

Weekly Press Review  
May 14-20, 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

### **Thousands denounce sanctions**

[The Saturday Herald, May 14, 2011](#)

Thousands of people gathered at Mount Carmel School in Headlands yesterday to show their opposition to the Western-imposed illegal sanctions regime. The rally came at a time when the Government has announced that the target of 2 million signatures had already been surpassed. Cde Shamu told the rally that elections will be held this year as they are the only way to end the inclusive Government.

### **GPA saved Zim from tougher EU Sanctions**

[NewsDay, May 20, 2011](#)

A diplomatic cable released by WikiLeaks reveals that the signing of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in 2008 saved the country from tougher European Union (EU) sanctions. The cable was considering strengthening the sanctions before the signing of the GPA and was now taking a wait and see attitude.

### **I set aside money for Zim land reform-Blair**

[Zimbabwe Independent, May 20-26, 2011](#)

Former British Prime Minister says his country had set aside funds for Zimbabwe's land reform programme during his tenure but there were fears that the Mugabe Government would misappropriate the funds. However, Blair's sentiments contradict what the then British Secretary of State Claire Short wrote to Zimbabwe; that Britain would not fund the land reform exercise.

## Political Violence/Elections

### **Zanu PF declares bloody June 27**

[NewsDay, May 16, 2011](#)

Zanu PF yesterday declared that there is no going back on elections and whether it "runs alone or not."

Party spokesman Rugare Gumbo said other political parties are free not to participate in the polls but once President Robert Mugabe proclaims the date they will go ahead. He added that the inclusive Government has had its life span so elections should now be held.

### **Keep out of schools, politicians told**

[NewsDay, May 16, 2011](#)

The Apex Council has urged political parties to desist from using schools as campaign grounds as this compromised the country's education system and instilled fear among teachers and pupils. The remarks follow reports that several schools in Headlands, Manicaland province were closed last week and pupils and teachers ordered to attend a Zanu PF rally at Mt Carmel School. Zanu PF has taken its anti-sanctions to schools and allegations are that teachers and students were being forced to sign the petition.

### **Election roadmap hijacked**

[The Sunday Mail 15-21, 2011](#)

The United States and Britain have joined forces in attempts to hijack the roadmap to Zimbabwe's election, with US Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Ms Susan Page and her UK counterpart, Junior Foreign Minister David Howell, being the point officials spearheading the plot aimed at blocking the holding of elections this year, it emerged.

## **US denies influencing election timing in Zim**

[DailyNews, May 19, 2011](#)

The United States Government has refuted allegations by pro-Zanu PF officials that it wants to influence the next election to ensure Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and his party won the majority vote. US Embassy Press Officer Sharon Hudson-Dean said it is up to Zimbabweans to decide when to hold their election.

## **An eye for an eye**

- **MDC-T youths declare war on Zanu PF**
- **Tsvangirai says approach will leave everyone blind**

[NewsDay, May 17, 2011](#)

The MDC-T youth assembly has declared that it will retaliate Zanu PF violence on its members. An official of the assembly they were ready to defend themselves against attacks from Zanu PF.

However, MDC-T president Morgan Tsvangirai said the party would not tolerate retributions.

## **Mugabe health cause for concern-ANC**

[NewsDay, May 17, 2011](#)

South Africa's African National Congress (ANC) says one of the biggest concerns for the GPA negotiators in coming up with the election roadmap was the health of President Robert

Mugabe. The ANC says the negotiators were concerned about the country's succession law should Mugabe die or retire before the adoption of a new Constitution, which is still being negotiated.

## **SADC in turmoil**

- **As Tsvangirai, Ncube not yet invited to Summit**

[NewsDay, May 18, 2011](#)

There are fears that Zimbabwe might not be on the agenda of the SADC Summit scheduled for Friday as South African President Jacob Zuma's availability is in doubt amid reports that he is involved in his country's local Government polls; moreover media reports indicate that MDC-T leader Morgan Tsvangirai and Welshman Ncube of the other MDC faction have not yet been invited to the Summit.

## **Zuma drops ball**

- **Zuma not attending SADC Namibia Summit**
- **Zim not on agenda**

[DailyNews, May 19, 2011](#)

Zimbabwe's political crisis is no longer on the agenda of the SADC Extraordinary Summit scheduled for this Friday as the mediator, South African President Jacob Zuma, will not be in attendance due to the Local Government polls in his country. MDC-T and civil society organisations say security agents have stepped up their violence and harassment of Mugabe's opponents.

