in Zimbabwe’s water bodies because water users do not adhere to safety standards. The fact that Zimbabwe has limited transportation on water bodies has contributed to a relaxed enforcement of safety regulations.

The MDC government is committed to providing a conducive environment for water transporters, and will:
- Enforce waterways laws and regulations.
- Strictly adhere to licensing of operators and vessels e.g. Boat crews must receive adequate training.
- Explore commercial activities that benefit the economy.
- Establish rescue and disaster management teams on all major water bodies.
- Ensure meteorological information is readily available to operators all the time.
- Encourage the use of energy efficient water vessels.
- Enforce regulations to discourage vessel waste, oil and fuel spillage on water bodies.

14. Road Traffic Safety
The MDC Government will:
- Revamp the Traffic Safety Board to enable it to institute and maintain maximum transport safety standards.
- Work with other stakeholders such as the police to ensure safety in Zimbabwe’s traffic network.
- All roads to be clearly signposted and marked using regional standards.
- Construct roadside cycle and pedestrian tracks along all major urban roads.
- Construct road – over rail/rail – over road crossings.
- Enforce stiffer penalties for negligent and drunken driving, vandalism, theft robbery and high jacking.
- Establish robust standards for testing of persons for the issuing of learner’s licences and certificates of competency and at the same time deal with corruption in the Department concerned.
- Strict control and regulation of driving schools.
- Establish a passenger accident insurance fund to be supported by a levy on fuel, which will also cover all third party insurance requirements.
- Strengthen the capacity of the VID to enforce vehicle safety regulations and weed out corruption from the department.
- Launch public safety campaigns.
- Construct more weighbridges to check on overloading vehicles and to increase the VID presence on the roads.
- Design manuals for roads in Zimbabwe to incorporate accepted international standards including road widths, horizontal and vertical curvatures and minimum sight distances.
- Implement a computerised road management information system in line with international standards.
- Rectify all ‘black spots’ structural defects.
Install traffic surveillance cameras at certain designated spots such as traffic lights and speed limit zones.

15. Transport for Those with Special Needs
The difficulties frequently encountered by those who have reduced capacity to climb steps, run, stand whilst on a moving vehicle, read information, see destinations or ask for directions influence their desire or perception of their ability to make anything other than the most necessary or local journeys. This has a substantial impact on their ability to access opportunities, services and resources. The MDC government will address the needs of the disabled and the elderly through appropriate infrastructural provisions in public spaces.

16. Transport and the Environment
Another closely related challenge relates to pollution by exhaust fumes from aging vehicles, fuel and oil leakage and spillage from vehicles, garages (some of which come from street garages) fuel storage facilities and litter thrown from moving vehicles.

The MDC will:
- Encourage cycling through reviving the cycling tracks and making sure that bicycles are exempted from taxes.
- Ensuring that vehicles use fuels that are less harmful to the environment.
- Ensuring the proper disposal for waste fuels.
- Increase and enforce penalties for littering from road vehicles.

17. Institutional Issues
17.1 Ministerial Coordination
The MDC government will co-ordinate all agencies (public and private) in the provision of safety and functional systems for the implementation of transport policy. The Ministry of Transport will be responsible for policy planning and coordination. It will oversee the Department of Roads, Transport Management, Meteorological Services Department, and Infrastructural development.

The following agencies will be supported under the MDC government:
- The Traffic Safety Council of Zimbabwe will be reformed and supported to promote road safety through education, training and research in partnership with other stakeholders.
- The Department of Roads (State Highways Authority).
- The Vehicle Inspection Department is responsible for vehicle inspections and the removal of vehicles that are not road worthy from the roads.

17.2 Funding
Financing of road rehabilitation and maintenance is one of the key issues to be addressed in Zimbabwe. The National Road Fund is a statutory Fund dedicated for road works especially maintenance and rehabilitation. The MDC government maintain support for the Zimbabwe National Road Authority whose mandate will be to:
- Collect all road user charges such as fuel levy, transit fees, vehicle license fees, abnormal load fees, network access fees as well as toll fees.
- Heavy vehicle surcharges for carrying extra loads.
Vehicle registration and licensing.
International transit fees.
Grants and donations approved by the government.
Manage and rehabilitate all national roads.

18. Conclusion
The transport industry is one of the key enablers in turning around the economic fortunes of this country. An MDC government will ensure that the sector is given the necessary attention and priority to enable the different players to provide transport services to all clients that is cost effective and efficient.
INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES

1. Introduction
The importance of ICTs lies in the technology’s ability to create greater access to information and communication in underserved populations. Countries that have harnessed the potential of ICTs have attained significant social, political and economic development. Information and Communications Technology - or technologies) is an umbrella term that includes any communication device or application, encompassing: radio, television, cellular phones, computer and network hardware and software, satellite systems, as well as the various services and applications associated with them, such as videoconferencing and distance learning.

ICTs are rapidly transforming countries into information and knowledge-based economies. Unless less technologically advanced areas have a chance to catch up, the increasing technological advances in developed nations will only serve to exacerbate the already-existing economic gap between technological "haves" and "have nots" areas, thereby widening the digital divide and perpetuating inequalities between societies. Contemporary development strategists emphasize the role that ICTs, labour and capital play in propelling countries to rapid economic growth and poverty alleviation.

The MDC therefore recognizes the role of ICTs in the social and economic development of the nation and hereby promulgates this ICT Policy, which seeks to offer people access to information, education and entertainment. Our belief is that access to information gives citizens the right to know and be heard, is a hallmark of a functioning democracy that empowers citizens to demand transparency and accountability in the conduct of public affairs and make informed decisions on issues that affect them.

2. Vision
A technology driven and highly developed society.

3. Mission
To use ICTs to stimulate and sustain economic growth through systematic application and innovation.

4. ICT challenges in Zimbabwe
The biggest challenge confronting the ICT sector today is that of suppression of information by the governing regime through repressive laws such as Interception of Communication Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act. The government has thrived on gagging, suppressing and inhibiting access to ICTs as a way of stifling critical debate on developmental and other issues by Zimbabwean residents and citizens.

Access to ICTs has been hampered by the economic meltdown that has hit Zimbabwe since 1999. While the formation of the GNU in 2009 resulted in a significant increase in the uptake of mobile phone usage, most citizens, especially in rural areas, remain excluded from access to ICTs due to several factors that include cost, absence of infrastructure, low transmission speeds, illiteracy and supply bottlenecks. Excessive regulation, monopoly and licensing continue to constrain development of the ICT
sector. The ICT sector has also been affected by the massive brain drain that was triggered by the economic meltdown.

Despite government’s efforts to provide ICTs to schools and other centres, ICT training and certification remains very limited resulting in low utilisation by intended beneficiaries. In any case efforts to computerise the education sector have remained a token exercise as it has been politicised. The use of ICTs in business remains very limited due to lack of investment in ICT by the sector.

Government utilisation is still at rudimentary levels and as a result the use of e-government and ICT based monitoring and evaluation remains elusive. Some of the challenges affecting the industry include cost of computers and equipment, inadequate access to technologies (both data and voice); poor national and international bandwidth poorly designed and optimised websites and unreliable electricity.

5. Policy Priorities
In line with provisions of the new constitution, which recognises the right to information, the MDC government will put in place measures to ensure the following:

5.1 Openness and Inclusivity
All citizens should have access, in their own language, to information about matters of public concern. This means that information should be made widely available through a range of channels, including the mass media and new technologies such as the Internet. It also means that people from all walks of life in all areas should be helped to develop the skills they need to access and use that information. This is particularly important in the case of minorities, disabled citizens and other groups that might be systematically excluded from participation in the public sphere.

5.2 Diversity
Zimbabweans citizens come from widely diverse social and cultural backgrounds and hold a variety of political views. The MDC government will therefore advance the role of ICTs in ensuring that citizens and residents engage in debates and are able to freely air their views for the advancement of Zimbabwean society and their democratic rights.

5.3 Participation
The MDC government will put in place measures to ensure that citizens express their views, are heard, and have the opportunity to influence decision-makers.

5.4 E-Governance
The MDC government recognises the efficacy of ICTs in improving service delivery and will invest in a public administration system that is ICT driven.

5.5 Other Priorities

- Ensure the development and improvement of existing ICT infrastructure to benefit all sectors of the economy.

- Develop of training schools and introduce awareness programmes in order to increase utilisation of existing ICT infrastructure.
Encourage investment by domestic and international players in bandwidth to enhance speed and efficiency by creating a conducive environment and through research.

Focus on the disadvantaged communities and groups in order to give them access ICT facilities in an affordable manner.

Lure skilled manpower in the diaspora to contribute to the growth of the ICT sector.

6. Policy Interventions

6.1 Communication as an Empowering Tool
The MDC government’s communications policy will centre on citizens’ needs. It will therefore focus on providing the tools and facilities - the forums for debate and the channels of public communication - that will give as many people as possible access to information and the opportunity to make their voices heard.

This will be achieved through:

- Improving civic education - Civic education is the responsibility of the government. Civic education is crucial for enabling people to exercise their political and civic rights and to become active in the public sphere.

- Citizen interconnectedness - The maintenance of interconnections between citizens is a vital component in society. This is a seedbed for respect and tolerance among citizens. The aim is to foster a sense of belonging and togetherness.

- Connecting citizens to government institutions - the MDC government will make a deliberate effort to open feedback channels between government institutions and the country’s citizens. This two-way communication will foster democracy and seek to make institutions more responsive, open, accountable and accessible to citizens.

- Institutions must inform Zimbabweans about opportunities to participate in public consultation and citizen-engagement initiatives, thus also ensuring that institutions of the government are visible, accessible and accountable to the public they serve and that all government institutions work collaboratively to achieve coherent and effective communications with the public.

In order to encourage a variety of opinion and the free flow of information, the establishment of a monopoly of communications/media houses by individuals and corporations will be discouraged.

6.2 Harnessing ICTs in Education and Research and Development
In order to make progress in social and economic development and bridge the digital-divide, it is necessary that developing countries like Zimbabwe invest significantly in ICT education and research and development. ICT education in Zimbabwe is still in its infancy, with only a few primary and secondary schools having embraced ICT as part of their curriculum. ICTs are not even one of the mandatory subjects on the official school curriculum. There are few schools with computers in Zimbabwe and the majority of those that have, do not have access to the Internet. This makes ICT education in Zimbabwe an uphill task and this policy statement is designed to redress this anomaly.
The MDC government will target the following:

- Integrate ICTs in the education system and develop the nation’s Research and Development (R&D) capacity in developing local ICT products and services.
- Deploy ICTs at all levels of the Zimbabwean educational system in order to improve and expand access to education, training and research facilities.
- Modernise the educational delivery system with the aim of improving the quality of education and training at all levels.
- Strengthen the administration and decision-making capacity in the educational system through the deployment of Education Administration Information Systems.
- Promote cooperation between government and industry in the R&D of ICT products, innovation and marketing of world-class services and products that can compete internationally.

In order to achieve these goals, the MDC will:

- Put in place the necessary policy interventions to promote and encourage the integration of ICTs within the entire Zimbabwean educational sector in the areas of administration, teaching, learning and research.
- Facilitate the creation of centres of excellence for research in electronics, engineering, telecommunications, computer science, information technology, multi-media and information science.
- Implement initiatives to promote E-learning and E-Education as well as life-long learning within the Zimbabwean population at large.
- Strengthen science and technical education as the basis for laying the foundation for human resource and skills development in ICT.
- Promote adequate investment in R&D as a way of developing the nation’s scientific and industrial research capacity in ICTs.
- Promote and facilitate the integration of computer skills into the teaching and learning process at basic (primary), high school and tertiary levels.
- Introduce programmes on teacher education in ICTs at all training institutions in the country.
- Develop partnerships with private sector and other stakeholders in the quest for increased ICT literacy.
- Promote the use of E-Learning systems at tertiary and teachers’ colleges and at all national universities.
- Develop a national ICT curriculum and qualification system at basic, high school and tertiary levels.
- Promote the development, deployment and utilisation of electronic-based distance education, training and learning systems in the Zimbabwean educational system to complement and supplement the conventional education systems.
- Promote and facilitate the development and the adoption of Educational Administration Information Systems within the public and private educational institutions to improve the quality of managing educational delivery activities, operations and monitoring.
- Promote and facilitate the participation of the private sector and other establishments including industries and businesses in industrial research as well as R&D activities.
Encourage and facilitate collaborative research; R&D projects and knowledge transfer partnerships between Zimbabwean universities/ research institutions with counterpart institutions in other countries.

Implement special schemes and policy measures and packages aimed at promoting affordable acquisition of computers and other ICT products by students, trainers and educational institutions.

Promote and facilitate the adoption of educational technologies and Internet access within the public and private educational institutions targeting all levels of the educational system.

Allocate a significant percentage of the national budget to integration and deployment of ICTs in the education system.

7. Telecommunications

Internationally, the telecommunications industry is playing an increasingly crucial role in economic and social development. The availability of a good and affordable telecommunications infrastructure and, associated with this, a widening range of telecommunications services and applications at internationally competitive prices are decisive corporate-location factors. This sector has been the subject of considerable attention in recent years, and in many countries the system has been broken up and privatized, the reason being that a state-controlled institution finds it difficult to stay abreast of developments and that the private sector is in a better position to finance new development and respond to customer needs.

The MDC government will;

Encourage investment and innovation in the telecommunications sector.
Facilitate development of the telecommunications infrastructure on primarily commercial terms using competitive technologies.
Ensure the availability of telecommunications services throughout the country.
Promote the use of public funds in the construction of network infrastructure in areas where such services are not commercially available.
Improve the availability of high-speed connections by promoting the construction of optical fibre and wireless networks.

The MDC government will therefore immediately review the existing arrangements in the industry and then adopt reforms that will:

Transform all state-controlled organizations in the ICT sector to ensure their independence and freedom to act in the public interest.
Review the legal framework within which the media operates, with a view to liberalizing both electronic and print media to allow for open competition, ensuring, however, data protection and privacy, and safeguarding intellectual property rights, patents and copyrights.
Maintain and improve the national grid and international telephone links via satellite and international cable networks.
Ensure that the relevant regulatory institutions license operators and monitor call charges, and act against any collaboration between operators that might take place to the detriment of consumers.
Create the conditions for investment in affordable broadband services in all major centres.
Adjust the allocation of radio frequencies for greater flexibility and efficiency. The registration of frequencies will be maintained under POTRAZ.

Examine the contracts of private media companies currently operating in Zimbabwe to ensure that they meet worldwide standards of corporate governance.

Open up investment in the mobile phone networks. Through POTRAZ, private-sector participation will be encouraged in this critical sector to enhance cheap and reliable networks with nationwide coverage that ensure that each person can communicate. The MDC will require cell phone companies to share distribution facilities.

Ensure that private-sector participation is encouraged in order to provide low-cost telephone services and to widen the options available to the public.

8. Gender and ICTs
In many societies women are the most impoverished with the least access to resources and with little control over decisions that affect their lives. For this reason, women are on the wrong side of the digital divide, with limited access to and control over ICTs.

The MDC government will:

- Use ICTs as an instrument to advance women issues in all activities of the economy and society as well as empower women through opportunities created by the implementation of ICT projects and programmes in the country.
- Increase empowerment opportunities through ICTs and the participation of women in national development.
- Promote ICT as an alternative career for women in the informal and formal educational system and beyond.
- Encourage creativity and innovation around ICTs among women leading to entrepreneurship development.
- Provide a forum for collaboration and exchange of ideas on matters affecting women.
- Enable full and equal participation of women in creating the information society.

The MDC recognises the right of all people and groups, including women, to access and effectively use the information and knowledge required in order to address their developmental needs and concerns.

To this end, the MDC shall endeavor to bridge the gender digital divide by:

- Ensuring that women and girls are explicitly included amongst the beneficiaries of the ICT revolution.
- Promoting the access of women, girls and women’s organisations to new and emerging communications technologies and computerised information resources.
- Promoting a gender perspective in all ICT initiatives.
- Implement measures to counter gender imbalances affecting women’s participation and benefiting from the information society at all levels.
- Supporting women and girls’ access to education and training in using computer networks and promoting a gender perspective in skills training and methodology in the field of new technologies.
- Promoting equal access of women to advanced technical training and careers in computer communications.
Providing safe and secure online spaces for women and girls.

Promoting the development of content that reflects women’s needs and voices.

Promoting and supporting the equal participation of women in international and national ICT decision-making relating to use of communications infrastructure and access to computer networks.

Promoting science and technology education for women.

Creating an environment that encourages ICT technological innovation and entrepreneurship among women.

Promoting the development of computerised information resources on issues related to the advancement of women.

Promoting the involvement of women in the definition, design and development of new technologies.

Implement actions that promote women friendly initiatives; and promote fair access to ICTs by women as well as the disadvantaged in society.

Creating an environment that encourages ICT technological innovation and entrepreneurship among women.

Promoting the development of computerised information resources on issues related to the advancement of women.

Promoting the involvement of women in the definition, design and development of new technologies.

Implement actions that promote women friendly initiatives; and promote fair access to ICTs by women as well as the disadvantaged in society.

Use ICTs to domesticate and harmonise gender issues enshrined in regional and international protocols ratified by Zimbabwe.

9. Intellectual Property
An MDC government will promote an environment where research and innovation will flourish. The MDC subscribes to the principle that knowledge and ideas should be harnessed for wealth creation and societal well-being. The traditional agricultural based economy is fast being replaced by a knowledge-based economy. Intellectual Property will therefore become a key factor in driving this knowledge-based economy into the future.

The MDC government will therefore encourage and facilitate technological innovation through the provision of an enabling environment, a secure mechanism and platform within which innovation can be protected and exploited to the benefit of both the nation and the creators or authors of ideas.

To achieve these objectives the government will:

- Establish a common framework to regulate the ownership and management of Intellectual Property from the creation; protection, innovation, exploitation and technology transfer activities.
- Promote and facilitate the protection of Intellectual Property in line with international and National Intellectual Property Policy.
- Promote and facilitate the exploitation and commercialisation of Intellectual Property generated from projects funded by the Government of Zimbabwe.
- Consider the balance between plagiarism and what is acceptable as “open” knowledge in coming up with legislation relating to IPR such that the rights of all citizens to access and use public domain information are not prejudiced.

10. Freedom of Expression and Censorship
The MDC subscribes to the general principle stated in Article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, that ‘Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers.’
However, the MDC also recognizes that freedom of expression is not absolute. It may cause harm to others and must take into account other rights and interests, such as privacy, the protection of children and public order. Limits to the freedom of expression are therefore inevitable. However, any restrictions should be the exception and free expression the rule. In any case, the rapid growth of information and communications technologies, and in particular the Internet, means that censorship has become increasingly difficult to implement as information can easily cross national boundaries.

The MDC believes that censorship should not be imposed unless it is truly necessary to protect some other vital objective. It is central in a democratic society that people should be left to make their own judgments about what they wish to say, read or see, free from State or other control, unless there will be real harm to others. The MDC government will therefore review the Censorship and Entertainments Control Act with a view to removing unnecessary regulations and controls.

11. Security and Cybercrime
As ICTs becomes more central to people's life and work, computers become both targets and tools of crime and terrorism activities.

In view of this the MDC government will:

- Put in place laws that serve as a deterrent from abusing ICTs to commit cybercrimes.
- Safeguard national, institutional and individual security concerns to support the development, deployment and effective use of ICTs among the Zimbabwean people.
- Develop substantive criminal laws dealing with cybercrime.
- Develop effective but balanced procedural instruments that enable competent authorities to investigate cybercrime but protect the rights of the suspect.
- Develop instruments for transnational cooperation in cybercrime investigations.
- Develop a framework for regulating of Internet service providers.
- Ensure that due regard, recognition and protection of intellectual property rights and protection of individual/personal information and privacy rights are adhered to in the pursuit of implementing security measures; therefore, Security Agencies shall not in any way interfere with the privacy; the right to communicate and freedom of expression by citizens without factual information to warrant such action.

12. E-Commerce
The MDC recognises the potential of e-commerce in generating new economic activities as well as improving the production and delivery of goods. An MDC government will initiate efforts to ensure a coordinated and integrated approach towards e-commerce through the creation of national institutions whose mandate shall be the formulation of national programs aimed at promoting and coordinating the development of e-commerce in the country.

The MDC government will:

- Promote Zimbabwe’s full and effective participation in national, regional and global trade through E-Commerce services and facilities.
Facilitate the adoption of E-Commerce in all sectors of the Zimbabwean economy to ensure productivity and growth.

Develop a highly competitive ICT-led value-added and export-oriented services industry capable of serving as the catalyst for driving Zimbabwe’s active participation in global trade.

Develop a services industry whose activities meet international standards in the production and delivery of globally competitive E-Commerce products and services.

In order to meet the above objectives, an MDC government shall facilitate the creation of a National E-Commerce Committee to formulate a National E-Commerce Master Plan aimed at promoting and coordinating the development of e-commerce by:

- Formulating policies, regulations and mechanisms that facilitate e-commerce in Zimbabwe, regionally and internationally.
- Reviewing the adequacy of the existing infrastructural facilities with a view to facilitating expansion of the infrastructure.
- Creating an environment that encourages private sector participation in e-commerce projects and activities.
- Establishing monetary and fiscal policy measures to ensure consumer confidence in E-Commerce.
- Establishing mechanisms to protect intellectual property rights related to E-Commerce.

13. Legal, Regulatory, Advisory and Dispute Settlement Mechanisms

The MDC recognises that economies cannot function properly without sound government structures. As demonstrated by the Asian Crisis of 1997, liberalization of the telecommunications sector without regulatory reform can lead to disastrous consequences for any country or region. An appropriate and vibrant legal and regulatory framework is therefore mandatory to act as the foundation for the development of the ICT sector.

The MDC government will therefore;

- Put in place appropriate institutional, legal and regulatory frameworks that will ensure sustainable deployment of ICTs in the country in line with national legal and regulatory objectives taking into account regional and international best practices, standards, protocols and Zimbabwe’s commitments to the international community.
- Facilitate the development of an effective, industry-responsive, timely and flexible legal and regulatory system capable of supporting the development and growth of the ICT sector.
- Facilitate the enactment of necessary laws and legislative provisions governing access to information, data/information protection and security, and computer and cyber crimes.
- Put in place laws to facilitate electronic information-related activities in the country including E-Government and E-Commerce.

14. The Posts and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe

The MDC will retain the Posts and Telecommunications Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (POTRAZ) as a regulatory authority to provide for economic and technical monitoring of the telecommunication industry in accordance with recognised
international standard practices. This will include the promotion of fair competition and efficient market conduct within the industry and ensuring appropriate control, inspection and regulation of the industry. It will be the main regulatory body for the Information Communications Technology and Postal services sectors. It will also grant operator licenses, allocates frequencies and ensures safety and quality of every telecommunication service. The MDC government shall promote the development of a licensing framework that takes into account the use of cost-effective technologies and systems that can assist in increasing access to ICTs especially in rural areas.

15. ICT Advisory Council
The MDC government will spearhead the establishment of an ICT Advisory Council whose mandate will be to advise the Minister responsible for Information Communication Technology on specific issues. These include the promotion of the interest of consumers, purchasers and other users in respect of quality, variety and improvement of ICT services, tariff policy and the promotion of research and development of new ICT Techniques.

16. ICT Appeal Tribunal
The MDC will establish the ICT Appeal Tribunal whose role will be to hear and dispose of any appeal against a decision of POTRAZ regarding disputes on ICT related matters.

17. Promoting Equitable Public Access to Information
One of the most basic human rights is for individuals to have the right to information that will enhance their lives. Corruption thrives where there is secrecy. Lack of access to information about the work of government leads to an unaccountable public administration system that is open to abuse. Where there is little transparency and limited scope for public scrutiny, public officials are able to hide or cover up corrupt practices and maladministration.

The MDC will therefore:

- Remove barriers to information in terms of building networks and providing content.
- Establish initiatives and programmes to aid the promotion and education of the population with regard to information literacy. While it is important to educate and train information professionals, the goal should be that all citizens are information literate so as to increase their effectiveness in working life and enhance their ability to function in society.
- Accede to the UNESCO Florence Agreement and its Protocol, which commit governments to facilitating the free flow of information across borders by reducing tariff, tax, currency and trade obstacles to the international circulation of educational, scientific and cultural materials.

There is no law in Zimbabwe that obliges public officials to supply relevant information when requested to do so by the media or to reply to questions put to them by the media. In the past it has been very difficult for the public and the media to access information about public matters from government officials. The media has had to go through a lengthy and often futile process to obtain information from officials. The private media was often faced with the dilemma of whether to publish
stories emanating from unofficial sources or leaks within government departments when it was not able extract or confirm any information from official sources.

An MDC government will come up with appropriate legislation to deal with these weaknesses, and to this end, a national information policy will be devised. The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act will be repealed and a new Freedom of Information Act will be enacted. Detailed below are some of the measures the MDC government will take to ensure the free flow of information among citizens.

18. Public Broadcasting
An MDC government will make sure that the airwaves are freed and liberalized. It will ensure the creation of a non-partisan public broadcaster that serves the interests of the people and provides a nationwide service. It will reflect the diversity and broad aspirations of the Zimbabwean people. The MDC government will completely review the operations of the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) and develop a new framework for public broadcasting.

It will look into;

- The full privatization of the electronic media.
- The future of public broadcasting both in television and radio.
- The introduction of more players in the broadcasting industry, with special emphasis on community radio.
- The introduction of competitive technologies that open up the industry and reduce the cost of access.
- The protection of the media from undue state interference and direction.
- The definition and protection of public interests.
- The state of ZBC, its accumulated debt and personnel.
- The development of a digital broadcasting migration strategy that ensures that the country fully meets the 17 June 2015 deadline for the transition from analogue television transmission to digital services in line with the Geneva 2006 Agreement.

19. Voluntary Media Council
An MDC government will immediately facilitate the creation of a voluntary media council, which will have the sole responsibility for the accreditation and registration of journalists. This self-regulatory council will also oversee issues of ethics of journalists and media houses. The same council will also oversee the regulation of the advertising industry.

20. The Mass Media Trust
Although this has private as well as public interests in its shareholding, it has been used by the government as a vehicle for the total control of the print media owned by the Trust. Because this is a business on its own, it would be the intention of the government to review its role with the aim of closing the Trust down and disposing of the various newspapers and businesses that it controls.

21. Zimbabwe Information Service
The MDC government will retain the Zimbabwe Information Service as a government information service that is interconnected with bureaus throughout the country to enhance two-tier communication between central government and all parts of the
nation. The ZIS will be the conduit between the government and the ordinary people of Zimbabwe and will be responsible for disseminating information to the public via library services, information centres, and mobile cinema and television units.

22. Library and Information Services
A network of properly equipped, resourced and staffed libraries provides the best opportunity for the public to access information throughout the country. The National Library and Documentation Service (NLDS) will therefore be re-branded and revitalized to be capable of coordinating an effective national public library and information service in both urban and rural areas. National bibliographic services currently operated at the National Archives will become the responsibility of the NLDS. In addition, other libraries (e.g. subscription, parastatal, university, research libraries, etc.) may opt to join as partners in its network.

The NLDS will Endeavour to establish public library and information services in as many population centres as possible, all libraries acting as information hubs to allow members of the public access to the internet in addition to printed material such as newspapers and reference books. The government will also be able make use of these to disseminate information about its programmes, policies and services. The NLDS will function as a consortium, providing centralized acquisition and processing services to member libraries, which would themselves be able to concentrate on the services they provide directly to their users.

Funding will be provided by central and local government in order to ensure that core services are available free of charge in all libraries, but this could be supplemented, for example, from charges for additional services. There are benefits in local communities controlling and administering local services, as this could give some competition to employ the best staff and to be able to provide the best service. All libraries would be expected to form library users’ committees, elected annually by the communities they serve, in order to ensure they are responsive to users’ needs. For this purpose all users will be required to become members and to pay a small fee. Members would be used to elect the Committees each year.

The continued professional training of librarians to degree level at universities will be encouraged, as will the training of library assistants to certificate and diploma levels at technical colleges. The expansion of library and information services will offer many more job opportunities both at professional and paraprofessional levels.

A library will be part of the required facilities at all secondary schools, with core resources provided from per capita grants. School libraries will hold print and non-print information resources, as well as providing Internet access. To run their libraries, schools will employ a qualified school librarian, who will also educate students in information skills.

23. Conclusion
The MDC is committed to building a technologically driven economy in which citizens have access to information and contribute effectively to the development of their nation. Recognizing that ICTs are dynamic and that scientific advancement will bring to the fore new approaches to communication, the MDC government commits
to constantly reviewing this policy to ensure that technology gaps are continuously dealt with.
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT

1. Introduction
The MDC realizes the importance of harnessing the countries resources and developing effective and reliable tools that can be embraced with science and technology to produce new possibilities and opportunities for a better standard of living for the people of Zimbabwe. In this it is recognised that much of the new economic activity now emerging in world markets is technology driven.

The MDC has taken into account that the key role of national development is in embracing Science and Technology for the advancement of the economy and social welfare. Science and technology is moving ahead and Science is becoming increasingly inter-and multi-disciplinary, and calls for multi-institutional and, in many cases, multi-country participation. Major experimental facilities, even in areas of basic research, require very large material, human and intellectual resources. Science and technology have become so closely intertwined, and so reinforce each other that, to be effective, any policy needs to view them together. The continuing revolutions in the field of information and communication technology have had profound impact on the manner and speed with which scientific information becomes available, and scientific interactions take place.

Science and technology have had unprecedented impact on economic growth and social development. Knowledge has become a source of economic might and power. This has led to increased restrictions on sharing of knowledge, to new norms of intellectual property rights, and to global trade and technology control regimes. Scientific and technological developments today also have deep ethical, legal and social implications. The ongoing globalisation and the intensely competitive environment have a significant impact on the production and services sectors.

Because of all this, our science and technology framework has to be infused with new vitality if it is to play a decisive and beneficial role in advancing the well being of all sections of our society. The MDC is fully committed to supporting science and technology for societal advancement. It recognizes its central role in raising the quality of life of the people of the country, particularly of the disadvantaged sections of society, in creating wealth for all, in making Zimbabwe globally competitive, in utilizing natural resources in a sustainable manner, in protecting the environment and in ensuring national security.

2. Vision
A prosperous society with a competitive economy that is technologically driven and benefits all citizens.

3. Mission
Seek to implement a science and technology framework that brings about sustainable economic growth and improves the quality of life of all Zimbabweans.

4. Current Status of the Science and Technology Sector
Currently the delivery system for S&T is conspicuously fragmented with Research and Development (R&D) scattered between different ministries and departments. This is despite the existence of the Ministry of Science and Technology. Ministries and
different research institutions tend to be semi-autonomous and have their own legal mandates. The institutions execute their functions in isolation; their mandates and research programmes lack harmony and the coordination among them seems to be not well developed. This stems from the way S&T has traditionally been coordinated by individual Ministries.

Because of this, there are policy inconsistencies, structural and product delivery anomalies, overlaps, competition for resources and uncoordinated research planning. While the institutions have strong vertical linkages they have weak or non-existent horizontal linkages to ensure standardized and timely delivery of research information, knowledge, science and technology to the enterprise sector and innovators.

5. Policy Principles
This Science and Technology Development policy, deals with issues on two major aspects; development of Science and Technology in the country, and the adoption and application of Science and Technology to national development. The aspect of development of Science and Technology focuses on the elements of science technology and innovation culture, capabilities in Science and Technology, and priorities for research. The aspect of adoption and application of Science and Technology focuses on technology transfer, sustainable use of natural resources, Science and Technology based indigenous knowledge, Science and Technology for human security. This policy also addresses elements such as quality and performance, innovations and intellectual property rights, as well as ethics in Science and Technology.

6. Policy Objectives
❖ To ensure that science and technology reaches every citizen of Zimbabwe, man and woman, young and old, so that Zimbabwe emerges as a progressive and enlightened society in which all people participate fully in the development of science and technology and its application for human welfare.
❖ To mount a direct and sustained effort in the alleviation of poverty, enhancing livelihood security, removal of hunger and malnutrition, both rural and urban, and generation of employment, by using scientific and technological capabilities along with our traditional knowledge pool.
❖ To vigorously foster scientific research in universities and other academic, scientific and engineering institutions; and attract the brightest young people to careers in science and technology, by conveying a sense of excitement concerning the advancing frontiers, and by creating suitable employment opportunities for them.
❖ To build and maintain centres of excellence, which will raise the level of work in selected areas to the highest international standards.
❖ To promote the empowerment of women in all science and technology activities and ensure their full and equal participation.
❖ To encourage research and innovation by promoting close and productive interaction between private and public institutions in science and technology. Sectors such as agriculture (particularly soil and water management, human and animal nutrition, fisheries), water, health, and education, and industry, energy (including renewable energy sources), communication and transportation would be accorded highest priority. Key leverage technologies such as information
technology, biotechnology and materials science and technology would be given special attention.

To integrate scientific knowledge with insights from other disciplines, and ensure fullest involvement of scientists and technologists in national governance so that the spirit and methods of scientific enquiry permeate deeply into all areas of public policy making.

It is recognized that dynamic and flexible Science and Technology Policies, which can readily adapt to the rapidly changing world order, will best realize these principles. This policy, reiterates Zimbabwe's commitment to participating as an equal and vigorous global player in generating and harnessing advances in science and technology for the benefit of all humankind.

7. National Strategies

To create a prosperous society that establishes a competitive economy and derives equitable benefits from science and technology the key strategies are:

- **Investment in science and technology:** Investing in research and innovation is key to generating appropriate sustainable technology and creating a knowledge economy that the people of Zimbabwe aspire to achieve.
- **The government will therefore increase the rate of generation of a high quality skilled human resource at all levels by providing an environment for building a critical mass of human resource capacity, harnessing and effectively participating in the application of science, technology and innovation for value addition activities, solving problems and enhancing human welfare.**
- **The MDC will promote nanotechnology to provide high strength materials, which are low cost, effective and efficient. Nanotechnology be used to develop products with enhanced properties, faster production processes, lower production costs, much smaller manufacturing equipment, cleaner environment or new manufacturing systems.**
- **When these new methodologies are adopted in production, it will result in devices and systems with new levels of performance. The advantage of nanotechnology is its ability to be applied in diverse industrial use like automobile industry, textile industry, and health services among others.**
- **Fostering higher level S&T education:** Training at university level will be designed to incorporate into the scientific and engineering programmes, courses that cater for the entrepreneurial development of future generations.
- **Courses will be modified to include courses in management, planning and economics. The government will vigorously foster scientific research in universities and other academic, scientific and engineering institutions; and attract the brightest young people to careers in science and technology and by creating suitable employment opportunities for them.**
- **Valuing and prioritizing traditional knowledge and modernising it:** The government will support application of traditional knowledge in the formal and informal sectors of the economy for enhanced livelihoods. It will promote the use the full potential S&T to protect, preserve, evaluate, update, add value to and utilize the extensive indigenous resources and traditional knowledge available in the various communities.
- **To this extent, the government will maximize incentives for the generation, protection and utilization of intellectual property by all types of inventors to meet Zimbabwe’s national development objectives.**
Establishing S&T centres of excellence: Zimbabwe will foster the building and maintenance of centres of excellence, which will raise the level of work in selected areas to the highest international standards. These multi-purpose scientific centres will be established at provincial level and based at existing academic institutions or Research Centres.

