

**Weekly Press Review**

**May 7-13, 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**

### **Anti-sanctions campaign surpasses target**

**[The Herald, May 10, 2011](#)**

THE anti-sanctions campaign launched by President Mugabe in March has gone exceptionally well with the target of two million signatures having been surpassed.

Director of Urban Communication Services in the Ministry of Media, Information and Publicity, Retired Major Anywhere Mutambudzi, said more than 2, 2 million people had signed the petition.

In the petition, people were expected to append their signatures and identification numbers to register their opposition to the illegal sanctions while demanding their immediate removal. According to the statistics, Harare signed 340 000 forms, Bulawayo 82 240, Matabeleland South 94 724, Matabeleland North 89 739, Masvingo 216 000, Mashonaland West 231 919, Manicaland 182 950 Mashonaland East 307 651, Mashonaland Central 246 729 and Midlands 230 900.

### **EU refuses to fund Zim tourism exhibition**

**[The Herald, May 10, 2011](#)**

ZIMBABWE is the only African country exhibiting at Africa's biggest travel and tourism exposition - the Indaba in Durban, South Africa - without European Union funding after the EU argued that the country was under sanctions.

Despite this, Zimbabwe managed to send 27 companies from its tourism and hospitality industry under a Zimbabwe Tourism Authority (ZTA) project with the theme, Zimbabwe on Recovery Path.

ZTA chief executive Mr Karikoga Kaseke, on Sunday confirmed that only Zimbabwe had been denied the funding saying he was surprised that the EU had refused funding for the tourism sector yet it always claims that the sanctions are targeted.

### **Media groups slam Charamba**

**[DailyNews, May 9, 2011](#)**

Media groups have slammed attempts by Presidential spokesperson George Charamba to expel foreign journalists warning that he will not succeed to in his attempts to suppress the Zimbabwe story.

Charamba's threat comes in the wake of journalist Reuben Barwe's failure to attend the beatification of the late Pope John Paul II in Rome, Italy, when he was denied a visa. Barwe is one of the six journalists placed on the sanctions list by the European Union.

EU Ambassador to Zimbabwe Aldo Dell'Ariccia last week said journalists who had been placed on the travel bans were there because of their reports which had incited hate in the state-controlled media.

### **Rights groups rap beatings**

**[DailyNews, May 9, 2011](#)**

Human rights groups have condemned the savage beating of civilians by soldiers in most parts of the country, which they say is a clear sign that hardliners in Zanu PF have no respect for the SADC-led negotiations.

MDC-T accuses Zanu PF of using security agents to coerce people into voting for them in elections.

### **Malawian Ambassador slams sanctions**

**[The Herald, May 13, 2011](#)**

Malawi's Ambassador to Zimbabwe Professor Richard Phoya said the continued existence of illegal sanctions on Zimbabwe is having a negative impact on the country's development.

Prof Phoya said the effects of illegal sanctions on Zimbabwe are so glaring considering that Zimbabwe was one of the countries in the Southern Africa region that had made great strides in developing its infrastructure after attaining independence. On the progress made by the inclusive government, Prof Phoya commended the three principals of the Global Political Agreement saying the accord has been a unifying force which has brought stability to the country.

### **SADC mulling measures to take against Zim**

[Zimbabwe Independent, May 13-19, 2011](#)

South African President Jacob Zuma says SADC would consider what measures to take against Zimbabwe at its Summit in Namibia next week after the Government refused to comply with the SADC Tribunal ruling on land reforms in 2008.

The Tribunal ruling found that Mike Campbell and 78 other farmers had been denied access to justice and that the country's land reform programme was discriminatory against white people.

## **Political Violence/Elections**

### **Gloves off in Zanu PF**

#### **...as Gumbo fights Chinamasa**

[NewsDay, May 9, 2011](#)

Zanu PF insists that elections will be held this year and its spokesperson has dismissed Patrick Chinamasa's recent remarks that polls were unlikely to be held this year. Gumbo said Chinamasa was expressing his personal opinion; not the party position.

SADC is working on a roadmap with parties in the inclusive Government and only after it is followed will polls be held, the regional body has said. However, Zanu PF politburo member Professor Jonathan Moyo criticised SADC and said polls should be held this year or 2016.

### **Zanu PF speaks on elections**

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

Zanu PF insists that elections will be held this year without fail after the completion of the constitution-making process. The party also said it would not tolerate outsiders interrogating the country's security chiefs on developments in the country.

Party spokesperson Rugare Gumbo said MDC-T was playing political games as evidenced by its withdrawal from Copac yesterday and added that Zanu PF and MDC would continue without them if they decide to pull out completely.

### **MDC-T, Zanu PF trade insults**

[NewsDay, May 9, 2011](#)

MDC-T and Zanu PF are accusing each other of fanning political violence in the country. MDC-T has accused Police Commissioner-General Augustine Chihuri of behaving like a Zanu PF spokesperson and denied his allegations that they are responsible for the violence.

Zanu PF says MDC-T is well-known for violence in and out of the country and said their supporters were attacked by MDC-T in South Africa where they had gone for the anti-sanctions petition.

### **Majongwe quits Copac**

[The Financial Gazette, May 12-18, 2011](#)

The Deputy Chairperson of the Thematic Committee on War Veterans, Raymond Majongwe this week quit after allegedly being harassed by former liberation war fighters. Majongwe said he was not a member of any political party so he was uncomfortable with declarations by the select committee that he was appointed as an MDC-T representative

## **Human Rights Issues**

### **Cabinet okays Human Rights Commission Bill**

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

CABINET has approved the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Bill that will be gazetted before it is presented to Parliament.

The Bill seeks to make provisions for the powers and operation of the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission.

Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Patrick Chinamasa said the Bill was passed at the 11th meeting of Cabinet on May 3 this year.

## **Economic Issues**

### **Major mining firms comply with indigenisation law**

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

Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment Minister Saviour Kasukuwere has confirmed that some of the country's major mining companies have submitted their indigenisation plans to the Government. He said those that have not complied with the law risk losing their mining licences or face prosecution.

### **New deadline for mining companies**

**[NewsDay, May 12, 2011](#)**

The Government has extended the indigenisation law compliance deadline for foreign-owned mining companies to June 2. Minister Saviour Kasukuwere said the Government had realised that the initial May 9 deadline had not taken into account public holidays and weekends. He added that the June 2 deadline was final.