

Zimbabwe's key presidential contenders

President Robert Mugabe, bidding for a sixth consecutive term in office, is facing one of the strongest challenges to his leadership from former ally Simba Makoni and main opposition party leader Morgan Tsvangirai



Simba Makoni, 58

Formerly ZANU-PF, now independent

Former finance minister quit Mugabe's cabinet over differences on economic policy. Backed by retired army chief **Solomon Mujuru** and respected internationally



Morgan Tsvangirai, 56

Movement for Democratic Change (MDC)

One of two leaders of MDC, which split three years ago. Has opposed Mugabe for nine years and still has a following, especially among urban working-class voters



Robert Mugabe, 84

Leader of Zimbabwe's ruling ZANU-PF party

In power since 1980 independence. Blames Western sanctions for economic crisis. Previous elections marred by allegations of vote-rigging, violence and intimidation