

Weekly Press Review

July 23-29, 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

Greece to help in sanctions fight

[The Herald, July 27, 2011](#)

The new Greek Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Christos Salamanis, yesterday said he hoped to be part of the solution to solve the impasse between Zimbabwe and the European Union during his tour of duty.

Ambassador Salamanis said this soon after paying a courtesy call on Acting President Joice Mujuru at her Munhumutapa Offices. Responding to journalists on his stance on the illegal sanctions, Ambassador Salamanis said: "I hope to be a solution to that during my stay but as you know it is a matter that concerns the whole European Union."

Greece is among some of the progressive EU nations that are said to be against the illegal sanctions according to diplomatic cables released by WikiLeaks. The others include Spain, Italy, Portugal and Germany.

He described Zimbabwe as a lovely country with abundant resources.

The Greek Ambassador has been in the country since February and was in Australia before his recent posting.

Netherlands Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Barbara Joziase also paid a courtesy call on Cde Mujuru yesterday.

"Zanu PF blackmails business"

- **Ropes in international artistes**

[NewsDay, July 29, 2011](#)

Zanu PF is reportedly coercing and blackmailing private companies to support an anti-sanctions dinner and concert by contributing up to \$100,000 per firm.

International artistes, including Salif Keita, will be invited for the concert. Information Minister Webster Shamu confirmed the issue and said that his ministry was supporting Zanu PF in the fight against sanctions as they were affecting all Zimbabweans.

"New strategy on Mugabe needed"

African leaders admire his style-British MP

[NewsDay, July 27, 2011](#)

President Robert Mugabe's stance against Western powers has allegedly emboldened other African leaders — such as Libyan strongman Muammar Gaddafi and ousted Laurent Gbagbo of Ivory Coast — to follow suit, John Edward Hollister Montagu; a member of the British House of Lords has said.

Speaking in the House of Lords recently, Montagu also questioned whether sanctions on Zimbabwe have had any real effect on President Mugabe "or whether in some perverse way they have actually boosted his morale."

Montagu is an independent member of the House of Lords (the Upper House) and has no ties with the current governing coalition.

Montagu said President Mugabe deceived the world when he entered into a coalition government with Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai — after losing an election in March 2008 — where the Premier is regarded as a lame duck because he wields very little power.

Moyo provocative: US Ambassador

[DailyNews, July 21, 2011](#)

United States Ambassador says former information minister, Jonathan Moyo's vitriolic articles, one of which attacked him, are a futile attempt to kill off on-going efforts at democratic reforms. Moyo uses his weekly columns in the state-controlled newspaper, *The Sunday Mail*, to attack perceived political opponents including journalists, MDC formations, South African President Jacob Zuma, his International Relations Adviser Lindiwe Zulu and Ambassador Ray.

In a weekend article Moyo said Ray is a "rogue" who should be "ejected" from Zimbabwe.

"Implement GPA fully for sanctions to go"

[DailyNews, July 29, 2011](#)

United States Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Charles Ray has told delegates to a public discussion forum that his country would have no reason to retain the current sanctions policy if political parties implement fully the commitments made in the Global Political Agreement, as state institutions are delinked from partisan allegiances, and as credible elections are held and honoured.

Lupane police stop MDC meeting

[DailyNews, July 29, 2011](#)

Police in Lupane district, Matabeleland North province, on Monday stopped an MDC-T district executive meeting before shutting down the offices. The MDC-T said this was an internal party meeting that should not require police authorisation. In April, Moses Mzila Ndlovu, the Minister of National healing and Integration, was arrested for holding a meeting on the 1980s Gukurahundi massacres in the same province. Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights reports that more than 40 politicians from both MDC formations and human rights activists have been arrested or harassed by police in the Matabeleland North province since January this year.

Political Violence/Elections

Speaker calls for arrest of Parly invaders

[NewsDay, July 27, 2011](#)

"The Speaker of Parliament has condemned the violence that occurred at Parliament building on Saturday and called on the police to act swiftly and bring the perpetrators to book. Suspected Zanu PF supporters disrupted the public hearing of the Human Rights Commission Bill and attacked legislators and journalists.

Moyo added that he was greatly concerned with the lack of security to such an extent Honourable Members of Parliament are beaten up and harassed at their own workplace.

Zanu PF defends Parly thuggery

[NewsDay, July 27, 2011](#)

Zanu PF secretary for Administration, Didymus Mutasa, says his party will defend its supporters who violently disrupted the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Bill hearings at Parliament Building, beating up an MP and assaulting journalists on Saturday last week. He said if the supporters are arrested the party would hire lawyers to defend them.

Mutasa said those who were beaten up must have provoked the Zanu PF activists.