These will promote learning by discovery method, experiential learning, and participatory approaches and through interactive environments, promoting attitudes receptive to science and technology among stakeholders.

Financing S&T: Zimbabwe will provide fiscal and taxation policies that provides incentive for scientists and innovators. It will create a national fund supported by government, the private sector and international community to support innovation in science and technology.

8. Sectoral Deployment of Science and Technology
The key sectoral investment in S&T will include:

- S&T in health: The prevalence of endemic diseases such as malaria, AIDS, TB, cancer, diabetes, and obesity necessitate the deployment of science and technology in the development of vaccines and medicines. The need to investigate new medicines, vaccines and diagnostics requires the application of new cutting edge technologies and state-of-art laboratory facilities. This means investing in technologies such as molecular biology, genomics, proteomics, nanobiotechnology and Bioinformatics sciences.

- The government will develop a technology driven health delivery system that will meet the health needs of society. It will ensure standards improvement and research in multi-sectoral health issues including infectious diseases, reverse engineering, warning systems, neglected diseases, and nutrition.

- The government will further support the mainstreaming herbal and traditional medicine into the national health care system and the scientific demonstration of their efficacy. Commercial production of traditional plants for medicinal use and streamlining of the inter-sectoral and public-private sector partnerships in hi-tech medical technologies and improvement of cost effectiveness and efficiency of the health care delivery system.

- S&T in agriculture: The government will encourage research and innovation in areas that will promote economic growth and economy by promoting close and productive interaction between private and public institutions in science and technology. In the agricultural sector science and technology will be particularly important in the areas of seed development through assessing the potential that Genetically Modified Organisms (GMOs) provides.

- Further investments will be made in the usage of technology in crops, livestock breeding, soil and water management, human and animal nutrition and fisheries. In addition, investment is agro-chemicals will also be done in an environmentally sustainable manner.

- Technologies will also be deployed to predict, monitor and mitigate impacts of climate change and the appropriate institutional and legal frameworks for implementation of the scientifically rationalized responses. Investment will be made in Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for risk assessment, mitigation of climate change.

- The value of agricultural products will also be improved through agro-business related processes, agro processing, and agricultural research with special
reference to biotechnology and drought management, addressing biotic and abiotic stresses that lead to losses due to pests and diseases.

Key technologies such as information technology, biotechnology and materials science and technology will be prioritised.

S&T in natural resources utilisation: The government will invest in technologies that will facilitate the sustainable use of resources. The continued harvesting of forest and mining, without accounting for the environment or the sustainability of the resources creates insecurity for future generations.

Alternative technologies will be promoted to conserve and manage natural resources to harness maximum benefits from environment and natural resources and protect the livelihoods. This will be accomplished through the use of cleaner technologies. Bio-fuels are a good example of alternative sources of energy that the government will invest in.

S&T in industrial development and services: Technological innovation will be key for rapid industrialisation and economic growth. Investment will be made in science and technologies as a key driver for economic growth.

The government will also expand capacity for training in science and technology through the teaching of science, mathematics engineering and technology and consequent building of competence in scientific and technological skills that are required in research, industry and service sectors.

The idea is to develop technical capacities and capabilities in manufacturing through identifying; developing and promoting niche areas in advanced manufacturing technology backed computer-aided designs, industrial automation, robotics, and machinery and equipment.

There will also be intensification of innovation in priority sectors through increased funding for basic and applied research at higher institutions of learning and for research and development in collaboration with industries. Furthermore, measures will be taken to coordinate research activities among the various institutions to ensure synergy and to avoid duplication.

Proven technical knowledge produced in industries and tertiary institutions, including universities, will be transformed into technologies and protected as intellectual property rights.

S&T in water resources harnessing and management: Zimbabwe is prone to droughts of high magnitudes, which negatively impact on livelihoods. Over the years the ability to harness water for agricultural and domestic use has largely been ineffective due to mismanagement and corruption. Science and technology will be deployed towards developing water resources infrastructure and technologies that will provide the majority of the people with clean water.

At the same time technologies such as drip irrigation, will further be developed to facilitate the efficient use of water resources. Research will be intensified in the development and promotion of indigenous technology in the water sector, Integrated Water Resource Management (IWRM), ecological sanitation, water information systems, irrigation technologies and wetlands management. The aim will be to improve the quality and quantity of water using low cost and effective technologies and improve water use efficiency by households, agriculture and industry.

S&T in energy: The government MDC will promote research and development for efficient and affordable energy use and conservation practices, research and analysis of waste management and utilization of the same for energy production. Investment in the energy sector will target research and advisory framework for
energy sources for electricity and gas generation, improved energy use efficiency and, alternative and renewable energy.

- Clean energy production component will focus on research and development of technical and commercial feasibility of the production of various new products.
- S&T in transport and infrastructure development: A technology driven modern transport network will be the catalyst for rapid industrial expansion and economic growth. The MDC has developed a transport policy that it will strongly back up with S&T in terms of reducing costs and putting in place lasting infrastructural solutions. In addition, the MDC government will mobilize resources towards spreading transport automation taking advantage of the developments in ICTs.
- The MDC government will provide a robust ICT and infrastructure to stimulate and support local ICT industry growth, improved service delivery in both public and private sectors. To strengthen supportive physical infrastructure, including strategic facilities and their maintenance through renewal, upgrading and creation, strategies will involve establishing infrastructure and equipment needs for ST&I to support overall national development objectives and support ST&I intervention in strategic priority areas.

9. Institutional Interventions
9.1 Role of the Government
The MDC government will put in place a conducive environment that allows and encourages the growth of science and technology. The government will also finance science and technology projects that benefit the country.

9.2 Role of Educational Institutes
Educational institutes play a pivotal role in the development of science and technology. Zimbabwe has a number of science and technology institutions at various universities. The MDC government will ensure that these institutions are adequately funded to enable them to effectively carryout their mandates. The MDC government will also ensure strong linkages and cooperation between these institutions.

9.3 Role of the Scientific and Industrial Research and Development Centre
The MDC government will capacitate the SIRDC as the hub for science and technology inventions in Zimbabwe to enable the institution to initiate coordinate and implement the science and technology policy in line with national targets and priorities.

More specifically, support for SIRDC will enable the institution to:
- Promote linkages between government and the private sector in the areas of science of technology.
- Promote and market local science and technology projects.
- Promote science and technology in the education curricula.
- Stimulate research in science and technology from grassroots levels.
- Ensure the development of a pool of properly equipped scientists in the realm of science and technology.

9.4 Role of International and Regional Linkages
There is urgent need for Zimbabwe to keep pace with science and technological developments in the developed world. The MDC government will endeavour to close
this technological gap by tapping into technologies from other countries and adapting them to domestic use. The MDC government will also seek linkages between local and international science and technology institutions. Exchange programmes will be encouraged to ensure local science and technology inventions can compete internationally.

9.5 Role of the Private Sector
The private sector is critical in the development of science and technology in Zimbabwe. The MDC government will foster greater cooperation between the private and public sectors in science and technology. The government will also create a necessary environment to enable the private sector to flourish in science and technology.

10. Institutional Framework for Deployment of Science and Technology
The following institutional structure will be constructed in the next 30 years:

- Ministerial co-ordination: The Ministry responsible for S&T will be supported so that it gets the necessary capacity and capability to review, formulate and spearhead advances in science and technology.
- Stakeholders in private sector and civil society will be invited to partner government in science and technology through a national council. The council will have legal mandate to be fully involved in policy development, identification of priorities and mobilization of resources. A key component of this effort will be to ensure that there is alignment between the country’s science and technology goals and the operational plans of the various ministries and agencies.
- Devolved science and technology provision: Innovation centres and provincial technology centres will be set up at the district level to encourage research and development, particularly by small businesses. These centres will focus on the needs of rural communities, and pay special attention to enabling the full participation of women and the youths.
- Legal framework: A coherent and focused legal institutional and regulatory framework will be developed to support the growth, development and utilization of science, technology and innovation. Legal issues of industrial property rights use of trademarks, legal issues connected with copyrights, joint ventures and venture capital will be addressed.
- Science and technology ethics: A national code of ethics aimed at promoting ethical code will be developed in the application of science, technology and innovation for national development. These codes will guide all research, science, engineering and technology. It will spell out the procedures for investigating and judging infringement on defined codes of ethics and values. The national council will develop a national information and documentation observatory to track, analyze and promote the development of ethical issues in science at national, regional and international level. It will also establish an open dialogue with stakeholders including industry, the scientific community, religions, cultural groups, philosophical schools and other interested groups.
11. Conclusion
Given the great potential Zimbabwe has in natural resources and skilled labour, the MDC is fully committed to harnessing these resources in creating a better Zimbabwe for its people and economy. The MDC government will strive to provide its people with the requisite skills to become more innovative and competent in the sphere of Science and Technology. The aim is to make Science and Technology a significant driver of development and growth as well as a means to raise general standards of living.
WATER MANAGEMENT AND DEVELOPMENT POLICY

1. Introduction
As our new Constitution’s commitment to ‘Fundamental Human Rights and Freedoms’ confirms, “Every person has the right to safe, clean and potable water.” This is not merely a commitment to ensuring individual consumption of water consistent with the values of a social democratic society. The role of water in the broader ecosystem can be considered foundational: “Every person has the right to an environment that is not harmful to their health or well-being; and to have the environment protected for the benefit of present and future generations, through reasonable legislative and other measures that prevent pollution and ecological degradation, promote conservation, and secure ecologically sustainable development and use of natural resources while promoting economic and social development.” Both the narrow and broad Constitutional mandates for protecting water rights and preventing pollution are firmly embraced in the Movement for Democratic Change Water Policy.

Freshwater is a basic natural resource that sustains life and provides for various social, ecological and economic needs. Water is an integral part of the environment and its quantity and quality determine how it can be used. Safe drinking water and good sanitation practices are basic considerations for human health. The use of contaminated sources poses health risks to the population as evidenced by repeated incidents of water borne diseases such as diarrhoea, cholera and even typhoid.

The social and economic circumstances prevailing today have put particular demands upon the country’s water resource base and the environment, and its sustainability is threatened by human induced activities. The MDC will plan and manage water resources to accommodate the increase in population and concurrent growth of economic activities requiring water as an input, including agriculture, industry, hydropower, tourism, mining, livestock keeping, fisheries, and wildlife and forestry activities. Water is a scarce resource due to unreliable rainfall, the multiplicity of competing uses, and the degradation of sources and catchments.

2. Vision
A society with sufficient, clean, accessible, acceptable, and affordable water.

3. Mission
To implement collaborative, innovative water policy to ensure long-term sustainability, economic vitality and quality life in Zimbabwe today and tomorrow.

4. Challenges that Zimbabwe Faces
Zimbabwe’s towns and cities are characterized by rapidly growing population and widespread deficiencies in infrastructure services including water and especially sanitation. In cities and towns pumping system failure and piping inadequacies mean many areas receive little or no water. In Bulawayo in particular, the bulk water supply system problem has been serious for more than three decades.

The existing water supply infrastructures and water sources in most cities and towns are old and inadequate to meet ever increasing demands, and some customers are illegally connected and this, together with significant percentages of water loss
through leakage (known as unaccounted-for-water) compounds water supply problems in all urban areas. The major challenges facing the urban water supply and sanitation services sector include inadequate water supply both in quantity and quality, inappropriate bulk infrastructure, poor billing and revenue collection, and inappropriate pricing that leaves poor people with insufficient access.

Although water is sometimes considered a technical matter best left to the State, one MDC Water Policy objective is to allow beneficiaries to participate more fully in planning, construction, operation, maintenance and management of domestic water supply schemes; coordination, policy and guidelines formulation, regulation and service delivery. To combat water waste and the destruction of water-related ecosystems, the entire society will need to become water-wise, and begin making a transition in the way we treat water, so that we come to revere the rain, water courses, underground water; the bulk water systems that require evolution, water disposal processes, and water recycling opportunities.

5. Water Development

The MDC government will promote integrated water resources planning, management and service delivery to ensure that water does not become a constraint to national development. The integrated approach addresses participatory, multi-sectoral, multidisciplinary river basin management, by recognising that water is a scarce resource, by integrating linkages between land use and water use, and by giving full support to the important roles water ecosystems play in the national economy and broader ecological reproduction. The planning and management of water will minimize the effects of pollution and prevent excessive extraction so as to ensure sustainability and protection of the resource.

The MDC government will strengthen water planning and management not only nationally, but also at the lowest levels of government through the subsidiary principle, by which decision-making and devolution occur at the most appropriate level of government. This allows the maximum number of stakeholders to participate in the planning, design and implementation of management actions and decision-making. Water management and planning efficiency will occur through broad decision-making in the public sector, private sector and civil society; this process will include the household, firm or farm, community, water-use association, catchment-area board and national water authorities.

6. Water Development Principles

Sustainable water development and use implies that actions of the present generation to develop and use water resources are taken in such a way as to ensure that present and future generations enjoy the benefits of this vital resource. As the 1987 Brundtland Commission on Sustainable Development explained, “Sustainable development is development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs, and contains within it two key concepts: 1) the concept of 'needs', in particular the essential needs of the world's poor, to which overriding priority should be given; and 2) the idea of limitations imposed by the state of technology and social organization on the environment's ability to meet present and future needs.”

Respecting this combination of social and ecological considerations, the MDC Government will ensure the following:
A minimum water requirement is guaranteed to all humans to maintain human health, and sufficient water is guaranteed to restore and maintain the health, services and functions of ecosystems, using a ‘Free Basic Water’ grant of 50 litres per person per day, which can be financed by charging some household users higher prices (with a ‘rising block tariff’) and also cross-subsidising from commercial, industrial, agricultural and forestry water users.

Water for food security, energy production and other economic activities is made readily available through expanding – in a manner that does not excessively deplete watercourses or groundwater – irrigation and river systems extraction.

Water quality is maintained to meet agreed objectives and standards, so that human actions do not impair the long term availability of freshwater stocks, and water resources management is financed and raw water priced to promote efficiency, sustainability and equity.

Integrated water resources management is instituted.

Effective and sustainable strategies are in place to address natural and man-made water resources problems.

Water resources planning and decision-making are participatory, involving all users and stakeholders.

Water resources data are available and easily accessible to all and an effective infrastructure and information system is in place and operational.

Institutional mechanisms exist to resolve conflicts over water resources.

7. Water Resources Management Objectives
The MDC government will put in place fair and equal procedures for access to and allocation of water resources so that all social and economic activities are able to maximize their capacities, in the context of the three sustainable development provisos noted above: respect for generational water stewardship; provision of water to the poorest Zimbabweans as a core priority; and recognition of the ecological limits to water as a scarce resource that therefore requires careful planning and pollution prevention. Such planning will ensure that water allocations provide socio-economic activities and the environment with an adequate share of water resources, especially so as to mitigate what are already serious water-related conflicts.

The key objectives are therefore to:

- Develop equal and fair procedures in access and allocation of the water resources, including limitation of water to large-scale users guilty of abuse or waste.
- Ensure that social and productive sectors and the environment receive their adequate share of the water resources at an affordable price.
- Ensure effectiveness and efficiency of water resources utilization.
- Provide water resources with an acceptable quality.
- Develop appropriate principles and procedures for managing the quality and conservation of water resources, as well as improve and protect the ecological systems and wetlands.
- Maintain sustainable groundwater resources for present and future generations by encouraging the retention of runoff.
- Institute a water management system, which protects the environment, ecological systems and biodiversity.
- Develop and implement appropriate and sustainable procedures for management and preparation of water use plans.
Provide correct and timely information for design, construction and operation of different projects.
Increase the knowledge, information and communication between communities and resource users.
Develop flood and drought mitigation plans.
Develop and manage effective an institutional framework for effective planning and management of water resources.
Mobilise sustainable financial resources to meet the costs for water resources management.
Raise public awareness and broaden stakeholder participation in the planning and management of water resources.
Promote regional and international cooperation in the planning, management and utilization of water.

8. Water Resources Allocation and Use
Water is a public good of very high value in all its competing uses, and requires that careful conservation and sustainable utilization are ensured. Deliberate efforts are, therefore, needed to protect and sustain the resource and to ensure that it is used efficiently and effectively for the benefit of the present and future generation.

Therefore;
All the water in the country is vested in the people of Zimbabwe and every citizen has an equal right to use the nation's natural water resources for their and the nation’s benefit, within ecological limits.
Water for basic human needs in adequate quantity (at least 50 litres per capita per day according to World Health Organisations standards), under pressure and of acceptable quality will receive highest priority.
Water that ensures the reproduction of ecosystems will be considered a necessary ‘reserve’ to be accounted for in water planning and management.
Utilization of trans-boundary water resources will be based on the principle of equity, right and rationality in accordance with agreements among the riparian states, by respecting the principle of international obligations on trans-boundary water resource management.
All water abstractions and effluent discharges into water bodies will be subject to a ‘water use permit’ or ‘discharge permit’ to be issued for a specific duration. Water use permits will be issued only for a determined beneficial water use. The MDC Government will develop procedures, criteria and guidelines for issuing permits by an appropriate agency.

9. Water Conservation
In order to ensure that water resources are used in a sustainable manner, and that ecological system and biodiversity are sustained, the MDC will undertake the following:
Water planning and management approaches will focus on how best water is used beneficially and efficiently. Water allocations and use will be carried out considering the principles of sustainability so that the resources remain viable for the use of the present and future generations.
Urban and rural water supply entities, hydropower producers, irrigators, industries, mining operators, etc are required to improve the efficiencies of their
water abstractions and distribution systems to avoid undue wasteful use of the resource.

Where feasible and necessary, rainwater harvesting and wastewater recycling will be employed as a means of increasing the availability of water resources.

Measures to ensure sustainable groundwater resources development and use will be put in place.

10. Groundwater Management
The MDC Water Policy document acknowledges that due to the effects of climate change, groundwater aquifers will be an essential source of domestic, livestock and irrigation, and industrial water in all areas of the country. Groundwater development will be increased through identification of quantity and quality of underground resources to enable sustainable utilisation of the resource. Guidelines and procedures to govern the development of groundwater will be developed.

In order to have systematic and sustainable development of groundwater resource, the following will be undertaken:

- Groundwater will be managed on the basis of identified boundaries and in conjunction with river basins.
- An effective system for controlling pollution of groundwater will be developed and implemented.
- Vulnerable recharge areas and potential groundwater sources, and areas with poor water quality will be identified, delineated and declared as protected areas.
- Assessment, research, and monitoring and controlling groundwater exploration recharging and drilling activities will be strengthened.
- Procedures and guidelines governing groundwater development and management, including exploration and drilling activities as well as operation of projects, which use groundwater resources, will be reviewed and disseminated.

11. Trans-boundary Water Management
Zimbabwe shares trans-boundary water bodies with neighbouring countries, especially South Africa (the Limpopo River), Zambia (the Zambezi) and Mozambique (the Save and the Zambezi). Large abstractions and use of trans-boundary water resources requires understanding and agreement among the riparian states.

The key challenges are:

- Environmental management challenges on pollution, biodiversity conservation, wetlands and catchment degradation, fisheries management, water hyacinth control and mitigation of floods and droughts.
- River basin development for hydropower production, domestic rural and urban water supply and irrigation.
- River control and regulation, and international boarder stabilization.
- Inter-basin water transfer. All these require specific strategies and actions aimed at development and management of the water resources.

In order to have an effective framework for the management, development and utilization of trans-boundary water resources the following measures will be taken:

- An assessment for the identification of national priorities related to the management of trans-boundary water will be carried out in collaboration different national institutions.
Trans-boundary water resources such as lakes and rivers will be used effectively to meet different social and economic demands based on the principle of equity, right and rationality.

Local capacities to utilize the resources will be strengthened in collaboration with different national stakeholders.

A framework for the management and utilization of trans-boundary water resources will be developed, based on the need for fostering regional cooperation.

12. Disasters and Water Pollution Management
Due to the effect of climate change, the country has been experiencing floods and these, have resulted in losses of property and life, and damage to infrastructure. Water disaster management in the country has been based on limited inter-sectoral co-ordination and inadequate real time information thus focusing on remedial actions rather than preventive approaches. There are no early warning systems. Due to these weaknesses large floods have occurred quite suddenly with loss to life and property.

To abate this phenomenon, the MDC government will take the following steps:

Management of disasters will include establishment of flood monitoring stations and early warning systems so that occurrences of flood events can be detected early and information disseminated to the public in advance, strengthening existing hydrological stations and development of mechanisms for emergency preparedness, in collaboration with other sector agencies.

Flood prone areas will be identified and mapped.

The public will be encouraged to avoid development in areas susceptible to floods. Hazardous flood prone areas delineated and development controlled by legislation.

13. Droughts
Droughts have been experienced quite often with losses to crops and livestock, and hence reduced food security. Diminished flows in rivers and reservoirs have had negative impact on various water use activities. In order to mitigate the negative impacts of droughts the following measures will be taken:

Drought monitoring and mitigation plans will be prepared in collaboration with relevant institutions.

Procedures, guidelines and parameters for reviewing water allocations during droughts will be strengthened and streamlined so as to mitigate the potential negative impacts.

14. Dam Safety Management
Small dams are important structures for storing water, regulating flows and containing floods. However, establishment of dams and reservoirs in a watercourse automatically introduces the element of risk in possible loss of livelihoods and property to the people within the dam construction area.

In order to have dams appropriately registered, owned and operated the following measures will be implemented:

Dams will be constructed, operated and maintained by the respective owners in accordance with established procedures and guidelines laid down by the Ministry responsible.
Dams will be owned by those who invested in their construction in accordance with established procedure and regulations.

The impounded water resources will remain public property and its use will be governed by established rules and regulations although the water rights of the developers will be respected.

15. Water Quality Management and Pollution Control

Pollution from point and non-point sources of water resources is responsible for the deterioration of the quality of water and can make water unusable and its treatment very costly. Increased human activities including poor land use practices, as well as uncontrolled abstractions and pollution of water bodies, adversely affect the quantity and quality of the available water resources. There are occasional disasters associated with accidental spills of poisonous and hazardous materials into surface and ground water resources. Such accidents could occur from burst or leaked pipelines, damaged chemical industries or spillage from transportation vehicles and vessels. This could lead to serious pollution of water sources and ecosystems and biodiversity, and may seriously affect health of people and animals. In order to mitigate the effects of hazards associated with accidental pollution of water resources, an emergency assessment will be made available to concerned authorities. Transportation of poisonous and hazardous materials will follow established rules and guidelines.

Generally, the options for using water depend on its quality. For example, proliferation of water hyacinth in the inland water bodies is a result of high nutrient levels. In order to remedy this, water will be protected from pollution and harmful depletion through the following measures:

- Water quality monitoring and assessment will be undertaken systematically so as to identify extent and status of the quality of the water resources in order to detect problems early and institute remedial actions in a timely manner.
- The ‘polluter pays’ principle will apply in conjunction with other legal and administrative actions. Standards for in-stream flows, industrial effluents and other waste discharges for meeting environmental objectives will be developed and enforced.
- Practical and cost effective water quality and pollution control monitoring programs (including networks) will be developed and implemented. Factories, municipal authorities, large irrigation schemes and mining operations will be required to collect and keep accurate records of the quality of effluents being discharged into water bodies.

Creation of public awareness campaigns in the importance of protecting water resources from pollution including that resulting from inappropriate use of agrochemicals will be undertaken.

16. Water and the Environment

Water is critical to ecological systems and to the maintenance of the environment. Such systems serve important hydrological and ecological functions such as biophysical filters, safeguards of biological diversity, and freshwater balance.

Therefore;

- Water for the environment, in terms of quantity and quality, and levels, and for both surface and groundwater resource will be determined on the best scientific information available considering both the temporal and spatial water
requirements to maintain the health and viability of ecosystems, and associated flora and fauna.

In order to contain the erosion problem, public awareness campaigns will be carried out on good land use practices.

17. Urban Water Management Principles
These guiding principles have been derived from experience gained in implementing different strategies and action plans developed in the implementation of the Water Act [1998] and the ZINWA Act [1998] and are as follows:

- Water and sanitation are critical components of development, and access to water services is a right of every Zimbabwean, one which can be delivered through a Free Basic allotment and rising block tariff to cross-subsidise a rights allocation, paid for by other users (this may entail a national-local cross-subsidy in those instances where municipalities cannot achieve an internal cross-subsidy).
- Quality assurance is vital for water services.
- Water demand management will be emphasised, so that excessive users are penalised, so as to avoid major increases in capital costs required for supply enhancements.
- Service delivery will be decentralised and institutional reforms implemented.
- Sanitation and water supply development will be integrated under one management.
- The regulatory framework will be independent and transparent and fair to all players.
- Environmental Impact Assessments will be mandatory in all water supply and sewerage interventions.

18. Water Sources and Infrastructure
Water sources and infrastructures for most urban water supplies and sewerage systems are old, inadequate and poorly functioning; and cannot cope with the increasing demand and emergencies such as fire fighting. As a result water delivered is inadequate and sometimes of poor quality. Necessary measures must be taken to ensure that all urban areas have adequate water supply and sewerage systems. Urban-specific strategies for dealing with emergency situations of drought, floods and fire will be pursued in order to guarantee water supply during such emergencies.

19. Water Demand Management
Water demand in urban areas is increasing at a rate, which is not proportional to the rate of expansion of water supply and sewerage services. This is due to high rate of urbanisation, expected increase of industrial activities and significant unaccounted-for-water that includes leakage, wastage and illegal connections. Water demand management measures will be undertaken to conserve and use the available water efficiently and equitably, by instituting:

- Measures on block tariff setting (so that large-volume users cross-subsidise a basic human-rights ‘lifeline’ allocation for all households of at least 50 litres per person per day), metering, rationing, leakage control and mass education on frugal use of water and conservation.
- Regulations on efficient use of water by using low capacity cisterns, dual flush systems and water-wise gardening strategies (including grey water recycling).
20. Water for Low Income People
People living in high-density urban and peri-urban areas rarely benefit from adequate water supply and sanitation services. Some are compelled to collect water from unprotected wells with high risks to their health, or to defecate in the bush. The poor cannot afford to collect their wastewater and hygienically dispose it, thus leading to increased water borne diseases, which may spread to other areas.

Recognizing the existence of low-income groups in the urban and peri-urban areas, municipal utilities will be required to provide with water and sanitation services. Given the importance of water for life and survival, appropriate social equity considerations will be put in place so that a basic level of water supply and sanitation service is provided to all, consistent with the Constitution, while those who consume excessive amounts will pay a higher block tariff amount so that cross-subsidisation permits at least a basic amount to be consumed, thus also saving on healthcare costs, and improving gender equity (since women are those most adversely affected by loss of water access).

In order to supply water and sanitation services in low-income urban and peri-urban areas, areas without adequate access will be identified and plans and programmes to provide water supply and sewerage services will be drawn up by urban council and utilities, alongside awareness campaigns on the benefits of safe water use.

21. Waste Water and Environmental Management
Water supply services in urban areas result in the production of wastewater estimated at about 70% of water supplied. Wastewater treatment and disposal in urban and peri urban areas have not been accorded due priority and wastewater can sometimes lead to contamination of groundwater sources and the environment. Municipalities will be required to ensure proper collection and disposal of sewage. Most existing industries were established without wastewater treatment facilities. In some instances, industrial wastewater contains toxic substances or biological process inhibitors. Industries will establish pre-treatment facilities to treat their wastewater before discharging into public sewerage system.

Municipalities will conduct regular chemical and bacteriological tests of the raw sewage to control toxic and offensive substances from being discharged into the treatment plants. To ensure domestic and industrial wastewater is not haphazardly discharged to contaminate water sources and the environment:

- New sewerage systems and sludge disposal facilities will be constructed and old ones will be rehabilitated.
- Legislation requiring industries to pre-treat their wastewater before discharging into municipal sewerage system will be reviewed.
- Legislation enforcement mechanisms will be strengthened.
- Municipal entities will co-operate with industries and other institutions in the research and development of least-cost technologies for wastewater treatment and recycling.

Industries will be required to use environmentally friendly raw materials with less toxic elements and adopt cleaner production technology.
22. Encroachment of Water Source Areas
The impact of human activities on the environment has increased in recent years. Water sources are constantly being polluted due to the disposal of untreated and/or inadequately treated domestic and industrial wastewater, agro-chemicals and high turbidity caused by sediments due to soil erosion. As land becomes scarce, water sources become vulnerable to invasion and settlements around them.

Water source areas and infrastructure will be protected, thus:
- Water sources and wetlands and associated infrastructure will be identified, protected, demarcated and identified land title deeds acquired.
- Title deeds and leeway will be obtained for all major water supply and sanitation infrastructure.
- Protection of infrastructure such as dams, pipelines, and treatment plants, pumping stations and reservoirs way-leaves and property sites will be ensured.
- Assessment of land around a source with regard to acquisition of land title will be made prior to applying for a water right.

23. Rural Water Supply
Of Zimbabwe’s total estimated population of 13 million a significant proportion live in rural areas. Despite significant investment in the Rural Water Supply since the early 1980s, a large percentage of the rural population have no access to a reliable water supply service of acceptable quality. However, due to poor operation and maintenance, many rural water supply schemes are not functioning properly. This poses health hazards to the rural population and has an effect on their productivity levels.

23.1 Rural Water Supply Principles
Formulation of the rural water policy objectives has been guided by four main principles, which are:
- Social justice: Water is a basic need and right, especially in rural areas, and especially for women and girls, who are the first to be adversely affected by problems in accessibility and proximity healthcare, cooking, washing and other water-related activities. In this regard, priority and investment options will be accorded to water scarce areas with respect to water supply for both human and livestock use.
- Economic Principles: Water is an economic good: Recognizing the extent to which the water resource contributes to economic productivity on the one hand and the financial investments required for water development on the other, development of water for productive purposes will, therefore, be treated as an economic good requiring efficient management of the resource and financed by water users themselves.
- Environmental Principles: Water Sources Protection and Conservation: In order to ensure sustainability of water supply and sanitation services for the rural population, water source areas will be delineated and water user entities encouraged to acquire land title deeds so as to protect them from human-induced land degradation.
- To enhance conservation of the environment, water supply projects will be subjected to environmental impact assessment at the design and planning stages so as to ensure that potential impacts and proposed remedial measures are taken into consideration during the implementation and operation stages.
Safeguarding health through safe disposal of excreta and solid waste and adequate safe water will be encouraged. This will be achieved by integrating water, sanitation and hygiene education programs.

Sustainability Principles: Sustainable development and delivery of rural water supply services relies on clear definition of the roles and responsibilities of the various actors as well as those of the stakeholder groups.

Pre-requisites for a sustainable rural water supply are, adopting the principle of managing water schemes at the lowest appropriate level.

Facilitating availability of spare parts and knowhow for timely repair and maintenance of the schemes through standardization of equipment.

Protection of water sources areas.

Reconciling the choice of technology and the level of service with the economic capacity of the user groups.

Recognizing women as being among the principal actors in the provision of rural water supply services.

23.2 Community Participation
Water supply and sanitation facilities provided without the active participation of the beneficiaries in planning and management are often not properly operated and maintained and hence are unsustainable. Ownership of the facilities including water wells is neither perceived to be, nor legally vested in user communities. These factors lead to lack of commitment to maintenance of the facilities by the users.

Communities will be empowered to initiate, own and manage their water schemes including water wells. In order to ensure that communities become legal owners of water supply schemes the MDC will undertake the following:

Legal registration of water user entities will be instituted to ensure that communities are the legal owners of their water supply schemes including water wells.

Roles, responsibilities, rights and limits of authority of water user entities will be clearly defined.

Communities will be facilitated in acquiring technical and management skills.

In the communal areas women bear the burden of searching for water and are guardians of the living environment. However, this pivotal role has seldom been reflected in institutional arrangements for the development and management of rural water supply and sanitation services.

In order to improve gender participation in rural water supply the MDC will undertake the following:

A fair representation of women in village water-user entities will be encouraged.

Rural water supply programs will be based on what both men and women in rural communities know, want, and are able to manage, maintain and pay for.

Women will be empowered through awareness campaigns and training, to enable them to actively participate at all levels in water programs, including decision-making, planning, supervision and management.

24. Appropriate Technology
Failure of some of the rural water supply schemes has been attributed to inappropriate technology and location of facilities, and lack of social acceptability and affordability.
In order to put in place a mechanism that will allow communities to make informed choices of technology the MDC government will undertake the following:

- Communities will be empowered and facilitated to make appropriate technology choices that suit them, particularly which require low investment costs and are least costly in operation and maintenance.
- Use of environmentally friendly technologies including gravity, solar, sand abstraction technologies and wind power for pumping will be promoted.
- Rainwater harvesting will be promoted in rural areas through awareness based on sound national research that involve the communities as well.

25. Watershed Management and Control

ZINWA will be responsible for bulk water supply and all major dam development. In addition it will oversee dam maintenance and safety throughout the country and will be required to conduct inspections of all dams, private or public, every two years. Orders for any determined remedial work shall be issued by the Agency and all communities, owners and operators shall be required to undertake the work so ordered within a reasonable space of time. Where owners fail to do so, ZINWA may undertake the work required and invoice the owners with the cost.

The operations and safety of the major dams on the Zambezi will be exempted from this and will be the responsibility of the Zambezi River Authority.

ZINWA shall define the boundaries of all major watersheds and notify all land owners within a watershed of their location and responsibilities. It will, thereafter establish a Watershed Council for each major watershed and this shall be made up of representatives nominated by all major registered extractors of water operating within the watershed. Such Councils shall meet no less than 4 times a year and whenever called by ZINWA or any major abstractor.

ZINWA shall provide an annual report to each Council on the situation within the watershed in so far as:

- All abstraction activity within the watershed.
- The status of all dams.
- The state of conservation and riverbank management within the watershed.
- Any proposed future developments including applications for new dams, safety reports on existing dams and the outlook for drought or floods.

All District Councils within a specific watershed will be required to form a conservation committee drawn from local stakeholders and these committees shall meet four times a year and make reports on the conditions within the District and the given watershed. This will include annual inspections of all farm properties and Communal land holdings to establish the state of conservation of land and water in those properties.

The Committees shall have the right to order any determined remedial work and all owners and operators shall be required to undertake the work so ordered within a reasonable space of time. Where owners fail to do so, District Councils may undertake the work required and invoice the owners with the cost.
26. Conclusion
The MDC government will ensure that the current water challenges shall be dealt with once and for all. Water is at the center of any economic developmental efforts. It is a key enabler to many developmental strategies that MDC will undertake. Without paying full attention to the management of water, the economy will suffer from a wide range of externalities that this policy has clearly mentioned and it will be the responsibility of the MDC government to keep all areas needing attention in check and for the betterment of our communities.
SOCIAL SERVICE CLUSTER

LABOUR

1. Introduction
The role of labour in building Zimbabwe’s economy has not been fully recognised in development planning. The MDC believes that labour is the cornerstone of sustainable national development. This labour policy is developed in the context of the need to attain the goal of poverty alleviation through the creation of decent jobs that provide dignity and opportunity to all Zimbabweans.

