

Weekly Press Review  
April 26-29, 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

### **Mugabe to wield axe**

[The Financial Gazette, April 28-May 4, 2011](#)

The Financial Gazette reports that President Robert Mugabe is said to be planning a surprise Cabinet reshuffle some time in May to strengthen his political hand and weed out those that have fallen to the temptation of greed. This reshuffle would be the first since the formation of the inclusive Government in 2009.

Ministers likely to be purged in the reshuffle come from Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central and Matabeleland.

### **Church calls for sanctions removal**

[The Herald, April 26, 2011](#)

WORLDWIDE Family of God Churches Overseer Apostle Andrew Wutaunashe on Sunday led his followers signing the National Anti-Sanctions Petition at the City Sports Centre in Harare.

Addressing his church members shortly before he appended his signature on the petition, Apostle Wutaunashe called on the West and its allies to remove the illegal economic embargo, which he said was not targeted but a burden on every Zimbabwean.

"Sanctions are affecting both Zanu-PF and MDC supporters because they have all been deprived of opportunities to prosper in their own country," he said.

He asked: "Do we call it partisan if a hospital that caters for you all cannot import a simple thing like an oxygen cup to resuscitate patients because the country has been barred from trading with other nations?"

### **Zanu PF manipulates food aid scheme**

[DailyNews, April 26, 2011](#)

Villagers in Matobo South say they are failing to benefit from food schemes run by Government as the vetting structures have been manipulated to shut out opposition supporters while favouring Zanu PF supporters. Zanu PF is also allegedly abusing its anti-sanctions campaign by threatening all those who do not sign the petition with exclusion from food aid registers.

### **Malawi expels envoy over criticism**

[NewsDay, April 28, 2011](#)

Malawi has expelled the British ambassador after he criticised the country's leader as autocratic in a leaked cable. This move defied warnings from the British Foreign Office that "there were likely to be consequences affecting the full range of issues in the bilateral relationship." Britain is a major donor to Malawi.

Meanwhile, [The Herald \(April 29, 2011\)](#) reports that Britain has expelled Malawi's ambassador in retaliation. The European Union said it was deeply concerned and surprised at the British ambassador's expulsion, saying it was unjustified and inappropriate.

## Political Violence/Elections

### **No money for elections-Biti**

[NewsDay, April 27, 2011](#)

Finance Minister Tendai Biti says the Government does not have the US\$400 million that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) requires to hold elections. He said Government had however, set aside funds for the roadmap that would lead to the holding of free and fair elections.

### **Tsvangirai the chosen one**

[NewsDay, April 26, 2011](#)

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has once again been chosen to lead the MDC-T after being endorsed by all the party's 12 provinces. His nomination comes before the party heads for its national congress to be held in Bulawayo with reports of in-fighting over positions.

### **Sibanda threatens to unleash terror**

[DailyNews, April 27, 2011](#)

War veterans' leader Jabulani Sibanda on Monday threatened to unleash former liberation fighters from Matabeleland to Masvingo to "deal" with all suspected MDC supporters ahead of the next polls. Sibanda also demanded that villagers in Masvingo Central vote for Zanu PF candidate in the next polls.

### **Elections doubtful**

[The Herald, April 29, 2011](#)

Negotiators to the Global Political Agreement have agreed on an election roadmap that could delay the holding of elections this year. All the parties agree that the illegal economic sanctions, a new Constitution and media reforms need to be addressed before the next polls. Zanu PF negotiator, Patrick Chinamasa said judging by the issues agreed to; elections may only be held in 2012 or 2013.

### **MDC supporters abducted**

[DailyNews, April 29, 2011](#)

Five female MDC members in Musilwizi Village, Chipinge East, were allegedly abducted on Wednesday by suspected security agents at midnight. Party officials say this could be linked to their husbands, who had a misunderstanding with the village headman.

Manicaland province police spokesperson said he was unaware of the incident.

### **Principals to summon Joc, Attorney-General**

[Zimbabwe Independent, April 29-May 5, 2011](#)

The principals in the inclusive Government will soon summon the Joint Operations Command (Joc) and Attorney General Johannes Tomana to discuss issues of political violence and arbitrary arrests of politicians. Arrests of MDC leaders, including Moses Mzila Ndlovu and Elton Mangoma have soured relations among the principals. The date of the meeting is yet to be finalised.

## **Media Issues**

### **NewsDay raided**

[NewsDay, April 27, 2011](#)

Unknown criminals broke into the offices of NewsDay in Harare on Monday night and stole a laptop belonging to the paper's editor, Brian Mangwende, hard-drives and other components from computers used by senior editorial staff at the country's fastest growing independent daily. The stolen hard-drives contained vital information and data.

The value of the stolen property runs into thousands of dollars.

Meanwhile, Minister of Information and Publicity, Webster Shamu, media groups and ordinary Zimbabweans have condemned the break-in at the NewsDay offices and the theft of equipment, urging the police to thoroughly investigate the matter.

Shamu said the break-in should be a warning to media houses to tighten their security.

## **Human Rights Issues**

### **"I was stripped before women"**

[NewsDay, April 26, 2011](#)

Lupane Roman Catholic priest Father Marko Mnkandla says he was stripped in the presence of two female police officers and a female accused person following his arrest and subsequent detention two weeks ago. Mnkandla had been arrested for allegedly holding a political rally disguised as a church service for Gukurahundi survivors and victims without the consent of the police.

He said he was denied his medication for pneumonia and later put in leg irons.

### **Hifa organisers arrested**

[NewsDay, April 29, 2011](#)

Four of the Harare International Festival of the Arts (Hifa) organisers were yesterday arrested in connection with the opening play on Tuesday but later released with no charges being preferred against them.

A Hifa executive said they had been under pressure in the past few weeks to reveal the identities of all their performers, their source of funding and the nature of the plays and musical events.

## **Economic Issues**

### **Indigenisation could stifle gold output**

[Zimbabwe Independent, April 29-May 5, 2011](#)

Finance Minister Tendai Biti sees Zimbabwe's gold output rising this year but warned discord over indigenisation and empowerment regulations targeting foreign-owned companies could stifle investment in the sector. Government is projecting an annual gold output of 13 tonnes up from three tonnes in 2008.

## **Land and Resettlement**

### **Underused plots repossessed**

[The Herald, April 28, 2011](#)

Chiredzi district administrator, Mrs Clara Muzenda says Government has started repossessing underused sugarcane plots allocated to more than 70 new farmers in the Chiredzi area.

She said they had already started repossessing the underused plots at Mkwesine Estates.

The move is expected to encourage optimum use of land and improve sugar output in the Lowveld.

This follows a land audit carried out last year, which exposed rampant underutilisation of plots.

Mrs Muzenda said the repossessed plots would be allocated to people on the waiting list.