

## Weekly Press Review

May 21-27, 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

### **Summit dissolves Tribunal**

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

THE SADC Tribunal was dissolved at the regional grouping's extraordinary summit in Windhoek yesterday with leaders tasking Justice Ministers to reconstitute the tribunal to give it a new mandate. The tribunal was suspended last August pending proper reconstitution this year. Some white former commercial farmers took their cases to the tribunal in a bid to reverse the land reform programme after the State acquired their farms for redistribution to the landless majority. The tribunal subsequently courted controversy when it passed judgments that contravened Zimbabwe's constitutional position on land reform.

### **Blow to rule of law as SADC suspends tribunal**

[DailyNews, May 23, 2011](#)

SADC has suspended its Tribunal until May 2012 to give Ministers of Justice and Attorney Generals time to review it. This is despite recommendations by an independent study they commissioned.

### **Bob wants Zuma out**

[DailyNews, May 23, 2011](#)

President Robert Mugabe has allegedly identified South African President Jacob Zuma as his biggest problem and is pushing for his removal from the role of mediator in the Zimbabwe crisis. Zanu PF has also written to Zuma demanding the removal of his international relations adviser, Lindiwe Zulu on allegations that she was biased against the party.

### **Lift Zim sanctions, SADC MPs tell EU**

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

THE SADC Group of Parliamentarians in the African, Caribbean, Pacific and European Union (ACP-EU) Joint Parliamentary Assembly (JPA) last week urged the EU to lift all forms of sanctions against Zimbabwe in Budapest, Hungary during the sitting of the 21st JPA of the ACP-EU.

A senior EU official also admitted at the meeting that indeed, the illegal sanctions are impeding the full implementation of the Global Political Agreement and undermining the work of the facilitator to the inter-party dialogue, South Africa President, Jacob Zuma.

### **South Africa's Lindiwe Zulu in trouble**

[The Sunday Mail, May 22-28, 2011](#)

Zanu PF has formally lodged a complaint with the African National Congress (ANC) over the behaviour of President Zuma's International relations adviser and member of the facilitation team, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, over "reckless and inflammatory" statements that the GPA negotiators "are concerned about the succession law should President Mugabe die or retire before the adoption of a new constitution.

### **Iran blasts West over Zim sanctions**

[The Herald, May 25, 2011](#)

IRANIAN Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Mohamed Pournajaf has slammed the West and its allies for refusing to remove the illegal sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe.

Speaking during the handing over of blankets, detergents, learning materials and cooking oil to villagers of Shumba District in Goromonzi West on Monday, Mr Pournajaf said Zimbabweans were masters of their own destiny and urged them to unite in the fight against sanctions.

He said just like Iran, Zimbabwe needed to increase its knowledge in research, education and technology to close all the loopholes that the west was trying to exploit the country's wealth.

## Political Violence/Elections

### Headmaster flees war vet attack

[NewsDay, May 24, 2011](#)

A headmaster at Mapo Primary School in Odzi, Edson Masango, has allegedly fled from the school after he reportedly received death threats from suspected war veterans and Zanu PF supporters because he had accepted a school donation of a classroom from the area's MDC-T senator, Keresenzia Chabuka.

### Home Office bid to throw out ex-CIO man fails

[NewsDay, May 27, 2011](#)

A judge has refused the UK Home Office permission to appeal against a decision to grant asylum to a former Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) operative accused of "crimes against humanity".

Phillip Machemedze (47), admitted kidnapping dozens of opposition activists and carrying out acts of torture "too gruesome to recount", but he was allowed to stay in Britain on May 4 after a judge said he would be killed in Zimbabwe.

The Home Office initially said it would not appeal, but appears to have changed its stance after criticism from media coverage.

But an attempt to launch an appeal suffered a setback on May 18 when a second judge said the Home Office's arguments amounted to "no more than a disagreement" with the earlier decision to grant asylum to the former CIO agent.

