



Zimbabweanization: Slowly but surely

By Fungai Kumbula

"WHOOOOOP DE-DO! WHOOP-DE-DA!" The deafening roar rent the skies from the throats of 1,200,000 primary school pupils as they returned to school at the start of fall classes. They had reason enough to cheer: they were the first generation to take advantage of the country's first free public education now open to all races. Less than seven months ago, most of them sat glumly at home wondering if they would ever be able to complete their interrupted studies - the result of school closures by the Muzorewa regime in the final stages of Zimbabwe's War of Independence.

For the parents it was a tremendous relief to know that their children will now get that all-important education without their having to worry about tuition. In years past, many a parent had tearfully removed an eager young mind from school simply because there was no money to pay for the education of the unfortunate child. More important still, for these young students, the sky is the limit: no longer will some racist stand in the way and tell them they cannot aspire to be a lawyer, dentist, engineer or whatever else they choose. What a good, good feeling!

In July, the government also passed a minimum wage bill; the minimum wage being set at \$105.00 per month. This gives the average Zimbabwean the same purchasing power as an American making \$700-\$800 a month. The government was quick to reassure the citizenry that this was only the beginning and more raises will be forthcoming as the economy recovers from fifteen years of sanctions, war and international isolation.

A fledging National Health Plan has already been instituted under which any Zimbabwean can now walk into any hospital and be provided medical attention free of charge. The Smith-Muzorewa practice of segregating Black and white health facilities has been eliminated and most of the rural hospitals that were closed during the war have now been re-opened.

With all these good tidings, one would assume that there are no rumblings of discontentment in this five month old nation but that is not the case. Recently, Prime Minister Mugabe was at the University of Zimbabwe addressing a group of some 250 students who were upset by the slow pace of "Zimbabweanization" - the ascendancy of the Africans into all levels of Zimbabwean society. They complained of lingering white privileges in education and housing, among other things. The Prime Minister responded that he was doing his best and would speed up the change-over as best he can.

"The vanquished must accept defeat if reconciliation is to be realized but, the victor must also act fairly and justly in relation to the defeated. Reconciliation is not appeasement," said the Prime Minister in the speech termed the toughest to date in reference to the whites.

Later that same day the Prime Minister flew out to Dendenyoro, some 125 miles from the capital to address some 2,000 supporters who had grievances of their own. Much of their wrath was directed at former puppet Muzorewa. 5,000 of his former army are said to have fled to South Africa when their boss lost the elections. Now they are undergoing military training in the Transvaal, a province of South Africa. What the people wanted to know was why was South Africa training these traitors and what did Muzorewa have to say to that. Mugabe's response to these queries was that Muzorewa had denied any knowledge of this secret army in South Africa and insisted he had nothing to do with it. The South African regime had not responded to questions posed by Zimbabwean authorities. The Prime Minister then exhorted the crowd to remain vigilant and to always remember that their independence can never be quite secure as long as there is a South Africa on their southern border.

The supporters demanded that

Muzorewa be expelled from Parliament and his seat be given to a more patriotic Zimbabwean. Muzorewa currently is a member of Parliament, having narrowly won the seat in the February elections. To this demand, Mugabe said that he could not constitutionally deprive Muzorewa of his seat unless he is found guilty of some specific crime.

The crowd also called for the ouster of Home Affairs Minister Joshua Nkomo. He is accused of spending too much time on his business ventures and not enough on his Ministerial duties. They also questioned his loyalty to the government citing the continued wave of lawlessness attributed to his supporters in western Zimbabwe. The Prime Minister defended him saying they had pledged to work together and that he would deal with any disloyalty should it arise as he was dealing with the banditry ascribed to Nkomo's followers.

The exchange between Mugabe and the citizens was significant for

several reasons. For one thing, it was the first time that the Africans had had the government's ear on any of their problems. It gave them a chance to air their grievances right to the top. It gave Mugabe an opportunity to feel out his constituency.