The MDC recognizes that a sound labour policy is crucial for building and sustaining a strong economy. As such, an MDC government will ensure labour harmony and that every citizen has an opportunity to participate fairly in the labour market. The MDC fully endorses provisions in the new constitution which provide that:

“The State and all institutions and agencies of government at every level must adopt reasonable policies and measures, within the resources available to them, to provide everyone with an opportunity to work in a freely chosen activity, in order to secure a decent living for themselves and their families” through:

(a) Full employment;
(b) The removal of restrictions that unnecessarily inhibit or prevent people from working and otherwise engaging in gainful economic activities;
(c) Vocational guidance and the development of vocational and training programmes, including those for persons with disabilities; and
(d) The implementation of measures such as family care that enable women to enjoy a real opportunity to work.”

Within this general framework the MDC government will promote the liberalization of the labour market to allow free collective bargaining between labour and employers and will recognise the nexus between growth, employment and poverty reduction.

2. Vision
Zimbabwe has a democratic labour market based on the respect of fundamental workers rights.

3. Mission
To create a Labour framework that is a bedrock for the sustainable growth of Zimbabwe underpinned by the realisation of the full human potential.

4. Policy Objectives
The MDC government will seek to create a harmonious labour regime in which employers and employees can co-exist to build a developed and socially just economy.

This will be achieved through the following objectives:

* Creating an enabling and conducive environment for sustainable employment creation.
* The establishment of a binding social contract.
Linking labour supply to market demand for skills and abilities.
Encouraging the return of skilled labour back from the diaspora.
Promoting the regulation of terms and conditions of employment through collective bargaining and through the free exercise of employers’ and workers’ right of association.
Reactivation of the Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET), and the apprenticeship system and a trade-testing system to ensure supply of skilled labour to the market.
Provision of advisory services to enhance labour relations and the promotion of full development and utilization of voluntary negotiation framework.
Provide conciliation and mediation facilities appropriate to national conditions to resolve disputes.
Establish institutions for the coordination of employment services, employment promotion and creation programs, vocational guidance and training programs and unemployment benefit schemes.
Constantly review the structures of the national system of labour administration, in consultation with social partners.

5. Policy Priorities
The MDC government will undertake the following:

Pursue the stabilization of the labour markets through promoting understanding among labour leaders and workers of the broad-based and inclusive economic recovery strategies adopted by the State.
Foster the participation of workers in the management of the companies that employ them and in share ownership schemes.
Develop, adopt, apply and review labour standards, including all relevant laws and regulations in order to promote a harmonious labour environment.
Creating enabling legal and regulatory framework for labour, which will foster employment creation.

6. Policy Interventions
6.1 Sustainable Employment Creation
The MDC government will place sustainable employment creation at the centre of its development policies. The MDC’s Jobs Upliftment, Investment Capital and the Environment (JUICE) policies, clearly lays a pathway for the adoption of investment friendly, employment-intensive and economic recovery programs. The formalization of the informal sector will also be given priority so as to increase labour productivity and improve wage returns and their contribution to the fiscus.

6.2 Labour Market Policies
The MDC government will seek to increase employability through the promotion and activation of training programs to increase skills among the workers in partnership with the private sector. The government will ensure that policies are put in place to promote the advancement of equal opportunities for all groups of society, including women, youth and people living with disabilities. In order to encourage the creation of new jobs, the MDC will create a conducive environment for investment in both the informal and formal sectors.
6.3 Regulatory Framework
The MDC government will promote investment across all sectors of the economy through the development of a sound regulatory framework for labour related issues and by ensuring the speedy resolution of labour disputes. At the highest level this will be the responsibility of the system of Labour Courts, which the MDC will ensure, are independent, professional and deal with all labour related cases as quickly as possible.

6.4 Workforce Employability
The MDC government will strengthen the education systems in order to make sure that it meets the needs of the market. In this regard the MDC government promotes demand-driven training systems and vocational education at all levels. The MDC government will immediately identify areas of critical skills shortage and institute training and promotion of inclusive broad-based apprenticeship systems. The economy is changing and the MDC government will make sure that it time and again reviews the curricula in line with emerging demands. Institutions like ZIMDEF will be reformed and refocused so that the resources they manage are primarily earmarked for training.

6.5 Legislative Reforms
In the past controversial pieces of legislation have been enacted that undermine industrial and social relations and violate the rights of workers. These include the Public Order and Security Act, the Access to information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA), the Criminal Law Act and some aspects of the amended Labour Act. The MDC government will make sure these are immediately repealed or amended where possible so that they are in line with international best practice. The MDC government will, within six months of assuming office, present a new Labour Act to Parliament which, together with the required associated regulations will provide a common legal and regulatory environment for all who work for a living, in whatever sphere. A harmonized Labour Act will be enacted to ensure that all workers enjoy their basic rights as stipulated in the new constitution and are able to operate in a harmonised labour environment.

This framework will cover both State employees and employees in the formal and informal sectors. The legal framework will provide the following:

- Basic rights for all workers at their place of employment including freedom of association and the right to organize for the purpose of negotiating working conditions.
- Flexibility for employers in terms of hiring and dismissing workers on the basis of violations of agreed employment contracts, negotiated codes of conduct and criminal acts.
- The establishment of Employment Councils on a sector by sector basis in order to create a sound environment for the negotiations between employers and employees as well as the creation and management of a social safety net for all workers supported by contributions from both.
- The mechanisms for the resolution of disputes in the labour market and for basic arbitration services when the normal processes for negotiation break down or are unable to resolve the difference between workers and employers.
- The rights of women the disabled, and people living with HIV/AIDS are respected.
The right of workers to direct representation on Company Boards of Directors in the private sector, School and Hospital Boards and the Boards of all State controlled institutions and organisations to foster greater understanding of the needs and priorities of all such organisations and the capacity to support better working conditions and social services.

7. Employment Sectors
7.1 Labour and the Public Sector
Employment in the formal sector was at its peak in 1998 with 1.2 million employees. As the collapse of the economy accelerated, labour was the worst affected. Due to the deplorable terms of conditions of service and the collapse of firms, thousands of workers either left the country or joined the informal sector. Furthermore, thousands of workers were also clandestinely incorporated into workforce of the State for political reasons without the necessary skills, resulting in over 70 000 irregularly employed and ghost workers on the Salaries Services Bureau.

The role of the bureaucrats in driving government policies, programmes, plans and projects is critical. As such, the MDC government will seek to reform the civil service in order to raise the level of professionalism, discipline and commitment to service. This will be done through addressing the main causes of poor performance, which include poor operating and management structures, remuneration and training.

As part of reform measures the MDC government will implement the following strategies:
- Reform central government and our public services in order to deliver higher productivity and better value for money for taxpayers.
- Raise public sector productivity by increasing diversity of provision, rewarding productivity, giving more power to clients and consumers and improving financial controls.
- Improve financial discipline by strengthening the role of finance directors in government, in all government agencies and Ministries, implementing clear financial performance targets for civil servants.
- Conduct regular, systematic and standardised skills audits across government departments in line with the development agenda set out by the economic policy and growth agenda of the MDC.
- Improve our capacity to retain and attract the best technical skills by improving the reputation of government as an employer of choice through competitive remuneration structures and conditions.
- Spearhead computerisation programmes for government services to reduce costs, inefficiency and improve product quality.
- Conduct regular assessments, skills training and constant assessment of skills matching for all government positions.

7.2 Labour and the Private Sector
At the epicenter of the MDC government policy will be to attain optimum levels of employment in the private sector. In this regard, the MDC government will create a conducive environment to enable the private sector to flourish. The MDC government will enact legislation that will enable the private sector to grow and attract workers while providing socially just conditions.
This means that the MDC government will seek to create a sound working relationship in the private sector between labour and management. It will also seek to establish and maintain working conditions that provide workers with adequate remuneration to maintain their families and meet their personal needs. The guiding principle will be the creation of decent jobs, which allow individuals to express their creativity and enhance their productivity and incomes.

Private sector employers will be required to take a holistic interest in all aspects related to the welfare and well being of their workforce. This will include their health, nutrition, skills enhancement, motivation, family based housing and transport.

In return, workers will be expected to be loyal, honest and hard working and to seek to prioritise the interests of the enterprise for which they work.

7.3 Labour and the Informal Sector

While the informal sector has played an important role in absorbing labour from the declining formal sector, it has not been given sufficient support and formalized to enable it to make a contribution to the mainstream economy. As the informal sector employs more people than the formal sector, this entails that this sector requires the development of sound policies to ensure that SMEs can expand and contribute to economic growth and sustainable development.

Further, as there is no labour policy to regulate the informal sector, conditions of workers are often poor, characterized by lack of pensions, health and safety measures and the absence of medical cover.

In recognizing the importance of this sector, the MDC government will formalize the informal sector by:

- Implementing an enabling legal framework.
- Developing skills and vocational training.
- Extending social protection coverage.
- Strengthening the organization and representation of workers and entrepreneurs in the informal sector.
- Extending apprenticeship and work placement opportunities to improve and strengthen ties between business and education.

7.4 Labour in the Diaspora

Recognizing that economic decline and political instability resulted in skilled labour going into the diaspora, the MDC government will implement a skills retention programme targeted at attracting skilled manpowered back into the country by:

- Offering skilled Zimbabweans with special skills relevant for reconstruction attractive incentives to return home.
- Encouraging skills exchange with Zimbabweans in the diaspora.
- Creating a special purpose vehicle to identify the nature of human resources among Zimbabweans in the diaspora and offer incentives for returning home.

8. Building a Social Contract

The MDC government recognises that it is critical to have institutionalized and legalized dialogue among all partners-government, labour and business. We believe that government does not have the monopoly of wisdom to make decisions on behalf
of its citizens. Participatory democracy recognises the importance of putting citizens first. In this regard, the MDC government will establish structures for broad-based stakeholder participation by creating a legal framework for social dialogue that is inclusive and binding on all parties.

9. Wage and Salary Policies
All sectors of the economy, working through the system of Employment Councils, will be required to fix a minimum wage for each sector, which shall be observed by all employers in that sector. Such minimum wages shall be guided by the official estimates of the Poverty Datum Line recognised by the Government for each sector as calculated by the national statistical services on a professional basis and updated once a year.

It is the stated objective of the MDC to create a society where there is an established transparent relationship between the salaries for senior management and those of the average employee. Such salaries shall be determined on the basis that the firm or organisation is able to attract and retain skilled, capable management and senior staff and specialists, without unduly distorting the gap between the senior staff and those of the average worker. All companies will be required to disclose the salaries and working conditions of senior management and professionals and to report these to the national statistical services on an annual basis.

The national statistical service will be required to publish a report on an annual basis showing the PDL and Minimum Wage for each sector and at the same time publishing the mean average salaries for senior staff in each sector.

Wage and salary policies will strictly enforce the rate for the job, irrespective of who holds the position.

10. Remuneration Policies for the Civil Service
While this policy provides for the harmonization of labour policies and for the Civil Service to be brought under the overall umbrella of national labour and social security policies, it must be noted that an MDC government will go still further with respect to remuneration policies for Civil Servants. This is essential if the Service is to be able to attract and retain people with the requisite skills and experience to ensure sound service delivery in all areas.

The fundamental principle to be followed is that Civil Servants should be able to earn salaries that compete with those in the private sector, taking into account the difference in operating conditions in the two sectors. To achieve this the State will facilitate a national survey of working conditions for all employees in all sectors and then employ a rough guideline to adjust salaries in the Civil Service to bring them into line with market conditions. This exercise will be conducted annually.

11. Employment Councils
Employment councils play a pivotal role in advancing the interests of workers and establishing labour harmony. Both employers and employees shall have the right and be obliged to organize themselves within agreed representative organisations (unions or professional associations). Employment Councils will be responsible for negotiating working conditions and social safety net provisions for workers.
Both worker and employer organisations will be financed by a small levy on all Employment Council levies. Employment Councils will be required to submit annual reports and audited accounts to NSSA and the Ministry of Labour and Social Security.

12. Education and Skills Training
All educational establishments at all levels will be required to establish links with employer organisations at local level to ensure that their curriculum and training standards meet the needs of potential employers. All employers will be encouraged to recruit at least 5 per cent of their existing workforce on an annual basis directly from local educational establishments for employment and training at enterprise level for at least two years. During this time trainees would be expected to work in all areas of the enterprises activities and to accept training in specific skills identified as being suitable to their personal aptitudes and abilities.

Skills training enterprises including Polytechnics, Teacher Training Colleges, Agricultural Colleges and Teaching Hospitals and Universities, will be required to gear themselves to training those individuals who while in their trainee capacities, establish their potential to benefit from further skills training in any subject or trade. Government will support all such training schemes through its per capita grant programme (see the Education policy).

Employers shall not be obliged to retain the staff that emerges from such a trainee programme but it is hoped that the majority of those who prove themselves and their capacities will find full time employment and that all training establishments, at whatever level, will arrange to grant appropriate certificates to reflect the type and level of skills obtained. In those areas where technologies are changing rapidly, in service training and extension services must be provided for all affected industries.

Appropriate working conditions for all trainees will be established by Employment Councils and trainees supported by the State with per capital grants when they are required to go to training and other educational establishments for skills training during their trainee programme.

13. Conclusion
This policy has outlined the MDC’s vision on the creation of a harmonious labour environment. It is informed and instructed by the MDC’s social democratic values, which place the issue of a social contract at the epicentre of a modern Zimbabwean society. The social security thrust of the policy is aimed at building a society in which the growth of the economy does not leave disadvantaged citizens behind.
SOCIAL SECURITY

1. Introduction
In the past two decades the number of people requiring social support to meet their basic needs has grown exponentially. By the end of 2008, three quarters of the population was relying on food aid given by humanitarian organisations. At the same time all state funded social security systems had collapsed, all pensions systems failed and the savings and security of virtually all Zimbabweans destroyed. In the state social security authority, NSSA, some $3.5 billion in accumulated assets were destroyed representing the savings of a million workers over a 20 year period.

Since 2008, although the economy has started to recover, the effects of the destruction of savings and capital during the economic collapse remain. In particular pension funds have been unable to restore even a small percentage of the accumulated values they held before the collapse. These developments call into question the whole basis of social security schemes in Zimbabwe. This policy proposes a different approach to the manner in which pensions are administered for the benefit of workers.

2. Pension Rights
In recent years the collapse of the pension industry during hyperinflation has raised many issues including the suitability of such schemes in the future, the role of the companies involved and how to provide pension cover to existing and future pensioners.

In the State sector this is provided for in that a retired civil servant is entitled under existing legislation to a pension equal to 60 per cent of the salary of the post or grade from which he/she retired at the age of 60 years, calculated on the basis of their length of service. These pensions are paid directly from the revenues and form a direct charge on the Consolidated Revenue Fund. This protects these pensioners from the ravages of inflation and has ensured continuity.

There is a great deal of pressure to change this system to one based on accumulated contributions, attention needs to be given to the far reaching implications of such a shift in policy. A change to a system based on employer and employee contributions to an insurance fund that will bear the future cost of such pensions will create the problem that these accumulated funds must be administered and invested in such a way as to protect the rights of the pensioner. In the private sector this was the case but the system has totally collapsed under hyperinflation and the determined efforts of the companies involved ignoring their long-term obligations to the policyholders.

What has happened under the systems that existed before 2000 for all pensioners except those in the State sector, including the parastatals, has been the accumulation of substantial amounts of capital that has then been invested in selected assets – State borrowings at low interest rates, property and in a minority of cases, equities. These corporations now own some 85 per cent of all urban CBD property – some of these companies have become global players (the Old Mutual for example). Where industry or parastatal pension funds have been self-administered (NRZ, Mining Industry, Clothing Industry) these funds have been poorly managed and the reality is that the accumulated assets of these funds are now unable to contribute significantly to the pensions of the workers who created them.
All of this suggests the need to consider changes to how pension rights should be calculated and funded in the future. The attempt to support the provision of some form of social security by the State in the form of the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) has not worked. This has become a bloated, inefficient and corrupt institution that has squandered hundreds of millions of dollars in workers subscriptions with little or no benefit to the majority. In its present form NSSA has little or no real value in terms of the provision of social security for workers and its operations and mandate need to be reviewed.

Various options exist; the one is the example of the central pension fund of Singapore, which has become a major source of capital for the Singaporean economy and one of its primary drivers. But this has necessitated a very sophisticated investment strategy that has required that the Fund invest in companies and participates directly in their profits.

In the social democratic countries of Europe, the pension system is based generally on sinking funds and State grants. Each economic sector has established a sinking fund towards which the employer and employee contribute and which is then used to pay pensions. These Funds are not allowed to invest surpluses – they rather adjust the contributions, leaving only sufficient funds available to met recurrent costs. The theory behind this is that it leaves the profits of the companies in their own hands for future investment.

The main difficulty of this system is that as the proportion of the elderly in the national population grows, so the burden on the working populations increases putting pressure on revenues and capacity. Many countries affected by these circumstances are adjusting their retirement age to reduce the numbers eligible for pensions. Pension rights themselves are also being reduced and while this is creating local political problems, the system itself remains viable.

A very successful innovation of the post-independence era has been the introduction of the National Employment Councils to manage the whole negotiation process for employees in the productive sector of the economy. In order to find a way forward to address both the social security needs of workers and retirees as well as the issue of what to do with NSSA, we need to look at how the NEC system can be strengthened and expanded to fulfil this crucial need.

If it is decided that all educational and health service establishments will become self governing and financing then this will move approximately 130 000 workers out of the civil service and into the private/parastatal sector. This is 70 per cent of the present civil service. Such a move will immediately create the need to provide a substitute system of pension rights for this very large number of employees.

At the same time we need to address the need to provide for the thousands of pensioners who have lost their pension rights or whose pensions are totally inadequate to provide for their security. It is suggested that the primary institution that could be used for this purpose is the NEC. The system is well established and covers several hundred thousand workers in the private and parastatal sector, it is broad based and democratic and very substantially accountable and transparent.
A further consideration that might be taken into account is the very substantial deductions from employee’s remunerations that are at present applied and are very largely unaccounted for and unproductive. The largest of these is the NSSA levy but must be considered in context with the aids levy, the training levy and NEC and other pension charges. Together these must comprise 20 per cent of total remuneration costs and if we assume 600 000 workers remain in the system, at an average wage of $350 per month, this suggests total potential revenues of $500 million per annum.

If all these charges were to be converted into a single levy paid to a sinking fund controlled by the NEC’s (much like the Consolidated Revenue Fund of central government) then these funds could be used to support a significant social security net for pensioners and workers. To bring this into affect and to unify the working conditions of all employees in the country, all workers should be organized into Employment Councils that cover their sectors and provide for annual wage and employment condition negotiations, the payment of pension rights and other social security payments as may be determined from time to time.

One additional body that might be created to assist with the whole system might be a General Council representing all Employer and Employee organisations as well as government and which would appoint the NSSA Board and make key policy decisions and receive reports from NSSA on activities and finances.

Under this system each NEC would establish a sinking fund and all employers and employees would be required to pay into this fund on a monthly basis, a standard levy set by the General Council of the NSSA. The NEC would use this fund to cover its own recurrent costs and then to pay a pension (negotiated at NEC level but approved at NSSA level) to all existing and future pensioners.

Where existing pensioners may not be covered by this system then they would be dealt with by a special fund in NSSA set up by the State and serviced by the Ministry of Finance to look after the needs of those individuals. The level of pensions to be paid would be determined by the NSSA Board and the General Council based on the funds available. If a surplus or deficit were incurred in funding, then the levy would be adjusted. NEC’s would not be allowed to invest their surplus funds – they would be required to maintain cash cover at three months expenses but no more or less.

3. How to Manage Existing Pension Fund Assets

An important issue is what to do with the considerable assets created by Pension Funds and Companies in the past. It is also clear that these are not being managed in the interests of workers and pensioners and that there control and management must be the subject of review and change.

One way of doing this would be to establish in those NEC’s where the assets are clearly defined and known, the capacity to manage the assets that are owned by the pension fund related to that industry, with the revenues flowing back into the NEC accounts to support the NEC activities. This could also be achieved by appointing a company to manage the assets on behalf of the NEC.

A more complex issue is what to do about the Pension Funds maintained by the private sector including companies such as the Old Mutual. The funds contributed to these companies by subscribers was used to create the assets of these companies, they
still have considerable value in real terms but the companies are not doing enough to see that their obligations to policy holders or pension rights are observed. An MDC government will establish a high level enquiry and investigation and enter into negotiations with the companies concerned. The goal must be to secure their agreement that they participate in the funding of historical pension rights for which they are responsible.

4. Pensions for those who did not have paid employment
With only a small proportion of the population in paid employment, the needs of the elderly who do not enjoy NEC funded pension rights must be provided for and the only way to deal with these is by means of a State grant paid through the Ministry of Labour and Social Services. The level of such payments will be determined by the ability of the State to support such grants and the numbers involved. Applications would have to be made through the Ministry of Labour and Social Security in all Centres and be vetted locally and approved at Head Office. Even a small monthly grant would have a significant impact on the lives of those involved.

5. Disability Grants
In any society there are a number of people who suffer in some way from disability. This might be severe as in the case of a full quadriplegic or relatively minor. But there is no doubt that in all cases there are additional costs involved in ensuring that such individuals are able to compete and survive with their more able bodied colleagues. In some cases it may be an issue of life or death.
An MDC government will establish a Disabilities Board and task it with the responsibility of assessing the extent and severity of an applicant’s disability and make recommendations as to the extent of a special disability allowance that should be paid to the person with the disability or the care giver or institution that he or she may be getting assistance from in the event that they are unable to manage the allowance themselves. Because of the numbers of people involved such a Board will have authority to establish subsidiary Boards in all Centres with the requisite authority to conduct assessments and make recommendations. Final authority will rest with the Ministry of Labour and Social Services who will conduct means tests and determine the size of individual grants.

NEC’s will provide for all disabilities suffered as a result of an injury at work from their Workman’s Compensation resources.

6. Access to Health and Education Services and Shelter
This is covered in the respective policy sections of this handbook. But it is important to reiterate that they comprise part of the Social Safety Net for all Zimbabweans that is proposed by the MDC and will guarantee that the financial and other circumstances of a family or individual will not affect their access to health, education or housing.

7. Conclusion
In a social democratic State one of the key objectives is to provide a safety net that will provide a decent standard of living, with dignity, to all who cannot provide for themselves, whatever the reason. This is very difficult in a developing country and until we can create an economy that is capable of providing such a safety net, we will have to do with less and rely on traditional systems of social security (the extended family, tribal rights and culture).
HEALTH

1. Introduction
The provision of quality health is key to the overall wellbeing of a nation. The MDC recognizes the inalienability of citizens’ rights to access to health services as enunciated in the new Constitution, which states that “The State must take all practical measures to ensure the provision of basic, accessible and adequate health services to the population; and that “the State must take appropriate measures to ensure that no one is refused emergency medical treatment at any health institution.” It is therefore important that government ensures adequate budgetary support towards health service delivery. To this extent, the availability and accessibility of state of the art health infrastructure and services are at the center of the MDC government’s social democratic commitment to meeting the health needs of Zimbabweans.

2. Vision
A healthy nation in which all citizens participate fully in the socio-economic development of the country.

3. Mission
To establish an integrated health care system that ensures that every every citizen and resident has access to quality and affordable health care.

4. Zimbabwe’s Current Health Situation
Before independence, Zimbabwe’s health sector was fraught with gross inequities. There was an elaborate British standard hospital-centred service for urban people, and poorly developed rural health services. Focus of development and funding was on curative services. Development in rural areas was left largely to the missionaries in their areas of establishment. From 1927 to independence, the government provided moderate grants to assist the mission health facilities. At independence in 1980, high levels of preventable communicable diseases such as Malaria, TB and Diarrhoea were rampant in both rural and urban communities due to poverty, under-nutrition, and an inequitable distribution of resources.

Health care conditions and the major indicators of health improved after independence. The health gap between rural and urban communities narrowed. Nutritional status improved, and access to primary health care services increased considerably, particularly in rural communities. During the first decade of independence, the most important factors improving the health of the people were better food security, access to safe drinking water and sanitation, higher female literacy, near universal primary and secondary education coverage, child spacing (for women), immunization, and the primary health care approach.

There was marked regression in all of these indicators in the nineties, when malnutrition resurfaced as a problem, and all health indices deteriorated markedly. Life expectancy declined by 50 per cent in the past 15 years and diseases that were prevalent before independence have returned with a vengeance. This was largely due to increasing poverty and unemployment, poor nutrition, lack of access to adequate health services, low health literacy, and a slow response by the state to...
the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The situation was exacerbated by the collapse of the public health delivery system following the economic decline that started in 1997.

Zimbabwe’s health delivery system is currently under a severe strain. In addition to HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases, Zimbabwe’s health system must deal with the following;
- Under-nutrition, especially in the lowest wealth quintiles.
- The increased threat of disease due to poor living environments, stressful, low quality lifestyles and poverty.
- High morbidity and mortality in children and mothers related to childbirth.
- Re-emerging diseases such as Tuberculosis and Cholera.
- The rising epidemic of non-communicable diseases.
- And the neglected tropical diseases.

The economic collapse of 1997-2009, triggered by bad governance and characterized by rising poverty levels, unemployment, poor service delivery and lack of investment, led to unprecedented brain drain in the health sector, impacting negatively on public health delivery.

The solution to these problems demands strong political will that will deliver a robust public health system anchored on a primary health care approach with prioritisation of health care in budget allocations. It also demands the systematic integration of public health into the various spheres of economic planning and activity, so that production and social systems do not generate unnecessary health costs.

To this end, the MDC government commits to achieving and maintaining the highest possible level of health and quality of life for all Zimbabweans, to allow them to participate fully in the socio-economic development of the country. In doing so, the government will prioritise the inclusive participation of individuals, communities, civil society, and the business community to guarantee Zimbabweans universal access to health promotion, disease prevention, and equitably distributed comprehensive quality health services; and through an inter-sectoral approach, to pay particular attention to the social determinants of health.

Functioning within the constraints of the inclusive government, the MDC has scored major achievements in the improvement of the health sector over the last four years. These include the resuscitation and refurbishment of the central hospitals, the re-equipping of all hospitals, resuscitation of specialized units like cancer treatment centres and kidney dialysis centres with procurement of new equipment; improving the staffing levels of health institutions at all levels by getting health workers back to work and stemming the brain drain. The village health worker program is back on its feet again.

The supply of essential medicines has improved from below 30% availability in 2009 to over 90% availability at primary care level. Transport and communication have improved vastly, with several hundreds of ambulances and service vehicles having been delivered to the health delivery system. Financing for universal maternal and child health care has been enabled by the Health Transition fund, and we anticipate that the wayward maternal mortality ratio will begin to give in as institutional deliveries increase.
5. Health Policy Core Principles
5.1 The Centrality of the Health Sector
The MDC takes serious cognisance of the importance of health, and its centrality to sustainable national development, noting that no prospects for development will be realised if the population suffers from ill health, and if visitors and investors alike are not assured of access to quality health care.

5.2 Right to Health
The MDC will ensure the realization of the people’s right to health, as enshrined in the Zimbabwe Constitution, by fulfilling the state’s obligation to ensure accessible, affordable, acceptable, quality health services, equitably distributed, and directed towards priority problems.

5.3 Inter-sectoral Approach
The MDC will facilitate greater participation by all relevant stakeholders and will provide for smooth coordination of the three pillars of health care provision: Public, Private and the Traditional Health Services. The MDC government will at all times facilitate public involvement in the planning, implementation and management of the health sector.

5.4 Primary Health Care Approach
The promotion of public health through education and prevention of disease is central to our health care philosophy, with real community participation in the planning, provision, control, and monitoring of the service, including provision of safe drinking water and adequate sanitation, housing, waste disposal and food hygiene across the urban, rural, farming and resettlement communities. The network of primary health care centres will be strengthened to ensure that the majority of all Zimbabweans live within five kilometers of a health centre.

5.5 An Efficient Referral System
The MDC believes in an efficient and well-funded referral system to support our primary care clinics. To that end, new life will be infused into our moribund secondary, tertiary and quaternary referral centres through a comprehensive programme of renovation and re-equipping of the facilities, with particular attention to the adequacy of the human resources base at every facility.

5.6 HIV/AIDS
The MDC recognizes the HIV/AIDS pandemic as a health crisis with social, developmental and economic effects as it decimates the economically active age groups. The pandemic is leaving a trail of fractured and impoverished families, over a million orphans, and desolation of entire neighbourhoods. The MDC further realizes that the onus is on the leadership to face the hard realities and challenges of dealing with the HIV/AIDS pandemic head-on. The MDC government will equip the public and private health sector and community leadership with the tools to change the environments that produce risk, and to satisfactorily treat and care for the people infected and affected by HIV/AIDS. In particular, the MDC government will tackle the related issues of poverty, malnutrition, gender exploitation and inequality, overcrowding, insecurity, illiteracy, and harmful cultural and traditional norms and practices that foster the growth of the pandemic in Zimbabwe today.
5.7 Legal Framework for Public Health
The new constitution provides for the followings rights to health care;
 Everyone has the right of access to health-care services, including sexual and reproductive health services.
 Everyone living with a chronic illness has the right of access to health-care services for their illness.
 No individual may be denied emergency medical treatment.
 The State shall take reasonable legislative and other measures, within its available resources, to achieve the progressive realisation of the rights set out above.

The current laws for public health and health care will be reviewed, given its fragmented nature (with 17 different laws) and out-dated nature (the Public Health Act having been enacted in 1924). A comprehensive Public Health Act will be put into place to ensure the achievement of core public health standards across households, workplaces, and local authorities with mechanisms for their implementation and enforcement. This Act will repeal current outdated laws. Local government, economic, labour market and other instruments will be required to comply with this law, while local government by-laws requiring all households to have safe water and sanitation and will be extended to rural areas. Specific measures will be put in place to facilitate implementation in poor communities.

6. The National Health Service System and Administration
6.1 Proposed National Health Board
A National Health Board integrating key economic and social sectors and stakeholders will be set up to integrate public health standards into various areas of economic and social activity. This board will monitor, oversee and report publicly on the implementation of health impact assessments in key development areas; will ensure that high health costs are prevented or internalised within major development programmes, will stimulate and support local authorities in order to implement their obligations to ensure good public health and to promote community action on public health.

The National Health Board will motivate and sponsor research on public health as a central element of development strategy and will promote public health training across a number of professional disciplines. The Board, its inspection, executive and research arms will be funded through a core budget grant.

Public reporting to parliament and in the budget process will include information on progress towards meeting constitutional and statutory obligations on public health across key social groups and on the measures being put in place to reduce shortfalls in such standards. Given the significant potential for the economy, in the process of development and globalisation, to generate inequality within the population, attention will be paid to ensuring and reviewing the trends in health and health care equity, to identify where gaps between population groups are growing unacceptably wide, and to discuss the specific measures to be taken to ensure a basic platform of health rights for all population groups.
6.2 Institutional Arrangements and Programmes for the Health Sector

The past decade has witnessed shrinking investments in the public health care. The upper and middle classes have moved into private care, and the poor into self-help or other forms of coping. The traditional health sector has taken on a greater burden of caring for the sick, but the interaction between western and traditional providers is still weak. There is an urgent and critical need to restore confidence in, and use of, the public health system by the majority of people through sustained and consistent improvements in quality, reliability and accessibility of public health services.

Meaningful partnerships with not for profit, private, traditional and other providers cannot be built on a crumbling public health system. The realization of the right to health will be operationalized through a core of universal public health services, organised by the state according to a publicly defined and reasonable standards of health care, provided through a network of health services. These will be equitably distributed, directed towards priority problems and be adequately staffed. Drugs and other supplies shall be brought into free supply on a demand led basis. To achieve this, it is important to build on positive health system legacies, and to address the weaknesses that now exist.

Notable positive features of health system development over the past two decades include, amongst others;

- Investment in a public health infrastructure that has resulted in 85% of the population being within one hour travel time of the nearest health facility, expansion of district and provincial level hospitals, and inherited investment in central hospitals in the two main urban centres and significant local authority investment in preventative and clinic/family care services.
- Investment in high quality training and competent Zimbabwean health professionals within public and private health services (across the region) and development of new health service staff capable of meeting national health care needs.
- The development of protocols for the prevention and management of common diseases that combine international experience with locally appropriate methods and with proven experience of positive impact when adequately resourced.
- Organisational development to implement and monitor professional standards and to promote professional development.
- The establishment and use of an essential drugs list and its universal uptake across public and private sectors.
- A high level of public literacy and basic education and reasonably strong social networks to enable community health actions and informed use of health services.

At the same time health facilities are currently in poor state of repair, with inadequate equipment and basic supplies. There are resource constraints in primary health care support and supervision services. The referral system is no longer working, as people bypass poor quality lower level services and self refer to central hospitals. Drugs are increasingly in short supply at all levels, and poor ambulance, telephone and transport services undermine access to care. Clinics are sometimes staffed by untrained nurse aids only, reducing quality of care at this level. According to the health review commission report of 1999, while 80% of the 12 million consultations in the health sector are at primary (clinic) and secondary (district hospital) level, as well as 70% of
beds, 69% of in patients and 95% of outpatients, only 29.5% of spending went to these levels, and only 33% of nurses and 21% of doctors attended at this level.

Health workers earnings have fallen relative to other areas of the economy and to neighboring countries, leading to high attrition rates in the public sector and in Zimbabwe, leaving vacancy rates of about a third of public sector posts. Highly skilled personnel concentrate in urban, central facilities with two thirds of doctors functioning at this level, and the country relies on expatriate doctors for provincial and district government posts.

Health workers have become frustrated by poor conditions, unsafe work environments, stress and burnout and reflect this in negative attitudes to, and poor treatment of clients. The industrial relations system has been slow, authoritarian and counter productive and has further reduced health worker confidence in the public health system.

The MDC recognises that this mix of past investment, existing capacity and the current decline and poor status of the entire health delivery infrastructure signals a need to direct future investment towards;

- Maximising the gains from past investments.
- Tapping more effectively capacities and removing barriers to their use.
- Directing reconstruction and recovery resources towards halting and reversing the decline now evident in all spheres of State health care activity and providing for an acceptable platform of health services.

The MDC government programmes that give effect to this will:

- Improve working conditions for all health service personnel within a soundly based and administered system of human resource management associated with the establishment of a National Employment Council for the health sector.
- Direct resources towards consistent and reliable support for the preventive, primary care and district level services used by the majority of the population.
- Improve the functioning of the referral system by making improvements in the quality of lower level services in urban and rural areas. At the same time District and Provincial hospitals and the major national hospitals will be restored to their previous standards and adequately funded so as to be able to support an acceptable standard of health care delivery at all levels.
- Put in place mechanisms to lure back health professionals from the diaspora, and to accelerate training and retention of health workers in the country.