### Army demands elections in 2011

- **Mugabe should die in office**
- **We will never salute Tsvangirai**

[Zimbabwe Independent, May 27-June 2, 2011](#)

TOP Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) commander Brigadier-General Douglas Nyikayaramba says President Robert Mugabe must remain in office for life and elections must be held this year to ensure "political stability" in the country.

In stunning revelations, which clearly indicated the army was dabbling in politics and was the power behind Mugabe's throne, Nyikayaramba said the president (87) cannot be removed because he was irreplaceable like a "father" in a family.

He said elections, which he claims Zanu PF would win, must be held this year because the inclusive government has failed to look after the army. He added that he suspected that the MDC-T-controlled Ministry of Finance was deliberately under-funding the military to incite soldiers to mutiny against their commanders.

## Human Rights Issues

### No progress in improving human rights: US official

[The Standard, May 22-28, 2011](#)

The United States Deputy Assistant Trade representative for Africa, Constance Hamilton says Zimbabwe is still not eligible for benefits under the Africa Growth Opportunity Act (AGOA) because it has not made any progress in promoting the rule of law and political reforms. She added that America would not lift the economic sanctions against Zimbabwe until there was a definite move towards democracy.

### Zim activists arrested at SADC Summit

[NewsDay, May 23, 2011](#)

A group of Zimbabwean civil society activists, including top lawyer Irene Petras and journalist Jealousy Mawaririe, was allegedly arrested and ejected from the just-ended Sadc summit in Namibia after they were intercepted distributing "offensive" flyers near the summit venue.

Joy Mabenge of the Institute for Democratic Alternatives for Zimbabwe was also arrested.

The incident happened on Friday at the venue of the Sadc Extraordinary Summit, Safari Court Hotel.

The three were questioned and released after an hour, while another nine civil society leaders were held under heavy police guard.

### Polls only way to end GPA row

[The Herald, May 23, 2011](#)

Zanu PF says elections are the only way to resolve the conflict between political parties in the inclusive Government. The party would stand by the resolutions it made at its annual conference in Mutare last year that polls would be held with or without the MDC formations.

## **Legislation/Parliamentary proceedings**

### **Proposed amendments to Electoral Act approved**

**[The Herald, May 25, 2011](#)**

CABINET has approved proposed amendments to the Electoral Act after parties to the Global Political Agreement agreed on the raft of adjustments.

The draft Bill was presented to Cabinet but MDC-T reneged on the agreement and the matter had to be referred to the principals who approved the changes.

The amendments will now be gazetted before they go to Parliament for debate.

Some of the amendments include the extension of period between nomination and polling day, limit to the postal ballot system, declaration of presidential poll results, nomination of candidates, audit of presidential results and politically motivated violence among others.

## **Economic Issues**

### **Shut and go, Kasukuwere tells firms**

**[The Standard, May 22-28, 2011](#)**

Minister of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment, Saviour Kasukuwere has said foreign-owned companies opposed to the country's indigenisation and empowerment laws must shut operations and relocate to their countries of origin.

He said Chinese and Indian investors were ready to take over foreign-owned companies that are resisting to hand over 51% shareholding to black Zimbabweans, adding that Far East countries were ready to comply with the country's empowerment laws.

Kasukuwere singled out ZimPlats as a company that is resisting to comply with the regulations.

## **Land and Resettlement**

### **New wave of farm invasions in Midlands**

**[NewsDay, May 21, 2011](#)**

A new wave of farm invasions targeting the few remaining white farmers has reportedly hit some areas of Midlands with allegations that two elderly farmers were recently evicted from their Somabula farm. Other farmers face criminal charges for continuing to live on their farms "without permit, offer letters or a lease."

### **Harare businessman in fresh farm seizure**

**[NewsDay, May 24, 2011](#)**

A white farmer, Desmond Fox, was yesterday forced off his farm by suspected war veterans to allegedly make way for businessman Eddie Kadzombe who is linked to Zanu PF. The Commercial farmers' Union (CFU) says production at most farms remains under threat due to farm invasions.