

Supporters at a warm and exuberant Vigil expressed scepticism at Morgan Tsvangirai's announcement that he is to consult the grass roots on whether to withdraw from the Mugabe government.

People at the Vigil were asked for their opinion by Ephraim Tapa of the Vigil management team. He is also head of Restoration of Human Rights in Zimbabwe (ROHR). Ephraim made clear his own view: "Tsvangirai didn't consult the people when he shook hands with Mugabe.

Why now?"

Ephraim maintained that the MDC had made a big mistake by joining Mugabe's government. "Zanu PF were down and out at the end of 2008 but have been given recovery time by the MDC." He said Zanu PF was now gaining in confidence and the next election would be bloodier than ever before to make sure that Zanu PF won.

Ephraim said that the MDC had failed to take a principled position on Zanu PF abuses such as land invasions and the seizure this week of Meikles. This showed that nothing had changed: Mugabe was still in charge and there was no rule of rule. The country was in the hands of a mafia which had conscripted the MDC.

Ephraim's analysis was supported by people at the Vigil and borne out by reports we have received from our loved ones at home. For instance, family in Bulawayo quote pastors as saying people are still dying like flies.

But, although the situation at home is closely followed by the Vigil, not all discussion is about politics. Luka Phiri and Dumi Tutani, members of the Vigil management team, spoke about their ambitious plan to walk 55 miles next Saturday to raise funds to help a Zimbabwean girl with a severe facial tumour come to the UK for urgent medical treatment. They plan to walk from Brighton on the south coast all the way to the Vigil, leaving at 5 am

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Written by Administrator

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The Zimbabwean girl, Taremeredzwa Nomatter Mapungwana, is supported by the Zimbabwean charity Girl Child Network (<http://girlchildnetworkworldwide.org/>) founded by Betty Makoni in 1998. There are plans for Tare to have an operation at St Bartholomew's Hospital in London

and Luka and Dumi are raising money to help meet her expenses in the UK

. Bank account details for donations can be found on the Girl Child Network website.

One of the walkers, Vigil co-ordinator Dumi, celebrated his 40th birthday with us today. We bought him a cake to build up his strength for next week. We were pleased to see Adrian Smale from

Salisbury

. He is co-ordinating a Zimbabwean service at his church.

See 'Events and Notices' for more details.

We were also pleased to be joined again by Frank Johnson, an American IT specialist, who has worked in

Africa

and has a special interest in

Zimbabwe

London was very crowded today and loads of passers-by stopped to watch our singing and dancing on a very hot day.

For latest Vigil pictures check: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwewigil/>

FOR THE RECORD: 172 signed the register.

EVENTS AND NOTICES:

·■■■■■■■■■■ **ROHR (Anniversary) National Fundraising Party.** Saturday 26th September from 12 noon

to late. Venue: The

Portland

Pavilion,

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241 Portland Road

, Edgbaston,

Birmingham

B17 8LS. Admission: £10. Contacts: V J Mujeye 07534 034 594, Abigail Nzimba 07838 073

111, Diane Mutendereki 07502 478 591. For information on directions: 0121 434 5130. ROHR is looking for male and female models with their own African clothing for a fashion show at this fundraiser.

All ages and sizes welcome. Those interested please contact: Pamela Dunduru 07553253639, Diana Mtendereki 07502478591, Pauline Makuwere 07533332306,

Martha Jiya

07727016098, Abigail Nzimba 07838073111 or

Paradzai Mapfumo

07915926323-07932216070. See poster on:

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/zimbabwevigil/3907390469/sizes/o/>

. Zimbabwean speaker. Contact: Adrian Smale, 01722 770024, adriansmale@virginmedia.com

Zimbabwe Worship Service. Sunday 27th September from 10.30 – 12.00 followed by Zimbabwean food from 12 – 3 pm. Venue: Elim Christian Centre, Dews Road

, Salisbury

SP2 7SN

. Zimbabwean speaker. Contact:

Adrian Smale

, 01722 770024,

adriansmale@virginmedia.com

www.elimsalisbury.org.uk

. **ROHR Bournemouth general meeting.** Saturday 3rd October from 1.30 – 5.30 pm. Venue: East Cliff Reformed Church,

oldenhurst

Road,

BH8 8AW

. Contact: Mike Mhene

07774521837

, Abigail Nzimba

07917458873,

Gift Pfupa

07909831158

or Sekai Mujeyi

07765244138 or P Mapfumo 07915926323 / 07932216070

. **ROHR Surrey & Hants general meeting.** Saturday 3rd October from 1.30 – 5.30 pm. Venue: 10 Elmdene Court,

Constitution Hill,

Woking

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Surrey

,
GU22 7SA
. Contact: Isacc Mudzamiri
07774044873
, Thoko Hlokama
07886203113
, Thandi Mabodoko
01483600201

,
01483826764
or P Mapfumo
07915926323

/
07932216070.

Feed back from the Chair's meeting held in
Coventry

. Zimbabwe Vigil – 7th Anniversary. Saturday 10th October at 6.30 pm. The Vigil started on 12th October 2002 and we are marking this anniversary on the nearest Saturday to that date.

There will be a social gathering after the Vigil,
downstairs at the
Bell
and Compass,
9-11 Villiers Street

,
London
WC2N 6NA
, next to Charing Cross Station at the corner of
Villiers Street
and
John Adam Street

. ROHR West Bromwich general meeting. Saturday 31st October from 1.30 – 5.30 pm. Venue: St Peters Church Hall, Whit ehall

Road, West Bromwich B70 0HF. ROHR Executive and a well known lawyer present. Contact Pamela Dunduru 07958386718, Diana Mtendereki 07768682961, Peter Nkomo 07817096594 or P Mapfumo 07915926323 / 0793221607

. Zimbabwe Association's Women's Weekly Drop-in Centre. Fridays 10.30 am – 4 pm. Venue: The Fire Station Community and ICT Centre, 84 Mayton Street

,
London

N7 6QT, Tel: 020 7607 9764. Nearest underground:

Finsbury

Park

. For more information contact the Zimbabwe Association 020 7549 0355 (open Tuesdays and Thursdays).

.**From Liberator to Dictator by Mike Auret.** This is a personal account of the unravelling of Zimbabwe, written by an insider who was prepared to keep faith with Robert Mugabe until it was almost too late. Michael Auret served for many years on Zimbabwe

's respected Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace, which worked tirelessly to defend human rights in that country. In this memoir, he traces his involvement in the politics of his country, from his days as an opposition MP in Ian Smith's Rhodesia

to his involvement with the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and his election as MP for Harare Central in the brutal election of 2000.

http://www.newafricabooks.co.za/books_detail.asp?ID=499

.**Strategic Internship for Zimbabweans** organised by Citizens for Sanctuary which is trying to secure work placements for qualified Zimbabweans with refugee status or asylum seekers. More information: <http://www.citizensforsanctuary.org.uk/pages/Strategic.html>

[zensforsanctuary.org.uk/pages/Strategic.html](http://www.citizensforsanctuary.org.uk/pages/Strategic.html)

or contact:

zimbabweinternship@cof.org.uk