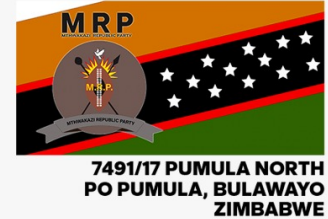




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MTHWAKAZI REPUBLIC PARTY | OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESIDENTIAL STATEMENT

International Law Cannot Be a Weapon Against Israel and a Shield for South Africa

Mthwakazi has paid a direct human price for South Africa's Afrophobia, while Pretoria demands international accountability from everyone except itself

Bulawayo, Mthwakazi — 26 July 2026

For decades, the people of Mthwakazi have crossed into South Africa not because they rejected their homeland, but because political repression, economic destruction, structural marginalization and the unresolved consequences of Gukurahundi made survival increasingly difficult within Zimbabwe.

Our people have worked, studied, raised families and supported relatives from South Africa. Their earnings have sustained children, parents and entire communities throughout Mthwakazi.

Today, many of those same people are being made to feel that they are criminals merely because they are African migrants.

They have faced intimidation, forced removal, the loss of employment, disruption of their businesses, threats to their homes and restrictions on their freedom of movement. Families have been separated. People who had lived in South Africa for years have fled in fear. Others have slept outside consulates or waited at border posts for transport out of the country.

This is not an abstract foreign-policy issue for the Mthwakazi Republic Party.

It reaches directly into our families, our communities, our party structures, our supporters and our homeland.

Mthwakazi has become a reception ground for South Africa's failure

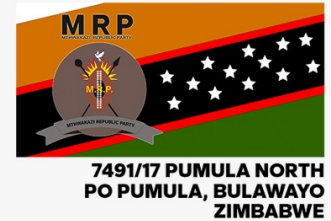
Beitbridge, situated in Matabeleland South, has become one of the principal reception points for the mass return of Zimbabwean nationals from South Africa.

Tens of thousands of Zimbabweans have crossed through Beitbridge since the repatriation exercise began in late May. South African authorities themselves reported processing Zimbabwean, Malawian and Mozambican nationals through temporary repatriation facilities, while Zimbabwean authorities were compelled to establish emergency reception, transport and humanitarian arrangements in Matabeleland South.



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South Africa may call these departures voluntary.

A departure is not truly voluntary when the alternative is intimidation, dispossession, mob action or fear of being attacked.

A person does not leave behind employment, possessions, schooling, community and years of accumulated life simply because a bus has been made available.

When tens of thousands of Africans believe that their safest option is to leave South Africa, the existence of a constitution and criminal statutes cannot be presented as proof that they were protected.

The buses are evidence.

The reception centres are evidence.

The abandoned homes and businesses are evidence.

The terrified families are evidence.

Our party and our people have been directly affected

Members, supporters and families associated with the Mthwakazi Republic Party live and work throughout South Africa.

They have been compelled to keep identity documents constantly accessible, restrict their movements, avoid certain areas and prepare themselves and their families for sudden departure.

Political and community organization becomes more difficult when people are frightened to gather, travel or identify themselves publicly. Family support networks are disrupted when breadwinners lose employment or return suddenly without savings, housing or any realistic prospect of work.

The burden is then transferred to Mthwakazi—a region already subjected to entrenched underdevelopment, economic exclusion and political neglect by the Zimbabwean state.

South Africa has therefore not merely expelled or frightened individual migrants.

It has exported the consequences of its domestic political failures into Mthwakazi.

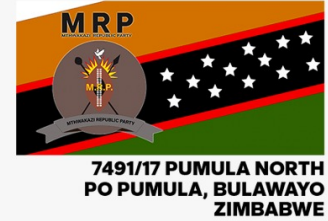
It has transferred unemployment, humanitarian need, family disruption and economic insecurity across the Limpopo and deposited them in communities least equipped to absorb them.

Even lawful status has not always provided protection. During door-to-door anti-migrant actions in July, a Zimbabwean national who said he held a valid Zimbabwean Exemption Permit was nevertheless apprehended by protesters and taken toward police vehicles.



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That is not immigration enforcement.

It is private coercion conducted under the appearance of public authority.

