

Weekly Press Review

July 16-22, 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

Leave my generals: President

[The Herald, July 16, 2011](#)

President Robert Mugabe has said Parliament has no business discussing the conduct of security forces and said the issue can only be discussed at appropriate forums. Mugabe said the so-called security sector reforms were a Western ploy to weaken Zimbabwe. He added that he stands by the army commanders.

President to table sanctions issue at SADC, says Gumbo

[The Herald, July 19, 2011](#)

Zanu PF spokesperson says President Mugabe will table the issue of the West's illegal economic sanctions at the SADC Summit to be held next month in Angola backed by over 2, 2 million signatures gathered in the Anti Sanctions petition. After SADC the issue will be taken to other forums such as the African Union and the United Nations. Gumbo added that Zanu PF will take the ant-sanctions campaign across the country starting next month. The Anti-sanctions campaign was launched by President Mugabe in March this year.

Fired cop seeks justice

[NewsDay, July 20, 2011](#)

Inspector Tedi Chisango, the police officer, who was fired last week and thrown out of his Government residence for allegedly playing MDC-T jingles on his computer and mobile phone, has threatened to sue his employer for unfair treatment. Chisango, who until last week was officer-in-charge at Ntabazinduna Police Training Depot clinic, said he had since engaged lawyers to help him claim compensation. The officer and his family were bundled out of the training depot last Friday and dumped at a nearby bush, about 30km from Bulawayo. Chisango says his employer was supposed to give him three months' notice to vacate the government house that he was living in.

Govt committed to removal of sanctions, Tsvangirai tells House

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

In response to a question from Mhondoro-Ngezi MP, Cde Bright Matonga, who wanted to know Government policy on the issue of the illegal sanctions, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai yesterday told Parliament that Government was committed to the removal of the illegal sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe. He said the committee tasked with re-engaging the European Union and the United States would be guided by Government policy rather than political party views.

Sanctions suffocating Zim Parastatals, says minister

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

Minister Gordon Moyo says isolation of Zimbabwe through sanctions imposed by the West is hampering efforts to recapitalise State enterprises.

The embargo, which was slapped on Harare as punishment for implementing agrarian reforms a decade ago, has been blocking State enterprises from accessing lines of credit from international financiers.

The United States has enacted a law to block the flow of funds between its companies and those from Zimbabwe.

Speaking during a seminar on the Corporate Governance Framework for State Enterprises and Parastatals, Minister Gordon Moyo said the removal of sanctions would ensure smooth operations of parastatals in the country.

War vets attack US envoy

[DailyNews, July 21, 2011](#)

Zanu PF youths yesterday disrupted a meeting organised by United States Ambassador Charles Ray for youth civic groups in Kwekwe. The meeting failed to kick off as youth militias stormed the venue singing and chanting slogans. One journalist who works with the Newsday was allegedly also briefly arrested and later released for taking photographs of the chaos. The US Ambassador said the police blocked the meeting despite having issued a clearance. He added that it is regrettable that political parties and elements in the security sector continue to stifle free speech in the country.

British envoy raps inflammatory statements

[DailyNews, July 21, 2011](#)

British Embassy spokesperson and First Secretary, Keith Scott, says inflammatory statements by the country's security chiefs are not good for Zimbabwe's development. Scott said the British Government has set aside to help Zimbabweans despite the restrictions imposed on President Mugabe and some Zanu PF officials. He added that the EU is ready to review the restrictive measures anytime as long as there is progress on the ground in terms of reforms.

Fishmongers pledge Zim support

[The Financial Gazette, July 21-27, 2011](#)

The Fishmongers Group, which consists of the United States, Britain, Germany, Japan, Norway, France, Sweden, Holland, Canada, Norway and Australia; said it was encouraged by "stronger regional engagement" on Zimbabwe but warned "serious concerns" remained on a range of issues; including continued violence, intimidation and on-going arrests.

The group, also known as Friends of Zimbabwe, noted that lack of rule of law and governance remain fundamental challenges in Zimbabwe. The group said it supported Zimbabwe's economy through US\$587 million and planned to increase this figure to US\$594 million this year.

Political Violence/Elections

US\$60m Swedish offer raises eyebrows

[The Herald, July 22, 2011](#)

Sweden has offered to give Zimbabwe US\$60 million for the country's general elections. Media reports said Sweden wants to channel the funds through its development agency, Swedish Development Co-operation Agency and the so-called human rights groups.

Some political analysts have questioned the Scandinavian country's interests particularly in view of its refusal to support the lifting of the illegal economic embargo. They said the money could be part of the regime change agenda by the West.

The analysts said the distribution of the money through non-governmental organisations means it has "strings attached".

Zimbabwe's three political parties in the inclusive Government viewed the offer differently.

Zanu-PF expressed reservations while the MDC-T welcomed the pledge. The other MDC formation, however, called for transparency in its distribution.

Zanu-PF spokesperson Cde Rugare Gumbo yesterday said most NGOs in Zimbabwe were participating in the regime change agenda.

Human Rights issues/Court cases

Gwisai case: Magistrate recuses self

[The Herald, July 19, 2011](#)

The state has altered charges against political activist Munyaradzi and five others accused of plotting to overthrow the Government from treason to a lesser one of conspiracy to commit public violence. They have been remanded to August 22. The magistrate presiding over the case recused himself because he is known to one of the accused persons.

Mangoma freed as AG drops charges

[The Herald, July 19, 2011](#)

Energy and Power Development Minister Elton Mangoma was yesterday freed after the Attorney General dropped the charge of abusing authority by cancelling a tender for the supply of electricity equipment. Minister Mangoma's trial did not take off as the state withdrew the charges before plea.

