



## PRESS RELEASE

**EXCLUSIVE: 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree: Interview with Zimbabwe's Dr Simba Makoni**  
**TX: Tuesday 11 March at 8pm**

In this episode, 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree brings you an exclusive interview with Zimbabwe's Dr Simba Makoni. At 100 000%, Zimbabwe has the highest inflation rate in the world. On 29 March, Zimbabweans go to vote for a new president and elect a new parliament.

The country has a shattered economy characterized by rampant food and fuel shortages, queues to buy the most basic commodities are now a daily occurrence; foreign currency shortages have ground Zimbabwe's international trade to a halt.

President Robert Mugabe has for the past 28 years ruled the country with an iron fist, using state machinery to crush any opposition in his wake. The main opposition, the Movement for Democratic Change, accuses Mugabe of rigging the past three elections. However, infighting among opposition forces seems to have played into Mugabe's hands. Over the years, voters, tired of empty promises and a failing opposition, were staying away.

Up until mid January, the elections were thought to be a forgone conclusion, Zimbabweans resigned to yet another six-year term for President Mugabe. Then, enter Dr Simba Makoni, a former Finance Minister and member of the ruling Zanu PF's top decision-making body, the politburo.

Many political analysts have described his entry into the presidential race against his former boss as a significant political shift in the right direction. Could he end Robert Mugabe's 28-year iron rule? Can he defeat a well-established opposition political leader, Morgan Tsvangirai? All this will be decided on 29 March when Zimbabweans flock to the polls.

3<sup>rd</sup> Degree brings you an exclusive interview with the new kid on the block, Dr. Simba Makoni and a look at the situation in the country ahead of the polls.