6.3 Community Services
This will be the responsibility of Community Health workers employed by local authorities and based in the community for which they have responsibility. They will liaise with community-based organisations.

6.4 Community Health Centers
This system will incorporate local community based clinics, rural hospitals and mobile clinics. These institutions will undertake community outreach, preventive, case tracing, home based care support, environmental health and health promotion.
Primary care curative services and disease surveillance support/supervision of community based health programmes, quality of care review.
Governance: Health Centre Committees elected annually by the communities they serve.

6.5 District Health Authority
This will be located in each administrative district of the country and will supervise district and mission hospitals within the district. They will provide a wide range of medical services including: basic surgery, maternity care, occupational health, and mental health and rehabilitation services.

Governance: District Health Board and Hospital Management Board.

6.6 Provincial Health Authorities
This will take responsibility for provincial hospitals where specialist medical and surgical services, maternity, rehabilitation, occupational health, mental health services will be provided. In addition these hospitals will provide training, management, audit and support services for the Province as a whole.

Governance: Provincial Hospital Management Board

6.7 Central Health Authority
MoH Head Office as well as the management and control of the Central Referral Hospitals where specialist care will be provided. They will supervise private, not for profit specialist referral centres, all occupational health (NSSA) Training, management audit and support services.

Governance: National Health Board

6.8 National Medical Services Council
These will be responsible for the control and supervision of nursing services and standards as well as the registration of all professional medical personnel.

6.9 Faith Based Medical Services
These will operate independently of the state system but will be fully supported and integrated into the national health delivery system.

Primary Health Care will be the main vehicle for improving health care, covering:

- Health education in communities & schools.
- Nutrition education and food production.
- An expanded programme of immunisation.
- Control of communicable diseases like diarrhoea, malaria and TB.
- An accelerated program for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases.
- Building safe and accessible water supplies and sanitation.
- Ensuring appropriate treatment of common diseases.
- Ensuring adequate drug supplies.
- Providing basic and essential preventive and curative care.
- Maternal and child health care, including family planning & nutrition.
- Ensuring participation of communities in their health care.
Re-orientation of health workers to a more client focused approach.
Horizontal integration of health programmes.
Training & deployment of community health workers.
Training & deployment of primary care givers.

6.10 The Traditional Health Sector
The MDC Government will recognise the value of traditional medicine in our society. Such traditions will be recognised and supported through the Ministry of Health. Research work into the traditional remedies will be encouraged and supported, and where proved, production and use of such remedies would be encouraged. Traditional medicine is an important part of our culture, and it has stood the test of time in the face of cultural change and technological advances. We therefore need as a matter of policy, to offer legal protection of traditional medicines through patents, and to ensure that this sector is safe and properly regulated.

6.11 Service Standards
At each of the different levels of health services mentioned above, the MoHCW, in consultation with service providers and clients, will develop core service standards, including norms governing human resource distribution, essential drugs and equipment supplies, procedures followed at that level, outreach support and supervision to lower levels and in-service/refresher training that will be publicly disseminated, and monitored against such set standards across geographical areas and levels of services reported through the National Health Board and Parliament. Local authorities in co-operation with other statutory bodies will be responsible for inspection and reporting on these standards.

Participatory Co-ordination: At health centre, district, provincial and national level, stakeholder bodies that incorporate all health providers, including traditional service providers, civil elected and traditional leaders and purchasers of health services will be established with authority to identify health needs and priorities, plan and monitor services at that level, review quality of care issues, receive, provide and review information to next levels, co-ordinate health activities and organise, allocate and monitor mobilisation and allocation of resources at that level.

Services at each level:

a. Community level: The community health worker (CHW) will be revived as the entry point of the primary care system, accountable to the community, supported by the community health centre staff and committee, and working in cooperation with the environmental health technician. Funds allocated to the health centre from the Ministry and locally mobilised community resources will be used to support input needs of the CHW. The CHWs will be compensated meaningfully to encourage them to allocate their prime time to community health work without endangering their own social & economic well being. The CHW will be primarily directed towards prevention and promotion, and will link with other community based cadres, including the home based care providers, community distributors, local civic organizations, health personnel (such as occupational health and safety stewards), community pump minders, etc. Monthly meetings will be held by community based health workers at the health centres to support, network and provide in service training to...
Community based health workers and to enable organised dialogue with the community on their work through the health centre committee.

b. Health Centre Level: This will be recognised as the core of the health system and will be recognised as the core of the health system and appropriate, accessible and quality care will be provided at this level, to avoid unnecessary cost to communities and health systems when people bypass primary health care services. Clinics will be allocated transparent budget resources and outreach service allocated through earmarked budget allocations from the Health Services Fund. Health Centre Committees will be established at every clinic, and will be made up of representatives of health providers, civil, elected and traditional structures, and ensuring a gender balance.

These committees will be responsible for identifying health needs, planning health activities, managing local health resources, reviewing quality of care issues and for information flow to and from higher levels of the health system. Communities will be organised and supported through upgrading training of staff, particularly at nursing level, and through the identification, formal recognition and training, in cooperation with the nurses association, of a nursing cadre with adequate competencies to manage the outreach prevention and health promotion and curative programmes.

CHW supervision and health planning work done at that level. Clinic level services will open for hours agreed between local authorities, professional associations and clients, to avoid excess flows of patients to higher-level health services due to closing times of clinics.

c. District level services: At district level, all district services will be coordinated through the district health board (DHB). The MoH will delegate its management and technical roles to the district health team (DHT), and policy supervision to the DHB. The District Hospital Board (DHoB) will be designated authority to manage the district hospitals, reporting to the DHB, and will be allocated sufficient funds by the Ministry of Health to meet all essential service requirements. All urban and rural districts will have designated district services. Where district services are buried inside provincial or central hospitals, separate and earmarked budgets, personnel and facilities will be identified, preferably using existing infrastructure, to perform these services. In the long term, district functions (such as outpatient services) of central and provincial hospitals will be totally delegated to district and primary care services. In the immediate future, districts (DHB and DHT) will be given greater authority through the DHB to review revenue mechanisms and rates according to clear procedures set at central level, will ensure, inspect and enforce health services standards.

d. Provincial level services: will be organised as the first level of specialist services across public health, medical, occupational health, rehabilitation, mental health and other services. The province will provide technical support to lower level services, provide referral services for cases not managed at district level (in both community and individual services), co-ordinate service providers and ensure that policies are implemented, monitored, reported on and reviewed. Provincial level services will ensure or organise core inputs for health services, including reliable, cost effective, appropriate and timely drug procurement and distribution; training and distribution of personnel; policy review and reporting; monitoring and reporting on
health standards and supporting the establishment, capacity development and functioning of governance structures (DHB, HAB (Hospital Advisory Body), Health centre committee, etc.) The MoH will delegate the management of the provincial hospital to a provincial hospital board (PHoB).

e. Central level services: will be organised as the quaternary referral services and the second level of specialist services across public health, medical, occupational health, rehabilitation, mental health and other services will also be responsible for and receive a share of budget funding for training of personnel. Central level hospital boards will be responsible for managing the hospitals and for arrangements for leasing or use of a defined share of services depending on utilisation rates by other providers on contractual arrangements that provide returns for cross subsidy of low income patients, training inputs, specialist services or other arrangements. Legal barriers to such arrangements will be lifted.

Standards and norms for medical services across all levels and providers will be regulated through a Medical Services Board, that will include representation of all providers, clients, professional associations, health financiers and government, state and parliament. The Board will work with the Health Professions Council to set, ensure and enforce standards of professional practice, with district health authorities and the DHBs to ensure and enforce service standards, and will establish a committee that includes providers, purchasers (e.g.: medical aid, clients), clients and government to set and disseminate guidelines for health service charges that can be used in district level consultations. The Medical Services Board will support and report nationally on the performance of Hospital Boards.

The National Health Board will provide guidelines for and monitor preventive, medical and curative services in terms of resource allocations and meeting key public health and medical care standards and policy objectives. The National Health Board will support and report nationally on the performance of the District Health Boards.

The MoH will provide the technical and organisational support for the setting of health policy, of health services and public health standards and laws, for co-ordination of providers, support and monitoring of delegated authorities, setting of human resource standards and norms, supporting and monitoring strategic planning and programme evaluation and for the development of effective disbursement mechanism for budget allocations from tax revenues.

Other technical committees for specific areas will be sustained or established as required, coordinated with the NHB/MSB above. Within this institutional arrangement of services, specific measures will be taken in the short term to ensure equity and sustained quality of the health system.

6.12 Localizing Management Control of Services and Monitoring Performance
The MDC government’s organisation of health services will seek to ensure access to appropriate quality health inputs and services within the communities, and distribute equitably. It will direct particular attention in the first year to improving the quality of care at the lower levels of the health system. The health system will be organised along levels that will each be formally recognised and supported for their input to
prevention of disease and the management of health care, with all levels from health centre to central hospital being recognised as cost centres within the system.

7. Equity in Health Services
Equity in access to health services will be a central MDC government policy focus. The implementation of equity-oriented measures will take note of the poor functioning of targeted means tested systems, and easier administration of community, rather than individual targeting, approaches. Specific measures taken to ensure that resources are allocated differently to groups with different needs (and implicitly with greater resources allocated to those with greatest need) will include:

- Formulating the resource allocation formula for the global budget to manage family size and to reduce poverty levels, improve local revenue generating capacities, and functions provided within districts that service provincial or national communities. At the same time this should ensure that effective output relative to inputs and meeting key policy goals are rewarded.
- Lifting of tariffs on all drugs and formulating bulk purchase savings strategies for chronic care drugs to enable access in the lowest income groups. Legal reforms will also be implemented to enable compulsory licensing and parallel importation of identified essential drugs for major public health problems within the context of the WTO agreements.
- Allocating resources by total district workload and not only by the hospital workload, with a transparent split between hospital and periphery, and with adequate support for outreach, particularly to remote areas.
- Providing incentives for health worker employment within primary and secondary care structures, and within rural or underserved areas.
- Monitoring and publicly reporting on inequalities in health status and access to basic standards of health services between population groups, and using this to direct policy attention to closing identified gaps.
- Promoting the allocation of specific central and district resources for reducing barriers to health services in key vulnerable groups, including low income youth, the elderly and disabled people, orphans, within the context of wider community services and actions.
- Ensuring an adequate balance between home based care and hospital based care, with clear guidelines, training, resources and support mechanisms for HBC and care givers and clear referral procedures between services, to ensure that communities do not take on an inappropriate burden of care giving.
- Building forms of political participation that enable equity oriented choices to be made, with inclusion of low-income representative (from civic and elected structures) into management and policy committees and boards.

8. Sustained Development of Quality Health Services
As noted above, improved functions of the health system, of the referral system, and improved interaction with other health providers depends on restoring quality services, with a focus on urban and rural district level services in the first phase.

This calls for a range of measures, including:

- Setting and disseminating reasonable standards of care at each level of health system to promote public awareness and effective use of services and using participatory mechanisms such as committees and boards to review and discuss measures to improve quality of care standards.
Development of a maintenance plan for existing facilities (infrastructure and equipment) before new capital projects are implemented, except for upgrading of polyclinics in urban areas to set up quality district level services.

Establishing National Employment Council to supervise the employment of public health personnel, facilitate industrial collective bargaining leading to improve working conditions and health and safety, and the negotiation of benefits.

Improving the conditions of service of health workers and using professional incentives to direct them towards critical areas of public health systems, in a manner that builds and supports in-service learning within health systems. Removing unfair areas of discrimination in professional practice and glass ceilings for key professional staff, such as nurses.

Staffing all primary care clinics with a health professional with nursing skills able to support community programmes and to carry out basic clinical and management duties. This will involve setting up the professional criteria for such a cadre, identifying a core and in-service curriculum, incorporating this training in nursing schools and ensuring adequate supervision.

Providing adequate mechanisms to ensure that private health services and purchasers pay full costs for use of public services, and contribute substantially to public health training programmes.

9. Accountability and Participation in the Health Services

Community groups and ministry officials in both rural and urban areas have noted that while communities have played a role in implementing health activities, they have not meaningfully participated in health planning, neither have they been adequately updated and informed on new public health strategies. People do not know what is taking place in relation to health budgets, in the priorities set for Health Services, and in improving the quality of care.

The MDC government will ensure an informed and proactive public, interacting with a fully accountable health system. This means that people will

- Take responsibility for their health and implement health interventions.
- Identify their health problems and needs and obtain relevant health information.
- Contribute to health policy formulation, and know local health standards and goals.
- Mobilise health resources, and be involved in decisions in the employment of the same.
- Monitor and evaluate health programs.

The MDC recognises that for this to be achieved requires

- A deeper level of devolution of authority and resources to local government, than has been the case in the decentralisation programme to date.
- Establishment of district health boards, hospital boards and health centre committees that are democratically elected and accountable to the public and to Parliament.
- Intensified public/civic health education.
- Earmarked funds for community health activities, including for community health workers, chosen by, and reporting to, communities.
- Public input and feedback on local government budgets in pre-and post budget meetings.
Wide public dissemination of information on funding sources and the employment of such funds.

10. The Private Health Sector
The MDC recognises the growth and expansion of private medicine in Zimbabwe, and notes that while costs are rising, subscriptions to Medical Aid Societies are relatively low by world standards and Medical facilities available are generally above the standard found in most other African countries.

However, the MDC recognises a missing link in the co-ordination of the private and public health sector in the planning, regulation, and delivery of health services in the country. To this end, the MDC government will ensure that the Medical Services Board will co-ordinate and make recommendations to the Ministry of Health on all factors relevant for improvement.

The private health sector shall form part of the National Health arrangements at all levels including on ensuring quality standards and ensuring that the private sector delivers on important national health goals.

11. Health Care Financing
The MDC notes that the problems in the financing of health and health services are evident in:
- The falling real per capita budget allocated to health and rising real costs of medical care.
- Declining allocations to prevention and promotion leading to a rise in communicable and non-communicable diseases.
- Reductions in public spending on environmental matters and environmental health facilities and field travel budgets.
- Bankruptcy of the national pharmaceutical company, with over 99% of the drugs in NATPHARM being donor purchased drugs.
- Grossly inadequate funding for recurrent expenditure.
- Implementation of a user fee policy with poor quality gains, weak exemption mechanisms and poor functioning of the referral system.

The MDC government will put in place measures to finance the priority health programmes under the following principles:
- The government will allocate a minimum per capita budget to preventive health, and within this to achieve publicly defined monitored goals.
- The current level of funding of the health sector will be improved through the development of a resource mobilisation plan, based at its core on a per capita allocation to finance a minimum core of public health services, equitably distributed between different communities according to a resource allocation formula that incorporates population density, the actual population served and poverty levels.
- Public funds for health will be mobilised in the short term from funds secured from a set proportion of national tax revenues and from special funding secured from the international community for the rehabilitation of health care services.
- Increased finances and health care resources (including drugs and staff) will be directed to the primary care clinics and district hospitals, earmarked within
district budgets and reported to and monitored by the participatory mechanisms (health boards) discussed earlier.

- Communities will mobilise resources for health complementary to public sector inputs and used to support health interventions that are decided on by stakeholders. Locally collected funds will be administered and retained at local levels to complement and not replace core government budget allocations.
- Essential drug costs will be controlled through bulk purchase and distribution through NATPHARM, through cross subsidy from other drugs used where generic drugs are available through relief from import duties and in the long term through planned localisation of production first in Zimbabwe, then in the SADC region.
- Overall, as a short term measure, the MDC Government will increase the current central government contribution to health sector to at least $34 per capita recommended by the World Health Organisation.
- In the medium term, the MDC government will ensure that all Zimbabweans are covered by a National Health Insurance for universal access to health care. This will cover both the formal and informal sector workers. User fees and all financial barriers to accessing care will be removed at all levels of care.

The MDC government will also ensure that all stakeholders (inclusive of civil society) within the health sector are involved at all levels in the budget process from an earlier stage. This will enhance equity, accountability and good management of resources.

12. Conclusion

A healthy nation is a productive nation. An MDC government will prioritise the provision of good quality and affordable healthcare at the centre of its developmental agenda. The MDC is committed to building a healthy society in which citizens participate fully in the development of their country. This policy sets out the framework for the development of modernized health delivery system, which is at the core of the country’s economic recovery, stabilization and growth. In crafting this policy, the MDC is guided by its social democratic values, which dictate that the state has a responsibility and duty to provide adequate resources to the health sector. The policy also outlines an institutional framework that ensures that citizens participate in the delivery of health programmes.
1. Introduction
The first case of AIDS in Zimbabwe was identified in 1985. HIV prevalence peaked at 29.3% in 1997, and has gradually come down to 13.71 in the 15-49 year olds. Incidence rate has also dropped from 5.6% in 1993 to the current 0.4% (Zimbabwe National Health Strategy 2009-2013).

An estimated 1.2 million adults and children are living with HIV. Of these, about 600 000 need treatment urgently, and about 80% of them are already on treatment. Deaths from AIDS amounted to 230 per day in 2009.

Key drivers of Zimbabwe’s epidemic include multiple concurrent partnerships, low and inconsistent levels of condom use among married couples or those in long term relationships, low rates of male circumcision and age disparate sexual relationships. The situation is exacerbated by the current harsh economic climate, high unemployment (85%), malnutrition and an under-funded health delivery system, to name but a few.

Zimbabwe is losing its productive and economic sector to this epidemic. Our fathers, mothers, sisters, brothers, doctors, nurses, teachers, engineers, administrators, economists, lawyers, entrepreneurs, students, religious leaders, political leaders.

The epidemic’s most disturbing long-term feature is its impact on life expectancy, now at 47 years. This is presenting a serious threat to the country’s social and economic development. There is still no cure or vaccine. The only options are to prevent the further spread of HIV/AIDS, to minimise its impact, to mitigate and provide a caring and compassionate environment for those infected and affected. This calls for an expanded and intensified response to mobilise all players to take action aimed at slowing the spread of the epidemic, and managing its impact. We shall spare no energy to achieving the three zeroes: zero new HIV infections, zero stigma and discrimination, and zero HIV/AIDS deaths.

2. Vision
Creating an AIDS free Zimbabwe.

3. Mission
Put in place policies and programmes that seek to minimise the effects of HIV and AIDS on the socio-economic development of Zimbabwe while aiming to attain minimum infection.

4. Past and Current Responses
Zimbabwe’s response to the epidemic was slow at the beginning, with a notable absence of political will and leadership. The national response then, confined the epidemic to a medical issue alone, excluding the socio-economic and developmental issues. However, the following is acknowledged:

- Universal screening of blood by the Blood Transfusion Services (B.T.S.) since 1985.
Phased schedule plans for creating public awareness among selected specific, population groups by the then NACP, in collaboration with civic and private sector organisations since 1987.

The gazetted Labour Relations Code of Conduct on HIV/AIDS (SI 202/98) targeting the employment sector, with regard to discrimination practices, in the workplace, based on one’s HIV/AIDS status.

The National HIV/AIDS policy of December 1999, co-ordinated by the NACP with valuable contributions made by many ASO’s (Aids Service Organisations) and civic groups (of concern was the slow pace and level of the policy implementation).

Establishment of the National AIDS Council and the National Aids Trust Fund, and the introduction of the AIDS levy in January 2000 (of concern was the general politicisation of the Fund and weak mechanisms for accountability).

Establishment of training programs for Health Care Workers in government institutions.

The highly commendable and committed responses and efforts over the years came from various private sectors and N.G.O. groups, participating actively in HIV/AIDS awareness, Sexually transmitted Infection (STI) prevention and control, Condom procurement and distribution, home and community based care, counselling and impact mitigation.

While the decline in both incidence and prevalence rates have been noted, there appears to have been insufficient behaviour change to halt transmission completely. With this in mind the MDC now calls on all stakeholders, political leadership, civil society, the private and public sectors, the traditional sector and NGOs, to put HIV/AIDS crisis at the centre of the national agenda. Now is the time to act decisively. The enhanced commitment will need to be as broad as the epidemic itself and intense enough to make up for the late start. The MDC government will mobilise all the stakeholders to face the harsh realities of the epidemic head-on, and will work to drop those areas of conventional wisdom which no longer work, and differentiate clearly between myths that hold us back and proven good practice and knowledge that we should be implementing.

Confining the responsibility for HIV/AIDS solely to the health sector is seen as a major stumbling block to drastically reducing the spread of HIV and TB. HIV/AIDS must be recognised as a socio-economic and developmental crisis, as well as a health issue.

The MDC Agenda for HIV/AIDS prevention will therefore look at the socioeconomic issues, which exacerbate the spread of HIV/AIDS, including:

- The harsh economic environment.
- High unemployment (85%) and extreme poverty.
- Lack of empowerment of, and poor economic opportunities for women.
- Stigma and discrimination of those infected and affected.
- Housing insecurity and overcrowding.
- Poor water and sanitation delivery and access.
- A poorly financed health delivery system.
- The high cost of essential drugs.
- Poor and often non-existent health delivery in rural and resettlement areas.
Break down in the rule of law resulting in condoned political crimes such as rape, torture, and physical and mental abuse.

The above elements are inextricably linked, hence the responses required to militate against the impact of the epidemic need to be multi-sectoral.

5. Shortfalls and Constraints in the national response to the epidemic;

Some of the challenges are;

- Many communities and households provide awareness and care services with grossly inadequate support.
- Poor domestic financing for the response, and over-reliance on donor funding.
- Existence of an ambient environment conducive to the spread of HIV and progression from HIV to AIDS rapidly, namely: substantial social and economic inequalities between the rich and the poor, women and men; where people lack adequate and secure housing; employment insecurity or where families are split, sometimes by their employment by the state; where parent-child and partner communication is weak; where people lack access to adequate food, are unable to access health services, and where there is political instability and a breakdown in the rule of law.

This situation represents one of the greatest challenges to a new MDC government.

6. The Way Forward

The MDC government’s position on the challenges for tackling the HIV/AIDS problem is one of recognising the importance of leadership to tap organizational capacities, in order to implement the options. The government will take immediate measures to recognize the epidemic (in policy and law) as a national emergency, in view of its devastating impact on both social and economic development.

The MDC government will ensure that the core elements of the response begin to match the scale and seriousness of the epidemic, and ensure:

- Visible and committed leadership from the top levels of government, public and private sectors, in preventing the spread of HIV, with clear assigned responsibilities for dealing with the epidemic.
- Co-ordination of a national response that involves and mobilises all social and economic institutions.
- Identifying priority areas for action for prevention and care based on best practices.
- Mobilizing resources and identifying priorities, ensuring that these reach the target groups with meaningful and effective support services.
- Providing public information to support changes in KAPB (Knowledge, Attitude, practice and Behaviour) around HIV/AIDS.
- The wider social and economic determinants of HIV/AIDS will be managed through specific programmes for improving access to education (especially for the most vulnerable), housing and health care, outlined in other policies.

Attainment of best practice in HIV Medicine as far as possible in terms of;

- Correct use of ARV’s based on current knowledge and best practice.
- Assessment of ARV resistance in the population, taking appropriate measures in light of available data.
Establishment and sustainable support of laboratory services for the proper case management and monitoring of treatment.
Universal access to care and treatment.

A national HIV/AIDS policy (December, 1999) was drafted involving widestakeholder consultation.

The MDC government recognizes the valuable contributions made by many socialgroups in this process and does not seek to duplicate it. The national policy providesfor health and human rights, policies on care for people living with HIV/AIDS,gender and workplace rights, and policies on information.

The MDC government will ensure that;
- Labour market institutions actively enforce non-discrimination in the workplace.
- Public health institutions are properly equipped to manage the epidemic.
- National campaigns are carried out to reduce the incidence of STI’s and TB.
- Increase condom distribution.
- Hospital and palliative care for people with HIV/AIDS is improved with a minimum platform of resources and professional supervision observed.
- VCT (Voluntary Testing and Counselling) facilities are increased and accessible to all population groups.
- Minimum safety standards are legislated and implemented in all settings where health care providers are in contact with body fluids, and that post exposure prophylaxis is available for all occupational exposures and other accidental exposures.
- Increased resource allocation to youth programmes to ensure that in and out of school youth have access to appropriate information on life skills, sexual and reproductive health services, counselling, VCT etc.
- Information, education, counselling, male and female condoms, and STI care services are made available to commercial sex workers.
- Appropriately strong measures are taken to prevent and penalise gender violence and sexual abuse in all forms, especially in children.
- Far greater attention is given to the risk environments that increase the spread of HIV, and in particular support more rapid and intensive housing programmes for low-income groups and sustained access to formal education for youth, particularly female adolescents.
- Public and private sector employees are not separated from their families in their employment (e.g. Teachers), that they are adequately housed and that specific measures are put in place to reduce the time of family separation, where possible.
- Ensure health service and information access for mobile workers particularly truck drivers.

The MDC government will buttress the national response by integrating HIV/AIDS measures as an employer, as a provider of essential services, and as a facilitator of social security. The government will put in place measures to implement responses to HIV/AIDS by government in all these spheres:
- MDC will take more immediate measures to recognise the HIV/AIDS epidemic as a national emergency, and to set up and support a national HIV prevention network coordinating and ratcheting up existing prevention work, procure low
cost treatments for HIV related opportunistic infections, for prevention of MTCT, and post exposure prophylaxis for health workers and victims of sexual abuse and establish the clinical facilities, drug procurement channels and financing mechanisms for treatment of AIDS. The MDC government will ensure that public spending on treatments for HIV / AIDS or related infections do not only, or preferentially, reach groups that currently have better access to health services, by improving the health service infrastructure.

The MDC government will review both the National Aids Council and the National Aids Trust Fund, which will be run by a Board of Trustees appointed by Parliament. The Trust will report annually to Parliament and will be required to obtain approval for its annual budget at the same time. The Trust will assist in financing the network of prevention programmes, the additional resources needed in the health sector to guarantee the prevention and treatment of STIs, TB and HIV related infection and the prevention of maternal to child transmission, the support of any community based caring and the support of orphan care, education and health needs. The trust funds will be disbursed through community orphan support and fostering schemes, community prevention networks, linked to multi stakeholder district AIDS Committees and to the local authority. A proportion of the funds will be applied to building or reinforcing these community-based mechanisms in all parts of the country.

In all the programmes and processes, the MDC government will open up to widerstakeholder and civil society participation. This will allow for incorporation of, andresponse to, community views, to tap and support community institutions, and improve reporting, monitoring and accountability to/from communities on therespone.

At the same time the MDC will participate actively in regional platforms that seek to build a more equitable and sustainable global response to the epidemic, through improved channeling of global resources to community and public infrastructures, reduced trade, cost and tariff barriers to drugs and other inputs for AIDS management and through providing recognition of the links between AIDS and poverty.

7. Areas of Priority for Implementation in the First 180 days in Office

HIV/AIDS Programme - Whilst the existing efforts in addressing Zimbabwe HIV/AIDS are appreciated, they will be reviewed regularly in order to improve effectiveness.

Declaration of HIV/AIDS as a National Emergency/Disaster - The MDC plans one that will distinguish the HIV / AIDS emergency from the ones catered for by the Civil Protection Act chapter 10.06. The HIV/AIDS emergency will be backed by (adifferent) legislation so that:

- Generic drugs can easily be imported as per the WTO position, that, countries can only import generic drugs if it/they declare, through parliament, that it is facing National Disaster. “Generic drugs cost ¼ of the trade-marked equivalent”
- Legislated declaration of emergency (complemented by the National Policy, giving guiding principles) will mobilise both financial and human resources, and leadership, as well as mainstreaming responses in all spheres of social, economic and political activities.
The National HIV/AIDS Policy of 1999 will be reviewed through a consultative and all-inclusive approach to bring it up-to-date and provide for implementation. (Currently, the policy has seriously lacked advocacy)

In addition to the above, an urgent all Stakeholders National Conference will be organised to streamline the co-ordination of the national implementation programme on HIV/AIDS. The programme will define roles of stakeholders and provide for stocktaking.

8. Treatment

A policy on drug acquisition; pricing; distribution and general management will be worked out on a long-term basis.

In the first days of administration, an expeditious move will be undertaken to ensure that appropriate anti-retrovirals are made available for those living with the virus.

The major pharmaceutical companies will be encouraged to cheaper drugs are made available through local manufacturing of the generic forms of the proved effective ARVs. (International companies have indicated their ‘will’ to lower prices only when working in partnership with governments. However, it has not been obvious that the current Administration is playing a meaningful and consistent partnership role).

The Treatment programme will expand the MTCT (Mother to Child Transmission) and general ARV’s programme to cover all the clinics and hospitals. The MDC government will assist in providing adequate infrastructure for optimum medical management of HIV including laboratory and radiological facilities for diagnosis and treatment of opportunistic infections and drug toxicities.

Training in all aspects of HIV medical care will be supported for all members of the health professions i.e. Doctors, Nurses, Pharmacists etc. The MDC government will work in partnership with private sector programs already in place i.e. ZIMA (the Zimbabwe Medical Association), Government training programs and HIV Clinicians.

In addition to the all stakeholder national programme planning and implementation, the existing VCT programme will be increased to cover the whole country, using drug and NATF resources as incentive.

A National standard on counselling, and registration, will be established to ensure quality counselling and training.

Sentinel testing is vital for government’s national planning purposes to facilitate and plan appropriate and timeous prevention, treatment and drug acquisition.

9. Funding

Both short term and long term programmes will be funded through the national fiscus (budget), Solidarity and Global inflows and through the National AIDS Trust Funds (NATF). A study will be commissioned on the NATF disbursement structures, as a matter of urgency:

To do away with ‘politicisation’ of funds and eradicate power dynamics.

To eradicate mismanagement and abuses of funds.

To ensure transparent and accountable disbursement processes.

In the medium term, the NAC Act will be reviewed to provide for improved responsibility and accountability.
10. Conclusion
HIV and AIDS have emerged as threats towards sustainable development in Zimbabwe. Prevalence is high in the reproductive age group and is a burden on the economy. It is thus imperative that a sound policy underpinned by strong implementation structures be developed to curtail the burden on the country. This policy paper represents the MDC’s policy on dealing with the scourge of HIV and AIDS. It calls for stronger state intervention and the need to channel more resources in the fight against this pandemic.
EDUCATION POLICY

1. Introduction
The MDC government recognizes that a sound, progressive and affordable education system is a prerequisite for social stability and sustainable economic growth in Zimbabwe.

The MDC government affirms the importance of the provision of a well-balanced education for all Zimbabweans as a basic human right that is enshrined in the new constitution, which states that; “every citizen and permanent resident of Zimbabwe has a right to;

(a) a basic State-funded education, including adult basic education; and
(b) further education, which the State, through reasonable legislative and other measures, must make progressively available and accessible”.

The MDC government acknowledges the indispensable role played by parents, educators and students in the process of molding society for responsible citizenry in the political, social and economic spheres of life.

The MDC government pledges, through a sound, progressive and self – propelling Education Policy, full support for every effort by government and community in uplifting the standard of life for all people through professional practice in education that respects fundamental freedoms and responsibilities of the individual and community.

The MDC Government will institutionalize a system that values transparency, honest administration, integrity, accountability, respect for fundamental rights and freedoms and social justice in order that true democracy can be enjoyed by all Zimbabwean people in their daily lives.

2. Vision
A well governed, managed and administered education system that produces world class citizens

3. Mission
To facilitate the provision of high quality education with relevant curricula and methodologies, supported by well-designed and stimulating learning/ teaching materials, physical infrastructure, skilled- gendered sensitive personnel and adequate funding.

4. Philosophy of education
The MDC government’s philosophy of education is the impartation of worthwhile knowledge that embraces ultimate values of justice, freedom, morality, attained through qualitative child centered education. This can be achieved by offering relevant, emancipatory, skill-oriented curriculum that promotes creativity, discovery learning, critical thinking and rationality, as a dominant mode of pedagogy practiced in a conducive learning and teaching environment to obtain the greatest good for the greatest number.
5. Zimbabwe’s Educational Sector Challenges
The decline of the economy since 1998 has resulted in the decimation of the education sector and most of the progress made since independence, have been wiped out. Today the public education system has faced serious challenges, with shortages of virtually everything that is required to sustain it. This decline in education delivery has affected all educational establishments, no matter what their origin. Only the private sector continues to provide a sound education to small privileged minority.

Given these challenges and also recognizing the importance of education as a tool for personal upliftment and empowerment, the MDC government will thus place education at the center of sustainable political, economic and social development.

6. Policy Priorities
6.1 Education act
The MDC government will ensure the enactment of an education law which provides for:
- Children’s fundamental right to education with relevant support services and within a conducive environment.
- Financial resources, educational resources, and facilities for all levels of education and at all educational institutions.
- The establishment and mandating of Education Charters, Ordinances, Boards, Agencies, Committees, Councils and Commissions, such as Teaching Professions Council, Examination Council, National Language Council, Teaching Service Commission – and other bodies deemed necessary for the provision of high – quality education.
- A code of ethics for teachers and educational staff and students/pupils.
- A national language policy.
- Gender equity and equality in education.
- Children with special learning needs or difficulties, as well as for gifted children.
- The decentralization of educational management and administration.
- The administration of examination boards.
- Restructuring of curricula with deliberate bias towards science, mathematics, information technology, technical subjects, commercial and management skills, civic and environment education, HIV and AIDS, family health, life skills education, population education, citizenship education, peace education and values.
- Staff development programmes for teachers.
- Encouragement of adult education in the country.
- The classification and registration of educational institutions such as schools, colleges, universities and cultural centers.
- Centers for technical thinking and innovations.

6.2 Restructuring the Education Sector
To achieve its objectives the MDC government commits itself to merging the existing Ministry of Education, Sport, Arts and Culture, Ministry of Higher and Tertiary Education and the Ministry of Science and Technology Development into a single ministry to be known as the Ministry of Education.
6.3 Quality of Education
The MDC government will ensure that every Zimbabwean has access to a high-quality education that will enable him/her to optimize the use of individual talent and make advancement in a competitive world. Both society and the individual must benefit from public expenditure on education.

6.4 The Girl Child
Special emphasis will be given to the education of the girl–child in view of the discrimination exercised against girls in traditional society and the colonial period.

7. Values
The policy is guided by social democratic values that emphasize an equitable distribution of resources, fairness and justice to all regardless of their race, political or religious affiliation, gender or place of origin. The MDC government will ensure:

- The provision of adequate financial, material and human resources to manage and administer the education system competently, transparently and in an accountable manner.
- That all educational institutions design and follow relevant curricula and methodologies, and offer education and training that is relevant to the needs of the country and its economic and social system. Particular emphasis will be given to mathematics, science, technology development and technical subjects.
- Consultation with parents and encouraging their involvement in all aspects of school life.
- Expanding vocational and technical education to a level that will adequately cater for the needs of a growing and competitive economy.
- Fostering the continued development of the indigenous languages of the country and their use in society.
- Gender mainstreaming across the education sector and defeminisation of educational concepts which stigmatize females as less equal to males.
- Equipping all graduate pupils and students with survival skills for the modern world.
- Improving the conditions of service for teachers/lecturers and ancillary staff to motivate them for optimum achievements.

