

Reconciliation 'the strength of the nation'

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RECONCILIATION is not "a disguised attempt to prolong the status quo; nor is it a cloak for settling old scores", the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Simon Muzenda, said here yesterday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the Synod Centre he said: "Reconciliation is a policy of strength. It is

not peace at any price. It is not a disguised attempt to prolong the status quo of Zimbabwe. It does not mean that others must reconcile themselves to what I and my lot want — that others must change while I stay the same," he said.

Mr Muzenda said it was the best way to deal with enemies, Ziana reports.

"Liquidating them only multiplies hatred. Outwitting them creates counterplots and suspicion. A policy of reconciliation has the power to turn enemies into friends and comrades in a common task to build Zimbabwe," he said.

"Real reconciliation had a price. What divided men primarily was not tribe, or party or point of view, but divisions grew out of hate, fear and selfishness," he said.

The Deputy Prime Minister also made an appeal for peace and unity. "These are made by people becoming different. Unity starts with you and the person you don't get along with. It comes not by chance but by change — often in ourselves first of all."

Mr Muzenda is continuing his visit to the Fort Victoria Province with a meeting this afternoon with white members of ZANU(PF).