It also indicated that Zimbabweans of all shades of opinion are going to be very active in the running of their country. Apathy has not yet set in and all politicians will have to take heed knowing that their every move is being closely scrutinized. The government can never be alienated from the electorate as long as this state of affairs persists.

In essence, this means that there will be no need to worry about "Zimbabweanization" being sabotaged or shortchanged because of too much sensitivity to the needs and fears of the whites or the international community. It will be interesting to see how far the process will have gone by the time the young nation celebrates her first birthday.

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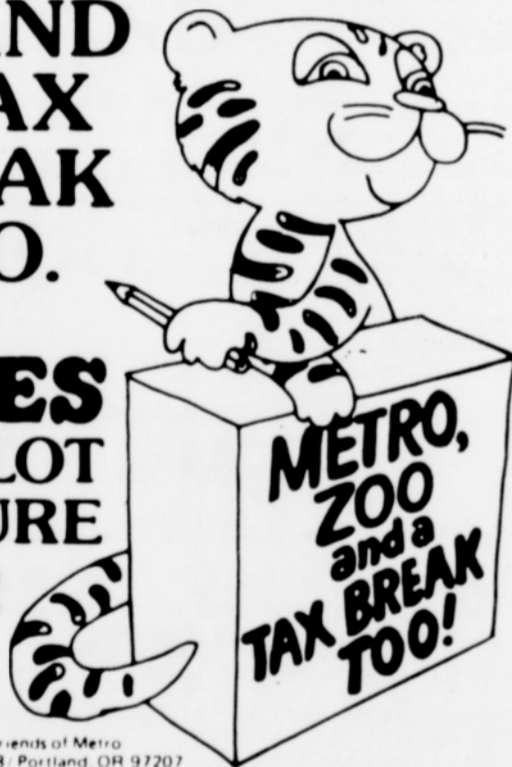
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HERE'S HOW TO INSULATE YOUR ATTIC YOURSELF:

1 BUY THE INSULATION

- Select insulation, blankets or batts.
- Measure the area of the attic floor in square feet (length x width).
- Measure the distance between the joists to determine the width of insulation to buy.
- Tell your insulation supplier the area to be covered in square feet, & the width you need. And tell him you need enough to achieve an insulation value of **R-38**. (That will take 2 layers of R-19 batts or blankets). The R-19 insulation will cost you about 30¢ a square foot.

NOTE: You can also blow loose fill insulation into your attic. Many home improvement & building supply dealers carry the loose fill insulation & will either provide or rent the blower to install it. Just follow the manufacturer's instructions & BE SURE YOU DON'T COVER ANY VENTS, OR GET THE LOOSE FILL TOO CLOSE TO ANY LIGHTING FIXTURE OR TRANSFORMER.

2 GET YOUR TOOLS TOGETHER

- A face mask, gloves, & long-sleeved shirt for protection.
- A sharp knife or scissors to cut the insulation.
- Wooden planks to put across joists so you can get around in the attic.
- Portable light & extension cord.
- Tape measure & pencil to measure & mark materials.

3 INSTALL THE INSULATION

IMPORTANT: DON'T COVER ANY VENTS! AND, DON'T GET INSULATION WITHIN 2" OF THE TOP OR 3" OF THE SIDES OF ANY LIGHTING FIXTURE OR TRANSFORMER. It's best to build a barrier around all 4 sides of any electrical fixture.

- Hang up your lamp & lay the planks across the ceiling joists so you have access to the whole area.
- Distribute the rolls or packages of batt around the area so they'll be handy.
- Begin laying the insulation between the joists with the vapor barrier DOWN toward the heated room. Don't tear the vapor barrier. Fill any gaps between large pieces of insulation with loose fill.
- If you have to use a second blanket or batt to achieve the **R-38** standard, it's best to use unbaled material for this second layer. But, if it's faced, slash it every 3" to 6" with your knife to prevent condensation between layers. If possible, install the second layer perpendicular to the first. TIPS: ① Begin work away from the entrance & work toward it. ② Get someone to help.
- Repeat until entire area is covered.

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