8. Education Administration
In relation to primary and secondary schooling, the MDC government will:

- Develop effective evaluation and testing to ensure that children undergoing primary school education are prepared and evaluated for secondary school education.
- Develop effective continuous assessment, evaluation and testing to ensure that children undergoing secondary school education are prepared for their subsequent careers.
- Establish a junior secondary school system that will give all students coming out of the primary school system at least two years of post primary education. A public examination and qualification at the end of form II (the Zimbabwe junior certificate) will be established.
- Ensure that those students who complete junior secondary school progress either to further academic qualifications or towards qualifications in technical, commercial or vocational subjects.
Strengthen the capacity of the ministry to supervise systems and procedures at all schools and to monitor the standards and quality of education.

Introduce a system of staff development to ensure that the professional competence of teachers is constantly renewed.

Ensure that girls have equal access to education.

Ensure a broad – based education that includes academic, practical and technical subjects.

Improve the conditions that will encourage the pursuit of mathematics, science, technology development and technical subjects.

Ensure that modern information and communication technologies (ICTs), which will include high – speed internet access, are available in all schools, particularly rural schools, and that computer and information skills courses are taught to all students. In this regard lobby and advocate for electrification of all schools in Zimbabwe.

Promote enquiry and active learning, and enhance discovery, creativity and problem – solving skills.

Ensure that learning resources for independent learning are available in school libraries staffed by suitably qualified personnel.

Make provision for individualized remedial education whenever possible.

Eliminate hot seating.

Ensure that the teaching of indigenous languages takes its rightful place in school.

Ensure that sex education is included in the official curriculum and that HIV and AIDS education as well as guidance and counseling is fully integrated into such programmes.

Strengthen the provision of sport, arts, cultural and recreational activities at schools, and facilitate sporting, arts and cultural – exchange programmes with other countries.

9. Institutional Framework of the Education Sector

9.1 Early Childhood Development (ECD)

It is the view of the MDC government that all children would benefit from some form of early childhood development, that is, before the age of six, and that this would also improve the effectiveness of the first two years of schooling at primary school level. The MDC government will treat ECD as an integral component of the education system. To this end, the MDC government will aim to establish capacity for all children to attend ECD schools, initially for at least one year and ultimately for two years. Essentially ECD schools would have to be established with requisite numbers of qualified teachers.

9.1.1 In catering for ECD the MDC government will:

- Conduct a national audit of ECD schools.
- Ensure that all ECD schools are registered with the ministry.
- Encourage, and later enforce, attendance at an ECD school for at least one year prior to entry into the primary – school system.
- Provide ECD in a child’s mother tongue, with increasing use of the English medium where it is not the mother tongue or increasing the use of local language where mother tongue is English.
- Provide adequate grants to ECD schools to meet basic needs.
- Foster the development of curricula to ensure equity and quality control.
Introduce notions of science and mathematics at ECD schools.
Provide adequate structures for monitoring and other learning facilities for monitoring and administration of all ECD centres.
Provide for infants with special learning needs
Establish capacity to train ECD schoolteachers on the scale required.
Involve the community in the operations of the ECD schools.
Uphold the rights and responsibilities of the child.

9.2 Primary Education
One of the key millennium goals set by the United Nations is the attainment of universal access to primary school education for a minimum of seven years for every child. The MDC believes this is attainable and desirable and will aim to make primary schooling immediately compulsory and free for all Zimbabwean children starting in the year they turn six.

To achieve this target it will be necessary to ensure that there are adequate primary schoolteachers available to teach in the requisite primary schools. It is recognized that there is a large number of untrained teachers in the schools. The available pool of trained and experienced teachers will therefore be spread as widely as possible through the system so that they are able to mentor untrained teachers. At the same time, all teacher–education establishments will be required to establish in service training programmes designed to train the untrained teachers in the system.

The existing system of administration through school boards elected by parents and teachers will be retained and strengthened. These boards will have responsibility for the administration of school funds and the raising of supplementary resources to help with school costs and development. Heads will be responsible for the overall administration of schools and school development, monitored by the Ministry of Education.

Funding provided by the state will be in the form of per capita grants for every pupil enrolled at the school at the beginning of each school term. The level of such grants will be determined by the national budget.

The Standards Control Unit of the ministry will be strengthened to enable it to determine the need for the rehabilitation of school infrastructure and new development and academic skills of excellence. This will be carried out against a set of standards established by the ministry in consultation with the National Association of Primary Schools, and based on the need to establish and maintain a pupil–teacher ratio of 30 to 1.

Special facilities for gifted, differently-abled and mentally handicapped children will be established in all districts on a demand–led basis. This will be done within the existing establishments. Training for specialist teachers for these children will be established at colleges and universities.

9.3 Secondary Education
While primary education is regarded as essential in terms of preparing for secondary schooling, secondary education is designed to prepare students either for higher education or for work. After independence it was attempted to give every child an
academic secondary school education up to ‘O’ level. Not only was this an unrealistic goal, but also only a minority (about 25 per cent) of all children coming out of the primary school system are thought to be suited to this sort of academic education.

The MDC government therefore proposes to establish a junior secondary school system that will give all students coming out of the primary school system at least two years of post – primary education. Children will be selected for their suitability for the academic O’ level system initially on the basis of their grade 7 exit examination results and continuous assessment and evaluation. This selection process will be further refined during the two years at junior secondary school level, at the end of which all students will sit a public examination (the Junior Certificate) that will be supported by certification and school reports.

Students will then either remain at secondary school and have the opportunity to proceed to ‘O’ level and possible to ‘A’ level examinations, or will have the opportunity to attend a technical secondary school system that will offer a wide variety of commercial and technical subjects that offer alternative qualifications in preparation for employment or further training at colleges.

The system will be funded in the same way as the primary school system, with each student attracting a per capita grant that is paid to the institution with which they are registered each term.

The existing system of administration through school boards elected by parents and teachers will be retained and strengthened. Such boards will be given responsibility for administration of school funds. Heads will be responsible for the overall administration of schools and school development, monitored by the Ministry of Education.

The Standards Control Unit of the ministry will be strengthened to enable it to determine the need for the rehabilitation of school infrastructure and new development. This will be carried out against a set of standards established by the ministry in consultation with the National Association of Secondary Schools (NASH) Heads on the need to establish and maintain a pupil teacher ratio of 25 to 1.

Special facilities for gifted, physically challenged and mentally handicapped children will be established in all districts on a demand-led basis. Training for specialist teachers for these children will be established at colleges and universities.

9.4 Higher and Tertiary Education
Higher education will consist of vocational and technical education, science and technological development and training, teacher education and universities.

9.4.1 Vocational Technical Education and Training
It is accepted that up to three-quarters of all children in the school system will not be suited to a purely academic education. In this regard there is no reason to expect that such students will not be able ultimately to proceed to university or college for further education.
The MDC government believes that the boundaries between vocational and technical education and other forms of training should become increasingly blurred. This will involve recognition of credit transfer systems and prior learning. The objective of these vocational and technical training programmes will be to prepare students for training and work in recognized fields. Graduates from this system could be absorbed directly into the job market or find their way to work-related training programmes (apprenticeships) or institutions of higher learning (university or college).

To achieve this desired goal, the MDC government will:

- Create pathways between vocational, technical and teacher training establishments and universities with provision for credit transfer and articulated courses.
- Foster the mounting of joint curriculum development courses and programmes.
- Encourage alliances between academic, vocational technical and technology development institutions.
- Introduce skills training programmes in the private sector to complement those of institutions.
- Equip such institutions with required facilities and personnel.
- Undertake regular employment surveys to ascertain the effectiveness and relevance of training.
- Ensure that all students are given guidance and career counseling.
- Regard technical and vocational education and training as preparation for effective participation in the world of work.
- Ensure that at least one-third of all students enrolled for skills training are women.
- Provide staff development programmes to upgrade performance.
- Establish a National Training Authority to enhance the fit between the demand and supply of labour.

10. Science and Technological Development

It is important to realize that science and technology play a key role in Zimbabwe’s sustainable growth and the improvement of the quality of life for Zimbabweans. Zimbabwe cannot afford to lag behind in the continuing revolutions in the field of information and communication technology, innovation and science.

The MDC government will therefore:

- Ensure the dissemination of knowledge and the skills to every citizen, young and old in science and information and communication technology and their application in daily lives.
- Design appropriate content, methodologies and provide materials and equipment for use in the acquisition of knowledge and skills within a conducive environment.
- Encourage the use of natural resources for the enhancement of scientific knowledge and innovation.
- Foster scientific research in universities and other academic, scientific and engineering institutions and engineering institutions and generate interest in careers and science and technology to keep abreast with international innovations and transfer of technology.
Promote the empowerment of women in all science and technology activities and ensure their full and equal participation.
Integrate scientific knowledge with insights from other disciplines and ensure fullest involvement of scientists and technologists for national development.
Train adequate scientists and technologists in appropriate fields of studies for Zimbabwe to be self-sustainable.

11. Teacher Education
It will be essential to train adequate numbers of teachers annually. Initially the Ministry of Education will require emergency programmes to provide in-service training for teachers recruited to fill gaps in the shortest possible time.

All institutions of higher learning will be required to examine the possibility of issuing education diplomas and university degrees. These activities will be integrated with the specialist teacher education establishments that already exist.

In support of this the MDC government will;
- Recognize teaching as a highly regarded profession.
- Ensure the provision of adequate training institutions to meet the demand for teaching skills at all levels.
- Ensure equitable enrolment of women and minorities.
- Ensure minimum entry qualifications and maintain the relevance of curricula for the training of teachers, including modern information technology.
- Provide in-service courses for trained teachers to improve their competence.
- Provide adequate state-funded financial support to all training institutions so as to enable them to meet student’s needs for catering and accommodation.
- Enhance the supervision of training institutions to ensure the output of high quality teachers.
- Bond students who are state-sponsored to teach at state schools for a period equal to the time for which they received support.
- Engage teachers in intellectual debate on ways to improve the education system.

12. University Education
Universities provide the pinnacle of education in any society. These are centers of intellectual development and thought and also key training establishments and research centers. No society can function or develop without a sound network of university level institutions that are operating at first class standards.

Existing university establishments are now operating at very low levels, both in terms of the number of students accommodated and the quality of the output. Research and other key functions have faced serious challenges. However, it is accepted that the number of universities that can be sustained by a small country such as Zimbabwe is limited.

The MDC Government will therefore;
- Review the status of all recently established universities and colleges with a view to upgrading their capacity to operate at University or college level.
- Undertake a full audit of the universities facilitates, and require universities to develop plans to restore their facilities to a standard that will enable them to function effectively.
N Immediately review the composition and structure of all university councils to ensure that they have complete independence from the State and perform as professional bodies that are able to give direction and advice to the university’s administration.

N Review the procedures required for the appointment of chancellors and vice-chancellors.

N Work with universities and colleges with a view to increasing the number of graduates required in specific fields to meet the shortage of high level skills in the labour market.

N Revise the funding systems of all institutions of higher learning in order to provide a system of government funded student grants that will enable such institutions to conduct their activities on a financially sound basis.

N Ensure adequate provision of accommodation, both on and off campus, and catering services for all students studying at institutions of higher learning.

N Encourage the growth and development of private-sector colleges and universities to complement the State funded and State operated institutions.

N Foster, in consultation with universities, the concept of distance education as well as the establishment of specialized schools and institutes within university operations.

13. Private Schools and Private Educational Institutions
The MDC government will recognize the important role played by private institutions in the provision of education at all levels e.g. churches, trusts, mines, farms etc. The MDC government will encourage and foster stronger partnerships with those players in the provision of education, ensuring that all such schools are registered and meet the standards required by the Ministry of Education.

14. Lifelong Learning, Adult Education and Non-Formal Education
The MDC government will ensure that a department within the Ministry of Education has responsibility for adult literacy, numeracy and oracy, and that all adults who wish to obtain the requisite skills can access a suitable programme at a nearby educational establishment. In support of this the MDC Government will:

- Establish basic literacy districts to deal with community based literacy.
- Emphasize functional literacy linked to community projects.
- Revive radio and television broadcasts on adult literacy, literature bureau and library services.
- Facilitate the establishment of subjects associations.

15. Sport, Arts and Recreational Provision
The MDC recognises that the physical well being of a nation is an important foundation for the vigor and vitality of all national activities. The encouragement of sport will stimulate national capacity for thought and for work and the utilization of those skills that are necessary and vital to a growing and complex society. The new constitution recognizes that sport and physical education are a basic right and as such is a critical ingredient in the maintenance of public health and social integration. An imaginative sport policy has the positive effect of removing barriers based on race, creed, age, gender, region and political preference. The MDC holds it as an article of faith that sport is a basic human right and all citizens must be afforded an opportunity to take part in sporting activities of their choice.
Consequently, the MDC government will;
- Ensure that hitherto underprivileged communities are afforded full and unfettered opportunities to participate in full spectrum of available sporting activities.
- Facilitate a new and effective structure for the management of sport.
- Put in place policies that encourage the participation of women in all sporting disciplines.
- Strengthen the various national sport associations.
- Recommend and advocate for rebates for private sector funding for sport.
- Facilitate the provision of Arts academies.
- Increase National Art Galleries.
- Facilitate the establishment of National Sports Federation.

16. Culture
The MDC government recognizes that culture is a complex whole that comprises many facets some of which are language and values, beliefs, norms, morals, laws mores, customs, knowledge, tools, weapons, shelter, attitudes, ideas, judgments, codes, arts and sciences philosophy and any organized results of grouped experience up to the present time.

The MDC government will be guided by the new constitution, which recognizes the rights of every person to use the language of their choice and to participate in the cultural life of their choice. Because of the importance of culture, the MDC government will;
- Uphold the values and norms of society.
- Cherish progressive beliefs that help improve the quality of life of the people.
- Enhance norms and ethical appreciation of the Zimbabwean society.
- Entrench good customs and negate retrogressive ones.
- Review cultural laws to keep abreast with the technological advancement but in accordance with the constitutional provisions.
- Continue to search for new knowledge and ideas and crystalize those already acquired.
- Facilitate the modernization of traditional shelter to go along with industrialization.
- Appreciate and improve our arts and sciences to make us a marketable nation.
- Influence the acquisition of positive attitudes in Zimbabwean society for the sake of a better life.
- Remould the judgment, codes and philosophy of life so as to improve the general standard of life of all Zimbabweans.
- Uphold Hunuism/Ubuntu.
- Preserve local languages.

17. Financing Education
The MDC envisages an education system that is made up of thousands of independent institutions that manage their own affairs. Each institution will have its own board, elected from the local community and the staff of the institutions themselves, which will govern and manage the establishments. These representative bodies will determine their own internal priorities and will recruit staff and set local working conditions.
Teachers within the system will therefore not be civil servants but will be employed by the institution for which they work, even if the majority of funding comes from government and the origins of the institution is in the State itself.

A good education system is the very foundation of a successful society and competitive economy. It is also the key to equal opportunity and equity in society. Therefore the MDC government will ensure that women and other disadvantage groups, including the children of the absolute poor, do not lose out on educational opportunities.

The MDC government recognizes that this will not be a cheap exercise and will require the undertakings given in support of The UN millennium goals by developed countries as well as commitments made by many others to help Zimbabwe recover after its transition back to democracy, to be made good.

The MDC’s government will devote at least twenty-five per cent (25%) of the national budget to education. These funds, combined with contributions from funding agencies and the private sector, will be used to adequately remunerate the services of teachers as professionals, enable deserving students to obtain adequate grants and loans, and to ensure that schools access the required resources.

In the majority of cases the system of funding will be in the form of student grants that will be paid to schools and colleges by the Ministry of Education, based on the enrolment of students at the start of each term.

All institutions receiving funding in any form from the state will be required to produce annual audited accounts.

18. Basic Education Social Grant Fund
BEAM was established many years ago and has been funded by both aid agencies and the state with the objective of ensuring that no child is denied an education on the basis that they are unable to pay the fees. This fund has been administered by the Department of Social Security in the Ministry of Labour and Social Security and at school level by local Committees elected for this purpose by Parents and supervised by the Schools.

In recent years, the main problems associated with the system have been partisan activities by committees, poor funding and this has led to long delays in payments to schools. The MDC does not think that this is charity; it is a basic right that all children are able to receive an education and therefore this is simply part of the system that the state uses to ensure access and equity. To this end an MDC government will transfer responsibility for BEAM in its new form, to the Ministry of Education for administration and will seek to ensure that its funding is demand and needs driven. Grants made under this system will only be available to children in public schools at all levels. Special emphasis will be given to supporting the girl child in school.

19. Inter-Ministerial Linkages
The Ministry of Education will link with other ministries on:

- Portability of knowledge and skills.
- Conviction that education is a vehicle of economic growth.
Reduction of poverty: poverty contributes to school failure and school failure contributes to poverty.

Advocacy for raising the school-leaving age to minimize child labor.

Conducive learning environment both at home and at school.

Facilitation of health as a pre-requisite of intellectual growth.

Reduction of distances to school.

Comprehensive social reconstruction to improve the quality of life of the Zimbabwean people.

Participation in any programmes where education plays a facilitative role as a medium for achievement.

20. Stakeholder Linkages
The MDC government will foster the establishment of partnerships at the international level;

- The United Nations Literacy Decade for period 2002-2012 to allow the new goal of education for all.
- World Fit for Children (WFFC).
- Education for all (E.F.A) or Universal Primary Education (UPE) by 2015.
- African Network Campaign on Education for All (ANCEFA). The MDC will participate in ANCEFA.
- Education For Peace.
- Functional Literacy (Reading for all).
- NEPAD and Education.
- Partnership in Education. UNESCO, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, BREDA and the WORLD BANK are partners in Education. MDC will be ready to benefit from the partnership.

21. The MDC government will establish links with;

- CSACEFA - Civil Society Action on Education For all
- ANCEFA-African Network Campaign on Education for All
- GCE-Global Campaign for Education
- INEE-Inter Agency Network for Education in Emergencies
- The Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA)
- The communication for Education and Development (COMED)
- And any other relevant proclamations

22. Conclusion
Given the importance of education the MDC government is committed to improving the learning environment of pupils and students and the conditions of the entire system of education to make them instrumental to the development of our economy and ready for the scientific and technology world. The MDC government will also provide adequate financial, material, infrastructural and human resources to the education sector. It will ensure that the Ministry of Education is managed and administered competently, efficiently and professionally.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT

1. Introduction
Local government, in its different forms and tiers shall play a central role in the welfare and development of ordinary Zimbabweans. Local structures will enjoy devolved power to capacitate them to make substantive decisions on service delivery. The MDC is committed to the creation and sustenance of a local government system that enjoys the confidence of the people of Zimbabwe through its capacity to deliver quality services democratically, proactively and always mindful of its answerability to the local populace. MDC local government shall enjoy full protection of the constitution and shall be structured in a way that empowers the people to make decisions on local issues with supervision from central government being limited only to protection of the people’s interests. Elected representatives shall, in the main, represent the interests of the people in their areas of jurisdiction. Local government shall deliver quality services at a local level. The MDC government shall encourage and foster international inter-local government relations. The MDC recognises the institution of traditional leadership. Traditional leaders will be non-partisan and responsible for performing cultural, customary and traditional functions.

2. Vision
Democratic and sustainable local governance that delivers fair, equitable and efficient services.

3. Mission
To promote devolved local governance that is democratic, sustainable and delivers quality services equitably.

4. Policy Objectives
The four broad objectives of MDC policy toward local government will be to:

4.1 Enhance democratic governance with the following sub-objectives:
- To create and sustain democratic systems of governance in all local government areas through effective public policies, aimed at creating social and political stability and development.
- Guarantee the operational autonomy of local government with respect to competencies delegated to them and to allow local initiatives to flourish on matters of interest and importance to the local communities.
- To entrenched the equality of opportunity for women, men and disadvantaged groups, which should translate into a stronger role for women in local governance and development of policies that affirmatively deal with concerns of disadvantaged groups.
- Encourage the co-operation of local authorities through the nourishment and strengthening of voluntary and independent associations of local authorities.

4.2 Enhance service delivery for citizens to get value for money based on the following sub-objectives:
- Constantly mobilise resources for infrastructure (private investments on partnerships with local authorities) to ensure that citizens obtain services.
- Innovate with the provision of renewable energy through tapping the sun and biomass.
Redesign roads so that they are cyclist friendly and then promote the use of bicycles to reduce cars and the carbon footprint.

4.3 Create economically viable local authorities with the following sub-objectives:
- Create an environment, which encourages sustainable wealth creation through local and foreign investment.
- Ensure that natural and economic resources are at the disposal of the local authorities and are exploited for the benefit of the communities closest to the resources.
- Exploit opportunities that exist in the global economy and emerging technologies to strengthen local democracy and fight poverty, disease and hunger.
- Strengthen local government’s capacity to deliver good quality services to the communities, autonomously with the democratic participation of the communities.

4.4 Systematic planning that involves the citizen in local authority areas will be accomplished through the following sub-objectives:
- Ensure that the relationship between local government and central government is such that supervision is commensurate only with the interests such supervision is intended to entertain and protect.
- To adopt a participatory approach at the lowest level in managing and executing Local Government programs.
- The MDC government will encourage and support gender balance in all its planning and decision-making structures.

4.5 Respect for traditional leadership
- Traditional leaders will be non-partisan and responsible for performing cultural, customary and traditional functions.

5. Local Government Policy Principles
5.1 Democratically Elected Structures
Under an MDC government local government shall be based on democratically elected structures, which shall be representative of the social, demographic and gender exigencies of the environment. The MDC will drive the agenda of a people’s local government system that is enduring and is protected from individual political and other interests.

5.2 The rule of Law in Local Government
An MDC government will fully respect the rule of law and the national constitution in all its activities. It will respect property rights and ensure a predictable and stable environment for investment and all legal forms of business activity. It will also respect the right to personal security and safety for the people living and working within the boundaries of local authorities.

5.3 Local Autonomy and Devolution
The MDC believes that local challenges and aspirations are best dealt with at the local level. Consequently mandates will be clearly delineated and delegated to local authorities, which shall be financially and institutionally empowered to be able to deliver on their mandates with minimum supervision from the central government.
Budgeting and financing mechanisms for local authority activities, development of local legal frameworks and the recruitment of staff are examples of areas where local authorities shall be allowed to act with a high level of independence from central government.

Under an MDC government, local government will operate as the immediate or “local state” expeditiously attending to the development and welfare needs of the local populace. Within this framework of decentralized responsibility, the MDC government will establish provincial authorities that are democratically elected and with clearly defined responsibilities for the development of the regions for which they have responsibility. The delivery of such services as water, housing, electricity, road infrastructure and waste disposal will be delegated to locally elected officials and institutions.

5.4 Human Resource Management
The MDC government will encourage the engagement of qualified personnel, who shall be compensated on a basis that will motivate staff to deliver efficient, honest and courteous services to the communities they work for. All the staff of local authorities shall be recruited and remunerated by the local authority. Local government labour policies will be fully integrated with national labour policy and practice and to this end National Employment Council will be maintained to service the needs of all staff working in local government.

5.5 Equity and Equality
Equity and Equality are fundamental values of the MDC and these will be pursued in all spheres of local government activity. These shall apply to the following domains:

Gender domain: the objective shall be to achieve the appointment of women to half of all senior positions in local authorities and to seek such a ratio in all elected posts.

Disadvantaged individuals within our society: the objective will be to ensure equal opportunity and access to all local government facilities and opportunities. It will also be the policy of the MDC government to pursue activities and practices that favour the poor in our society and to facilitate the growth, security and activities of the informal sector in all its different forms.

Disabled: the objective is to ensure that the disabled are not left out in civic decision making processes.

Youth domain: the objective is to ensure that youth participate in civic affairs so that their interests and views are considered in decisions that affect them.

The MDC government shall recognize meritocracy in the administration of local authorities.

5.6 Transparency and Accountability
Elected and appointed officials shall be required to comply with specific codes which shall be enumerated in legislation. These are:

The duty to act within powers.

The duty to avoid conflict of interest.

The duty to promote the success of the Local Authority i.e. the duty to Act in its best interest.

The duty to exercise independent judgment.

The duty not to accept benefits from third parties.
The duty to exercise reasonable care, skill and diligence.

5.7 Local Government Revenue
All revenue and expenditure will be subject to regular and public review as well as oversight by elected structures. Budgets for all local government activity shall be subject to discussion and agreement by the communities they serve prior to presentation to Councils and the Ministry for approval. All local authorities will be required to appoint auditors and to present audited accounts within 6 months of the year-end to the Ministry of Local Government. Failure to do so will result in the suspension of council rights to borrow funds or to change tariffs and taxes.

6. Structure and Organisation of Local Government

6.1 Ministry of Local Government
The MDC believes strongly in participatory democracy and development. This belief demands that Government is brought as close to the people as is possible to facilitate participation in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of policies.

The MDC believes that the role of central government in local government is to create a conducive environment for local government to deliver and the role of the Ministry of Local Government shall be limited only to protection of the people’s interests.

6.2 Provincial Councils
The MDC recognises the country’s 10 administrative provinces namely:
- Harare Metropolitan Province
- Bulawayo Metropolitan Province
- Masvingo Province
- Mashonaland East Province
- Mashonaland West Province
- Mashonaland Central Province
- Midlands Province
- Matebeleland North Province
- Matebeleland South Province
- Manicaland Province

An MDC government will, as a way of consolidating devolution of powers and decentralization of functions, establish seven administrative Provinces. To remove the existing ethnic and tribal connotations associated with existing provincial names, the MDC will name provinces as follows;
- Northwestern Province
- Eastern Province
- Central Province
- Southwestern Province
- South Eastern Province
- Harare Metropolitan Province
- Bulawayo Metropolitan Province

6.2.1 Dermacation of Provinces
A Commission will be set up to dermacate boundaries of provinces. A multi-factor formula will be used to determine the provinces. Among the factors to be considered are economic activity, availability of resources and population in order to address the issues of equality and equity in resource allocation.
6.2.2 Composition of Provincial Councils
Provincial councils will be composed of all Senators in the province, all members of the National Assembly, Mayors and Chairpersons of local authorities. They will be headed by a Provincial Chairperson who will be elected by the Provincial Council. The Provincial Councils shall execute their functions through provincial executive committees. The portfolio committees will tackle specific responsibilities and will mirror the structure of central government.

6.2.3 Responsibilities of the Provincial Council
The provincial council will among other things be responsible for:

- Planning and implementing social and economic development activities in the province.
- Planning and implementing measures for the conservation, improvement and management of natural resources.
- Promoting tourism as well as monitoring the use of resources and
- Making by-laws and ordinances for proper functioning of the Province.
- Providing oversight of all local authorities operating in the Province.
- Assisting national Government in determining national priorities and the Budget.

6.4 Urban Councils
An Executive Mayor who is directly elected for all designated municipalities and cities shall head urban Councils. Within each municipality or city council there shall be an executive committee, which shall be appointed by the Executive Mayor to look after specific areas of responsibility. The Town Clerk shall be appointed by each municipal or City Council on contract basis to run for the duration of the term of the Mayor.

A town council shall be headed by a chairman elected directly by the local populace. The head of administration shall be the Town Secretary who shall be the appointed on contract basis for a duration of the term of office of the Chairperson. Within each Town Council there shall be an Executive Committee appointed by the Chairperson to look into specific areas of responsibility.

6.5 Rural Councils
A Chairperson elected directly by the local populace shall head Rural District Councils. Within each Rural District Council there shall be an Executive Committee appointed by the Chairperson to look after areas of responsibility. The Chief Executive Officer or Council Secretary shall be appointed by Council on a contract basis for the duration of the term of office of the Chairperson.

6.6 Qualifications of Office Bearers:
6.6.1 Executive Mayors, Council Chairpersons and Chairpersons of Council Committees should meet the following criteria;

- Be 35 years of age or above.
- Must own property or homestead in the council area
- Posses a minimum of 5 O’ levels.
- Possess tertiary qualification.
- Must have a proven track record in a position of authority including management and general leadership.
6.6.2 Councillors should have the following qualifications;
- Should be literate.
- Must own or occupy a homestead in the council area
- Be someone who is paying rates to the relevant local authority
- Demonstrate maturity and has good public record
- Must be able to formulate policy and lead
- Must accept the power and right of the MDC in directing policy, execution of programmes and
- Must accept the power and right of the MDC of recall.

7. Organisation and Management
7.1 Financing Local Government
The delivery of good quality services is a function of sound, adequate, predictable and sustainable funding. MDC Local Authorities shall be resourced from:
- Local rates and other property taxes.
- Charges for services provided as at the local level.
- Grants and loans from central government, which are predictable and commensurate with the responsibilities delegated in addition to a need to promote equitable development across the country.
- Local Private Public Partnerships shall be encouraged to engender both the spirit of ownership as well as encouraging resource mobilization.

In addition the MDC government will carry out baseline assessments in the provinces to find out the dynamics for specific development needs to address the issues of equality and equity in resource allocation.

7.2 Planning Systems
The MDC government will pay very close attention to systematic planning. For this reason, it will strengthen the capacity of local authorities in the planning systems. Every local authority will have an information management system and registry that is accessible to the public and stakeholders for decision making as well as programming.

8. Local Government Policy Programme
8.1 Infrastructural Services Delivery
8.1.1 Electrical Energy
All urban councils shall thereafter have the full responsibility for the distribution and revenue collection arising out of electrical energy consumption within their areas of responsibility.

8.1.2 Roads
It shall be the responsibility of both urban and rural councils to build, operate and maintain all roads not classified as “national roads”. The latter shall be the responsibility of the National Road Fund and the national government. Road development and maintenance in urban and rural council areas will be funded by grants from the National Road Fund negotiated annually and based on the extent of the network in each region. In addition local councils shall set and charge local license fees for vehicles registered in their region and these funds shall be used for road development and maintenance.
The National Road Fund shall manage third party insurance as a compulsory national service to motorists. The funds raised shall be used for repairs to local government facilities and civil engineering works arising from vehicle accidents. Councils will receive funding for such repairs upon application and justification to the National Road Fund.

8.1.3 Transport and Mass Transit Systems
The MDC recognises that the Cities of Harare and Bulawayo are well on the way to becoming some of the worlds “mega” cities (cities with millions of inhabitants). As such, it will require a mass transit system in the future and an MDC government will ensure that the necessary planning for this is completed within the period of its first term in office. In the interim the MDC commits itself to the development and provision of a railway system linking Chitungwiza, the International Airport and the City of Harare. Because the people living in Chitungwiza are prejudiced by their physical location, this system will be subsidised by the State to ensure that their distance from work does not affect them adversely.

All local authorities shall be responsible for the provision of transport services that are cost effective, convenient and efficient.

8.2 Sanitation Services
8.2.1 Water, Effluent and Waste Disposals
Local authorities shall have a responsibility to ensure that people within their area of jurisdiction have access to adequate, safe and clean water. Local authorities shall also have the responsibility to treat and dispose of wastewater in a manner that conserves the environment and protects national and international waters.

The MDC government will foster Private Public Partnerships PPPs in the provision of water in urban local authorities

Rural local authorities play a leading role in conserving the environment and thus safeguarding the health of water bodies (dams and lakes). Local authorities, which form catchment areas for specific dams and lakes, shall enjoy a royalty equivalent to a percentage of the proceeds of all revenue generated from the commercial activities at the water body.

8.2.2 Solid Waste Disposal Services
Responsibility for waste management shall rest with local authorities. Local Authorities shall maintain clean environments through efficient and solid waste disposal practices.

8.3 Health Delivery Services
8.3.1 Public Health
In line with the MDC Policy on Health, it shall be the specific responsibility of the local authority to implement all public health programmes. These will include the provision of safe, clean water for household consumption, efficient waste management and pest control. In all these the MDC Local Authority will work with stakeholders in the management of Public Awareness programs.

8.3.2 Primary Healthcare Clinics
An MDC government will establish a primary health care clinic for every 1000 families in all local government areas. These will be managed by individual boards that will be
responsible for their finances, staff and procurement of drugs. In addition, all District Hospitals will be the responsibility of the Local Authorities.

8.4 Education and Skills Development
8.4.1 Education
While the provision of educational services will be the responsibility of the Ministry of Education, working through individual school and tertiary institutions at local level, the planning and provision of sites for schools and the provision of services to all educational establishments shall be the responsibility of the local authority.

8.4.2 Skills training
Local authorities will be encouraged to set aside land for vocational centres so that people in their areas benefit from skills development. The view of the MDC is that local authorities be given the opportunity to decide the relevant skills required in their areas. This means areas with mineral resources shall invest in vocational training centres relevant to mining.

8.5 Sports and Recreation
8.5.1 Sports
The local authorities will encourage and maintain places of sports (football, basket ball, cricket, tennis, swimming, handball and netball etc). These facilities will be open for the enjoyment of the public in both rural and urban areas. The MDC government will encourage communities through their residents associations (in both rural and urban areas) to form sporting clubs to utilise these public facilities for the benefit of the residents.

8.5.2 Recreation and Cultural Sites
Public places will be set aside for recreation. Zimbabwe has numerous sites with tourist facilities and these should be open to the enjoyment of the local residents. The MDC government will encourage communities to conserve and preserve cultural sites from any form of spoliation, so that current and future generations will enjoy the natural beauty of Zimbabwe.

8.6 Environment and Conservation
8.6.1 Rural Conservation
The MDC government will promote conservation of resources in rural areas for the benefit of present and future generations. Local authorities will be encouraged to mobilise communities for environment management, including disasters caused by droughts, veld fires, floods and pests.

9. Urban Community Environment Societies (CES)
Government cannot be everywhere, and neither can it have enough resources to reach all communities. The resources that are raised by the national government will be devolved to community groups for managing the environment. An MDC government will encourage communities to take charge of their environment through collectively organising to provide a voice to check on the actions of the leadership and decisions that they make. The key areas of watch for urban local authorities are pollution and wastes that compromise the health of the citizens.
10. Strategic Alliances
The delivery of good services by local authorities is a task the Ministry and local authorities cannot accomplish alone. The MDC government will encourage linkages with international local government associations for the benefit of local communities. All key stakeholders support will be required for the discharge of the functions to the satisfaction of the communities they serve. A strong relationship will be established with all relevant stakeholders so as to facilitate their direct participation and assistance to local authorities in Zimbabwe:
☞ Local partnerships: these involve partnering of local authorities for greater sharing and learning.
☞ Twinning arrangements: of local authorities and urban areas shall be encouraged to foster friendship, opportunities for investments and sharing of experiences.

11. Civic Engagement
The MDC does not fear its own citizens and to this extent it shall encourage the formation of Residents Associations in both rural and urban areas. The role of the associations will be to check on officials in terms of service delivery. Every local authority will have a Residents Association that will be funded through a percentage of levies and rates.

