



MTHWAKAZI REPUBLIC PARTY

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Mthwakazi Republic Party: Bougainville and New Caledonia Prove Self-Determination Cannot Be Frozen by Colonial Borders

Mr. Mqondisi Moyo calls for SADC, the African Union, and the international community to treat Mthwakazi as a lawful question of consent, not a criminal threat.

Bulawayo, Mthwakazi — 11 May 2026 — *The Mthwakazi Republic Party*, through its President, Mr. Mqondisi Moyo, today called on Zimbabwe, SADC, the African Union, and the international community to apply self-determination principles consistently after major developments in Bougainville and New Caledonia again showed that inherited borders do not end the question of political consent.

Recent reporting from the Pacific has placed two models before the world. *ABC News reported on May 6, 2026* that Bougainville, an autonomous region of Papua New Guinea, is preparing for possible independence and could become one of the world's newest countries. Bougainville's unresolved process follows a long conflict rooted in land, resources, identity, and local control. In 2019, Bougainville held a peaceful independence referendum in which *97.7 percent of voters chose independence,* although the result required negotiation with Papua New Guinea and was not self-executing.

New Caledonia offers a second lesson. *The Bougival Accord* proposed a new State of New Caledonia within France, with double nationality, local institutions, international powers, and a negotiated path beyond the false binary of immediate full independence or permanent submission. The process has since encountered serious French parliamentary obstacles, including the *April 2, 2026 rejection* of the constitutional bill in the National Assembly. That difficulty does not erase the lesson. It proves that political status can be negotiated, structured, voted upon, delayed, revised, and still remain a legitimate question.

"Bougainville proves that when a people persistently asserts its political will, post-colonial borders do not end the inquiry," said Mr. Moyo. "New Caledonia proves that self-determination does not have to be reduced to a slogan. Between total independence and total domination are autonomy, local citizenship, constitutional recognition, negotiated transfer of powers, and lawful processes for measuring consent."

The Mthwakazi Republic Party has pursued peaceful process. In September 2023, *MRP petitioned SADC* in support of self-determination for Matabeleland and the Midlands.



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The petition carried 25,880 signatures and was registered by the SADC Secretariat under reference number 3951863. MRP asked for engagement, not war.

Zimbabwe's answer has not been equivalent process. ZANU-PF political commissar Munyaradzi Machacha reportedly described MRP's program as a declaration of war and *threatened that the state would "shoot them and beat them".*

"A people that petitions SADC is not making war," Mr. Moyo said. "A people that asks for consent to be measured is not threatening the state. If Harare believes Mthwakazi freely consents to the present arrangement, it should welcome a lawful process. If Harare fears the question, then it is not unity it is defending. It is custody."

Mthwakazi's claim does not rest on imitation of Bougainville, New Caledonia, Somaliland, Alberta, Quebec, or Palestine. Each case is different. But doctrine travels. The claim for Mthwakazi rests on the historic Matabele nation, British conquest, defective colonial title, forced incorporation, the unresolved wound of Gukurahundi Genocide, continuing cultural and economic marginalization, and the failure of internal Zimbabwean remedies. Prior analysis has placed Mthwakazi within this broader recognition debate, including *The Palestine Precedent and the Matabele Mandate, From Zionism to Mthwakazi, Israel's Stake in Africa's Fragmentation: Mthwakazi, Palestine's Precedent and Africa's Future, and Alberta May Vote. Bulawayo May Not.*

The Gukurahundi massacres remain central to this claim. *The United States Holocaust Memorial Museum* describes Gukurahundi as one of Zimbabwe's most severe episodes of mass atrocity and states that government forces killed about 20,000 people in predominantly ethnic Ndebele areas between 1983 and 1987.

"The killing ended," Mr. Moyo said. "The breach did not. The memory problem did not. The accountability problem did not. The development problem did not. The consent problem did not. A state cannot commit or inherit a catastrophic rupture, refuse meaningful remedy, and then tell the injured people that asking the political question is treason."

MRP therefore calls for:

- SADC engagement with the registered MRP petition and a formal process for dialogue on Mthwakazi self-determination.
- Zimbabwean renunciation of threats and repression against peaceful self-determination advocacy.
- Regional and international recognition that Mthwakazi's claim is a lawful political question, not a criminal or military threat.
- A consent-based process capable of considering all lawful options, including meaningful autonomy, local constitutional status, negotiated power transfer, or independence.



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- Consistent application of self-determination doctrine across Africa and beyond.

“Bougainville may prepare. New Caledonia may negotiate. Alberta may petition. Quebec may ask. Somaliland may govern. Palestine may be recognised before all final questions are resolved,” Mr. Moyo said. “Mthwakazi may not even ask. That is the contradiction. That is the injustice. That is why the world must answer.”

About the Mthwakazi Republic Party

The Mthwakazi Republic Party advocates for Mthwakazi’s self-determination through peaceful, lawful, democratic, regional, and international processes. The party was founded in Bulawayo on January 11, 2014 under President Mqondisi Moyo and frames its mission around land, culture, language, dignity, historical truth, political empowerment, and consent.

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Matabeleland demands justice, fairness, and recognition. Enough is enough.

Sisonke Sibambene SinguMthwakazi Sesikulungisa!

