

BOB'S BRUTALITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS

Proverbs 26:24-26 appears to be a very accurate description of Robert Mugabe, the Marxist terrorist cum freedom fighter cum President of Zimbabwe.

- “A malicious man may hide his real motives by pretence, when he speaks, but inwardly he secretly harbours cunning deceit;
- 25 he may speak reasonably, but never believe him, for he has many a foul thought in mind.
- 26 Yet, though he hides his hatred craftily, his malice shall be publically exposed.”

Since coming into power 28 years ago, Robert Mugabe has single handedly engineered the most spectacular economic melt-down in history bringing this once prosperous country, previously known as the “breadbasket of Africa” to the brink of total collapse.

The country's economic woes, caused by the obvious lack of financial controls, mismanagement and corruption (a malady all too often evident in South Africa) was exacerbated by the confiscation of farms from white farmers and their redistribution to Mugabe's cronies and the so-called “war veterans”, who went about intimidating and forcibly removing white farmers from their farms. (In South Africa the government has abandoned its “willing seller, willing buyer approach for expropriation determined, not by market-related prices but by government appointed valuers. While thousands of white farmers have been attacked and murdered, which many feel is nothing less than intimidation and an attempt to drive them from their land.)

Agriculture in Zimbabwe, which formed the backbone of the Economy, has been almost completely destroyed. (In South Africa many if not most farms bought or expropriated from their previous owners and redistributed to their “rightful owners” have failed badly). Interesting to note the parallels between the two countries. The question is, are we in South Africa going the same way as Zimbabwe?

Since unilaterally taking control of Zanu in the early 1970's, Robert Mugabe set the trend for a style of leadership that has seen him clinging to power by all means at his disposal. Then as now he did not tolerate opposition and many opposition leaders were “eliminated” and an opposition Newspaper's printing press bombed while journalists were tortured.

In March 1980, after a campaign characterised by intimidation and, unopened and uncounted ballot boxes, Mugabe became the Prime Minister, and upon the abolition of this office in 1987, the Executive President of Zimbabwe.

All subsequent elections in that country, as with the most recent one, have been characterised by the gross abuse of human rights, massive vote rigging and blatant electoral fraud.

South Africa's support, and especially that of Mbeki, for this unscrupulous villain has been nothing short of inexplicable. Mugabe's shenanigans have caused South Africa's economy and international image incalculable damage. Yet after the disputed elections of March 29 Mbeki said that there was “no crisis” in Zimbabwe. Subsequent occurrences in that Country has once again proven him wrong.

Mbeki has failed miserably in his role as mediator in Zimbabwe. The saga continues.