Afrophobia is not immigration control. Vigilantism is not the rule of law. Forced departure is not voluntary repatriation.

South Africa's international-law doctrine changes when South Africa is accused

On 17 November 2023, South Africa joined other states in referring the situation in Palestine to the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court and expressly requested an investigation.

On 29 December 2023, it instituted proceedings against Israel before the International Court of Justice and immediately requested provisional measures.

South Africa did not say that international action should wait indefinitely for Israeli domestic institutions. It did not say that the mere existence of courts, laws and investigative mechanisms was sufficient. It argued that alleged continuing harm required immediate international scrutiny.

Now two Ghanaian citizens have submitted a communication to the ICC alleging widespread or systematic attacks against African migrants and a failure by South African authorities to prevent or punish them.

South Africa's foreign ministry has dismissed the petition as opportunistic and has invoked the sophistication of its domestic laws and institutions.

The contradiction is unavoidable:

When Israel is accused, international intervention is urgent. When South Africa is accused, international intervention is premature.

When Israel is accused, South Africa demands that institutions be judged by their outcomes.

When South Africa is accused, it asks that institutions be judged by their existence.

When Israel invokes domestic institutions, Pretoria alleges impunity.

When African victims challenge South Africa, Pretoria invokes sovereignty, procedure and patience.

The courts are different. The principle is not.

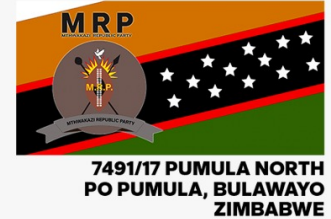
The Mthwakazi Republic Party understands that the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court exercise different jurisdictions.

The ICJ determines disputes involving state responsibility. The ICC considers the criminal responsibility of individuals and applies the principle of complementarity.



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We are not confusing the two courts.

We are comparing the standards South Africa applies to accountability.

South Africa has repeatedly argued that laws, courts and announced investigations cannot be used as a shield when the continuing facts allegedly reveal institutional failure.

We agree.

That principle does not cease to exist when the victims are African migrants and the state under scrutiny is South Africa.

Domestic law is not domestic justice.

A statute is not an investigation.

A court building is not a prosecution.

A government statement is not protection.

A condemnation issued after people have been killed, beaten, displaced or driven from their homes is not prevention.

South Africa must prove its claims

If South Africa wishes to rely upon domestic remedies, it must identify them.

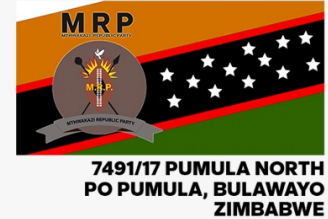
The Mthwakazi Republic Party calls upon the South African government to publish:

- The incidents of anti-migrant violence presently under criminal investigation.
- The corresponding police docket or case numbers.
- The number of arrests, prosecutions and convictions arising from those incidents.
- The investigations concerning organizers, financiers and political instigators, rather than only individual street-level offenders.
- The investigations into any police officers or public officials accused of participation, encouragement, deliberate inaction or selective enforcement.
- The measures adopted to enforce court orders prohibiting vigilante identity checks, forced removals and obstruction of foreign nationals seeking access to healthcare.
- The arrangements for restitution or compensation for migrants whose homes, businesses or possessions were destroyed or stolen.



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- The protection measures available to lawful migrants, asylum seekers, refugees and permit holders who remain in South Africa.

If those investigations and prosecutions exist, South Africa should disclose them.

If they do not exist, Pretoria should stop presenting the theoretical availability of domestic law as proof that justice is being delivered.

Complementarity must be demonstrated, not announced.

South Africans are not our enemy

The Mthwakazi Republic Party does not condemn the people of South Africa collectively.

Many South Africans have rejected Afrophobia, protected their neighbours, condemned vigilantism and defended the principle that only lawful public authorities may enforce immigration legislation.

South African trade unions, civil-society organizations, lawyers, journalists, religious leaders and ordinary citizens have spoken against the attacks.

Our criticism is directed at political leaders and institutions that have too often alternated between condemnation and accommodation—denouncing violence while repeating the narratives that place collective responsibility for unemployment, crime and institutional failure upon African migrants.

