

Weekly Press Review

July 9-15, 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

"Sanctions must stay"

[NewsDay, July 12, 2011](#)

The Zimbabwe Europe Network (Zen), a consortium of more than 20 non-governmental organisations has made fresh calls for punitive economic measures against Harare to stay until full implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA).

Zen, with membership in nine European (EU) countries, urged the European Union and the West to continue imposing targeted sanctions on Zimbabwe as long as there was continued violation of human and democratic rights. Zen's call comes as Zanu PF reportedly intensified a campaign to have the sanctions lifted.

The targeted sanctions, the organisation said, should only be relaxed in tandem with progress towards full democratisation of Zimbabwe.

Zen cited key outstanding issues including the staffing of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, security sector reforms, political violence, media reforms and the role of election observers and monitors.

In February this year, the EU and the West extended the sanctions and targeted measures on Zimbabwe arguing lack of progress on the democratic front.

3 ministers arrested

[DailyNews, July 11, 2011](#)

Three Cabinet ministers, Welshman Ncube, Moses Mzila-Ndlovu and Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga and several officials from the smaller MDC faction were arrested in Hwange yesterday as the crackdown against Zanu PF opponents intensifies.

They were later released without charge after being detained for more than three hours. The development is likely to shake the foundations of the inclusive government.

Ncube and his delegation were returning from Victoria Falls.

The arrest of the three ministers and the threat to arrest Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has sent shockwaves in the inclusive government, a few weeks away from the SADC summit in Angola which will deal with the political crisis in Zimbabwe.

Minister blasts bid to influence judiciary

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

GOVERNMENT is concerned with attempts by some non-governmental organisations and foreign governments trying to influence operations of the judiciary through conducting seminars and workshops for the bench.

Some embassies and NGOs are also trying to unprocedurally fund the Zimbabwe Media Commission, it has been learnt.

Foreign governments through NGOs upped their efforts in trying to influence the operations of constitutional commissions through direct funding.

High Court judges recently boycotted lectures they viewed to be dubious, which were organised by the Law Society of Zimbabwe on the rule of law.

Media, Information and Publicity permanent secretary, Mr George Charamba, yesterday said there were embassies and an NGO, which wanted to bypass Government in funding the Zimbabwe Media Commission.

Political Violence/Elections

Tsvangirai breathes fire

[DailyNews, July 11, 2011](#)

MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai has come out guns blazing and called on his supporters to mobilise and defend themselves when attacked by militias from Zanu PF.

He expressed worry that his supporters continue to be victims of violence and intimidation by Zanu PF aligned security people but reiterated that his party should not use violence against its opponents.

Tsvangirai also revealed to the huge audience that the Ministries of Justice, Home Affairs and Information were frustrating the smooth operations of the inclusive government. The MDC leader also praised the civil servants for their resilience in the face of economic hardships they are facing and described them as "super patriots". He said they will be rewarded one day when the economy gets back to its feet.

Outrage over Tsvangirai's violence utterances

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

MDC-T leader Mr Morgan Tsvangirai has come under fire for making reckless public utterances that incite violence and create animosity at a time when Government has initiated a national healing and reconciliation process.

This follows his statements at a rally in Masvingo on Sunday where he reportedly urged his supporters to retaliate using violence against political opponents.

Senior MDC-T official and co-Home Affairs Minister Theresa Makone vindicated Mr Tsvangirai's call for violence, saying it was time they extinguished fire with fire.

However, Zanu-PF yesterday condemned the MDC-T leadership's call for violence and urged its supporters to be peaceful in the face of open hostility from a partner in the inclusive Government. Cde Gumbo said instead of taking the law into their own hands, MDC-T should report any incidences of violence against its supporters to the police or take legal action where necessary.

Call to review poll timelines

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

ZANU-PF has challenged negotiators to the inter-party dialogue to revise some of the timelines they agreed on the election roadmap, insisting that general elections should be held this year.