The MDC government will harness the Diaspora through hometown associations to assist local authorities through the twinning arrangements. This will mean that local authorities will be exposed to international practices and benefit from knowledge and information exchange.

12. Traditional leadership
The MDC recognises the institution and role of traditional leadership. Traditional leaders will be responsible for performing cultural, customary and traditional functions. Traditional leaders should treat all persons within their areas equally and fairly. The MDC accepts that traditional leaders must not be members of any political party or act in a partisan manner. Traditional leaders will promote and uphold cultural values of their communities and take measures to preserve the culture, traditions, history and heritage of their communities.

Chiefs will constitute national council and provincial assemblies of chiefs to protect, promote and develop Zimbabwe’s culture and traditions as well as dealing with other issues of concern to them.

The MDC will put in place mechanisms to deal with disputes over chieftaincy and rationalise boundaries between different chiefs and headmen. The MDC will review the communal land act to deal with land allocations disputes.

13. Conclusion
The MDC recognizes that an effective and efficient local government system is indispensable in the quest for sustainable development. This policy creates a framework for a devolved state that allows citizens at the local level to participate effectively in the development of their country. Because since independence Zimbabwean local government has undergone gradual decay due to corruption, political manipulation, and mismanagement, the MDC government will immediately
set out to establish a world-class local government system that becomes the catalyst for local economic development and national growth.
1. Introduction
The MDC recognizes the importance of national peace and stability to sustainable development and is committed to facilitating and instituting a national healing, reconciliation and integration program as a pre-requisite for nation building and sustainable democracy and development. The trauma and wounds of human rights violations committed in pre and post-colonial Zimbabwe cannot be ignored. The dark periods left a traumatized, politically fractured and sorrowful nation stricken with grief, depression, suspicion and pain with many people living in fear. Thus Zimbabwe is a country in need of healing.

The MDC endorses the provisions of the current constitution that provides for the setting up of a National Peace and Reconciliation Commission with the following functions:

- Ensure post-conflict justice, healing and reconciliation.
- Develop and implement programmes to promote national healing, unity and cohesion in Zimbabwe and the peaceful resolution of disputes.
- Bring about national reconciliation by encouraging people to tell the truth about the past and facilitating the making of amends and the provision of justice.
- Develop procedures and institutions at a national level to facilitate dialogue among political parties, communities, organizations and other groups, in order to prevent conflicts and disputes arising in the future.
- Develop programmes to ensure that persons subjected to persecution, torture and other forms of abuse receive rehabilitative treatment and support.
- Receive and consider complaints from the public and to take such action in regard to the complaints, as the Commission considers appropriate.
- Develop mechanisms for early detection of areas of potential conflicts and disputes, and to take appropriate preventive measures.
- Do anything incidental to the prevention of conflict and the promotion of peace.
- Conciliate and mediate disputes among communities, organisations, groups and individuals.
- Recommend legislation to ensure that assistance, including documentation, is rendered to persons affected by conflicts, pandemics or other circumstances.

2. Vision
A just, free, peaceful and transparent state which integrates all sectors of society.

3. Mission
To champion the process of national healing, truth telling, rehabilitation of the victim and the perpetrator as well as advocate for adequate compensation for political victims, acknowledging the wrongs perpetrated against the people and promote lasting peace.
3. The Challenges that Zimbabwe Faces

The Zimbabwe nation state has been engulfed in a vicious cycle of conflict, an increase in state authoritarianism, polarization of communities and human rights violations. The culture of violence, authoritarianism and conflict finds its roots in the country’s history which is defined by colonialism, customs and traditions, the liberation struggle and the post colonial search for political hegemony by the ruling elite.

The struggle for democracy has been arrested by the continued fight for political hegemony by the ruling elite, itself creating further conflict and instigating violence amongst the people. In both the pre and post colonial Zimbabwe, the political elite has resorted to state sponsored, sanctioned and orchestrated violence against the people thereby attracting international condemnation and the application of restrictive measures.

The post-colonial state’s failure to address and ensure non-recurrence of violence has resulted in the perpetuation of a legacy of impunity where perpetrators of violence aligned to the ruling elite are guaranteed amnesty irrespective of the commission of crimes. Through national financial and security institutions, the state has ensured the continuation of this cycle of violence and the deprivation of the peoples’ inalienable rights and freedoms.

To address the legacy of impunity, and to ensure the non-recurrence of violations of human rights, the MDC led government will endeavour to build a just, tolerant, peaceful and loving society.

As a result of both the pre and post-colonial state’s failure to uphold the rule of law and guarantee civil and political liberties, Zimbabwe has experienced five distinct periods of gross human rights violations. These periods include:

i. The Ghukurahundi campaign between 1983 and 1987 that left more than 20 000 people dead, dislocated the lives of millions and was associated with the deliberate denial of food aid and the destruction of livelihoods.

ii. Violent farm invasions in year 2000. The invasions resulted in the displacement of 400 000 farm workers and displacement of 1.8 million members of farm worker families and the deaths of many farm workers. The violent invasions also resulted in the displacement of over 4000 white farmers of which seven were killed.


iv. Operation Murambatsvina in May, June and July 2005 that displaced more than 700 000 people, loss of livelihoods and destructing of property.

v. The brutal June 27, 2008 Presidential run-off campaign in which more than 300 people were killed, more than 2000 rape cases, more than 10 000 injured, 20 000 homes were destroyed and more than 200 000 people were displaced.

An MDC government will combine elements of restorative justice to balance the delicate attainment of both reconciliation and justice. This is in line with the Party’s transformative agenda. An integral vehicle of the transitional justice programme will
be an independent National Peace and Reconciliation Commission. This Commission will have a limited lifespan of 10 years.

4. Policy Priorities
Recognizing the centrality of national healing, reconciliation and integration to the sustainable socio-economic and political development of Zimbabwe, the MDC government will seek:

- To promote national unity, integration, healing and reconciliation and reconstruction.
- To promote a happy, harmonious and secure society that is free from fear.
- To promote a politically tolerant society and cultivate social cohesion and national belonging beyond political parties.
- To prevent the recurrence of conflict in the future.
- To restore the Zimbabwean culture of respect for human life.

5. Policy Interventions
The MDC government will recommend the following four committees under the umbrella National Peace and Reconciliation Commission:

5.1 Truth Committee
The Truth Committee should conduct individual hearings from perpetrators and victims. Victims of human rights violations will be entitled to give their individual testimonies. A comprehensive process of truth telling by perpetrators as an incentive to amnesty should complement this.

It should also be the duty of the Truth Committee to provide legal assistance to victims. Individual testimonies, truth-telling sessions and event-specific hearings should be open to the public except in exceptional circumstances as determined by the Commission.

5.2 Justice and Amnesty Committee (JAC)
The JAC should be responsible for recommending whether or not to grant amnesty to perpetrators of human rights violations on a case-by-case basis. A criterion should be set to determine the legibility for amnesty such as the context and circumstances of the offense and the nature of the act. The hybrid system recognizes that to facilitate a new, stable and democratic Zimbabwe some amnesty is necessary but the MDC government will not support a blanket amnesty. The Commission should determine which human rights atrocities are capable of receiving amnesty. The MDC’s position is that perpetrators should be categorized depending on the gravity and circumstances of human rights crimes committed. JAC should then refer what it considers unpardonable cases to be transferred to the state’s criminal justice department.

5.3 Compensation and Healing Committee (CACH)
CACH must determine the need for compensation, the nature of compensation and implementation measures to facilitate access to government services. The MDC’s position is adoption of three broad modes of compensation outlined below:

5.3.1 Individual Compensation Grants
This will entail financial compensation to individuals. Although one cannot put monetary value to suffering, this is a way of acknowledging the suffering endured. This compensation will also cover loss of property.
5.3.2 Symbolic Compensation
This include helping families to exhume and provide decent burials for loved ones; erection of tombstones; cleansing rituals and ceremonies; expedition in provision of civil documents such as death certificates; legal, medical and psycho-social support for trauma and grief stricken families.

5.3.3 Economic Compensation
The livelihoods of the affected victims potentially suffered significant decline. In addition to politically motivated human rights violations, the MDC government will be equally committed to redress socio-economic and property rights violations during the identified times. Broadly this will be anchored on macro-economic stabilization and growth in ways that allow equal opportunities to participate in the economic activity as substantiated in our economic blueprint. Underlying the MDC’s philosophy is that peace will not be durable without economic stability and rebuilding of people’s livelihoods.

5.4 Conflict Prevention Committee (CPC)
The role of the CPC will be to put in place post-conflict mechanisms that will prevent the recurrence of hostilities and encourage peaceful co-existence. The CPC should seek to make the gains irreversible and ensure that future grievances are solved through institutional and peaceful means. It must come up with comprehensive programs for government and community interventions to foster a civic political culture. This might be through memorialisation and ritualisation among other initiatives.

5.5 Stakeholder Involvement
The MDC government will encourage the Commission to work in collaboration with civil society, churches, police, courts, other commissions and traditional leaders. This will ensure that people affected at the grassroots level will effectively participate. Citizen participation will be crucial to lend legitimacy to the national healing, reconciliation and integration programme. It is the belief of the MDC that national consensus and legitimacy are nurtured all stakeholders’ work together.

5.6 Funding and Other Forms of Support
Lack of funding for peace programs can be a hindrance in post-conflict societies. The MDC government will provide direct financial, political will, legal and other forms of support to the Commission. Given competing needs in a reconstruction era the MDC will fundraise from bilateral and multilateral sources. Other governments with similar experiences can provide policy advice, technical support and expertise. A mechanism will be put in place to ensure the funding will not compromise the nature and ownership of the national healing program.

6. Conclusion
The MDC government will be committed to programme that will promote healing, reconciliation and integration of Zimbabwe polarized by periods of gross human rights violations since independence. The MDC led government is committed that the approach will encapsulate both justice and reconciliation ends. The preservation of peace will be a foundation to build a stable and democratic society bonded by the common spirit of national belonging.
CONSTITUTIONAL AND PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS

1. Introduction
The MDC Constitutional & Parliamentary Affairs Policy foundations are underpinned by the party’s social democratic ideology and its core values of freedom, equality, justice and solidarity. Democracy, characterized by fundamental rights and freedoms for all, democratic decision-making encompassing market capitalism of freedom to produce and exchange goods, which freedom is tempered by social justice, are essential features of the social system the MDC seeks to create. Constitutional and parliamentary conditions that create an enabling super regulatory framework for the realization of these values are therefore pivotal to all MDC policy initiatives and programmes. Therefore the MDC policy on constitutional and parliamentary affairs rests on Social Democracy denoted by guaranteeing the enjoyment of fundamental rights in the social and economic realms. It rests on the need to attain two critical outcomes that are;

- A Constitution which lives up to the rule of law and delivers fundamental rights through regulated participation, enforceable rights to social security, and distribution oriented towards fairness
- Positive and negative civil and political rights and liberties which are both truly effective and have formal validity.

Consequently, the MDC’s constitutional and parliamentary affairs policy has three normative bases;

- The country’s Constitution as its supreme law must be consistent with and be in accordance with the people’s wishes for all governance structures; and
- All parliamentary activity must be for the purpose of realizing the values of social democracy enumerated above, and must be driven by the will of the Zimbabwean people
- Fundamental human rights and freedoms are universal and inviolable and must be the basis of all state–individual relations, and individual to individual relations.

2. Vision
The MDC constitutional and parliamentary affairs policy envisions a Zimbabwe where constitutionalism and the rule of law, an effective and vibrant constitutional system of democratic government and human rights are enjoyed by all.

3. Mission
The party’s goal in constitutional and parliamentary affairs is to develop, implement, monitor and evaluate social democratic policies and programmes in constitutional reform and development, parliamentary initiatives, and human rights arenas in order to attain the vision afore-stated.

4. Policy Objectives
- The adoption, safeguarding and development of a Constitution that accords with the party’s values and vision, which; in particular enshrines constitutionalism an the rule of law, democracy, good governance and human rights
- To initiate and maintain a participatory and effective system of law delivery; working with Parliament, stakeholders and experts to improve law making methods and ensuring progressive law reform and development consistent with
the country’s needs and the people’s desires as well as Zimbabwe’s international obligations. This also involves strengthening Parliament as an equal but separate arm of government so that it has greater capacity to deliver in its legislative functions, oversight of government business and representative roles.

To pursue all political, legislative, administrative, diplomatic and other measures to ensure that Zimbabwe protects, promotes, and fulfils human rights in terms of its domestic, regional and international human rights obligations.

5. Specific Policy Positions: The Constitution
5.1.1 Constitution Content
The Constitution of Zimbabwe must provide for a sovereign state, a common, unrestricted (i.e. allowing multiple citizenship) Zimbabwean citizenship and a democratic system of government responsive to the needs and demands of its entire people which is committed to achieving equality between men and women of all races in a free and just society.

Human rights are the basis of the State’s relationship with the people. Everyone is entitled to enjoy all universally accepted fundamental rights freedoms and civil liberties, dignity including economic social and cultural rights as well as equality, dignity and other civil and political rights. The State and all its organs are obliged to respect, promote and defend such rights which shall be provided for and protected by entrenched justiciable provisions in the Constitution and by bodies established and protected by the Constitution that are effective, broad based and independent in accordance with the people’s wishes and Zimbabwe’s international undertakings.

Sovereignty, accordingly, shall not be misconstrued as impunity, and Zimbabwe will be governed in line with the law of nations and, in particular, in accordance with all the international standards it has agreed upon or acceded to. When Zimbabwe accedes to international conventions and treaties, Parliament will pass appropriate local laws to domesticate them. The Constitution will prohibit racial, gender, ethnic and all other forms of discrimination, and will promote racial and gender equality and national unity that is based upon tolerance of diversity. The State and government must make every effort to integrate all the peoples of Zimbabwe while recognizing their ethnic, religious, political and cultural diversity, and to promote a culture of co-operation, understanding, appreciation, tolerance and respect for the customs, cultures, languages, traditions and beliefs of others. Diversity of languages, cultures and beliefs will be acknowledged and protected, and conditions for their promotion encouraged. The Constitution will be the supreme national law, and anything inconsistent with it will be void and of no force or effect. It will be binding on all organs of the State, at all levels of government, and on all persons, and respected and upheld by all.

Everyone who exercises State power does so in trust for the people of Zimbabwe, and must exercise such power in accordance with his or her responsibilities to the people, solely to serve and protect the people’s interests, and within the bounds of lawful authority set out in the Constitution and other laws of the country. The State and all its organs must be committed to the rule of law, and no person or institution shall be above the law. The legal system will ensure the equality of all before the law and equitable legal processes. Equality before the law includes laws, programmes and activities that have as their object the amelioration of the conditions of the
disadvantaged, including those disadvantaged on the grounds of race, colour, gender, disease or disability, so as to achieve a proper balance in these as soon as reasonably possible.

The Executive shall always be fully accountable to the people. The manner of appointment, tenure and other provisions relating to the Judiciary are in accordance with the best international practice. In order to ensure that the judiciary retains its independence from the other pillars of government in its function of upholding and enforcing the law; the Judiciary will be staffed with appropriately qualified personnel, capacitated, independent and impartial, and have the power and jurisdiction to safeguard and enforce the constitution and all fundamental rights.

The free and informed will of the people is the only legitimate basis of authority for any government. The State is based on democratic principles, which empower and encourage the active equal participation of all citizens at all levels of government.

5.1.2 The Electoral System
There will be representative government embracing multi-party democracy, with regular, transparent, free and fair elections that enable a vote in secret to all adult Zimbabweans, and provision for representation that is broadly proportionate at every level and therefore fair. An electoral system to ensure this must be provided for in the constitution in accordance with the people’s stated ideas and aspirations, protected against interference by lesser laws or manipulation arising from political expediency. It will follow best practices and regional standards in regard to the independent administration of all elections, transparency and fairness, universal and equal suffrage, and aim to ensure that results are not distorted, inequitable or distrusted.

The MDC recognizes, as the people of Zimbabwe have done, the virtues and weaknesses in single-member constituency representation and also in proportional representation in Parliament, and endorses the establishment of a balance between these two systems. In line with SADC's and other international principles, the electoral authority must be independent, impartial, all-inclusive, competent, open, and completely accountable in all aspects of its administration. It must have the legal and financial independence and power to fully organize all aspects of the electoral process in accordance with the constitution, which will incorporate open democratic practices and the need for free and fair elections in every respect.

5.1.3 Freedom of Information, Expression and the Media
The constitution must ensure freedom of information, expression and the media so that there can be open, accountable administration at all levels of government, and free informed choice by those whom each level governs, to promote good governance for their benefit and development with integrity.

5.1.4 Local Government
Government will be enshrined in the Constitution and structured at national, provincial and local levels, with devolution of powers and recognition of the lower tiers’ right to adequate financial and legal autonomy. Every level of government will be based on elected representation. This principle will not derogate from the principle regarding respect also for traditional leadership as a complement to democracy.
Legislative organs at all levels of government will adhere to formal legislative procedures.

5.2 Constitution – Making and Reform Process
Consistent with its democratic ideals, and the desire to propagate constitutionalism the MDC regards the process of making and reforming a Constitution as important as its content. The people of Zimbabwe must have an unfettered opportunity to craft a Constitution for themselves. The MDC remains alive to the necessity of affording the people of Zimbabwe the opportunity to create and found a Constitution that they desire – a Constitution that enshrines freedom democracy, transparency and good governance. The process of making a Constitution must therefore be driven and owned by the people of Zimbabwe, wherever situate, as much as it must be democratic and inclusive. The process must meet regional and international and standards of constitution-making such as the SADC Guidelines On Democratic Constitution-making and reform and Constitutionalism, which prescribe the following facets in constitution-making:

- Inclusivity, meaning that a large majority of the population must be seen to be constructively involved
- A credible management and administrative team that is autonomous and composed of persons of good standing, repute and experience, with unfettered loyalty to professionalism and loyalty to the nation.
- Transparency and openness of the process, including reasonable time frames to enable anyone who is willing to participate to do so, as well as unobstructed access (both in terms of language and proximity) of the media and public to the management body.
- Continuous update to the public on all related progress and developments
- Blanket receptiveness and openness to views and placing equal attention to them, while welcoming dissenting views as enriching debate and representing an essential minority view.
- Empowerment of the population to make informed decisions about constitutional options, through civic and other public education about the content and process.
- Continuous review and evaluation of the process in order to guarantee that operating principles and minimum standards are being met and hindrances being resolved.
- Continuous public education and free debate about the process including free assembly and debate
- Simplicity in the relevant communications, debates and drafts must be ensured by the administration and the drafters who should employ easy to understand language and translation into local languages.

Any subsequent amendments to the Constitution must be subject to the same conditions, and be designed only to deepen constitutionalism and never to erode the rule of law, democracy, good governance and human rights, but to strengthen them.

5.3 Parliament and Parliamentary Processes
Because of the primacy of democracy in the MDC’s ideology, it regards Parliament as the crucible of the promotion, safeguarding and developing of the people’s aspirations to good governance, human rights, democracy, the rule of law and prosperity. Parliament is the theatre of ‘people power.’
The Constitution will provide for the separation of powers with all appropriate checks and balances to ensure accountability, responsiveness and openness. The constitution must accept the Legislature, Executive and Judiciary as three necessarily separate pillars of the State, recognize their proper roles, and provide for the due and equal distribution of power amongst them.

At the heart of any democratic system is Parliament. In line with the wishes of the people of Zimbabwe already expressed, an MDC government will ensure that Parliament is strengthened and defended in its functions of legislation, oversight of government business and representation of the people. Parliament is the centre of power, enacts laws, controls State finances, and performs an effective oversight role over the Executive, while remaining fully answerable itself to the people. To carry out its work effectively, Parliament must have a strong, functional Portfolio Committee system.

The framework for strengthening Parliament exists, and an MDC government will immediately take this further by fully reviewing and implementing the recommendations of the Zimbabwe Parliamentary Reform Committee of 1998.

The MDC will adopt programmes and measures to ensure that the populace in constituencies has real and practical access to Parliament and parliamentarians so that it can truly drive its processes and hold Members of Parliament to account. The laws made by Parliament must be clear, stable, publicized and fair. The lawmaking process itself must be accessible to the public. Constituency information centres and meeting facilities, as well as the media and civic education will be employed to ensure this.

5.4 Culture Of Human Rights
Zimbabweans have endured serious human rights violations for a long time. When it is elected into government; the MDC will make a clean break with that past and establish a strong, vibrant and palpable human rights culture. The State protect and promote and fulfil human rights and social justice through empowering Zimbabweans to articulate and enjoy their human rights and educating Zimbabweans to respect other people’s rights. Strong, independent and effective human rights institutions that comply with the Paris Principles for Human Rights Commissions will be established and maintained.

Zimbabwe will adopt, accede to, ratify and domesticate international human rights instruments such as UN Convention on Torture, International Criminal Court Statute, the AU Charter on Democratic Governance and other outstanding human rights treaties. Zimbabwe will seek to strengthen sub-regional, regional, and international human rights protection regimes including advocating for the SADC Guidelines On Democratic Elections to be elevated to the status of a protocol and thus become legally binding, as well as working to respect and strengthen institutional enforcement mechanisms such as the SADC Tribunal, AU Court On Human Rights, and the International Criminal Court.

The state will implement and fully comply with human rights treaties it is party to through through domestication and reporting, including cooperating with treaty bodies and obtaining technical assistance from them where necessary.
An MDC government will monitor Zimbabwe’s progress in meeting its human rights obligations, including advocating for their increase through accession to outstanding human rights treaties, and reporting to treaty bodies where applicable.

The State will end a culture of impunity for human rights violations. It will be necessary to deal with all past abuses: a separate MDC policy on National Integration, includes provision for a Truth and Justice Commission to deal with this issue. It will also be necessary to construct durable and effective structures to ensure that similar violations do not occur in future. As part of this programme, the MDC will introduce re-orientation programmes for all those affected.

An MDC government will not condone violations of international law in our domestic law. The MDC will follow the principles for dealing with human rights violations that have been set out by the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations which are as follows;

5.4.1 First Principle – The Right to Know
This is not restricted to the violation of the human rights of specific victims or those closely connected to them but extends to rest of society to become a collective right. This is meant to ensure that violations are recorded in history so as to prevent their recurrence.

5.4.2 The Second Principle – The Right to Justice
This implies that all victims will have an opportunity to assert their rights and receive fair and effective remedies, ensuring that the perpetrators stand trial and that the victims obtain reparations. It also places an obligation on the State to investigate, prosecute and punish the guilty.

5.4.3 The Third Principle – The Right to Reparations
This involves both individual and collective measures. At the individual level, victims, relatives and dependants must have an effective remedy, and for this to happen the applicable procedures must be circulated widely. The right to reparation must cover all injuries suffered by the victims and aim for;

- Restitution (seeking to restore victims to their previous state).
- Compensation (for physical or mental injury, including lost opportunities, physical damage, defamation and legal-aid costs).
- Rehabilitation (medical care, including psychological and psychiatric treatment and counselling).

5.4.4 The Fourth Principle – The Right to Non-recurrence
This will be crucial, and the following measures will be taken to achieve this objective;

- Disbanding militias and other armed groups and
- Repealing all emergency laws, abolishing emergency courts, and recognition of the inviolability and non-derogability of habeas corpus.

6. Conclusion
Zimbabwe has for too long endured pariah status in respect of its record of systemically violating the rule of law, constitutionalism and human rights. This status has been at the great expense of its inhabitants who have suffered human rights violations and deprivations ensuing from a breakdown of the rule of law and
dysfunctional institutions of democracy. The MDC policy on constitutional and parliamentary affairs will reverse this negative trend, and instead ensure Zimbabwe has, alongside the progressive nations of the world a democratic constitutional dispensation, a strong, vibrant and accessible Parliament and a pervasive culture of human rights.
JUSTICE AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

1. Introduction
The MDC is committed to building a society that values justice, fairness, openness, tolerance, equality, non-discrimination and respect for all people without regard to race, class, gender, ethnicity, language, and religion, and political opinion, place of origin or birth. These values are the bedrock of our justice and legal system founded on democracy and good governance. Legal and social justice coupled with sound administration creates the safe environment that allows citizens to pursue their common good in a safe and secure environment with full personal liberty and respect for life, freedom of movement and to elect leaders of their choice with no fear or intimidation. Also Zimbabwe can only prosper economically in a context of political stability, and this can only be achieved through democracy and respect for the law.

The main problem regarding justice and the law in Zimbabwe revolves around low levels of human security and the partisan nature of the administration of justice and the selective interpretation and application of the law. There is low personal security among citizens due to the arbitrary arrests and intimidation. The situation has made predictability of outcome functional only in so far as the law serves members of ZANU PF while being used as a tool for persecuting opposition members. The justice infrastructure is in need of a complete overhaul and judicial processes are expensive and drawn out unnecessarily. There are inadequate legal resources and court documentation is manual and cumbersome.

Women are more vulnerable with respect to the recognition, respect and protection of their rights.

Focus on appropriate interventions is on the three interrelated aspects namely the Content of the Law, The Administration of the Law and the Context. The policy is guided by the Constitution of Zimbabwe, which is the supreme law of the country. In so far as the Constitution is the supreme law of the country, any laws and or regulations that violate the constitution directly or indirectly, and any institution that contravenes the provisions of the constitution likewise shall be the subject of remedial interventions within the scope of this policy.

2. Vision
An orderly state based on justice, equality, respect for human rights, supremacy of the rule of law and security of persons and property.

3. Mission
To enact, administer and uphold just laws and facilitate the operation of proper state institutions and systems of justice delivery in a manner that ensure observance of the supremacy of the rule of law and security of persons and property by the state and citizens of Zimbabwe.

4. Policy Objectives
These policies seek to:

- Restore the supremacy of the rule of law and de-politicize the justice delivery system in the country on the path to professionalization and democratization of the justice system.
Strengthen the administration of the institutions of justice delivery (from arrest, trial, conviction and sentencing), and restore administrative independence.

To upgrade the justice delivery infrastructure and modernize court equipment and computerize record keeping.

Ensure separation of powers, roles and functions between the Judiciary, Executive, Legislature and Political Parties.

Build legal and civic literacy and promote a culture of respect for human rights, non-violence and respect for the law among the general populace, while restoring citizen confidence in the legal system.

Establish adequate systems of Executive and Legislative oversight of national resources and their distribution to ensure accountability for economic justice.

Enact good laws based on sound reasoning and suitability for application in a democratic state that ensure predictability of outcome and fully protect citizens.

Make the state and individuals accountable for their omissions and commissions.

Ensure gender concerns are an integral part of the transformation of the justice system through clear protection of women’s rights in all legal processes especially in relation to the trial and sentencing for violence against women and sexual offenses.

Ensure a well-resourced justice system in terms of personnel and material needs and well functioning lower and traditional courts.

Establish a corruption free and partisan free justice delivery system.

5. The Current Status of the Justice Delivery System

5.1 Content and Substance of the Law:

Unjust Laws such as POSA, AIPPA, Land Acquisition Act, Indigenization Act, Guardianship of Minors Act, the Broadcasting Act and the Electoral Act.

Patriarchal values in the interpretation of the law and women’s rights leading to unjust rulings and lenient sentencing

Unavailability of legal resources within the justice delivery system i.e. judgments, Law Reports and statute laws.

Outdated criminal justice laws and sentencing system.

Lack of knowledge, skills and capacity in the management of legal process by actors under the Traditional legal system.

Lack of clarity and mutual recognition in the relationship and distinction between the State and Traditional legal systems.

Over-centralisation of justice delivery and low use of the independent courts like labour and family courts.

5.2 Practical Constraints and Challenges in the Application and Administration of the Law:

Politicization of the justice delivery system with regards to law enforcement. This includes the selective application of the law and non-prosecution of certain offenders based on political affiliation and arbitrary arrests and detentions of political opponents.

Lack of human and personal security due to exposure to State, uniformed forces, Para-military and partisan institutions and processes.

Disrespect of the fundamental human rights values as evidenced by the reluctance to ratify international conventions and treaties, domestication on the same and disregard of due process.
Trivialization of women’s rights as evidenced by humiliation during arrests and prosecution, as well as lenient sentencing of violators.

Politicization of the Presidential appointments to the judiciary, which have largely compromised the independence and objectivity of the judiciary.

Politicization of the Office of the Attorney General by virtue of the politicization of appointment and operations of the office.

Inadequate institutional mechanisms to deal with human rights violations as a process towards truth, justice, reconciliation and conflict prevention as reflected in our national integration policy.

Dysfunctional Public Legal Services for the indigent.

Dysfunctional Victim Friendly Units of the Courts.

Dysfunctional office of Community Relations Liaison Office at police stations.

Militarized and under–resource prisons with sub-human living conditions for inmates were structures have been declared unfit for human habitation.

Over centralized criminal justice system.

Inadequate usage of open prisons concept.

Understaffed courts resulting in a huge backlog of cases pending trial.

Outdated service delivery in government offices for the registration and administration of property, companies and intellectual property.

Inadequate budget provision for justice delivery based on service and infrastructural needs.

The absence of appropriate and adequate remuneration of judges, magistrates and all court personnel.

High levels of corruption among judicial personnel and police.

Loss of public trust and co-operation by citizens in and with the justice delivery system by citizens.

Low legal literacy among citizens due to limited knowledge in legal and justice issues among citizens. There is a general acceptance of illegal and unjust practices by citizens.

No constitutional court, functional office of the ombudsperson or functional Human Rights Commissions.

5.3 Contextual and Environmental Challenges in the Application of the Law:

Politicization of the justice delivery system with regards to law enforcement. This includes the selective application of the law and non-prosecution of certain offenders based on political affiliation and arbitrary arrests and detentions of political opponents.

The spreading of intimidation among the populace by the state, Para-military and partisan institutions.

1. Policy Interventions

6.1 Legislative Interventions

Alignment of all the laws of the country to the values and guiding principles of the New Constitution.

Review all laws in Zimbabwe and repeal or amend unjust laws like POSA and AIPPA.

Review and re-align the role and function of the lower courts Traditional Legal system with the New Constitution and Party policy on compensation.

Review criminal records based on unlawful laws and review criminal records of all unjust acquittals and convictions using the appropriate procedures.
6.2 Administrative Intervention

- The appointment of the Attorney General shall be approved by the relevant Parliamentary Public Appointments Committee (in terms of the New Constitution).
- Due process shall be followed in the appointment of all Judges. This includes the advertisement of vacancies, public interviews of candidates, short-listing of candidates by the Judicial Service Commission. The appointed nominee will be approved by the Parliamentary Public Appointments Committee.
- Appointed Judge nominees will be approved by the Parliamentary Public Appointments Committee, whilst the Judiciary Service Commission will appoint the other judicial personnel.
- There shall be professionalization and democratization of key organs of justice delivery in line with our Home Affairs policy.
- The conduct and utterances of our personnel in executive office shall reflect our ideology and values.
- Review and re-align the role and function of the of lower courts and Traditional Legal system with the New Constitution and Party policy on compensation.
- Institute watertight accountability measures for employees.
- Pursue legal process in all reported cases not actioned to date.
- Update and modernize the Deeds Registry to ensure secure and speedy provision of property, investment deeds and protection of intellectual property.
- Prioritize the production and availability of legal resources, court judgments, statutory instruments and Law Reports.
- Computerize record taking and keeping of court proceedings and records.
- Oversee processes of compensation for Human Rights violations using simple user-friendly processes conducted by a National Peace and Reconciliation Commission and the Traditional Courts. These institutions will ensure that victims of human rights get justice, compensation, a written and the assurance that it will never happen again.

6.3 Addressing the Context:

- Re establishes Victim Friendly Unit of the Courts.
- Re-establish the office of Community Relations Liaison at police stations.
- Restructure prison services from retributive to rehabilitative system.
- Re-establish state funded legal aid for the indigent.
- Review and resource courts and retrain judicial personnel, including personnel under traditional legal systems.
- Establish a clear system and process of appeals from the Traditional Courts in cases dealing with compensation for human rights violations.
- Make court facilities and procedures affordable and accessible to the ordinary person.
- Make Human Rights and Governance subjects in the school curricula.
- Use public or state media and the arts to educate the public on human rights.
- Establish public information units in key justice delivery institutions.
- Review remuneration packages of judicial personnel and establish systematic mechanisms to trap and prevent corruption.
- Empower people by providing information on their rights to enable defending their rights individually and collectively.
- Enhance confidence through dialogue and transparency of the judicial process to the public.
7. Conclusion
The new MDC government is committed to building a new society where the rule of just law is supreme rather than the rule of politicians. In a new Zimbabwe there will be clear separation of powers, roles and functions between the Judiciary, Executive, Legislature and Political Parties. The MDC government will ensure efficient justice delivery and the full protection of the security of all persons through this policy supported by strong, democratic and professional institutions.
YOUTH DEVELOPMENT

1. Introduction
The MDC defines the youth as the young people between the ages of 16 and 35. It understands that during this period, the young person will be in the process of acquiring life skills that enable them to become an independent adult. This Youth Policy will ensure that by the time each Zimbabwean, male or female, is 30, they would have attained life skills and will be gainfully employed in the various sectors of the economy. There is also an understanding that the Youth are not a homogenous entity and therefore their needs are not the same. This policy is committed to ensuring that the needs of these different categories are catered for. An MDC led government will commit to both the material and democratic empowerment of young people from all walks of life. It will ensure that the Youth uphold Christian and African values in the best way possible, the young people will return to being the pride of the nation that will be the front runners of development and positive change. It is the belief of the MDC that the youth are a prized treasure of our nation.

The MDC National Youth Policy (NYP) will be the cornerstone for material and democratic emancipation of young people. The MDC NYP will ensure that all young people are given an equal opportunity to acquire life skills of their choice which include but are not limited to, getting a university degree, studying at a technical college with a specialization of their choice, specializing in Arts and Sports and being an entrepreneur. The coordination and implementation of the NYP will lie in the hands of a vibrant, fair, accountable and democratic non-partisan Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC).

Empowerment and democratic participation of the youth should be realized across gender, political affiliation, colour and creed. Consequently, the MDC policy will be inclusive, non-discriminatory, gender sensitive and will inculcate human and ethical values. It will make sure that there is facilitation of dialogue between the Youth and the government in a mutually beneficial relationship.

The MDC government will take practical steps to ensure that in line with the new Constitution, reasonable measures are implemented to afford young people access to appropriate education and training, participation in political, social and economic processes, employment opportunities and economic empowerment and protection from any form of abuse or harmful actions.

2. Vision
A democratic and developmental state where young people enjoy human rights, have access to economic tools, basic social services and are meaningfully active in national discourse and governance.

3. Mission
To enhance the capacities of young people, through policies and programmes that avail equal opportunities and create an environment conducive for the material and democratic development of young people.
4. Challenges Confronting Zimbabwean Youth
Youth development in Zimbabwe has been regulated in an exclusive and partisan manner. Consequently, the policies have benefited a minority oligarchy. Moreover, the approach has been materialistic without incorporating human and democratic values to build ethical values in the younger generation. The majority of youths face unemployment, young women are prejudiced, and health problems are rife. Today’s young people are poor, and hopeless and even deprived of leisure. Government institutions that were created to advance the cause of youth empowerment have been politicised and have failed to address the challenges confronting the new generation in Zimbabwe.