Draft constitution to be presented in October

[The Herald, July 29, 2011](#)

Copac co-chairperson Cde Munyaradzi Paul Mangwana (Zanu-PF) says the draft constitution is set to be submitted to Parliament for review in October while the referendum could be held in January next year. He said the draft document will be submitted to Parliament on October 15.

"We will report to Parliament by October 15 with the draft constitution," Cde Mangwana told the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries congress in Victoria Falls. "Thereafter, a referendum will be held within three months, but it is the executive which will decide a date that is practical. "If they decide to set a date on the 90th day which is the last day (within three months in which a referendum may be held), it will be 15 January."

Constitutional timelines nonsensical-Ncube

Zimbabwe Independent, July 29-August 4, 2011

MDC leader Professor Welshman Ncube has said a draft constitution would only be ready for a referendum towards the end of 2012, and not this year as outlined in timelines submitted to South African President Jacob Zuma's facilitation team by the Constitution Parliamentary Select Committee (Copac).

Ncube told journalists this week that Copac timelines submitted to Zuma's team last week were unrealistic and nonsensical.

Ncube said his projections were based on realistic timeframes for the different stages that still need to be completed before the country can go for a constitutional referendum.

He said Copac had so far only done a summation of views collected at ward level. Compilation of district reports would take about three weeks, which meant that provincial reports could only be completed by the end of September.

West, MDC-T stalling constitution-making process-Khaya Moyo

The Herald, July 23, 2011

Zanu PF national chairman, Simon Khaya Moyo, says Western countries that imposed illegal economic sanctions on Zimbabwe are working with the MDC-T to stall the constitution making process.

Khaya Moyo said the MDC-T and the Western countries wanted to delay general elections in the country by influencing financiers not to release money because they are afraid of defeat.

Said Khaya Moyo: "The Minister of Finance Tendai Biti is also following his masters' dirty tricks by refusing to release funds for the constitution making process.

He reiterated that Zanu-PF would stand by the resolutions made at last year's conference in Mutare that elections should be held this year.

Human Rights issues

White farmer arrested for insulting Mugabe

DailyNews, July 25, 2011

A 76-year-old white commercial farmer and miner, Mike Van Royen, has been arrested on charges of insulting President Robert Mugabe. Van Royen allegedly told a Zanu PF activist, Joel Tshuma, who phoned him about his farm and mining business "to go and hang together with Mugabe". Tshuma allegedly led a group of Zanu PF youths to Van Royen's farm and mine and locked all gates and threatened his workers.

Economic Issues

Duty on food stuffs restored

The Herald, July 27, 2011

Finance Minister Tendai Biti yesterday restored import duty on some food stuffs to protect local industry, as he expressed optimism on the economy achieving the targeted 9,3 percent growth figure by year-end.

Presenting the Mid Year Fiscal Policy Review Statement, Minister Biti said the re-imposition of duty has been necessitated by improved supply of basic goods and also the need to protect local producers.

He did not announce a supplementary budget preferring to go by the status quo.

Minister Biti projected a deficit of about US\$700 million due to increased wage bill and huge cost of importing grain. He said budgetary pressures compounded by unbudgeted employment costs were likely to reach US\$404 million by year end.

Speculation on Chiadzwa financial leakages: Figures out

[The Herald, July 28, 2011](#)

Mines and Mining Development Deputy Minister Gift Chimanimikire yesterday put to rest speculation there were financial leakages from Chiadzwa diamond extraction, saying Government had so far, received US\$201 million, a figure which tallies with that of all stakeholders.

Deputy Minister Chimanimikire said the figure was as a result of reconciliation made by all stakeholders in that industry.

The money, he said, included a US\$27 million dividend that was declared by the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation this month.

Chimanimikire said figures from his Ministry, the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe, ZMDC, Zimbabwe Revenue Authority and the Ministry of Finance tallied with Treasury's figures.

Marange cash mismatch

- **Millions from diamond proceeds still unaccounted for**
- **Diamond revenue bill draft not yet concluded**

[DailyNews, July 21, 2011](#)

Finance Minister insists that millions of dollars in diamond proceeds remain unaccounted for since January this year; saying only \$103 million had been accounted for although Treasury has not received any income so far. Biti said the country should be accorded the right to proceed with its sales within the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) framework.

Multiple currency system to stay: Govt

[The Herald, July 28, 2011](#)

Finance Minister Tendai Biti says Government will continue using the multiple-currency system while addressing emerging challenges related to the shortage of change and small denominations.

He said the Government would continue to facilitate debate on the issue of currency reform being guided by regional integration objectives, specifically those related to the formation of the SADC Common Monetary Area by 2018.

Minister Biti said the review of the currency system was to be guided by attainment of certain macro-economic milestones.

This included the evidence of a sound track record of policy consistency and implementation, a fairly stable and strong economy characterised by a sustainable external position, a strong financial sector and overall confidence in the economy.