## Struggle for the Vice Presidency

## The wind from the East

Manicaland Province was relatively a quiet and peaceful province until the wind from the East blew its way into the ZANU PF presdidium. Oppah Chamu Zvipange Muchinguri's promotion came with confusion and problems for Manicaland province.

Oppah is a veteran of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle who never participated in the front lines of the struggle. Oppah's beauty was her blessing as she was kept close to the commanders and protected from the frontlines of the struggle.

Born on the 14<sup>th</sup> of December 1968, Oppah Muchinguri is the incumbent national chairperson of ZANU PF. Oppah was promoted to Chairperson of the ruling party after the November 2017 Operation restore legacy.

Oppah's promotion caused commotion as she was accused of taking over a post which had been traditionally reserved for former ZAPU and ZPRA members such as Joseph Msika and John Nkomo. The village girl from Manicaland becomes the first woman to hold the National Chairperson's post in the ruling party and simultaneously serve as the Minister of Defence Oppah Muchinguri's presence in the Presidium proved to be a curse to both the province and the nation in two special cases; 1 being when Ellen Gwaradzimba succumbed to covid19. Oppah Muchinguri gave a blunderous interview to Zimeye journalist Simba Chikanza. In this recorded interview Oppah claimed that Gwaradzimba had been killed. These claims raised eyebrows as Gwaradzimba had engaged in an open altercation with Midlands MP Justice Wadyajena.

The second one was when Oppah Muchinguri took humiliating the province to a new level when she made utterances to the effect that covid 19 was manufactured by the Chinese and it was a punishment from God. The Defence Minister 's comments nearly ruined the Sino-Zim relations. Vice President Chiwenga had to step in and calm the situation. Oppah Muchinguri had her eye on the Vice Presidency since the ouster of Joyce Mujuru in 2014. Oppah touted herself as the next Vice President under the women's quota. The game changed when General Chiwenga advised then President Robert Mugabe to appoint Emmerson Mnangagwa as vice president ahead of Oppah Muchinguri. Oppah was subsequently demoted from women league's boss to Minister Environment.

The appointments that came after the 2014 irked Oppah Muchinguri and she has disliked General Chiwenga since then.

November 2017, operation restore legacy gave Oppah Muchinguri hope that she might land the vice presidency, unfortunately General Chiwenga filled the spot and Oppah had to settle for the less prestigious National Chairman's post with the ministry of Defence as a sweetener and consolation prize. General Chiwenga unfortunately fell ill and Oppah Muchinguri's thirst for the Vice Presidency reared its ugly head. A faction emerged, allegedly commanded by Oppah Chamu Zvipange Muchinguri. This faction's first port of call was to control Manicaland province.

Full control of Manicaland province means getting rid of Mike Madiro and replacing him with the little known and politically immature Clide Jani. The plot gained momentum during the District Coordinating Committee (DCC) elections which were influenced by the National Chairman's office.

Oppah Muchinguri ensured that all her skivvies and lackeys landed influential posts in the DCCs so that they could fulfill the plan for ultimate domination of Manicaland Province.

The DCC elections gave power and life to a factional cancer and agenda which targets the Vice Presidency.

The oppah Muchinguri faction is using Dunmore Mambondiyani as their commissar, and functionary.

Mambondiyani has funneled money to popular prophets so that they push an anti Vice President Chiwenga narrative.

Prophecies have come from different prophets claiming that Vice President was

- 1. Plotting a coup against President Emmerson Mnangagwa
- 2. Chiwenga was going to die before the end of the year.

Several prophets have released these manufactured prophecies including

- 1. Obey Tichafa Mukanhairi aka Mellontik Orasi
- 2. Dr. Ian Ndlovu
- 3. Talent Chiwenga

All these prophecies can be traced to the Oppah Muchinguri faction who have resorted to using prophets as tools of propaganda since they have a ready audience.

Oppah Muchinguri cannot rely on state media as she had a fallout with her former best friend Monica Mutsvangwa over the Vice Presidency plots and schemes.

## The Mnangagwa legitimacy challenge

The little known Sybeth Musengezi took it upon himself to file a legal challenge against President Mnangagwa's legitimacy . In this challenge Musengezi makes it clear that he is a member of ZANU PF in good standing.

In July 2021 Syberth Musengezi met with Dunmore Mambondiani who gave an instruction to the effect that Musengezi should challenge President Mnangagwa's legitimacy. Musengezi was assured that the Minister of Defence would ensure that he is protected and safe. The court challenge is meant to look like it is funded by the Zezuru so that it can be blamed on Vice President Chiwenga further fueling the narrative that there is a plot to topple the President which is funded by Chiwenga.

Oppah Muchinguri stands to benefit from a Chiwenga ouster as she would be assured of the Vice Presidency and the running mate position in the 2023 elections. Enock Porusingazi , Albert Nyakuyedzwa and others are aware of Oppah Muchinguri's ambitions and the plans at hand. Chido Sanyatwe the wife of Chiwenga ally Major General Sanyatwe has been blacklisted in Manicaland province as she has refused to be part and parcel of these plots and schemes.

## **Conference demonstrations**

The Oppah Muchinguri faction has mobilized a few war veterans who will stage protests during the National People's conference. These protests are meant to trigger a war veterans association restructuring exercise which will kick out Chris Mutsvangwa and ensure a pro Muchinguri female candidate takes over the chairmanship of the War Veterans Associations.

These structures will be useful in kicking out Vice President Chiwenga and ensuring that Oppah Muchinguri takes over the vice presidency, a position she has coveted since she spearheaded the ouster of Joyce Mujuru.

Oppah has the financial resources and state apparatus to engineer the Chiwenga ouster.

She has also followed the President everywhere to build an illusion that she is very close to the President and always with the President even when the Vice President is not there. The game plan exposed

The game plan to remove Vice President Chiwenga is structured as follows :

- 1. women's rights groups and ZANU PF women's league will protest in solidarity with Mary Mubaiwa
- 2. Security and intelligence reports will leak exposing a connection between Syberth Musengezi and General Chiwenga . These will also establish a link between the Claveria Chizema plot and war veterans protest.
- 3. Manicaland province will be the first to stand in defence of President Mnangagwa and they will demand a disciplinary hearing against Chiwenga followed by diaspora structures.
- 4. Provinces will write an official letter to the President demanding action and this letter will be delivered during a politburo session.
- 5. The President will be pressured into action forcing an Oppah Muchinguri ascendency.

This is the proposed game plan which is subject to change as situations and circumstances change.



Oppah Muchinguri has coveted the Vice Presidency since she lead the charge against Joyce Mujuru leveraging on the power and stature of Grace Mugabe. Oppah was disappointed that Emmerson Mnangagwa and Edna Madzongwe were front runners for the post ahead of her.

Oppah Muchinguri still wants the Vice Presidency and she is going all out for it as she realizes that age and time are no longer on her side.

Oppah Muchinguri started making her moves against Vice President Chiwenga as early as January 2019, and she cemented her position when General Chiwenga fell ill.

The DCC elections gave Oppah an advantage to create structures that can help her attain her goal.

President Mnangagwa and General Chiwenga need to know that there is a wolf amongst the sheep and they should be careful not be setup to fight each other.