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**DaMina Advisors Note:** Zimbabwe's military chiefs weigh forcible retirement for longtime leader, 90-year old Robert Mugabe, to forestall ruling party takeover by Mugabe's Macbethian wife, Grace.



*Zimbabwe's Military chiefs*

In a bid to end Zimbabwe's destabilizing ongoing elite political fratricide and ruling party circular firing squad, the country's powerful military may step forward in coming days to possibly forcibly retire 90-year old President Robert Mugabe to forestall his increasingly influential wife, Grace, from being appointed as Mugabe's successor during the forthcoming December 2 – 7 party congress. Grace rose from obscurity as Mugabe's private secretary in the 1980s to become his wife after Sally, Mugabe's much locally beloved first wife, died of kidney failure in 1992. Grace, who had until now stayed clear of politics has in recent weeks snatched a party politburo seat and launched a vituperative acrimonious hate campaign against the country's sitting vice president and Mugabe's current constitutional successor, Joyce Mujuru.

The 59 year old popular vice president, Mujuru, and her rival, the 67-year old security apparatchik Justice Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa have been locked in a half decade intra-party power-struggle. With Grace and Mnangagwa now poised to strip Mujuru and her allies of all political power, Mujuru's military chiefs allies, all of whom served under her highly illustriously decorated late husband, Solomon, may yet move frontally against Mugabe to retire him. Mujuru is herself also famous liberation war veteran and yet a palatable choice for frustrated western governments seeking change in Zimbabwe. Poised to choose between saluting Mugabe's Macbethian wife and Mujuru, a decorated fellow veteran, Zimbabwe's powerful military chiefs will easily favor the later and finally agree to array against Mugabe. Zimbabwe's disciplined and effective army is one of the most well-endowed in Africa, boasting an annual budget of over \$300million – more than 3-times the annual military budget of Ghana, and at over 5% of annual GDP compared to just 1% of GDP for Nigeria's annual military budget.

As the health of the 90-year old Mugabe has declined, his political interests have sharply diverged from his much younger wife, who is, 41 year his junior. Grace, worried about her fate, her newfound wealth and her young children in a post-Mugabe era, has said she fears Mujuru may subject her to a Mrs Mao Zedong dress down. Grace, still intoxicated with her own recent meteoric rise in ZanuPF politics is poised to make an ambitious play for the presidency at the December 2 - 7 congress, seeking to consign the geriatric politicians around Mugabe and other presidential contenders to the dustbin of history.

***For more in-depth analysis, kindly contact us.***

**DUE DILIGENCE, REGULATORY AND POLITICAL RISK ADVISORY SERVICES**

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**ABOUT THE COMPANY**

DaMina is a preeminent independent frontier markets risk research, due diligence and Africa M&A transactions consulting firm.

With a special focus on African capital and commodities markets, DaMina provides exclusive, highly-tailored, 360-degree and around-the-clock regulatory, political risk advisory, due diligence and M&A consulting services to a range of marquee global firms.

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