

Court to hear election case, not sure when

by UPI

HARARE, Zimbabwe -- The High Court in Zimbabwe ruled Monday it can hear the country's main opposition party petition to get the results of the presidential election. However, the court said it wouldn't decide until Tuesday whether the matter is urgent enough to determine immediately if the court can compel the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to release the election results, opposition lawyer Andrew Makoni told CNN. Makoni represents the Movement for Democratic Change, led by Morgan Tsvangirai, who declared himself the winner of the March 29 election, but an independent observer said Tsvangirai was the winner with 49 percent of the vote, which would require a runoff. A runoff is required if neither candidate wins at least 50 percent of the vote. MDC petitioned the court Friday to get the electoral commission to release the results. Meanwhile, President Robert Mugabe, who said he would agree to a runoff, called on supporters to make sure the country's land does not "slip away from us and go back into the hands of the whites," the state-run newspaper reported Monday. After Zimbabwe's war for independence, Mugabe seized white-owned commercial farms and redistributed the land to black Zimbabweans, saying they were cheated under colonial rule.

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