Thus to enhance the capacities of youth, the MDC government will, through policies and programmes that avail equal opportunities, create an environment conducive for the material and democratic development of all young people.

5. National Youth Policy Priorities:
- Youth development programmes should be fully integrated into all policies and programmes of all youth-related initiatives of various ministries.
- Youth development policies and programmes are to encompass all aspects of the life of young people and respond to their physical, psychological, social, economic and spiritual needs. They are also to emphasize education and vocational training as a means towards a sustainable lifestyle.
- Young people are an important resource and should be nurtured to become active partners in national development processes. At the same time, they should also be the beneficiaries of the programmes and services sponsored by the State and developmental organizations, aimed at addressing their needs and concerns.
- Youth development programmes should reach out to all sections of the youth population and be accessible to them. These should be free from all forms of discrimination - based on gender, religion, ethnicity, language, or physical or mental condition. Entrepreneurship is to be a critical component in the stated development programmes.

6. Policy Interventions
6.1 National Youth Development Board
Recognising our youthful population and potential this untapped demographic opportunity presents, the government will establish a National Youth Development Board within the first six months of coming into power; its mandate is to create an enabling environment and coordinate the implementation of youth development interventions in a cohesive and integrated manner. The Board will design and implement all programmes aimed at integrating the youth into the economy and empowerment. Many countries have such initiatives including South Africa which referred to as the National Youth Development Agency. In order to ensure an integrated approach the board shall build partnerships with Non-Governmental Organisation (NGOs) with an interest on youth development, business/corporations and work with all government Ministries to mainstream youth participation in their programs and projects. Establishment of offices in all the country’s provinces is an important operational modus in order to ensure easy access and reach out across the borders of the country. The Board should receive an annual allocation from the treasury to constitute a national youth development revolving fund to support youth development projects.
6.2 The Zimbabwe Youth Council
An MDC led government will democratically reform and review the Zimbabwe Youth Council Act within the first six months of an MDC controlled government. It will make the ZYC accountable to Parliament and further its administration. This is a key milestone toward reconstruction and creating a democratic developmental state driven by meaningful youth participation.

The Zimbabwe Youth Council at all levels shall among other things;
- Advise the Government at national and provincial level on problems affecting young people and the programming required to solve them.
- Carry out capacity building and developmental training courses for the youth as well as youth-serving organizations.
- Avail a platform for networking of all youth organizations and stakeholders in the country.
- Provide youth with a platform for interacting with government and informing government policy.

6.3 National Youth Service
- It is going to be voluntary in nature, coercion or force are not to be part of the strategies for recruitment.
- The existing National Youth Service (NYS) program curricula will be reoriented towards programs aimed at enhancing community participation, community development, accountable governance and ethical leadership programs designed to prepare and build capacity of youth in leadership positions at various levels of society.
- It will lay an important foundation for sustained and sustainable regeneration of ethical and accountable leadership in the pursuit of our national developmental aspirations.

6.2 Education and Vocational Skills Training
The MDC National Youth Policy will use this particular sector to make sure that the young person is financially independent by the age of 30; the education and vocational training sector is realised as the most important sector to ensuring an independent, disciplined and productive Youth. it is therefore proposed that:
- On completion of basic school education, all young people will be given an opportunity to study at a Tertiary Institution of their choice either as a part of their training in an industry or as a full time student.
- Within the first 5 years of an MDC controlled government, all Vocational training at University or College level shall be funded by means of student grants paid by the Central Government.
- The Grant shall be accessed by ALL students on a means tested basis so as to allow all under privileged Young people, to further their education or pay for their vocational training. Grants will also be considered for sports and arts Scholarships.
- A comprehensive and fair needs assessment shall be carried out prior to the grant being provided to the particular young person. The assessment shall ensure that the grant is given to the most deserving people and will leave no avenue for corruption by anybody.
ALL the students that benefit from the government grant shall be on a government bond for a minimum of 2 years after their graduation from their particular institution.

The SRC’s and Provincial Youth Council Boards shall be involved in the process of determining the size of the grants and the selection and allocation of the Student Grants.

There shall be facilitation for the review of education curricula in line with the needs of the economy and industry.

There shall also be facilitation for a compulsory one-year industrial attachment period for every tertiary course.

Teach entrepreneurship at lower levels of the education system.

Ensure foundational courses that incorporate human values, human rights and principles of ethical business practice in line with the new transformative and democratic agenda.

It will also create an Entrepreneurship awareness programme which will:

promote and create entrepreneurship awareness targeting specifically potential young entrepreneurs (including unemployed graduates and youth) with the aim of encouraging them to consider entrepreneurship as an alternative vehicle to employment. Such a program will educate and mobilise youths towards entrepreneurial activities. The program will seek to ensure that there is national outreach to all youths across the country.

6.3 Youth Employment and Access to Resources
Many youths in Zimbabwe are unemployed and have limited access to resources. Creating employment, particularly for the youth, is at the epicentre of the MDC’s policies. The MDC recognises that availing job opportunities for the youth are one of the key avenues to uplift them. As the informal sector continues to grow, the number of youths in self-employment has significantly increased. Within the first 5 years of an MDC government will create the following Boards:

6.3.1 National Youth Development Fund
An independent youth fund to support the development of youth to be governed by an independent youth empowerment board. In order to operationalise its programs and achieve its mandate, the board will administer a fund to support entrepreneurship through providing business start-up grants and loans for sustainable and viable income generating projects and programmes directed at raising awareness on health and the combating of crime, substance abuse and social decay amongst youth. Start up business grants and loans may be granted to new business and existing initiatives. The financial assistance may be used to build poultry houses, piggery house, machinery/equipment, computers etc. required for the project or to cover working capital. Loans will be granted at concessionary rates to ensure smooth incubation of new business initiatives. The Fund will work with banks and financial institutions interested in youth development as part of their corporate social responsibility to ensure efficient and effective projects evaluation and appropriate regulatory instruments.

6.3.2 Business Development Support Services
In order to ensure incubation of new business initiatives, the Board Fund will establish a Business Development Service Centre (BDSC) to provide capacity building in business and a platform to share knowledge/experiences. The BDSC will run training programs to targeted at small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs), led
by youth, in the area of business management, financial management, and entrepreneurial skills development. As such, they can enhance their knowledge, and improve their business operations and efficiency. Leveraging expertise of Private Sector Corporations, the center shall Link youth to competitive markets and value chains. Both existing small and medium enterprises and new business initiatives may benefit from the services. The center shall in addition, research ways and means of market access and market expansion for the products and services of the enterprises. Other resources offered can include: office space, management coaching, assistance with business plan development and sourcing financing, administrative and technical support, and business networking.

6.4 Gender Equality and Equity
To promote gender equality and equity, an MDC led government will:
- Pursue increased female representation in all political, economic and social facets of government. Provide clear structures and mechanisms for gender mainstreaming and the active participation of young women in all decision making processes.
- Protect the girl child and work against customs and traditions that militate against the development of the girl child such as the use of girl children to pay for the spirit or be forced into under-age marriages.
- Promote access to education, reproductive health and other facilities for young males and females.

6.5 Health
The MDC is of the view that for the nation to progress it needs to have youth that are healthy physically and mentally. To ensure a healthy and productive youth, the MDC government will establish a system of National Health Services that will guarantee access by all Zimbabweans to their required health care and facilities. In respect to the special needs of young people an MDC led government will:
- Ensure access to health services on an affordable basis for all young people at the age of 16.
- Provide health education services to all young people to establish an understanding of the risks of certain types of behaviour.
- Ensure that the young people that cannot afford health services will be assisted.
- Pay special attention to young people living with HIV/AIDS as well as maternal health in the face of increased number of young people living with AIDS and teenage pregnancies.

6.6 Healing, Reconciliation and Integration
Zimbabwean youth have been perpetrators and victims of violence. The MDC Government will:
- Provide platforms for the fostering of a culture of peace and tolerance among the youth.
- Involve youths in programmes of national healing, reconciliation and integration.
- Create programmes for the integration of youth perpetrators and victims in a process that nurtures rehabilitation, integration and reconciliation.
6.7 Culture, Sports and Recreation:
- Educational institutions particularly tertiary institutions must provide for recreational, cultural and sports studies and facilities.
- Carry out a needs assessment to determine the needs of the youths with regards to sport and recreation.
- Promote all sports not just soccer and netball in rural communities and schools.
- Encourage the youth to take sport as a profession and promote sporting professional development among youths especially in marginalised communities.
- Promote inter-cultural awareness to allow the youths in Zimbabwe to be aware and respect other cultures in order to promote unity and social cohesion.
- Provide for fair and equitable distribution of resources to address the concerns of youth with disabilities and participation of youth with disabilities in all cultural, sporting and recreational activities.

6.8 Access to Information and Research:
- A database on young people according to gender, disability, geographical distribution, and economic activity must be created and made available for planning purposes.
- Reactivate information centres and create them in all constituencies with provision for internet and IT services.
- Make information youth friendly that is in different dialects and user friendly to people with disability.
- Establish community radios and community publications.
- Promote the teaching and use of ICTs in school and government development projects.
- Promote a culture of reading, seeking information and using the information.

6.9 Special Policy interventions
The MDC government recognises that although the broad youth sector is marginalised and in need of policy and programmatic interventions, such interventions cannot be a ‘one-size-fit-all’ affair because of the differentiated nature of the sector.

The MDC government will be conscious that the following sectors will need special attention:
- Differently-abled youth.
- Youth living on the streets.
- Youths residing in rural areas.
- Orphans.

Policy and programme interventions shall pay attention to the diversity of the youth sector and strive to proffer relevant strategies.

7. Conclusion
Young people are central to national development, post-conflict transformation, democratic consolidation and deepening national democracy. The MDC government will create a conducive environment for the youths to realise their maximum human potential. As a social democratic party, the MDC believes that the proposed policy guidelines on youth will constitute the minimum actions to be taken by government in promoting youth development, democratic consciousness and ethical practices.
WOMEN DEVELOPMENT AND GENDER

1. Introduction
The MDC government will be gender responsive in all its operations, plans, and programme implementation and resource allocation. Gender mainstreaming shall be central to all institutions and government programmes. The MDC government shall create a gender sensitive and democratic environment where there will be no discrimination along gender lines and where men and women will be on equal levels. It understands that the Zimbabwean men and women have not been on an equal footing in the past, it will reverse this situation by ensuring that both men and women freely participate in decision-making processes and achieve equal opportunities in controlling critical factors of production. Further, the Zimbabwean woman is disadvantaged on so many fronts and largely bears the brunt of hardships in the society. The Zimbabwean community seems to know about gender equality, but has not put in place adequate steps to ensure that it is implemented at all levels in the society. The MDC government will ensure that gender equality is preached as well as practised.

Today, women have greater incidence of poverty compared to men. This is partly because of negligence by politicians and lack of political will by leadership of government. This is exacerbated by the patriarchal society and entrenched unequal power relations between men and women in Zimbabwe. Despite a vast array of domestic legal instruments and policy pronouncements, women have not played a meaningful role in national developmental and political processes. It is one thing to have good laws and another to have the political will to facilitate their implementation in a just and fair manner. For example, Zimbabwe has national laws in place that recognize and attempt to address the plight of women namely:

a. The Domestic Violence Act
b. Amendment No 6 of 1997 of the Administration of Estates Act
c. Amendment of the Deeds Registries Act
d. Interpretation Act
e. Legal age of Majority Act
f. Labour Act
g. Matrimonial Causes Act
h. Criminal Codification Act and
i. Amendment of the pensions Act.

Admittedly, there are pieces of legislation that attempt to address the plight of women, however these are not adequately implemented which is a case of sheer lack of political will to see them being fully implemented. Further there is a plethora of International Treaties and Conventions that Zimbabwe has not either signed and ratified or ratified and have not domesticated, this again is a demonstration of the lack of political will to fully emancipate women. The MDC government will ensure that women are protected and afforded an equal opportunity to be at par with men. The MDC government therefore seeks to create an equal society that will not disadvantage the women or the men. A society where no particular gender is inferior to the other and by extension where none is superior to the other, where both men and women do not face any kind of abuse being perpetrated by the opposite sex, male or female.

At the regional and global levels, Zimbabwe is a signatory to regional and international instruments, Conventions, Protocols and Declarations that promote
gender equality and equity and women’s rights, but little has been achieved in practice in the country. Zimbabwe has haphazardly domesticated some of these international instruments into national legislation. There is evident lack of political will to fully operationalize these laws. The Constitution of Zimbabwe prevents automatic domestication of international instruments into national laws upon ratification at the international level.

Zimbabwe has acceded to and ratified the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), The Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the African Union Protocol on the Rights of Women, and the SADC protocol on Gender and Development. In addition, Zimbabwe adopted the Dakar Platform for Action and the Beijing Declaration in 1995, thereby acknowledging and committing to taking strategic action in advancing the rights of women. In addition Zimbabwe acceded to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which the UN member states and organizations have agreed to achieve by 2015. Zimbabwe has prioritized the eradication of extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education and promoting gender equality and empowering women. As a result men have been the “superior” sex. The MDC government therefore seeks to right this redress and go a step further by ensuring that they become equal.

The new MDC government will provide political will and a gender sensitive leadership to ensure the just implementation of domestic laws, the ratification and full operationalization of international protocols that Zimbabwe has acceded to and will engage and enable a civic culture that engenders all socio-economic activities in Zimbabwe. One vehicle that will be fundamental to the transformative agenda is the Gender Commission. Under the MDC government, the Gender Commission will improve women’s roles in politics and decision-making, access to, control of and ownership of resources, access to justice and promote gender mainstreaming in government institutions, policies and programs, projects and policies in a democratic manner in line with the new Zimbabwe constitution.

2. Vision
An equal Zimbabwean society where women and men equally enjoy human rights, access and control of economic resources, social services and are meaningfully active in national discourse and democratic governance.

3. Mission
To enhance the status of women, through gender mainstreaming in all development processes and reforming laws, policies, institutions and practices that hinder gender equality and the full and equal enjoyment of rights and opportunities for men and women.

4. Objectives
The objectives of the Gender policy are;
- Upon coming into power, an MDC government will immediately establish a Gender Commission. Its mandate will be to ensure that gender equality is achieved; look into the upliftment of women so that they are at par with their male counterparts and also ensure that both men and women play a central role
in the social, economic, political and democratization processes of their country, Zimbabwe.

Ensure that there is mainstreaming of gender in all public institutions, policies and programmes.

Achieve equal representation and participation of women in politics and government and all other decision making structures in Zimbabwe.

Operationalize all existing statutes that address the status of women to ensure that they are not inferior to the men and that the two are on an equal footing.

Ratify and domesticate international and regional conventions and protocols that promote gender equality

Establish laws, policies, and regulations that promote and respect women rights so that women can demand, claim, and protect their rights successfully and are not prone to abuse.

Promote equal access to, control of and ownership of resources in order to eradicate poverty amongst women, and enhance national development.

Establish mechanisms that maintain the peace and security in conflict and post-conflict resolution.

5. Policy Interventions

Based on the need to achieve the highest standards of development that is economic growth, sustainable development, social justice and recognition and respect of Human Rights, an MDC government will set out to mainstream gender so that women and men enjoy equal rights and opportunities in a just society. In this regard the following are the key priorities of an MDC government:

5.1 Politics and Decision-Making

Despite making up 52% of the Zimbabwean population, only a handful of women are in decision-making positions in the various spheres of Zimbabwean society. In order to enhance the participation of women in political decision-making, the MDC government will take the following steps to create an equal society:

Enact legislation for proportional representation of women in accordance with the SADC guidelines and the Zimbabwe Constitution.

Through the Gender Commission, ensure that government institutions, programmes, policies, projects and plans mainstream gender.

Amend and or repeal all legislation that hinders the progression of women.

Eradicate cultural and other practices that impinge on the rights of women and eliminate negative stereotypes and social attitudes against women who desire to participate in politics and decision-making through societal education.

Introduce a quota system for women in both the Lower and Upper Houses of Assembly to reconcile the current imbalances between women and men legislators.

5.2 Peace, Security and Conflict Resolution

The MDC government will, through the Gender Commission:

Work with other stakeholders like a Conflict Prevention Committee to ensure that both men and women play a positive role in Zimbabwe’s transition to peace and stability.

Work with other stakeholders in the creation of a tolerant, violence free and peaceful nation.
Create an environment that is safe and secure for people to belong to a political party of their choice and freely campaign and participate in politics without any prejudice to any sex.

5.3 Access to Control of, and Ownership of Resources
In the past women have often borne the brunt of poverty compared to their male counterparts. The MDC government will through the Gender Commission ensure that both men and women are afforded equal access to resources. It will:
- Develop ethical programmes, projects, plans and policies that uplift women
- Ensure affirmative action in programmes that seek to address resource allocation.
- Gender Budgeting
- Recognize education as a tool for fighting poverty by creating platforms that seek to equip both men and women with the relevant technical skills.
- Work with other stakeholders in the private sector, on the designing of programmes that benefit women, such as insurance for women, a Women’s Bank, as well as other micro-financial institutions that will not require collateral in an effort to bridge the glaring economic disparity between men and women.
- Ensure that women engage in ethical business and only partner with moral businesses.
- Repeal and or amend legal instruments and discourage cultural practices that hinder women’s access to, control of and ownership of resources.
- Ensure that there is equal pay for equal work.

5.4 The Justice Delivery System (JDS)
The MDC Government through the Gender Commission will;
- Seek the ratification and domestication of regional and international legal instruments, which seek to promote gender equality and equity.
- Repeal and or amend all legislation, particularly customary laws, which impinge on women’s and girl child rights.
- Work with traditional leadership for the upliftment and protection of women rights in rural areas.
- Work with relevant ministries on the strict operationalisation of victim friendly units and courts for victims of domestic and other forms violence.
- Facilitate for the rehabilitation of prisons to make sure that they are suitable for human habitation and that prisoners are treated with respect and dignity regardless of their sex.
- Ensure that there is adequate information dissemination pertaining to human rights, and ensure that there is access to justice without discrimination along gender lines.
- Ensure that the justice delivery system metes out deterrent sentences for gender based violence

5.6 Women and Health
An MDC government will pay special attention to health issues; in particular those that affect women which include but are not limited to:
- maternal and infant mortality
- sexual and reproductive health and rights
- access to Anti-Retroviral Drugs
- access to sanitary wear
sexual health education in schools, public media and government health institutions.

Women in police custody and prisons, who should be taken special care of in terms of their health and sanitary requirements.

Rape, torture and any forms of degrading treatment against women will attract superior levels of punishment for the perpetrators.

An MDC government will ensure that there is equitable access to health facilities regardless of the gender of the receiving individual.

6. Conclusion

Relations between women and men are central to nation-building, post-conflict transformation, and democratic consolidation. The MDC government will exhibit the political will and gender sensitive leadership that is required to enable gender equity for equality to be realised. As a social democratic party, the MDC believes that the proposed policy guidelines on gender will constitute the minimum actions in promoting development, democratic and political participation in key national processes.

An MDC government will apply gender mainstreaming to the budgetary process, which will involve examining budgetary outcomes, to see how budgetary allocations will affect the social and economic opportunities of both women and men.
ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

1. Introduction
Climate Change is a global problem. It is now virtually certain that by the middle of this century the world’s average temperature will be 2 degrees centigrade or more higher than at the time of Zimbabwe’s independence. With temperature rise comes climate shift. It will rain in future where it does not rain today, while in some places, including Zimbabwe, that currently have strong summer rains may be much drier in future. Global climate change is very strongly interconnected: both in the El Nino/La Nina cycle and also in northern-south changes like the Atlantic overturning circulation. Over the past decade there has been a very sharp decline in Arctic summer ice cover: this is likely to have global effects. If a person suffers from having no hat in the hot sun, then the knees will feel the dehydration too.

For Zimbabwe it is still too early to know the extent of the impact. Computer modelling of climate is still in its infancy. Likely impacts will include heat stress on crops, especially in communal areas; episodes of violent extremes of climate, whether droughts or cyclones: widespread impact on the natural habitat; and major water supply problems for the growing population. Water problems mean power problems too: both Kariba and water-cooled coal plants will be affected.

The first duty of Government is to sustain the security of the people. For Zimbabwe, this means food and water and health. Thus the first response to the climate challenge is to support agriculture and to plan for water security. Next, the Government's duty is to sustain the prosperity of the people and the environment: this means a prosperous economy and a healthy natural environment. We need to plan for this.

2. Vision
The development and transformation of Zimbabwe into a lower carbon society and a resilient economy, through mitigation and adaptation approaches to climate change.

3. Mission
The mission of the climate change policy is to ensure the reduction of green house gas (GHGs) emissions, as well as increasing the capacity of Zimbabwe to adapt to the negative effects of climate change, through mitigation and adaptation approaches.

Two aspects to climate change policy and adaptation are;
- Managing the drivers/causes of climate change (e.g. greenhouse gas emissions).
- Addressing the impacts or consequences of climate change in a way that will have the least impact on the environment and livelihoods is critical. This is mainly achieved through two approaches “adaptation” and “coping”. Even though developing countries are relatively minor contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and drivers, we are still contributors and this must to be managed.

4. Policy Considerations
The MDC climate change policy reflects the need for a climate change resilient approach to development. It has been acknowledged that Climate Change and variability poses a serious and complex challenge to the prospects of development in
Zimbabwe. Natural resource based sectors like agriculture, forestry, tourism, energy and water, are at greatest risk, since they are dependent on climate variabilities.

It has been established that the expected challenges will be of great magnitude, and are expected to pose serious problems with far reaching social, health, and economic and environmental consequences. The principles and guidelines established in this climate change policy, as well as the legislation to be enacted, will ensure the enhancement of these sectors’ adaptive capacity, as well as the mitigation of the negative impacts of climate change. The policy therefore, provides an institutional framework, required for this transformation, detailing the relevant procedures and policy actions.

The MDC, in this policy effort, seeks to consciously achieve, through appropriate policy and regulatory instruments, a comprehensive climate change response. The policy is therefore presented as a framework that seeks to stimulate and coordinate Zimbabwe’s climate change response.

Zimbabwe ratified the Kyoto Protocol in 2009 but has operated without a substantive climate change policy, even though climate change issues have been addressed within the Environmental Policy (2009), albeit minimally. As a result, climate change resilience has not been factored into the development prospects of the nation. There is a strong consensus expressed by the Inter-governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) in Bali (2007), that the risks of inaction or delaying action on climate change are alarming. This is especially true for countries like Zimbabwe, which have approximately 70% of its population relying on natural resources (firewood, water, indigenous fruits and foods) and agriculture for their livelihoods (MTP, 2011). The increase in temperatures, the decline in rainfall as well as the consequence of extreme weather events, call for the urgent implementation of adaptation and mitigation measures.

Addressing a challenge of this magnitude will require a concerted and broad based collaborative effort. This is required from all government ministries, business, civil society sectors, NGOs and all citizens who should work together in planning and implementing equitable and sustainable solutions. While the targets demand immediate and costly intervention measures, the cost of action will be far less than the cost of inaction. MDC will therefore promote the implementation of this policy.

5. Policy Statement
The MDC affirms its commitment to effectively respond to the threat of climate change, in ways that will secure economic development and transformation, the alleviation of poverty as well as the improvement of human health, the quality of life and the environment.

6. Guiding Principles
The Climate Change policy will be implemented within the confines of the Zimbabwe constitution, the Bill of Rights, as well as other international conventions and agreements to which Zimbabwe is a party;

- Common but differentiated responsibilities - The policy recognises that the largest share of green house gas emissions originate from the developed
Commitment is therefore made to reduce GHG emissions and adapt to the negative effects of climate change relative to our national circumstance and capacity to act.

- **Transparent and participative approaches** - Sound policy planning and intervention requires the integration of all stakeholders i.e. government, civil society and the private sector. The policy therefore recognises the need for transparent, accountable and participatory decision making and planning.

- **Demand driven approaches** - Vulnerabilities to climate change exist, as such, adaptation and mitigation efforts will be directed towards the most vulnerable communities and sectors.

- **Sustainable development approach** - Recognises the country’s reliance on natural resources, and the policy therefore advocates for the employment of interventions that do not threaten future sustainability.

- **Cost effective approaches** - Based on the finite nature of resources, the policy recognises the need to adopt cost effectiveness, in order to achieve the best results at the lowest cost.

- **The Polluter pays principle [PPP]** - The producer of any pollution should meet the full costs of treatment, rehabilitation, monitoring and management of the environment to reduce pollution loads to acceptable standards that will not cause environmental damage or loss of beneficial use to others.

- **Human rights approach** - The policy recognises that it is often the poor and vulnerable that are the hardest hit by climate change and variability. The policy therefore, recognises the need to treat the affected groups with the dignity and respect accorded to all citizens.

### 6. Policy Objectives

#### 6.1 Climate Change Mainstreaming:

- Integrate climate change into Zimbabwe’s legal framework.
- Integrate climate change into national development planning as a cross cutting sectoral theme.
- Integrate climate change issues into school curricula, community programmes, projects and industrial/commercial activities.

#### 6.2 Emission Standards and Regulations:

- Introduce sector specific emission standards and benchmarks that limit the amount of pollutants that can be released into the atmosphere and or water bodies.
- Establish environmental rehabilitation fees and penalties against those who emit harmful pollutants into the natural environment or those who cause wild fires.

#### 6.3 Prioritise Capacity Building and Training on Climate Change:

- Improve the capacity of society to access and use climate change related information and technology, through capacity building projects and training to strengthen their resilience, adaptation and coping capacity to deal with the impacts of climate change.
- Facilitate the training of agricultural field officers on climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies in order to assist all farming operations.
- Incorporate indigenous knowledge systems and sector specific information into climate change interventions.
- Awareness campaigns on climate change by EMA and Conservation NGOs
6.4 Invest in Information Technology:
⇒ Equip the Meteorological Services Department with Forecasting equipment, Information communication technologies and human resources, for the acquisition and dissemination of accurate information.
⇒ Equip all agricultural extension officers with information communication technologies and human resources for accurate dissemination of climate change information. This would enhance food security.
⇒ Promote the use of alternative energy and development especially the use of solar energy and hydro-electric power
⇒ Prioritise the use of incentives and fiscal measures towards the development and adoption of neutral and lower carbon emission technologies and solutions.

6.5 Prioritise information sharing and collaboration:
⇒ Build the capacity of the media to share and disseminate climate change related information.
⇒ Establish a user friendly climate change information database accessible to all.

6.6 Contribute in Regional and International Climate Change Responses:
⇒ Contribute to regional and International efforts to minimise (GHG) concentrations in the atmosphere within a sustainable developmental framework.
⇒ Collaborate with local, regional and international partners in order to optimise on available human and financial resources and technical expertise, as well as ensuring timely and effective implementation of programmes.

7. Zimbabwe Climate Change Strategy:
The policy adopts a mitigation and adaptation approach to climate change. The policy will give guidelines that will broadly entail the building of resilience into Zimbabwe’s development plans, as well as reducing the amount of GHGs emitted into the atmosphere.

The climate change policy will make use of the following planning and implementation timeframes, effective from the date of publication of the policy document:
⇒ Short term – Five years.
⇒ Medium term – Fifteen years.
⇒ Long term – Thirty years.

8. Overall Approach
The building of resilience entails the application of both mitigation and adaptation approaches to climate change. This approach aims to reduce vulnerabilities to climate change and stimulate low carbon growth. Despite the high cost of implementation, Zimbabwe embarks on this response as a long-term low carbon development strategy. The policy approach also establishes a framework, within which Zimbabwe plays a part in the global response to climate change.

Therefore, the policy adopts a strategic approach that is;

8.1 Needs Driven
The policy embraces the application of customised adaptation and mitigation approaches in order to effectively cater for the special needs and circumstances of
those negatively affected by climate change. The policy prioritises the application of solutions that will best empower the affected people or sector and make them partners as well as owners of the processes.

8.2 Developmental and Sustainability
The policy aims to create an enabling environment that will promote and facilitate mitigation and adaptation approaches that will not only reduce harm and increase resilience, but also to contribute positively to national development.

8.3 Transformational and Empowering
The policy prioritises the implementation of strategies that are able to drive economic growth, creation jobs, alleviate poverty and create a healthy nation as well as contributing to the conservation of ecosystems. The policy approach also recognises the importance of empowering stakeholders as key planning and implementation partners.

8.4 Technological Advances
The policy recognises the current limitations in knowledge in the impacts of Climate Change, and the need for more flexible intervention measures. Thus, the approach integrates constant technological development and scientific research as transformative tools at all levels of engagement and hence the need to create a research fund for this purpose.

8.5 Integrated and Aligned
The policy makes provision for the integration of climate change issues and actions into local/sectoral plans and developments. In cases where cross cutting themes are concerned, the policy makes provision for their inclusion in a coherent and effective manner.

9. Policy Priorities
In order to achieve the objectives outlined in this policy, effectively and efficiently, as well as operating within the framework of the principles outlined, the document adopts the following strategic priorities:

9.1 Mainstreaming climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies into all sectors.
Prioritise the integration of climate change across all related sectors (Energy, Water, Environment, Agriculture, Industry, Tourism and conservation, among others) for a comprehensive policy response.

9.2 Integration of Policy Objectives and Planning
Prioritise the integration of climate change response strategies to those that are implemented at regional and international levels.

9.3 Risk Reduction
The policy intervention will establish short-term adaptation measures in areas most vulnerable to climate change, whilst developing customised medium and long-term intervention measures. Policy interventions will ensure the protection of environments and natural systems that provide natural mitigation and buffers to the impacts of
climate change for example ensure that wetlands are protected in order to decrease our vulnerability to extreme rainfall events associated with climate change.

9.4 New Technologies Development
Prioritise and stimulate local development and acquisition of energy saving technologies as transformative development.

9.5 Behaviour Change
Prioritise capacity building workshops and training of local communities. Climate Change knowledge development will be incorporated into school curricula as tools for raising public awareness and responsibility.

9.6 Research and Information Dissemination
Prioritise information acquisition and dissemination, for informed participation and planning.

9.7 Resources Mobilisation
Prioritise the mobilisation and the effective use of resources for climate change mitigation and adaptive responses hence the need to create a fund.

10. Policy Approaches and Actions
10.1 Adaptation
Adaptation refers to the adjustments in natural or human systems, in ways that moderates harm and increase the safety and resilience to the impacts of climate change. The approach will therefore seek to manage and reduce risk in vulnerable sectors. This approach will entail the transformation of existing infrastructure, as well as the stimulation of eco-friendly growth in new and existing sectors. Thus, Zimbabwe adopts climate change adaptation strategy based on risk management and its reduction and the elimination of vulnerabilities.

Global warming has been forecast to continue into the distant future. This change, which has already become evident, has caused, among other things, extreme weather events, increased levels of evaporation, water scarcity, and the depletion of ecosystems and low recharge of rivers. Thus, it becomes imperative, to develop adaptive measures that are able to adjust to the trends without compromising ecological integrity and sustainability.

10.2 Mitigation
Mitigation refers to the undertaking of actions that reduce GHG concentrations in the atmosphere, by either reducing emissions or increasing carbon sinks. As a signatory to the UNFCCC, and having ratified the Kyoto protocol [2009], which will end in 2015 according to COP 17, Zimbabwe is committed to achieving its global climate change emissions reduction targets. Thus, the aim of this mitigation approach is directed at the stabilisation of green house gases in the atmosphere in order avoid “dangerous anthropogenic interference” with the climate system. The response to meet this objective is underpinned by the implementation of strategies that are developmental (at the local level), and collaborative (with regional and international partners).
Thus, the policy approach will require:

- The establishment of performance benchmarks. This will require the establishment of a National Trajectory Range, which will set out the standards against which all mitigation actions will be measured.
- The employment of multiple mitigation approaches and legal instruments. The approach seeks to implement actions, which optimise mitigation outcomes, through the employment of policy measures and legal instruments, to make sure that actions deliver the best possible outcomes.
- The definition of Carbon budgets, for high greenhouse gas emission sector the initial carbon budgets will be drawn up and adopted within a two year time frame after the publication of this policy. Agriculture, forestry, energy and industry will constitute the initial high priority sectors.
- Mitigation plans. Requires the mandatory submission by specified economic and corporate sectors, plans of how they intend to reduce their emissions. These must be based on measurable and verifiable indicators.
- The Establishment of Carbon Markets. Carbon markets will enable the exchange of emission reductions between sectors and sub-sectors, thereby optimising efficiency and minimising the cost of controlling emissions.
- Monitoring and evaluation. Establish a national information system/body, which is responsible for the collection, analysis and dissemination of accurate climate change related information (a Green house gas inventory).

10.3 Mitigation Potential

Zimbabwe, contributes significant amounts of greenhouse gases through the widespread winter grass burning. Thus, with regards to the global effort to cut emissions, applies the principle of “common but differentiated responsibilities. However, the majority of Zimbabwe’s emissions come from industries, energy, and agriculture sectors, which will be classified as areas of high and immediate focus.

Even though Zimbabwe’s GHG emissions are still low, emissions are projected to significantly increase in the near future. Policy decisions must therefore consider the regulation of new infrastructure investment, in order to avoid carbon intensive emissions caused by badly designed infrastructure in the future. The objective of this policy framework is to encourage investment in low carbon technology and infrastructure.

Based on Zimbabwe’s large coal reserves and industrial potential, policy decisions must move towards efficiency and the management of demand. Hence, the enforcement of carbon taxes, emissions trading schemes and incentives are essential for low carbon development growth. Opportunities for the reduction of greenhouse concentration also exist in agriculture and forestry, within which forests act as carbon sinks, thus reducing the amount of carbon in the atmosphere. Land use change and the practice of conservation agriculture have the potential to play significant mitigation roles. The available mitigation options provided can also yield significant social and environmental gains.

The aim of this policy will lean towards:

- The reduction of greenhouse gas emissions from the agriculture, energy, and industrial sectors.
- Improving efficiency in energy generation and utilisation.
The development and adoption of renewable energy for low carbon growth.

The enhancement of green house gases sinks (planting of indigenous trees and conservation of wetlands and water sheds).

**10.4 The Carbon Budget Approach**

Policy decisions must recognise the need to adopt flexible mitigation approaches, since the current infrastructural developments are emission intensive. The carbon budget approach therefore, requires a detailed the establishment and enforcement of desired green house gases emissions standards/benchmarks. As a priority, sector specific carbon budgets will be drawn within the first two years of this policy’s publication. This will enable these sectors to employ the lowest cost options and achieve a gradual and sustainable low carbon transformation.

The carbon budgets will be based on desired emission reduction outcomes, which must be consistent with the standard National GHG Emissions Trajectory Range. The establishment of carbon budgets will be based on sector specific consultations, in order to ensure consistency in planning and implementation.

Zimbabwe has the chance of developing a really honest carbon capture program through reforestation.

