

Weekly Press Review

April 16-21, 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

Minister arrested

[The Herald, April 16, 2011](#)

NATIONAL Healing and Reconciliation co-Minister Moses Mzila-Ndlovu (MDC) has been arrested on allegations of failing to notify police of a meeting held on Wednesday at a primary school in Lupane.

Chief police spokesperson Senior Assistant Commissioner Wayne Bvudzijena confirmed Mzila-Ndlovu's arrest yesterday.

Mzila-Ndlovu who is the legislator for Bulilima West (Matabeleland South) was arrested in Lupane and was yesterday still in police custody.

Sources close to the investigations yesterday said Mzila-Ndlovu was also facing two more charges of contravening the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act chapter 9:23. "He is also facing other charges of publishing or communicating falsehoods prejudicial to the State and causing offence to persons of a particular race, religion or tribe."

Media reports say a Lupane Roman Catholic Church priest, Father Marko Mabutho Mnkandla was also arrested for allegedly holding a mass in memory of victims and survivors of the dissident menace that rocked the Matabeleland and Midlands provinces, commonly known as Gukurahundi.

Political Violence/Elections

No to violence-President

[The Herald, April 20, 2011](#)

PRESIDENT Mugabe yesterday urged Zimbabweans to shun all forms of violence and unite for national development.

The President, who was speaking in his keynote address during celebrations held to mark 31 years of independence and democracy at the National Sports Stadium, underscored the importance of peaceful co-existence at the gathering that drew the leadership and supporters of the three main political parties in the inclusive Government.

President Mugabe said while the Look East Policy had been a success, the Western countries that have imposed illegal economic sanctions on Zimbabwe had not been receptive to the re-engagement process.

Gwisai's charges likely to be altered

[The Herald, April 20, 2011](#)

FORMER Highfield MP Munyaradzi Gwisai and five others who are facing treason charges are likely to have the charges altered to a lesser crime.

The six were arrested in February this year on allegations of convening a meeting for the purpose of mobilising Zimbabweans to unconstitutionally overthrow the Government.

They were charged with treason, which attracts death penalty upon conviction.

They obtained bail from the High Court.

Yesterday the State indicated that the trial of Gwisai, Antonetar Choto, Tatenda Mombeyarara, Edison Chakuma, Hopewell Gumbo and Welcome Zimuto - would be held before a regional magistrate on July 18 this year.

The magistrate court, however, has no jurisdiction to preside over treason trials, which means the charges might be altered to a lesser offence.

Harare magistrate Mr Don Ndirowei presided over yesterday's proceedings and deferred the case to July 18.

MPs trial fails to take off again

[NewsDay, April 21, 2011](#)

The trial of two MDC-T MPs and six others accused of threatening a traditional leader with violence failed to take off for the third time in two months on Wednesday. This was after the state failed to provide a DVD and television set which had been requested by the defence.

MPs Roger Tazviona (Zhombe) and Costin Muguti (Gokwe-Kabuyuni) and six other MDC-T activists briefly appeared before Kwekwe provincial magistrate Tendai Mahwe on Wednesday before their trial was moved to May 24, when the state is expected to provide the defence with equipment to play video footage as part of its evidence.

Defence lawyer Reginald Chidawanyika on March 2 requested the State to provide the defence with equipment that would enable them to play a video recording of events which took place at Chief Samambwa's homestead on January 30 leading to the arrest of his clients.

War vet strips, beats up tourists in Mutoko

[NewsDay, April 18, 2011](#)

A Canadian tourist and his brother were Sunday allegedly stripped naked by a war veteran in Mutoko after they had gone to visit their late grandfather's grave. The incident happened at Nyamuzizi resettlement scheme as the two were on their way to a farm once owned by their grandfather and where he is buried. The tourist and his brother, only identified as Palmer, were stripped naked by the war veteran identified as Stanley Chinake Mazarura, who was allegedly at the forefront of unleashing terror in the area during the run-up to the June 27 2008 presidential election runoff.

A report was made at Mutoko police, but no official comment could be obtained from the police. Contacted for comment last night, police national spokesperson, Senior Assistant Commissioner Wayne Bvudzijena, said he had received no such report.

