

Weekly Press Review

April 9-15, 2011

The views expressed in this review are those of the named media and not necessarily representative of the Delegation of the European Union to Zimbabwe.

## Politics/International Relations

### **Global Fund turns down Zim bid**

[The Herald, April 13, 2011](#)

GLOBAL Fund has once again refused to finance Zimbabwe's HIV and Aids, tuberculosis and malaria programmes after it emerged that the country has no budget for its ambitious national strategic plan.

The country's failure to complete its monitoring and evaluation targets was also another setback to access money from the body.

Zimbabwe is still in the process of developing its national strategic plan for the next five years. The plan provides guidelines on monitoring and evaluating targets as well as budgets for HIV. However, Zimbabwe still has an option to apply for money through Round 11 of the fund due in December, whose proposals are due for August.

### **Apostolic sect signs anti-sanctions petition**

[The Herald, April 11, 2011](#)

ABOUT 1000 followers of the Johanne Masowe yeChishanu apostolic sect yesterday signed the anti-sanctions petition in Hatcliffe, Harare.

Mudzidzi Akinoji-S who was representing their leader Mudzidzi Ajiwasi-Lekiyanzi (Wimbo) said illegal sanctions were responsible for Zimbabwe's pathetic situation both economically and culturally hence the need to have them urgently removed.

"People under sanctions are easily enslaved, which is against the teachings of Johanne who said we must not work for the whites and should not abandon our culture for an alien one."

### **Illegal sanctions won't kill development sector**

[The Herald, April 9, 2011](#)

THE illegal economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe by the West will not prevent the Government from pursuing policies and implementing projects that will improve the lives and welfare of the people, Deputy Minister of Public Works, Senator Arguy Georgias has said. Sen. Georgias said this on Wednesday while touring the newly completed Gokwe North District Hospital.

"The project started way back in 1999, but due to lack of funding caused by the punitive illegal sanctions imposed on us by the United States, Britain and their friends in the European Union, we could not carry on," he said.

### **Zim will never attack SADC**

[The Herald, April 15, 2011](#)

Foreign Affairs Minister Simbarashe Mumbengegwi told journalists after meeting SADC diplomats accredited to Zimbabwe that there Government will never attack the regional bloc or any of its members. He said any attacks on South African President Jacob Zuma and SADC were not from any Government official. He added that relations between SADC and Zimbabwe were solid.

### **Leave us alone- President tells West**

[The Herald, April 15, 2011](#)

While addressing mourners at Heroes Acre yesterday President Robert Mugabe blasted Europe for meddling in the country's internal affairs. He criticised the West for still seeing Zimbabwe as a colony.

His remarks come after EU Parliament discussions as well as revelation by Britain and the USA that they have an interest in elections in the country.

## Political Violence/Elections

### Violence victims should turn to God- Muchinguri

[NewsDay, April 9, 2011](#)

Oppah Muchinguri the Zanu PF committee member in the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee on Friday said people affected by acts of political violence should accept Jesus in their lives to enable them to forgive the wrongdoers so that national healing can begin. Muchinguri said this at a hotel in Harare during an induction workshop of liaison committees of three political parties in Harare District to discuss national healing process in relation to political violence that rocked some parts of Harare and Chitungwiza recently.

She told delegates that she had been a victim of deep anger and hatred towards people who had wronged her politically but she was healed and saved after visiting Prophet TB Joshua in Nigeria in December 2010, where she was advised to pray for her enemies and forgive them.

Muchinguri said this after MDC-T members in the meeting got emotional as one of them chronicled her ordeal at the hands of the police.

### Stop political violence-Tsvangirai

[NewsDay, April 11, 2011](#)

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai on Sunday called on Zimbabweans to stop engaging in violent activities and be tolerant to each other irrespective of divergent political views. Addressing mourners at the burial of MDC-T's first mayor for Masvingo, Engineer Alois Chaimiti, Tsvangirai said although he leads a different political party, his regular meetings with President Robert Mugabe should be viewed as a model. Sadc has already called on parties in the coalition government to address political violence and draw up a roadmap to free and fair elections.

### US declares interest in Zim polls

[The Herald, April 12, 2011](#)

The United States government says it is closely monitoring the situation in Zimbabwe with a view to influencing the elections expected to be held this year. US Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs Johnnie Carson made the remarks last week in an address to the Woodrow Wilson Centre in Washington on the implication of current events in Africa on Washington's policy towards Africa in 2011. He made the remarks as the US Africa Command (Africom), Washington's military wing in Africa, also singled out Zimbabwe and Madagascar for scrutiny. Washington becomes the second major western nation to declare its interest in the forthcoming elections after Britain pledged to assist Sadc come up with the election roadmap for Zimbabwe. The US and Britain's pronouncements follow the Sadc Troika summit in Livingstone, Zambia which resolved to come up with a roadmap on the elections in Zimbabwe. Last week British Minister of State (Foreign and Commonwealth Office) Lord David Howell told the House of Lords that London stood ready to fund the roadmap and was working with Sadc in that regard.

### Plan to influence polls exposed

[The Sunday Mail, April 10-16, 2011](#)

The Netherlands' plan to influence the outcome of Zimbabwe's general election has been exposed following revelations that it intends to sway prospective voters by sponsoring them to register for the polls, it has emerged. Sources revealed last week that the plot will be executed under a US\$200 000 programme known as "Citizenry Empowerment and Participation in Democratic Processes." Information gathered last week indicates that the Dutch embassy in Harare will collaborate with the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association, a non-governmental organisation, which has already received US\$200 000 under the programme.