Hooligans disrupt Parly public hearing

[NewsDay, July 20, 2011](#)

Suspected Zanu PF supporters on Monday allegedly disrupted a public hearing on the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Bill held in Chinhoyi by the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal, Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs and the Thematic Committee on Human Rights.

Committee chairperson Douglas Mwonzora confirmed the incident and explained that some people started shouting that the hearings must be stopped because they thought the person who had contributed had insulted President Robert Mugabe. He added that they decided to stop the meeting because they did not have adequate security from the police.

Incarcerated MDC-T supporters denied treatment

[The Standard, July 17-23, 2011](#)

Lawyers representing the eight MDC-T supporters who were arrested for allegedly killing a senior police officer last month say they have been denied urgent medical attention by prison authorities. One of the lawyers asked the court to facilitate investigations into the accused's complaints of torture while in police cells.

One female accused has a fracture on her leg while the other one has a growth on her knee.

Some of the accused were granted bail but are still in custody because of a technical hitch as they were asked to surrender passports, which they do not have.

Zanu PF supporters disrupt "human rights bill" meeting

[DailyNews, July 21, 2011](#)

Zanu PF supporters yesterday forced disrupted a senate thematic committee public hearing on the Human Rights Commission Bill in Masvingo insisting that proceedings should be in the Shona language. They sang songs and threatened to beat up senators and the *Daily News* crew.

Economic Issues

EPAs debate stirs controversy in Parliament

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

Legislators yesterday debated whether Zimbabwe should embrace Economic Partnership Agreements with some alleging that it was a neo-liberal colonial agenda being pushed by the West.

The EPAs are a scheme to create a free-trade area between the European Union Commission and the African, Caribbean and Pacific group of countries. Some members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade questioned the scheme, saying it was a ploy to smuggle back the Economic Structural Adjustment Programme which condemned many Zimbabweans to poverty and de-industrialisation. It was also noted that Zambia which chaired one of East and Southern Africa meetings where EPAs were discussed was reluctant to sign the agreement.

Economic partnerships a must-ZIA

NewsDay, July 20, 2011

The Zimbabwe Investment Authority (ZIA) yesterday told Parliament that Economic Partnership Agreements (EPAs) were good as they would liberalise the economy by 80% and give access to the European Union market and preferential trade treatment to Zimbabwe.

ZIA chief executive officer Richard Mbaiwa made the disclosure when he appeared before the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Foreign Affairs chaired by Zaka East MP Samson Mukanduri.

“One of the issues under consideration in EPAs is that whatever product is produced in the market will have to meet specific standards and this will help Eastern and Southern African countries to rebuild regional markets and improve standards of their products.”

Mbaiwa said while investment opportunities and lines of credit might improve, the only fear was there might be an influx of imported goods

Empowerment credits discarded

The Herald, July 21, 2011

GOVERNMENT has discarded empowerment credits that foreign-owned mining firms had proposed to use as part fulfilment of indigenisation thresholds, as communities where these companies operate will now get direct equity.

Mining companies had proposed to directly localise 26 percent stake, with the other 25 percent being covered under credits from social investments.

This would add up to 51 percent, which foreign-owned companies - including mines - are supposed to cede to the indigenous.

Instead of the empowerment credits, Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment Minister Saviour Kasukuwere said the State, local communities, workers and management would have direct equity.

Earlier, Minister of Industry and Commerce Welshman Ncube had pointed out different approaches to the indigenisation empowerment laws.

"Govt ill-advised on mining threshold"

DailyNews, July 21, 2011

Minister of Industry, Professor Welshman Ncube, says cabinet was ill-advised in its approval of the 51 percent equity threshold for the mining sector. He said the mines are ready to give 26 percent immediately yet cabinet was told they had offered 51 percent. Ncube said there was a lack of consensus in Government over the implementation method of the exercise. He said it was surprising that the National Empowerment Board had come up with 51 percent threshold for most sectors despite sector differences.

Meanwhile, Indigenisation minister Saviour Kasukuwere dismissed Ncube's assessment and said the Government has rejected the 25 percent that industry had proposed as it is unacceptable.

Mines should comply or face take over

Zimbabwe Independent, July 22-28, 2011

The Minister of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment, Saviour Kasukuwere, has said Government will take over mining companies that fail to

comply with indigenisation regulations by the end of September. He said in that case, companies' assets would become state property. The mines proposed that 25 percent of the 51 percent be done through social equity and 26 percent in direct equity but Kasukuwere said Government rejected this.

I regret printing money-Gono

[NewsDay, July 21, 2011](#)

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe governor Gideon Gono yesterday told delegates at the Independent Dialogue that he regrets printing loads of worthless Zimbabwean dollars, a situation that led to record hyperinflationary levels in the country three years ago.

He said printing money like what the US is currently doing was improper, adding the budget deficits were not healthy for an economy as they could lead to currency difficulties.

On the question of the return of the Zimbabwe Dollar he said, "Let me say that no self-respecting nation in the world can do without its own currency. Even those nations that have gone into common markets chose to keep their own currency. Britain is part of the European Union, but has decided to keep their pound."

Land Reform/Resettlement

Conservancy wrangle sucks in Mujuru, Tsvangirai

[NewsDay, July 22, 2011](#)

The wrangle over ownership of concessions under the Save Valley Wildlife Conservancy has reportedly sucked in Vice President Joice Mujuru and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, among other top Government officials, as indigenous investors haggle with their white counterparts over the former's demand for a free stake in the business.

While the fight intensifies, endangered wildlife species in the conservancies are increasingly in danger of extinction as poachers reportedly take advantage of the standoff, decimating them with impunity.