Addressing journalists after the party's Politburo meeting yesterday, Zanu-PF spokesperson Cde Rugare Gumbo said the party expressed concern on the delaying tactics of MDC-T on the completion of the constitution-making process.

Cde Gumbo said the Politburo also received reports on the Sadc summits in Windhoek, Namibia, Livingstone, Zambia and Sandton, South Africa, from Cde Chinamasa and added that the party was happy Sadc leaders were satisfied with the progress made in Zimbabwe.

Zanu PF disown Nyikayaramba

[DailyNews, July 15, 2011](#)

Zanu PF Parliamentarians have disowned "rogue" army general Brigadier-General Douglas Nyikayaramba, who has said the military will do "anything" to keep President Robert Mugabe and the party in power even if they lose elections.

This appears to be a campaign by Zanu PF to clean up its image ahead of the SADC Summit in Angola next month.

'No elections this year'

[NewsDay, July 15, 2011](#)

In response to Zanu PF's remarks on Wednesday, the SADC facilitation team to the Zimbabwe political crisis has reiterated that elections can only be held when all provisions of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) and the election roadmap are fulfilled. The spokesperson of the team has previously stated that elections were not feasible in the country this year.

Economic Issues

Rights activist warns against KPCS defiance

[The Standard, July 10-16, 2011](#)

A leading human rights campaigner and researcher, Farai Maguwu, has warned Zimbabwe against exporting diamonds from Marange in defiance of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) saying this would prejudice the country of millions of dollars in revenue. The warning comes after the Minister of Mines and Mining Development Obert Mpofu vowed to export the gems from Marange in Manicaland province despite lack of consensus on the matter at a KP meeting held in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) last month.

Maguwu said diamonds that are traded secretly, as Zimbabwe intends to do, were undervalued and would benefit third parties as opposed to the producers.

He said a closed door meeting of key stakeholders, held after Mpofu's speech in DRC, agreed that Mbada and Marange Resources should be allowed to export diamonds but disagreed on the continuing monitoring of compliance of the two mine sites by the KPCS.

However, KPCS chairperson Mathieu Yamba of the DRC, issued a notice, known as the "Second Yamba Text" endorsing the exports of diamonds from the two mining sites.

Minerals revenue nears \$700m

[NewsDay, July 12, 2011](#)

Statistics from the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe (CMZ) show that Zimbabwe's mining sector produced minerals worth \$692 million in the first five months of the year, with gold and platinum being major contributors.

The minerals included in the statistics are chrome, copper, gold, graphite, high-carbon ferrochrome, nickel, rhodium, ruthenium, palladium and quartz.

The country is expected to produce at least 10 000kg of gold this year.

Prepare for gnashing of teeth-Biti

[NewsDay, July 14, 2011](#)

Finance Minister Tendai Biti yesterday warned Zimbabwe to brace for the "gnashing of teeth and tightening of belts" as the Mid-term budget review he will present on July 26 will not be rosy. He ruled out the possibility of presenting a supplementary budget as there was no scope or capacity to increase revenue.

CEOs mull demo

...March to force Govt to act

[NewsDay, July 14, 2011](#)

Company chief executive officers are mulling a demonstration against government if it fails to implement recommendations by business in the mid-term fiscal policy review expected to be presented by Finance minister Tendai Biti next week.

Addressing a press conference in Harare on Tuesday, Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) president Joseph Kanyekanye said 60% of the country's Budget was going towards consumption, adding there was need to redirect resources towards development projects. Kanyekanye said there were sectors that had achieved 100% capacity utilisation hence the need to promote consumption of locally-produced goods.

Social Issues

Health workers attend to patients using candles

[DailyNews, July 13, 2011](#)

Health workers at the country's largest referral hospital, Harare Central, were on Monday forced to attend to patients using candles after a power outage. This occurred after a Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) unannounced power outage. Doctors expressed concern at the outage, which could turn catastrophic if it happens again.