Mugabe preaches peace as Tsvangirai is attacked

[NewsDay, April 19, 2011](#)

President Robert Mugabe Monday urged Zimbabweans to embrace peace and ordered police to arrest perpetrators of violence. But while President Mugabe was preaching peace to thousands of Zimbabweans who thronged the National Sports Stadium, his Zanu PF party supporters were singing derogatory songs attacking the person of Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, who attended the celebrations.

Minister of Media, Information and Publicity Webster Shamu weighed in with an undisguised attack on Tsvangirai saying: "We have some people who say if (President) Mugabe brags that he liberated this country, he should go and surrender it back to the colonial masters and see if we cannot take it back."

Zanu PF besieges Epworth

[NewsDay, April 19, 2011](#)

Only a day after President Robert Mugabe preached peace at the Independence Day celebrations, his Zanu PF party supporters went on a rampage in Epworth invading pieces of land belonging to suspected MDC-T supporters and threatening them with death.

The Zanu PF youths were aided in their invasions by members of the local neighbourhood watch committee wearing official police reflective bibs and people in army uniform.

Residents told NewsDay, the suspected soldiers were known and active Zanu PF supporters in Epworth. The suspected soldiers were not armed during Tuesday's invasions.

Human Rights Issues

Zim human rights record still tainted-rights group

[NewsDay, April 20, 2011](#)

Amnesty International (AI) says the Zimbabwean Government is failing to address allegations of human rights violations and respect for human rights guaranteed in the country's Constitution.

AI says despite the formation of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in 2009, human rights violations have continued unabated.

Land and Resettlement

Illegal settlers disrupt timber industry

[Zimbabwe Independent, April 21-28, 2011](#)

ILLEGAL settlers have disrupted the local timber industry as they have invaded more than 5 000 hectares of commercial forestry land in Manicaland, indiscriminately cutting down trees, and posing serious environmental degradation threats in the process, according to timber industry players.

The timber industry accuses local authorities responsible for allocating land under the controversial land reform programme as abetting the squatters, thereby sabotaging the sector's revival. They say forestry plantations are being used for resettlement despite the fact that they are protected from invasion by the same land reform policy.

Industry sources in Manicaland say because of these takeovers, their companies are failing to secure foreign investment needed to revamp the ailing sector.

Economic Issues

Govt mulls grabbing companies for free

[NewsDay, April 19, 2011](#)

Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment Minister Saviour Kasukuwere says Government is considering not paying anything for the 51% stake it plans to acquire from foreign-owned companies. Kasukuwere says it does not make sense to make Zimbabweans pay for their minerals. He said the indigenisation would be implemented along the lines of the land reform programme.

Land and Resettlement

Govt projects grain surplus

[The Herald, April 21, 2011](#)

GOVERNMENT is projecting a harvest of over 1 877 700 tonnes of grain this year, surpassing the national annual cereal requirement of 1, 8 million, a Cabinet Minister revealed yesterday. This comes at a time when Government is battling to move grain to areas facing food shortages.

Agriculture, Mechanisation and Irrigation Development Minister Joseph Made, said his ministry projected a total maize yield of 1 451 629 tonnes this season on two million hectares planted under the crop. This indicates a nine percent increase from last year's harvest.

Minister Made said an additional 270 000 tonnes of maize were already in Grain Marketing Board silos as a carry over from last season.

Last year's figures stood at 1 327 572 tonnes planted on 1, 8 million hectares.

Social Issues

Malaria outbreak in Goromonzi

[The Herald, April 16, 2011](#)

ELEVEN people have died of malaria while 846 others were treated of the killer disease in Goromonzi West. According to reports 909 cases have been recorded so far.

The affected areas are Maiden of Svisva, Svisva 1 and 2 and Chabwino compound in Goromonzi West Constituency.

Councillor Miriam Chipunza yesterday said health facilities are too far from their area and they are appealing for mobile facilities to rescue them.

Clr Chipunza said the villagers were concerned that the outbreak could claim more victims

before the necessary steps are taken to arrest it. Dr Steven Karima, the district medical officer for Goromonzi, confirmed the outbreak.