

Mugabe said ready to 'fight to the last'

by UPI

HARARE, Zimbabwe -- Zimbabwe's ruling party met Friday to discuss the country's elections, and President Robert Mugabe is set "to fight to the last," an official said. Mugabe appeared to be headed for a runoff after losing unofficially to opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai. But one senior member of the president's party says the election actually ended in a "stalemate." The parliamentary elections, which Tsvangirai's MDC party also appeared to have won, also were not official. The MDC said its offices in Harare were ransacked Thursday. It denied reports that Tsvangirai had gone into hiding. New York Times reporter Barr Bearak and another man, accused of working as journalists without accreditation, were reported arrested in a raid on a hotel in Harare, authorities told the BBC. There had been speculation that Mugabe, who ruled the impoverished nation for 28 years, might step down rather than take part in a runoff. But Deputy Information Minister Bright Matonga said if the results show a runoff is needed the president would be ready for it. "President Mugabe is going to fight to the last and he's not giving up, he's not going anywhere, he hasn't lost the election," Matonga said.

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