

Weekly Press Review

June 11-17, 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

No way out for Mugabe

...as SADC won't budge

[NewsDay, June 14, 2011](#)

The recently-held SADC Summit reportedly stood up to President Robert Mugabe after he allegedly challenged President Jacob Zuma over the "inaccuracy" of the Livingstone Troika resolutions.

Mugabe and his delegation had reportedly lobbied hard for the Summit to reverse the findings of the March Troika meeting in Livingstone, Zambia that for the first time criticised him for the crackdown on his political opponents.

The Summit went on to note the decision of the Troika.

SADC's true position on Zimbabwe

[The Herald, June 14, 2011](#)

Analysts have said no amount of agenda-setting or misinformation can change the outcome of the Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government that rejected the Livingstone Troika document and refused to entertain issues outside the province of the GPA. The two-day extraordinary summit, held at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg, South Africa, over the weekend; caught merchants of illegal regime change flat-footed with some ascribing their own, hoped for meanings, to a communiqué that is in black and white. Much of the media reports stem from insistence by MDC formations that the Livingstone report was adopted by summit when it was not.

A southern African diplomat accredited to Zimbabwe told The Herald, on condition of anonymity, that those conversant with diplomatic conventions would ascribe no other meaning to the fact that summit's decision to "note" rather than "endorse" the Livingstone report meant that Livingstone was consigned to the dustbins of history.

Zuma outwits Mugabe

- **Says he did not manufacture Livingstone report**
- **It was a big showdown considering presidents were involved**

[DailyNews, June 14, 2011](#)

Reports emanating from the SADC Summit held over the weekend indicate that President Jacob Zuma of South Africa stared and dressed down President Mugabe after the latter's attempt to overturn resolutions from the Livingstone Troika meeting, which criticised him and his party for slowing down regional efforts to normalise politics in Zimbabwe. Zuma told Mugabe that he did not manufacture the Livingstone report.

Meanwhile, SADC Executive secretary Tomaz Salamao says the term "noted" in reference to the Livingstone report does not mean that it was thrown out as was being claimed by Zanu PF.

Thugs raid Biti

[DailyNews, June 16, 2011](#)

Zanu PF thugs yesterday raided the offices of the MDC-T secretary General who is also the Finance Minister, Tendai Biti in a bid to try and force him to sign their party's anti-sanctions petition or resign. The thugs carried placards calling for Biti's resignation and threatening his life. Biti said this was an act of intimidation.

This comes a few weeks after a bomb attack at the minister's house.

Panic grips Masvingo

[DailyNews, June 16, 2011](#)

Panic has gripped white businesspeople in Masvingo after the emergence of militant pro-Zanu PF youth group demanding majority stakes in white-owned firms in the province.

The group says it is working on a takeover plan after identifying their targets although they did not name them. Indigenisation Minister Saviour Kasukuwere has in the past expressed support for the seizure of white-owned businesses.

Dumba picked up for cop murder

[NewsDay, June 13, 2011](#)

A third MDC-T councillor, Warship Dumba, was yesterday arrested over the murder of a policeman two weeks ago. Dumba's arrest brings the total number of imprisoned MDC-T activists to 24.

The MDC-T criticised the arrest saying the police were trying to silence the councillor and the party.

"Change whole system"

[DailyNews, June 17, 2011](#)

United States Ambassador to Zimbabwe Charles Ray has warned that removing President Robert Mugabe from power without dealing with other structural governance pillars would be inadequate. He said a key ingredient to development was the implementation of reforms that would ensure a non-partisan security sector.

Human Rights Issues

Zimbabwe tries to mislead UN on human rights issues

[The Standard, June 12-18, 2011](#)

ZIMBABWE will present a report to the United Nations Human Rights Commission (UNHCR) that completely ignores alleged human rights violations by state institutions, a draft report has revealed.

The report drafted by an inter-ministerial committee led by the ministry of Justice will be tabled at the 12th session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva Switzerland in October.

It does not mention the alleged torture, killings, intimidation and incarceration of political activists, which have been exposed in several court cases.

Instead the report claims that Zimbabwe is a champion of freedom of expression and freedom of association.

The draft also claims that all vulnerable members of society are given monthly stipends.

Lawyers castigate Tomana

[DailyNews, June 16, 2011](#)

The Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) has blasted Attorney General Johannes Tomana for refusing to investigate torture claims by Glen View residents who were arrested in Harare last month on allegations of murdering a policeman. The arrested residents last week appeared in court and showed visible signs of torture with some limping.

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Economic Issues

Zimbabwe sits on 500m Euro loan offer

[The Standard, June 12-18, 2011](#)

Deputy Minister of Transport, Communications and Infrastructure, Tichaona Mudzingwa last week revealed that Zimbabwe is yet to respond to a 500 million euro (about US\$771,3m) loan offer to upgrade infrastructure dangled by a top Germany bank because of the paralysis in the unity government.

He said the constant conflict in the inclusive government made it difficult for the ministry to carry out any meaningful infrastructure development projects.

A Germany business delegation that visited Zimbabwe in February expressed a willingness to invest in the country despite European Union (EU) sanctions imposed on Harare.

No return for Zim dollar

- **Inflation to end year at 7%**
- **Election talk clouds policy**

[NewsDay, June 16, 2011](#)

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) says Zimbabwe will miss its inflation target of 4% by the end of the year as a result of high prices of food, fuel, rentals and services and has urged the Government to extend the multi-currency system beyond 2012. The IMF says Government has agreed to extend the system beyond 2012 as conditions for the re-introduction of the Zim dollar were not yet right although Reserve Bank governor Gideon Gono proposed the adoption of a gold-backed Zimbabwean dollar.

IMF team expected

[NewsDay, June 15, 2011](#)

An International Monetary Fund (IMF) delegation is expected to start reviewing Zimbabwe's economic developments and assist the Government in preparing the mid-year Budget statement.

The IMF last week said the country's economy would decelerate to 5, 5% this year as compared to 6% recorded in 2009.

Parliament slams indigenisation

[DailyNews, June 13, 2011](#)

The Parliamentary Legal Committee (PLC) on Friday declared that the indigenisation regulations that seek to nationalise foreign-owned companies were "unconstitutional, unreasonable and absurd," and called for them to be repealed or revised.

A legal monitoring organisation says the regulations could be challenged in the Supreme Court if they were not repealed.

Land and Resettlement

US\$100m input scheme to benefit communal farmers

[The Herald, June 14, 2011](#)

More than 800 000 communal farmers nationwide are set to benefit from the European Union's \$100 million input support scheme for the 2011/12 cropping season. The European Union (EU) Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Aldo Dell'Araccia said the EU would be coordinating with other organisations in the support the 800 000 households. Ambassador Dell' Araccia and Agriculture Minister Joseph Made agreed that they would not tolerate the politicisation of the programme, where inputs are distributed along political party lines.