

73-year-old white Zimbabwean leads new opposition, The Patriotic Front

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DISPOSSESSED former rancher, Darryl Collett has emerged to lead the newly formed The Patriotic Front and is set to contest President Emmerson Mnangagwa in the 2023 elections.

Collett, a 73-year-old businessman, is former owner of Mjingwe Ranch, a lucrative wildlife ranch in Masvingo's Mwenezi district.

Mjingwe Ranch in the Bubyane Conservancy was one of the many conservancies that were invaded by war veterans across the country since the turn of the century.

Collett is based in Harare.

Meanwhile, the newly formed party Saturday announced its founding National Executive Committee. Said the party in a statement, "National coordinators of The Patriotic Front held a meeting Thursday evening, in which they elected members of the interim National Executive Committee, set to lead The Third Way until at least its official launch.

"True to the party's multiracial, multi-ethnic approach of uniting Zimbabweans towards finding lasting solutions to the country's multifaceted crisis, TPF elected a structure which is a blend of races, ethnic groups, youth and experience.

"In line with its resolve to economically emancipate and empower people in their communities while also trying to restore national, regional and international confidence in Zimbabwe, the leadership comprises business leaders, economic experts, technocrats, politicians and community leaders."

Members of TPF interim National Executive Committee were announced as President, Darryl Collett; c-deputy Deputy Presidents, Patrick Matsinhanise and Anele Ndlovu; National Chairperson, Tamary Mukuna; Secretary General, Andrew Nyathi; Deputy SG, Thutho Mavula; Secretary for Mobilization and Organising, Stanley Eden Ncube; Deputy, Joyful Ncube; Deputy, Simbarashe Mupundu; Secretary For Innovation, Sam Mudzimurema; Secretary for Information, Mxolisi Ncube and Deputy, Vanessa Gonyonga.

Other members of the committee include Secretary for International Relations, Nkanyezi Ndlovu; Secretary for Economic Development, St John Smallbones; Secretary for Legal Affairs, Vusani Khumalo; Secretary for Commercial Agriculture, Adam Forbes; Secretary for Subsistence Agriculture, Tanyaradzwa Makumbo; Sec for Elections, Muchengeti Hwacha; Secretary for Arts and Culture, Peter Sinek; and Secretary for Health and Welfare, Butholezwe Nyathi.

The rest of the team includes Secretary for Education, Eddington M Mugova; Secretary for Security, Brian Hayes; Deputy, Martin Phakathi; Deputy, Busani Malinga; Secretary for People Living With Disabilities and Vulnerable Groups, Handsome Madzonga; Director Women Patriots, Blessing Mugwagwa and Director Young Patriots, Prosper Ncube.

Said the party, "This is a leadership which understands that Zimbabwe now needs servants, not bosses and that Zimbabwe and its people need more than just political parties and empty politics.

"Now that the leadership issue has been put to rest, the real work of building the party in every corner of Zimbabwe and initiating developmental programmes begins in earnest.

"We believe that there is more that unites Zimbabweans than divides them and built on that need for patriotism, inclusiveness, self-belief, self-esteem, unity, peace and progress is our call to turn Zimbabwe into a democratic developmental state."

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