

Zimbabwe opposition demands new elections

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP) - Zimbabwe's embattled opposition on Sunday demanded new parliamentary elections under a different constitution, saying voting can never be free and fair under the current legislative framework.

President Robert Mugabe's party scored an overwhelming win in a poll Thursday condemned by all but his closest African neighbors as severely flawed.

Citing major inconsistencies in the results, opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai maintained Sunday that his Movement for Democratic

Change, or MDC, won 94 of Parliament's 120 elected seats, and not the 41 announced by electoral officials. MDC officials did not specify how they calculated the figure.

Mugabe's ruling Zimbabwe African National Union-Patriotic Front, ZANU-PF, claimed 78 seats, and one went to an independent candidate, according to official results. Under Zimbabwean law, Mugabe appoints another 30 seats, giving his party a more than two-thirds majority.

Opposition leaders and independent rights groups

said years of violence, intimidation and repressive laws skewed the election in Mugabe's favor before it started - a view echoed by Britain and the United States.

"As long as we run elections under the same set of conditions, there is no way that elections will be free and fair," opposition spokesman William Bango said Sunday.

Tsvangirai did not specify how a new constitution would be drawn up, or new elections conducted. David Coltart, the opposition's spokesman on legal issues, suggested the United Nations might have to step in.

The opposition and independent rights groups have complained of huge discrepancies in the results — particularly in the government's rural strongholds. In at least one area, the number of votes counted exceeded the number of people who cast ballots by more than 15,000, according to figures announced by the electoral commission.

By Sunday, the electoral officials had only released turnout figures for six of the country's 10 provinces. They refused to explain the reason for the delay.

The opposition charged

the government had stuffed ballot boxes after turning away its observers at some polling stations. The ruling ZANU-PF rejected the accusation, saying opposition leaders had failed to produce evidence of their claims.

"They should accept the verdict of the people," ruling party spokesman William Nhara said.

He said South African President Thabo Mbeki and

Mozambique's President Armando Guebuza were quietly pressing Zimbabwe to form a power-sharing government — a move rejected by Mugabe. "We don't need them to govern," Nhara said of the opposition. "This country is not at war, we are not in crisis, and we had a fairly democratic election."

The 81-year-old Mugabe said he hopes to stay in power until he is 100.

Sudan rejects U.N. resolution on Darfur

KHARTOUM, Sudan (AP) - The Sudanese government on Sunday rejected a U.N. Security Council resolution that empowers the International Criminal Court to prosecute the alleged perpetrators of atrocities in the Darfur conflict.

President Omar el-Bashir led a Cabinet meeting that denounced Friday's resolution and appointed a committee to work out "how to deal with this situation," acting Information Minister Abdel-Basit Sabdarat told state-run Radio Omdurman. El-Bashir will head the committee, he added.

While government officials and the ruling National Congress party had condemned the resolution, Sunday's announcement was the first time the government had given its official view since the Security Council passed the resolution by 11-0 votes with four abstentions.

The western Sudanese region of Darfur has been the scene of what the United Nations has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis. An estimated 180,000 people have died in the upheaval and about 2 million others have been displaced since the conflict began in February 2003.

The resolution was the first time that the Security Council had referred a case to the International Criminal Court, a tribunal the United States opposes. The resolution was carefully worded to secure a U.S. abstention instead of veto.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan praised the passage of the resolution as lifting "the veil of impunity that has allowed human rights crimes in Darfur to continue unchecked."

Sudan argues it is capable of bringing to justice those responsible for rights abuses in Darfur. But the world does not accept this, partly because a U.N. panel that investigated the conflict found the government itself was implicated in mass killings in Darfur.

In a report issued in February, the U.N. commission recommended that 51 Sudanese — including high-ranking government officials — stand trial in the International Criminal Court.

In a statement, the acting information minister said the resolution "violates"

Sudanese sovereignty and "will further complicate the problem in Darfur and give the wrong signals to the rebels," Egypt's semiofficial Middle East News Agency reported from Khartoum.

LEGAL NOTICES

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION OF SOUTHERN NEVADA

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS NO. 015-05

TRANSIT DISPLAY ADVERTISING

The Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada (RTC) is seeking proposals from qualified firms to negotiate advertising opportunities with potential clients and manage the advertising program for its public transportation vehicles.

Request for Proposals (RFP) No. 015-05 will be available beginning April 8, 2005, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday at the Regional Transportation Commission's Administrative Building, Second Floor Reception Desk. Requests for RFP packages may be submitted via facsimile at (702) 676-1588 or via e-mail at www.colemand@rtcnsnv.com, and should be directed to the attention of Debra Coleman, C.P.M., Purchasing Analyst.

Proposals must be received on or before May 11, 2005. Proposals must be time stamped no later than 3:00 p.m., PST, on the due date. Proposals time stamped at 3:01 p.m. or after on the due date will be returned unopened. Proposals must be sent to:

Regional Transportation Commission of Southern Nevada
Attention: Debra Coleman,
Purchasing Analyst
600 S. Grand Central Parkway
Las Vegas, NV 89106

The successful proposer shall cooperate with the RTC in meeting its commitments and objectives with regard to ensuring non-discrimination in the award and administration of U.S. DOT assisted contracts and shall use its best efforts to ensure that barriers to participation of DBEs do not exist.

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LAS VEGAS

INVITATION FOR BID Bid Number: 05-1443

TRASH CAN LINERS

Documents pertinent to this advertisement may be examined and obtained between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday. To request a copy of bid documents call (702) 892-2950, or visit our website purchasing.lvcva.com

Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
Purchasing Department
Room A203
3150 Paradise Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

Pre-Bid Conference: THURSDAY, APRIL 14, 2005, 9:00 A.M. at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Administration Conference Room, 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109.

Bid Opening: FRIDAY, APRIL 22, 2005, 2:00 P.M. at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Administration Conference Room, 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109.

Sealed written bids must be received by the Purchasing Department, at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority Central Purchasing Office, Second Floor, Room 203A, on or until 2:00 PM, PST APRIL 22, 2005. Bids will be accepted if date/time stamped 2:00 PM PST. Date/time stamps of 2:01 PM PST or later on APRIL 22, 2005, will be rejected. Proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud, immediately after the established closing time and date. Submittal by fax is not acceptable.

Note: This Invitation does not constitute an order for the goods or services specified. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the actual date of the bid opening.

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LAS VEGAS

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Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority
Purchasing Department
Room A203
3150 Paradise Road
Las Vegas, Nevada 89109

Pre-Bid Conference and Job Walk: Monday, April 11, 2005, 10:00 a.m. at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Meeting Room N-232, 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109.

Bid Opening: Tuesday, April 19, 2005, 2:00 p.m. at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority, Facilities Conference Room, 3150 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109.

Sealed written bids must be received by the Purchasing Department, at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority Central Purchasing Office, Second Floor, Room 203A, on or until 2:00 PM, PST, APRIL 19, 2005. Bids will be accepted if date/time stamped 2:00 P.M. by the Purchasing Department, date/time stamps of 2:01 P.M. or later will be rejected, at the Las Vegas Convention and Visitors Authority Central Purchasing Office, Second Floor, Room 203A. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud, after the established closing time and date. Submittal by fax is not acceptable.

Note: This Invitation does not constitute an order for the goods or services specified. No bidder may withdraw his bid for a period of ninety (90) days after the actual date of the bid opening.

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CITY OF NORTH LAS VEGAS
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