**11. Agriculture and Forestry**

Agriculture has significant effects on climate change, particularly through the production and release of GHGs such as carbon dioxide, methane and nitrous oxide. Forestry plantations have also been noted to significantly reduce stream flow, and thus also, have a significant impact on water resources. In both of these sectors, overlaps and opportunities exist, and that is in terms of mitigation and adaptation measures.

Conservation agriculture, the planting of new forests as well as the management of existing ones has the ability to significantly capitalise on nature’s ability to act as a carbon sink. Despite this opportunity, deforestation and unsustainable land use practices continue to release more emissions into the atmosphere. Agriculture’s reliance on water resources significantly puts it at high risk to climate change. The decline and variability in rainfall has seen the shifting of agro-ecological zones, this shows that farming particular crops may no longer be feasible in particular localities. Hence there is need to encourage the adoption of sustainable land use practices, particularly conservation agriculture.

Policy actions should aim to maximize on commercial and indigenous forestry plantations and management, because of their potential to deliver large cuts in emissions at low costs. Hence there is need to support and initiate land reclamation efforts and re-afforestation to enhance the sink of green house gases emissions. Unless this is considered, desertification and bush encroachment will continue to seriously compromise ecological sustainability. The development of cleaner fuels and rural electrification should remain high priorities, since without them, people will continue cutting down trees for fuel.
Considering the agro-based nature of Zimbabwe’s economy, and the ability of forests to reduce emissions, makes mitigation and adaptation intervention measures in the sector a high priority. The MDC, in response to these challenges will aim to:

- Investigate into potential mitigation and adaptation measures for the agricultural and forestry sectors, in order to develop policy actions and adaptation measures.
- Invest in the development of climate change resilient crop varieties, the adoption of livestock farming practices in places where crops are no longer able to grow.
- Assist communal and commercial farmers in adopting sustainable land use practices and diversification in farming techniques as appropriate responses to climate change.
- Promote farmer credit and insurance in order to minimise on the losses incurred by farmers due to climate change.
- Reduce emissions from deforestation and degradation (REDD), supplemented by the Agricultural, Forestry and other land use approaches (AFOLU).
- Introduce incentives for local communities to do active forestry management (for both indigenous woodlands and commercial forests).
- Strengthen the early warning system in order to alert farmers on adverse weather conditions, droughts, diseases and pests.
- Minimise the use of pesticides in favour of biological control of pests.

12. Food Security
Climate change and weather variability has been responsible for the high frequency of droughts and the unavailability of water for agricultural purposes. There are also other complex issues like “wilt days” i.e. one can have the same amount of rain but the falls are much further apart, creating a drought condition. According to the IPCC (2007), climate change and variability would severely undermine agricultural production and food supply. The frequency in droughts would lead to an increase in the cost of food production, as well as increased scarcity, since food crops become more difficult to farm. Food will become more expensive as a result of the increase in production costs and demand, rendering it inaccessible to most. Most households rely on rain-fed agriculture for subsistence farming, such that the reduction in favorable weather conditions will continue to increase their vulnerability.

The fisheries sector is also another food source that has significantly been affected by climate change and variability. The decrease in rainfall and the increased salinity of rivers, dams, lakes and the contamination of water habitats by pollutants like carbon, nitrogen and phosphorus continue to threaten these fragile ecosystems.

In response to the challenge of climate change on food security, the MDC will:

- Establish food security programmes for the most vulnerable communities.
- Implement social sector development schemes that emphasise livelihood security.
- Ensure the conservation and management of food sources from pollution and depletion.
- Promote the integrated development and management of water and natural resources into development planning to ensure sustainability.

13. Health
Climate change has started to impact on the health of the population negatively through an increase in the incidence of diseases. The increase in temperatures has
contributed to the increase in vector borne diseases like malaria. Respiratory diseases also increase as a result of increased pollutants in the atmosphere. The high frequency in droughts has also contributed to an increase in the incidence of water borne diseases like cholera, typhoid among others because of the increased scarcity of water sources and their subsequent pollution. The frequency of flooding in Zimbabwe has been noted to compromise the ability of households to maintain good hygiene, thereby increasing the exposure of people to diseases as a result of poor sanitation.

Climate change has also contributed to the decrease in nutritional food sources, due to the increased difficulty in farming them.

The link between climate change and health is one that deserves much attention, such that a climate change policy response that takes health into perspective is warranted. In response, the MDC will:

市场经济
Investigate and establish the linkages between climate change and the incidence of diseases.

市场经济
Develop health facilities in remote areas, as well as information and research centres for the effective dissemination of climate change and health related information.

市场经济
Through legislative measures, reduce the incidence of harmful emissions and toxins in order to improve air quality and ecological balance.

14. Biodiversity and Ecosystems

Zimbabwe's fragile ecosystems have suffered significantly due to the negative impacts of climate change. This is because the main variables (that is, rainfall and temperature) have shifted significantly from previously recorded averages. Rainfall has declined, and temperatures have increased, such that the impact on flora and fauna has been negative. As rainfall has declined, water resources have dwindled, and as temperatures increase, desertification quickly sets in, leading to the loss of biomes. Interdependences in Zimbabwe’s bio-diverse ecosystems have become more fragile due to the loss of species. These losses can be attributed to the increased salinity of water sources and desertification; hence policy actions must ensure the protection and sustainable management of these systems. As food sources become scarce due to climate, people, especially in rural Zimbabwe, resort to use of natural fauna and flora increasing further the disappearance/extinction of wildlife species.

One of the biggest impacts to biodiversity and ecosystems is as a result of how climate change impacts on people, and as a result their use of the environment. For example expanding or shifting agriculture to cope with risks to food security, which results in, increased clearing of natural areas such as wetlands.

In response to the challenge of climate change on bio-diversity and ecosystems, the MDC will:

市场经济
Prioritise and support monitoring and evaluation efforts of risks present in ecosystems, in order to strengthen mitigation and adaptation efforts.
市场经济
Prioritise environmental impact assessments (EIA) as the basis for all forms of development.
市场经济
Ensure the conservation and protection of natural ecosystems, coupled with rehabilitation efforts in areas where human activities have disturbed the ecosystem.
15. Energy
According to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP, 2007), Zimbabwe is entering a period of industrialisation and motorisation; hence the urgent need to implement strategic mitigation and adaptation strategies in order to reduce loss due to the negative impacts of climate change.

The energy generating sector is one of the major emitters of green house gases in Zimbabwe. Coal fired power stations (thermal) release significant amounts of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. These fossil fuels are non renewable and finite, which calls for a more efficient and sustainable utilisation approach. In this case, technological innovation and development becomes important, in that it allows for the tapping of non-renewable energy at sustainable and efficient rates. With the proposed intent to exploit the vast amounts of coal reserves in Hwange and other areas, the integration of climate change issues becomes crucial.

In response, the MDC will:
- Encourage the use of “clean energy” (that is, solar, wind, hydro and biogas).
- Establish and implement sector specific carbon budgets, carbon taxes and other statutory instruments.
- Encourage the efficient use of energy through technological development and behavioural changes.
- Adopt measures to increase the capacity of energy generating sectors to provide power in efficient and sustainable ways.
- Ensure the formulation of regulations on carbon emissions in the energy sector, coupled with fiscal incentives to sustainably transform energy generation.

16. Human Settlements
16.1 Urban Settlements
Urban settlements are usually characterised by high population densities. Increases in population have led to increases in consumption, which has subsequently led to an increase in production. These increases gain greater significance when the dependence on fossil fuels is considered. Thus, urban settlements’ reliance on natural resources is characteristically high, often leading to the exploitation and depletion of natural resources in an unsustainable manner. Urban sprawl has also contributed significantly to the reduction of biodiversity, increased pollution to water resources, air and the natural environment.

The increases in urban populations demand the exploitation of more natural and water sources. Thus, the over exploitation of natural resources compromises the ability of ecosystems to adapt to climate change, e.g. all hills around the City of Harare are now devoid of trees having been cut for firewood and also in preparation for urban agriculture.

Housing or Hotel development on urban wetlands will further compromise the underground storage of water.
As such, the MDC policy response aims to:

- Adopt sustainable patterns of development that do not significantly compromise ecological integrity, in their exploitation of natural resources.
- Develop effective monitoring and evaluation systems, in order to leverage opportunities presented by increased urban densities to build climate resilient infrastructure.
- Ensure the enforcement of land use zoning regulations.
- Encourage the development and utilisation of eco-friendly housing infrastructure.

16.2 Rural Settlements
Most people in rural areas are generally poor, and largely dependent on subsistence farming, small scale business enterprises and remittances from urban areas. These communities are noted to be significantly vulnerable to climate change because of their low incomes and adaptive capacity.

As a result of climate change, which has seen the reduction of rainfall, rural populations face hunger and starvation, because their settlements are highly dependent on natural water resources. Rural settlements do not usually have the capacity to respond to climate change. When resources become scarce this triggers rural to urban migration, which also puts pressure on water, and energy resources found in urban centres.

As a response, the policy seeks to:

- Assist rural communities adapt to climate change through drought proofing measures, employment creation, infrastructure development, crop diversification, research, and technological development.
- Establish and develop irrigation schemes, where suitable, in order to increase the productive capacity of rain-fed areas.
- Develop adaptation strategies based on indigenous knowledge systems and sustainable land use practices.

17. Institutional Framework
For the consistent and effective implementation of the policy vision, the policy adopts an institutional framework of coordination for the effective implementation and coordination of adaptation and mitigation policy intervention schemes at all levels. The undertaking of research actions to measure the outcomes of mitigation and adaptation actions as a critical feedback tool for future intervention actions. The MDC will ensure that government will be responsible for the overall implementation and integration of the policy into the national legislative framework.

Hence all government ministries and parastatals must:

- Conduct a comprehensive review of all legislation, policies, regulations, strategies and plans, in order to ensure full compliance with climate change policy within the second year of the policy’s publication.
- Ensure the full alignment of their policies, regulations, strategies and plans with the national climate change policy, in the second year after review.
18. Planning and Implementing Partners
Climate change will inevitably affect all sectors of the Zimbabwean nation’s social and economic activities (industry, business, media, organised labour and civil society) in a negative way, if there is no collaborative effort in mitigation and adaptation actions. In this context, the MDC government will:

- Ensure and facilitate for the empowerment of industries, business, media, labour and civil society to participate in the planning and implementation of climate change response strategies.
- Facilitate a collaborative process with these sectors with regards to the implementation of policy objectives in areas of common interest.
- Ensure the unhindered and equitable access to relevant information and national resources.

19. Institutional Framework for Coordination
The institutional setup for coordination will be reviewed and streamlined to meet challenges in climate change planning and management. Roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders will be clearly defined in the new framework, and will ensure the participation of legitimate representatives of stakeholders.

An appropriate institutional framework that will ensure establishment of decentralized autonomous entities for management of climate change adaptation and mitigation activities shall be put in place. The institutional set up shall be accompanied by reforms that promote integrated approaches, taking into account changes in procedures, attitudes, behaviour and the full participation of all stakeholders at all levels.

To ensure an efficient and comprehensive institutional framework for Climate change actions:

- Functions of the responsible Ministry will be streamlined and the existing Climate Change entities capacity will be strengthened.
- New entities of user groups and private cooperatives will be promoted and established.
- Staff, up to the lowest level, will be trained and deployed.
- Effective monitoring mechanisms of the entities will be instituted.

20. Inter-Ministerial Committee on Climate Change
The cross sectoral nature of climate change demands a strategic and integrated approach. Thus, the policy requires a committee at the executive level (Cabinet) that will oversee the coordination, alignment and implementation of climate change interventions.

21. Inputs and Resource Mobilisation
Responding effectively to climate change will require significant financial support. Thus, the MDC affirms its commitment to mobilising the resources necessary to implement the climate change response in this policy document. Government, within the confines of the UNFCCC, will also actively pursue international resources to finance the cost of our climate change response and some funds will appropriated from the fiscus.
The policy response will also significantly rely on all sectors as implementing partners, since the transformation will be cross sectoral. Financial agencies will also be at the centre of the transformation as agents in the allocation and transfer of monetary resources. Grants from development partners/donors, private and public institutions will also be critical in enabling research and development as transformative tools. Thus, the MDC will strive to create an enabling environment, where cross sectoral responses will contribute to overall policy implementation.

22. Disaster Mitigation and Risk Reduction

With the increased incidence of extreme weather events due to climate change, there is need to make provision for disaster risk reduction management as part of adaptive measures to climate change. Zimbabwe, like other developing countries, is particularly vulnerable to extreme weather events. In this case, policy actions must consider risk reduction and management strategies as means to reduce damage, loss of life and property as a result of climate change. Extreme weather events also pose a significant threat to food security, health and environmental sustainability.

The Zimbabwean economy is agro based, and a significant part of its population relies on agriculture directly and indirectly for their livelihoods. Hence extreme weather events like flooding and droughts would significantly undermine their ability to survive. Among those who will be hardest hit are the poor and vulnerable because of their low capacity to respond to natural disasters and extreme weather events.

Flood prone areas like Muzarabani, Kanyemba, Tsholotsholo, Sabi/Lowveld and the Gokwe areas have experienced severe damage and loss to infrastructure, crops, livestock and even human life. The occurrence of extreme weather events has also been accompanied by the increased frequency in communicable diseases like malaria, bilharzia and cholera, which favour wet seasons. Droughts can also be noted to significantly undermine food security and increase bio-diversity loss. Hence, vulnerabilities to climate change exist, which when compounded by extreme weather events lead to extremely high losses, especially among the poor.

Thus, the goal of disaster risk management is to significantly reduce losses incurred as a result of climate change related events. In this regard, policy actions must stress the significance of adaptive measures in order to reduce losses to human life and property, and increase the resilience of communities to the effects of climate change.

As a response to these challenges and vulnerabilities, the MDC will:

- Institute and carry out vulnerabilities assessments in local communities in order to increase their resilience capacity to withstand the negative impacts of climate change.
- Strengthen the early warning systems in order to anticipate and forecast the occurrence of extreme weather events, and help communities better prepare for them.
- Manage and insure against the loss of sustainable livelihoods and property.
- Integrate disaster preparedness into development planning.
- Integrate local knowledge systems in planning, with regards to knowledge of river flow and the areas that are likely to experience flooding.
23. Monitoring and Evaluation and Review
Responsibility for the implementation of the policy will rest with the responsible Ministry who will also work closely with the department for Policy implementation. The ministry will be responsible for the definition of review mechanisms and processes.

24. Monitoring and Verifying and Reporting on Climate Change
In order to improve the effectiveness of adaptation and mitigation actions, there is need to establish forecasting systems, as anticipatory response measures. The MDC will therefore:
- Ensure the development and maintenance of research and reporting systems, in order to reduce the negative impact of climate change.
- Ensure the establishment and operation of climate change monitoring systems, particularly with regards to rainfall patterns, temperature variations and agro-ecological changes.
- Ensure the implementation and compliance with the Monitoring, Reporting and Verification (MRV) systems.

25. Monitoring, Verifying and Reporting on Overall Adaptation and Mitigation Efforts
Response monitoring and reporting will be adopted as a cost effective approach in the policy implementation. This will ensure the effective replication of customised best practice models, and the measurement of the efficacy of climate change approaches. This will also ensure integration of Zimbabwe’s climate change response into the regional and global climate change framework.

The MDC will:
- Establish a web based green house gas emission reporting system.
- Require the submission of carbon budgets from all significant carbon emitters.
- Keep records of mitigation and adaptation measures, as a means of measuring the effectiveness of policy actions.
- Collaborate with regional partners in implementing and monitoring policy actions.

26. Conclusion
Zimbabwe's environment is precious and fragile. Global climate change is a major threat to sustainable development. A coherent approach to Zimbabwe's environmental challenges will need a concerted effort on the part of government to mitigate the challenges. This policy document presents the MDC government’s concrete steps to mitigate climate change effects on Zimbabwe. It is premised on the notion that the provision of a clean environment is a constitutional right and thus the State must endeavour to provide a clean and safe environment for its citizens. The MDC government hence puts ecological responsibility at the centre of all developmentalprogrammes.
1. Introduction
Disadvantaged and vulnerable groups in the community consist of women, girls, and people with disabilities. Women and girls are disadvantaged because of gender discrimination that has deprived them access to socio-economic and political rights. Women are therefore worse off socially, economically and politically. People living with disabilities are the second group of the vulnerable people in our community. To that extent, the MDC government will adopt a deliberate policy to cater for women who are poor and those suffering discrimination and violence. People with disabilities such as polio; amputees; people with club feet; congenital deformity; paraplegia; speech impairments; hearing impairments; visually impaired; physically impaired; hemiparesis; mentally challenged; and albinos.

In addition, people with disabilities are often further disabled by factors within their environments.

The MDC government will thus adopt deliberate policies and create platforms to minimise the effects of discrimination on women and girls as well as people living with disability. This will be done through enacting legislation, programme, projects and plans that address the needs of vulnerable groups in the community.

2. Vision
A Zimbabwe where people with disability live with dignity and equality.

3. Mission
To create an environment where people with disabilities can live to their full potential.

4. Policy Objectives
The MDC government will thrive to achieve the following key deliverables:
эм Raise awareness on challenges currently being faced by vulnerable and disadvantaged members of our community.
эм Enable the Zimbabwean government, international NGOs and local service organisations to reframe their programmes and actions targeted toward vulnerable groups in the community that includes women, girls, people with disabilities and other special need groups help those in development work see the greater link in issues such as HIV and AIDS, poverty, gender, civil society participation, and governance.
эм Provide opportunities and platforms for the vulnerable members of the community to live full lives, realise their potential and contribute positively to socio-economic and political development in Zimbabwe.
эм Minimise the effects of vulnerability, stigmatisation and discrimination on vulnerable members of the community.
эм Inclusive practices in education, society and employment: in other words, mainstreaming of vulnerable groups in the community.
эм Advocating for the development of a national framework on vulnerable members of the community through the adoption of new policies and
programmes responsive to the changing needs of vulnerable people: in short, ensuring that issues of vulnerable groups in our community find their way onto the national agenda.

Developing coalitions, alliances, and special projects around the development of resource centres for women, girls and other vulnerable groups in our community for example libraries, economic self-sustaining projects.

5. Policy Interventions
5.1 Legislation and Policies
MDC will support the enactment of a constitution that respects all human rights of the disadvantaged and vulnerable people in the community. It will also support laws and policies that protect such rights and allocate resources towards these goals.

5.1.1 Policy Recommendations on Legislation
The MDC Government will:

- Revise the current Disabled Persons Act (1992) and provide a clearly defined, integrated and participatory approach to formulating a policy that highlights and implements the specific needs of people with disabilities.
- Support the domestication of CEDAW, the Africa Union Protocol on Women’s Rights and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development. It will give support to the crafting of a gender policy and national action plan.
- Establish a gender-sensitive approach in formulating the content of the substantive rights.
- Scale up policy and legislation campaigns to enlighten people with disabilities on their contents, using an accessible and involving approach. These awareness campaigns should take an integral approach, in order to reach all parts of the disability population.
- For the blind: provide information in audio formats, in Braille, or via screen-reading software on computers.
- For the physically disabled: ensure accessibility, for example by taking the information to the targeted market through mobile campaigns.
- For the deaf: provide information through visual aids and in sign language.
- Ensure the Disability Board takes an active role in urging government to create an environment that enables pluralism in the democratic process. People with disabilities should be able to exercise their right to participate in the democratic process, including the right to participate in voting. For example, the government should ensure that polling stations could accommodate the needs of visually impaired people through installation of appropriate equipment, voting in Braille and ensuring confidentiality.
- Place more people with disabilities in decision-making positions and involve people with disabilities in the planning and implementation of programmes and services that directly benefit them.

5.2 To reduce poverty amongst women and people with disabilities MDC government will:

- Ensure the access and retention of the girl child in the education system.
- Ensure the accessibility of facilities that promote good living conditions (good sanitation, good health facilities and good housing).
- Enable access to education, employment, and equal opportunities to participate in society.
Establish a gender-sensitive approach to ensure equality of access to education, employment, and equal opportunities for the disabled.

Create a disability fund to benefit people with disabilities which fund should be accessible to them.

5.3 Inter-Governmental Approach
The issue of vulnerable people is a crosscutting issue. For government to fully implement a policy on their empowerment government sectors such as Education, Sport and Culture; Health and Child Welfare; Labour and Social Security; Public Service; Local Government; Transport and Justice and Constitutional Affairs, Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development etc., will be critical enablers.

The MDC government will encourage government departments to mainstream issues pertaining to people vulnerable people in their policies, projects, plans and programmes.

5.4 Child-Headed Families
Zimbabwe has a significant population of child-headed families particularly in the rural areas resulting from the HIV/AIDS pandemic. Many of these orphans live in abject poverty and do not have access to basic services such as education and health. The MDC government will ensure that such child-headed families are catered for through the provision of grants and bursaries.

6. Conclusion
The vulnerable and disadvantaged constitute a significant percentage of Zimbabwe’s population. As such the MDC government will ensure that this important constituency is well catered for. In order for Zimbabwe to meet the UN Millennium Development Goals it will be imperative that vulnerable people are place firmly on the government’s agenda. People with disabilities have the potential to contribute to the socio-economic and political development of Zimbabwe and as such government must create the rightful opportunities and platforms that will allow the voice of these people to be heard.
HOME AFFAIRS

1. Introduction
The MDC is committed to creating an efficient home affairs and policing system that puts respect for human rights at the centre. As such the MDC’s Home Affairs policy is instructed by the imperative of providing citizens with a safe and crime free environment in which they their rights to identification and citizenship are respected.

The MDC will therefore immediately create two separate departments under the Ministry of Home Affairs, one responsible for policing services and another responsible for registration and administration. The idea is to deliver efficient registration services and to create a professional police service that puts human safety and peace at the core of its mandate.

2. Current Problems
The national registry department has also been plagued by a plethora of challenges. The biggest one has been that of centralization of services that include birth and death registration, the procurement of passports, national identity documents and the registration of voters. This has resulted in poor service delivery as government departments have been overwhelmed by demand. The situation has been exacerbated by the absence of modern equipment for the efficient delivery of services. In addition, National Registration staff are generally recognised as being unhelpful and corrupt.

3. Vision
A modern, efficient, reliable and fully functional registration service that meets the needs and requirements of its citizens.

4. Mission
To modernise, equip, finance and rehabilitate National Registry Offices to enable them to facilitate the provision of registration documents to the citizens of Zimbabwe at least cost and in a friendly and courteous manner.

5. Key Policy Objectives
5.2 Registration and Services
- All qualified Zimbabweans are able to obtain their required travel and identity documents within 7 days at any office of the Registrar General in Zimbabwe and with a maximum delay of 4 weeks at all Zimbabwean Foreign Embassies.
- Birth, Marriage and Death Certificates are issued on application without delay or significant cost at all offices of the Registrar General.
- The Registrar General will maintain a comprehensive record of all Citizens and permanent Residents that is kept up to date at all times and provides the basis for all elections held in Zimbabwe.
- Applications for work permits, visas and any other entry permits that may be required are issued without delay by officials that are incorrupt, friendly and courteous at all times.
6. Policy Interventions
6.3 Registration and Services
MDC government will maintain an office of the Registrar General in every town and city that serves a significant population. These offices will be easily identified, accessible, clean, well sign posted and staffed by well-trained and motivated staff. It will be the objective of every office to serve clients within 15 minutes and to ensure that their needs are met as quickly as possible. Target time lines will be set for different documents as follows;

- Passports - 7 Days
- Emergency Travel Documents – 24 hours
- Marriage, Birth and Death Certificates - 24 hours
- Identity Cards - 24 hours

The Registrar General will maintain a computer-based record of all Citizens and Permanent Residents. Such a database will be updated at all times and all births registered with a lifetime identity document and number. All births and deaths will be captured on the system within 7 days of registration. The central registry will serve as the basis of a voter’s register that will be automatically updated when individuals reach the age at which they are allowed to vote. Such a list shall form the basis of every election.

All Citizens and permanent residents will be required to notify the Registrar General’s Office of any change of address or Citizenship within 21 days.

An Identity Document and Passport shall be regarded as a basic human right for all eligible Zimbabweans and will be available at a reasonable cost.

7. The Department of Immigration
The Department of Immigration will be charged with the responsibility of controlling and monitoring the movement of people across the borders of Zimbabwe and will have officers located at all Ports of Entry and Exit as well as in the major centres. Staff shall be dressed in uniforms and shall be identified at all times as Immigration personnel.

Every effort will be made to ensure that Immigration is simple, takes as little time as possible and always conducted in a courteous and friendly way. Corruption will not be tolerated in any way and a complaints system maintained which can be used to identify and locate the staffs that are not operating within the parameters required.

Visa applications at all Ports of Entry will be simplified and reduced in cost to a standard rate irrespective of the country of origin. Wherever possible, entry will be possible without a visa of any kind to facilitate tourism and business visitors.

Applications for work permits will be made by the organisation proposing to employ the persons involved and must be arranged before such persons arrive in Zimbabwe. Only in exceptional circumstances will work permits be denied, as it will be assumed that employers would not lightly or on economic grounds employ any foreigners where suitably qualified and experienced local personnel are available.

All work permits shall be for a limited period – but for not less than 12 months, unless otherwise requested. Evidence of skills transfer must be made at all times to justify
the issue of a work permit and where progress cannot be demonstrated, the work permit may be revoked.

8. Citizenship
A person, who was born in Zimbabwe or has Zimbabwean born parents or is married to a Zimbabwean, shall be automatically regarded as a Zimbabwean Citizen with full citizenship rights in terms of the Constitution. In the event that such a person loses his or her Citizenship at any time and for any reason, they shall be permitted to resume their Citizenship automatically upon application.

Persons who have lived and worked in Zimbabwe continuously for five years or more shall be automatically entitled to Citizenship upon application. Such persons shall enjoy the full benefits of Citizenship allowed under the Constitution. An MDC Government will allow dual citizenship for all its Citizens.
SECURITY CLUSTER

THE POLICE SERVICE

1. Introduction
Following independence in 1980 the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) established itself as a professional police service that gained international recognition and respect. However, over the years and in particular following the violent land grab of 2000, the Zimbabwean police have become highly politicized and have been accused of being partisan in its discharge of duties. Senior police officers have lost national respect by making public pronouncements declaring their partisanship.

Cases of political violence and politically motivated murders have largely been ignored. A culture of human rights is non-existent in the police services and according to authoritative surveys most Zimbabweans feel less secure now than they did twelve years ago. Low pay and poor working conditions, declines in training standards the lack of essential support services, have affected the police services. As a consequence community support and recognition – so crucial to an effective policing system – are breaking down and crime is not being tackled effectively.

To remedy matters it will be necessary to restructure the service and to enhance the support systems that are essential for its effectiveness. In particular the Police Act, long the foundation stone of the ZRP – will be revisited and restored as the guide to policing in Zimbabwe.

2. Vision
A modern, efficient, reliable and professional Police Service that is able to meet the needs and requirements of its all who live in or visit Zimbabwe.

3. Mission
To restructure, retrain and foster the reorientation the Police Service in Zimbabwe to enable the Service to maintain peace and stability, limit crime and deal effectively with criminals and violations of the law in a manner that protects and enhances the dignity of all who live in Zimbabwe and fosters their confidence in the Service.

4. Key Policy Objectives

4.1 Police Services:
- Ensuring professional and non-partisan policing.
- Promoting accountability and transparency in policing.
- Promoting clear and understandable lines of authority.
- Promoting rights based approach to policing.
- Respect for rules and regulations by police officers at all times.
- Promoting the respect and protection of human dignity by police officers.
- Establishment of a policing ethos in which all suspects are deemed innocent and are therefore treated politely, respectfully and professionally.
- Establishment of a Police Service that will protect the lives and assets of the people of Zimbabwe at all times and maintain law and order in a courteous, friendly and non-partisan manner.
5. Organisation of the Police Service
A Commissioner General who shall report to the Police Services Commission and the Minister of Home Affairs and will command and manage the ZRPS and will lead the Police Service. The State President with the approval of Parliament shall appoint the Police Services Commission and the Commission will report to Parliament on its activities at least once a year. The Commission shall be responsible for the conditions of service for all Police personnel and other staff subject to the approval of the Public Service Commission and the Ministry of Finance.

The present structure of the ZRPS will be maintained except that every Police Station headed by a Member in Charge, shall be required to hold regular meetings with the households in their district that will elect a Community Police Services Committee each year to meet with the Member in Charge on a regular basis and to assist with the maintenance of Police Services in their District.

Accommodation standards at all Police Stations and Training Centres will be upgraded to a standard negotiated with the Police Services Commission. Housing for the senior staff in each Province and at Headquarters will be similarly upgraded to an appropriate standard. Where housing is not provided housing allowances will be paid.

All Police personnel shall be obliged to belong to the Police Services Association, which will represent the staff in respect to annual salary reviews and other working conditions.

The Police Act will be subjected to a comprehensive review and strengthened in its role as setting overall operating standards, procedures for discipline and other related matters.

Present pension and retirement policies will be retained.

6. Leadership and Senior Staff Appointments
Because it is critical for the restoration of the Zimbabwe Police Services as an apolitical and professional organization, all police promotions will be based on merit only. A recruitment and training programme will be undertaken to ensure adherence to professional standards and international best practice in policing.

In addition the MDC government will undertake a comprehensive review of the staffing needs of the police. This will include the restructuring of the senior ranks, where it is considered that there is some overstaffing at present. It will also examine the role played by the various police auxiliary forces, such as Reserve officers and the Support Unit. These roles will be redefined and levels of staffing established.

7. Conclusion
The Police Services in any country are one of the most important institutions of the State. In Zimbabwe it is a critical element in the reconstruction of the State that these services be restored to their traditional standard as soon as possible.
DEFENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

1. Introduction
Defence is a long-term business which requires consistency of purpose in the development, both of the policy and military capacity.

An effective democracy requires civilian control of the military. Civilian control of the military exemplifies the principle that military force is not an end in itself but a means that the civil authority can use to bring about certain political objectives.

2. Vision
A democratic Zimbabwe in which citizens live in freedom, peace and safety, participate fully in the process of governance. At international level, the vision is the maintenance of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of the state and the promotion of regional security.

3. Mission
The mission of the MDC government is to transform the Defence Forces so that they are guided by the following:
<1> The Zimbabwe Defence Force shall have a primarily defensive orientation and posture.
<2> The Zimbabwe Defence Force shall be subordinate to the elected civilian authority.
<3> The Zimbabwe Defence Force shall respect human rights and democratic political process.
<4> The Zimbabwe Defence Force shall be non-partisan with respect to political parties.
<5> The Zimbabwe Defence Force shall endeavour to develop a non-racial, non-sexist and non-discriminatory institutional culture.

4. Challenges Facing Zimbabwe
The goal of security under Zanu PF government was to perpetuate their rule against domestic resistance. Zanu PF pursued this goal through extensive use of military and police force and in many situations regarding ill-trained and ill-disciplined members of the force by promoting them for making political statements that seek to undermine the freedom of political choice. Society is highly militarized as the defence force has been drawn into all spheres of life.

A fundamental different approach is required in an MDC led government.

5. Key Objectives
<1> To maintain a balanced, modern and technologically advanced military force capable of executing its tasks effectively and efficiently.
<2> To adequately remunerate and provide necessary support to retired members and those that might be affected by exercise to right size the Zimbabwe Defence Force.
<3> Depoliticize the Defence Forces so that they serve the interests of the nation, not that of political party in government.
<4> To provide forces needed in peacetime to afford military aid to the civil authorities including military aid to the civil power.
To provide forces needed to respond to a regional crisis or conflict under the auspices of SADC, the African Union and United Nations.

6. Civil Military Relations
Civil military relations refer to the distribution of power and influence between the armed services and the civilian authority.

- The President shall be the Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces.
- The President shall appoint the Commander Defence Forces.
- The Commander Defence Forces shall exercise Military Executive Command of the Armed Forces subject to the directions of the Minister of Defence and during a State of National Defence, the President.
- An Act of Parliament shall provide for the establishment, organisation, training, conditions of service and other matters concerning the permanent force and part time reserve.
- The Zimbabwe Defence Force shall refrain from furthering or prejudicing any party political interest and no member of Permanent Force shall hold office in any political party or organisation.
- The Zimbabwe Defence Forces shall perform its functions and exercise its powers solely in the national interest by;
  i. Upholding the constitution.
  ii. Providing for the defence of Zimbabwe.
  iii. Ensuring protection of the inhabitants of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

7. The Defence Service Commission
There shall be a Defence Service Commission whose functions are as follows:

- To appoint qualified and competent persons to hold posts or ranks in the Defence Forces.
- To foster harmony and understanding between the Defence Forces and civilians.
- To fix and regulate conditions of service, including salaries, allowances and other benefits of members of the Defence Forces.
- To exercise any other functions conferred on the Commission by the constitution or any Act of Parliament.

8. Military Professionalism
State Civil Military Relations depend on a great extent on the professionalism of the armed forces. The desired professionalism on the Zimbabwe Defence Forces includes the following political, ethical and organizational features:

- Acceptance by military personnel of the primacy of civilian rule.
- Strict adherence to the constitution.
- Respect for the democratic political process, human rights and cultural diversity.
- Non-partisanship in relations to party politics.
- Training on ‘defence’ in a democracy.

9. The Responsibilities of Government
The MDC recognises that civil military relations will only be stable if the requisite is accompanied by the fulfillment of certain responsibilities towards the Defence Forces and its members. These responsibilities include the following:

- The Government will not misuse the Zimbabwe Defence Forces for partisan or repressive purposes.
The Government will take account of the professional views of senior officer in the process of policy formulation and decision-making on Defence.

10. Rationalization and Rightsizing
The MDC government will plan an overall reduction in staff to levels more appropriate for a country with no significant threats. Rationalization will be handled with great sensitivity. The experience from the demobilization exercise undertaken in the early 1980s is that if former fighters are not assisted in adapting to civilian life, they may be a burden on society, may engage in crime and banditry and may also be used by dictators for personal political comebacks after losing a popular vote.

Rationalization and rightsizing will take place according to the following principles:
- Ensuring that the ZDF and its leadership in particular, is representative if the Zimbabwean population.
- Fair labour practice.
- All members being equally eligible.
- Enhancement of representativity and productivity.
- The maintenance of expertise.

11. The Intelligence
The Intelligence Service Organisation has been abused by successive governments to subvert democracy and the rights of the people of Zimbabwe. It is widely feared. The MDC government will ensure that the organisation is non-partisan, national in character, patriotic, professional and subordinate to the civilian authority. There will be an Intelligence Legislation which emphasizes the themes of an ethical code of conduct, the rule of law and Parliamentary oversight.

The Government will ensure that a fair and acceptable balance is reached between the need to protect sensitive information and the demands of freedom of information. The main functions of the organisation are counter intelligence and the gathering and analysis of external information.

12. Conclusion
The MDC Government is committed to national reconciliation and unity for a better and an economically prosperous Zimbabwe. The MDC fully believes that a well-organized and well-disciplined defence services is natural defence for a free people.