## **New stance on Zim expected at SADC Summit**

[The Herald, May 18, 2011](#)

Analysts say the SADC Extraordinary Summit scheduled for Windhoek, Namibia, this week is likely to take a different stance from the recent SADC Troika Summit in Livingstone, Zambia. Analysts say the new stance will be influenced by the revelations that MDC-T had deliberately misrepresented the facts on the ground and misled the Troika, but later exposed itself through word and deed.

President Mugabe sent envoys across the region to explain the true Zimbabwean story.

## **SADC sets new date for talks on Zim**

[NewsDay, May 20, 2011](#)

June 11 has been set as the new date for SADC to discuss the Zimbabwe crisis after the issue was struck off the agenda of the Extraordinary Summit, which starts in Namibia, due to the unavailability of the mediator, South African President Jacob Zuma.

## **Visiting German MPs slam political violence**

[NewsDay, May 18, 2011](#)

A delegation of German parliamentarians currently in the country to assess the political situation, the constitution-making process and progress in the inclusive Government; has

condemned political violence. Karin Roth, a member of the delegation asked the Speaker of the House of Assembly Lovemore Moyo how the constitution-making process and the elections be organised in a way that reduces violence.

### **Khaya Moyo meets German MPs**

[The Herald, May 18, 2011](#)

The head of the visiting German parliamentary delegation, Mr Stefan Liebich told Zanu PF national chairman that Germany stands guided by the European Union on the bloc's sanctions regime and does not see the embargo imposed on Zimbabwe being lifted anytime soon. Liebich said Germany would act on sanctions only after the completion of the constitution-making process and what he termed the delivery of "credible elections." Germany was perceived to be softening when it comes to the stance taken by the EU on Zimbabwe.

### **Security reforms rejected**

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

President Robert Mugabe says proposals by MDC formations for a security sector reforms are "nonsensical" as the Zimbabwe Defence Forces are an exemplary force that has received worldwide acclaim as evidenced by their continued service in UN missions the world over and training of fellow forces within the region. The MDC formations have accused the security forces of being partisan and pro-Zanu PF.

## **Human Rights Issues**

### **Rights Commission to look only at post-2009 abuses**

The proposed Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission will only deal with cases that happened after the formation of the Inclusive Government in 2009. The Human Rights Commission Bill was recently approved by Cabinet. This means that cases of Gukurahundi, Operation Murambatsvina and the 2008 violence will not be addressed.

## **Media Issues**

### **ZUJ slams Tsvangirai's attack on journalists**

[The Herald, May 18, 2011](#)

The Zimbabwe Union of Journalists (ZUJ) has slammed Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's statements that journalists working for the public media are shallow for criticising him and his party. ZUJ also criticised Minister Obert Mpofu for singling out the Daily News while appearing before the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Mines and Energy that the paper was working with the country's detractors.

## **Economic Issues**

### **Govt to amend Mines and Minerals Act**

[NewsDay, May 16, 2011](#)

Mines and Mining Development, Minister Obert Mpofu said Government was in the process of amending the Mines and Minerals Act so that it is in sync with the country's indigenisation policy. Mpofu said the Bill would promote investment, develop new mines and further economic empowerment and indigenisation.

### **Upfumi Kuvadiki targets Econet**

[The Standard, May 15-21, 2011](#)

Upfumi Kuvadiki, a youth empowerment group linked to Zanu PF, on Monday stormed Econet headquarters and demanded that its members be given contracts to supply various goods to the mobile operator. The group tried to take over a South African company, Easipark, contracted to manage Harare's municipal parking earlier this year.

### **Germans keen to invest if property rights are respected**

**DailyNews, May 19, 2011**

A delegation of German parliamentarians visiting Zimbabwe said companies from that country are keen to re-invest in Zimbabwe, but needs a firm Government commitment that property rights will be respected before re-investing. The group also expressed strong reservations against the Indigenisation law, which requires foreigners to cede 51% shares to locals.

## **Social Issues**

### **Cholera looms in Harare**

**DailyNews, May 20, 2011**

Harare mayor Muchadeyi Masunda says the city may be hit by a cholera outbreak as UNICEF has terminated its water treatment chemicals partnership with the city at the end of June. Masunda said the Council is not receiving any funding from the Government.