### EU says no to early elections

[NewsDay, April 11, 2011](#)

The European Union (EU) has urged political parties in Zimbabwe to reach an agreement on a roadmap towards holding free and fair, internationally monitored elections, saying early polls would not resolve outstanding political and economic reform issues. A release issued after a sitting of the European Parliament last week said the EU would not recognise any Zimbabwe ambassador to the economic bloc "who is not nominated on the

basis of due constitutional process and in compliance with the GPA”.

President Robert Mugabe appointed Margaret Muchada as Zimbabwe's ambassador to the EU, but Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai urged the EU not to recognise her because she was appointed unilaterally.

The EU said any elections in Zimbabwe must be based on international norms, including respect for human rights, freedom of expression and movement, and an immediate end to harassment and detention of individuals based on their political views.

### **Police teargas prayer meeting**

[The Standard, April 10-16, 2011](#)

ARMED police tear gassed scores of people attending a prayer meeting inside a church in Harare's Glen Norah and arrested four priests as the law enforcement agency upped its assault on freedom of assembly.

There was pandemonium at the Church of the Nazarene as old women and children scrambled for the exit points after a police officer announced that “church is over now, everybody go home.”

Children screamed while youths jumped out through the windows. The police fired teargas canisters as people fled in different directions.

Some youths tried to fight back by hurling stones at the police.

MDC-T said its vice-chairperson for Harare province Shakespeare Makoyi was abducted by Zanu PF youths while attending the meeting and his whereabouts were still unknown late last night.

The church meeting had been called to pray for national peace as well as to commemorate the 2007 attack on the church by the police in Highfield where Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai was arrested and heavily assaulted while in custody.

Yesterday's service was moved from St Peters Catholic Church in Highfield after police barred people from entering the premises.

### **Anti-sanctions petition will backfire-analysts**

[The Standard, April 10-16, 2011](#)

Zanu PF's anti-sanctions petition drive could backfire if the embattled party intends to use the signatures to gauge its popularity ahead of elections expected later this year.

President Robert Mugabe, in power since 1980, insists that elections must be held this year despite strong objections from his coalition government partners.

Zanu PF is using the campaign to collect the anti-sanctions campaign signatures to drum up support.

But analysts warned that most of the two million signatures Zanu PF is seeking will not be appended voluntarily. University of Zimbabwe political science lecturer John Makumbe said Zanu PF would get a rude awakening come election time.

But Zanu PF spokesperson Rugare Gumbo dismissed claims that the campaign was linked to the election.

## **Legislation/Parliamentary proceedings**

### **Human Rights law passed**

[The Financial Gazette, April 14-20, 2011](#)

The Financial gazette reports that the House of Assembly has passed a human rights law that compels President Robert Mugabe to consult Parliament in appointing the public protector and his or her deputy who are charged with investigating injustices when victims fail to find remedy in the courts.

The law also substitutes names Ombudsman and Deputy Ombudsman with new titles, "Public Protector" and "deputy Public Protector."

Human rights lawyer Alec Muchadehama said the amendment as inconsequential, saying mere consultation between the President and Parliament did not bind the President to the opinion or recommendation of the lawmakers.

## **Economic Issues**

### **EU fights Zim diamond trade green light**

**[NewsDay, April 11, 2011](#)**

The European Union (EU) has reportedly called for an urgent meeting to force the Kimberley Process (KP) certification scheme to reverse its recent decision allowing Zimbabwe to resume diamond exports.

Last month, KP chairperson Mathieu Yamba of the Democratic Republic of Congo gave Zimbabwe the green light to export its rough gems from Chiadzwa diamond fields.

However, the decision immediately sparked heated debate after it emerged Yamba had not consulted other key stakeholders.

## **Land and Resettlement**

### **Farmers suffer effects of sanctions**

**[The Herald, April 12, 2011](#)**

THE effects of the devastating illegal economic sanctions imposed on the country by the West are taking a toll on the country's agriculture sector.

Farmers are failing to secure cheap inputs and access to lucrative markets for their produce, an official has said.

Shamva North legislator and Minister of Transport, Communication and Infrastructure Development, Nicholas Goche, said the agricultural sector had suffered a huge knock from the illegal economic sanctions. Minister Goche said this at a field day in Mt Darwin at a farm owned by Madzibaba Wimbo.

Minister Goche said the West was fully aware that Zimbabwe was capable of sustaining itself through agriculture and revenue from minerals hence the imposition of illegal sanctions to cripple such development.

## **Social Issues**

### **Cholera claims 3 in Chiredzi**

**[NewsDay, April 11, 2011](#)**

Three people died last week following a fresh outbreak of cholera in Chiredzi's Sengwe and Chilonga areas, a senior health official told NewsDay.

Masvingo provincial medical director Robert Mudyiradima said two adults and a child died from over 60 cholera cases reported in the area since last week.

### **Cholera claims 8 in Chimanimani**

**[The Herald, April 12, 2011](#)**

EIGHT people, six from the same family, have died of cholera while another eight, all members of the Johanne Marange Apostolic Sect, were hospitalised in Chimanimani.

All the cases were recorded from Rusitu District of Chimanimani, which was hit by a cholera outbreak last month.

Director of Epidemiology and Disease Control in the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, Dr Portia Manangazira said they were continuing dialogue with members of the sect so that they can consider accessing health care facilities.