South Africa's social and economic crises were not created by Zimbabwean shopkeepers, Malawian labourers, Mozambican workers or Ghanaian traders.

South Africa's failures were made in South Africa.

African migrants must not be converted into human shields behind which failed governance can hide.

Our demands

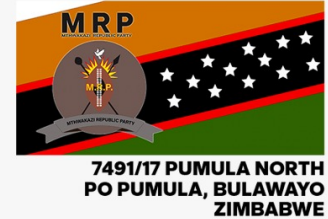
The Mthwakazi Republic Party calls upon South Africa to:

- guarantee the safety and dignity of all African migrants, irrespective of immigration status;
- end private identity checks, forced removals, clinic blockades and all forms of vigilante immigration enforcement;
- investigate those who organize, incite, finance or facilitate attacks against migrants;
- provide transparent information about prosecutions and convictions;
- establish an accessible restitution process for people who lost homes, businesses and possessions;



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- permit independent monitoring by African human-rights institutions and representatives of affected states;
- engage directly with Mthwakazi community representatives concerning the impact of mass returns upon Matabeleland South and the wider Mthwakazi region; and
- refrain from opposing legitimate international scrutiny unless it can demonstrate genuine domestic investigations and effective remedies.

We further call upon Ghana, Nigeria, Malawi, Mozambique, Zimbabwe and every other affected African state to demand documented accountability rather than diplomatic assurances.

Ghana has already postponed bilateral engagements with South Africa over the violence, while Nigeria completed the evacuation of 1,490 citizens. These are not manufactured diplomatic controversies. They are the governmental responses of African states whose citizens no longer felt secure.

Consistency must come before credibility

South Africa has attempted to position itself as the moral voice of the Global South and the defender of oppressed peoples.

That role carries obligations.

A government cannot demand immediate international justice for people thousands of kilometres away while asking African victims inside its own borders to wait patiently for unnamed investigations, unidentified prosecutions and undisclosed outcomes.

International law cannot be a spear aimed at Israel and a shield held over Pretoria.

The standard South Africa has placed before the world must now be applied to South Africa:

Domestic institutions cannot be used as a shield when continuing facts reveal failure, impunity or an inability to protect a civilian population.

The Ghanaian applicants have not weakened international law by approaching the ICC.

They have asked South Africa to live by the principles it has proclaimed to the world.

The Mthwakazi Republic Party stands with every African who has been beaten, dispossessed, intimidated, excluded or driven from a home in South Africa.

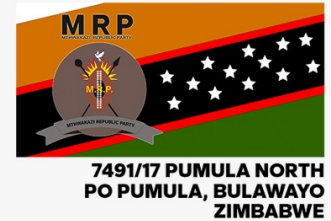
We stand equally with those South Africans who reject hatred and defend the rule of law.

We demand lawful immigration administration.



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We reject collective punishment.

We demand accountability.

We reject Afrophobia.

South Africa demanded that the world take allegations against Israel seriously.

South Africa must now take allegations against itself seriously.

Consistency must come before credibility.

Mqondisi Moyo

President

Mthwakazi Republic Party

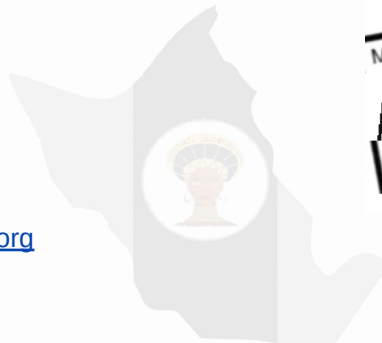
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In Pursuit of Truth, Justice and Peace During Our Lifetime

Sisonke Sibambene SinguMthwakazi Sesikulungisa!

Editorial source notes — not for publication

These sources support the factual propositions in the draft. The section may be removed from the public release after final editorial review.

1. [ICC referral of the situation in Palestine, 17 November 2023](#)
2. [Reuters report on the Ghanaian citizens' ICC communication, 22 July 2026](#)
3. [Reuters report on door-to-door anti-migrant actions in South Africa, 9 July 2026](#)
4. [Reuters report on Nigeria's evacuation of 1,490 citizens, 16 July 2026](#)
5. [Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation report on repatriation through Beitbridge](#)