

Weekly Press Review

July 30-August 5, 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

US prepared to work with Zanu PF -envoy

NewsDay, August 3, 2011

United States Ambassador to Zimbabwe Charles Ray says Zanu PF has an important role to play in the country, adding that his country is not anti-Zanu PF and it recognises the many achievements that Zanu PF has had over the decades for the good of the Zimbabwean people.

Presenting a paper on The Future of US-Zimbabwe Relations, Ray admitted relations between his country and Zimbabwe were like "a faltering joint venture", which he blamed on both sides, but said he was optimistic these would normalise. He said his country believed all political parties had an important role to play in Zimbabwe's future.

No discussion of Zuma's role at SADC-Zulu

NewsDay, August 4, 2011

South African President Jacob Zuma has scoffed at suggestions his role as facilitator to the Zimbabwe crisis ends this month when he assumes chairmanship of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, saying the issue was not on the agenda of the regional bloc's Angola summit.

SADC Heads of State and Government are expected to meet in Luanda, Angola, for the regional bloc's 31st ordinary summit, where Zuma is expected to submit a report on Zimbabwe.

Zanu PF hardliners are reportedly making underground manoeuvres to have Zuma removed as facilitator to the Zimbabwe political crisis, due to the South African leader's unexpected hard line stance on President Robert Mugabe.

Quoting unnamed government sources, the State media reported this week the forthcoming SADC summit should consider whether Zuma continues as facilitator to Zimbabwe's inter-party dialogue after assuming the chairmanship of the Troika.

But SADC executive secretary Tomaz Augusto Salamao poured cold water on the suggestions and told a local daily: "The new circumstances in which President Zuma will take over the chairpersonship of the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation at the forthcoming SADC summit in Angola do not in any way affect his role as the facilitator in the Zimbabwe issue at all.

Australia commends inclusive Government

The Herald, August 4, 2011

AUSTRALIA has commended Zimbabwe's inclusive Government and pledged to support the country overcome its challenges.

The power sharing Government came about in February 2009 following negotiations between Zanu-PF and the two MDC formations.

Addressing journalists yesterday after meeting Vice President Joice Mujuru at her Munhumutapa Offices in Harare, Australia's Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Mr Mathew Neuhaus, said he was pleased with the togetherness in Government.

He also said they discussed the Australian national cricket team's forthcoming visit to Zimbabwe. The Australian ambassador pledged that Canberra would assist Zimbabwe in its economic development plans.

"I should say what we have is targeted sanctions for individuals but we will continue to review with other countries so that we can assist Zimbabwe," he said.

Tsvangirai under \$1, 5 m probe

[Zimbabwe Independent, August 5-11, 2011](#)

POLICE are investigating Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai in a high-profile case of alleged fraud involving US\$1, 5 million in public funds released two years ago by government to buy a mansion for him in the posh Harare suburb of Highlands.

Impeccable high-level sources drawn from top government circles, police and the banking sector said this week the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) have opened a criminal docket and are intensifying their probe in a case of alleged fraud which involves Tsvangirai and a close relative, Hebson Makuvishe, Zimbabwe's ambassador to Germany.

Allegations are that Tsvangirai and Makuvishe misappropriated US\$1, 5 million which came from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) in 2009 to purchase the house located at No 49 Kew Drive in Highlands. The house, a double storey mansion, is currently under renovation to ensure it meets standards of quarters for a premier.

Sources say police are also investigating if Tsvangirai had engaged in double-dipping by taking money from the RBZ and Treasury for the same project. They also say besides the US\$1, 5 million, close to US\$1 million could also have been released from state coffers for the purchase and development of the same property.

Political Violence/Elections

No more bloodshed-Mugabe

[NewsDay, August 4, 2011](#)

President Robert Mugabe yesterday condemned violence saying conflict deters foreign investors from the country.

Speaking at the official unveiling of NewZim Steel and NewZim Minerals, companies born out of the acquisition of the now defunct Ziscosteel by Indian firm Essar Africa Holdings, President Mugabe said: "No more violence, no more bloodshed, no more loss of life.

"If there is violence they (foreign companies) begin to wonder if their investments are safe. We want people from India to operate in a peaceful environment and we also need it as well."

The President expressed optimism that the steel firm would rise again.

No military interference: MDC

[DailyNews, August 2, 2011](#)

MDC-T spokesperson, Douglas Mwonzora, says the party has mandated its leader Morgan Tsvangirai to push for a resolution military generals from interfering in Zimbabwe's political processes at this month's SADC Summit.

The decision comes after army generals, especially Brigadier General Douglas Nyikayaramba, have demanded that polls be held this year and called Tsvangirai a "national security threat" who should never be allowed to rule Zimbabwe even if he won an election.

The party is also demanding that civilians replace army personnel, Zanu PF members and members of the intelligence at the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) and an end to political violence before they can agree to any election roadmap.

Arrest Nyikayaramba-Minister

[NewsDay, August 2, 2011](#)

Home Affairs co-Minister Theresa Makone has called on the police and army to arrest Brigadier General Douglas Nyikayaramba and charge him with attempting to incite a mutiny by saying soldiers should not salute any winner of a Presidential

election who does not have liberation war credentials. Makone pledged to protect the electorate ahead of the next general elections. President Robert Mugabe recently declared that army chiefs should be left alone and ruled out any security sector reforms.

Political violence on rise-ZPP

[NewsDay, August 2, 2011](#)

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) has expressed concern over the volatile political atmosphere in the country as incidents of politically motivated human rights violations increased to 1 014 in June from 994 in May. Midlands province recorded the highest number of incidents, 214 in June up from 201 in May. ZPP also pointed out that there was selective application of the law by the police in favour of Zanu PF as evidenced by the arrests of MDC-T activists after the murder of Inspector Petros Mutedza

Human Rights issues

Scrap death penalty, say legal experts

[The Herald, August 3, 2011](#)

LEGAL experts and some religious leaders have called for the scrapping of the death penalty, calling it irrational and extreme.

They suggested the replacement of the death penalty with life imprisonment.

This comes at a time when 55 murderers, one of whom was convicted 13-years-ago, are languishing in prison awaiting execution.

Acting Secretary for Justice and Legal Affairs Mr Maxwell Ranga said relevant documents for the execution of the murderers had been sent to Cabinet for approval, but was yet to act on them.

Mr Ranga suggested that Cabinet could be waiting for the completion of the constitution-making process before acting on the papers.

State given ultimatum in activists' case

[DailyNews July 30, 2011](#)

Magistrate Shane Kubonera has given the state until Thursday to produce medical affidavits for MDC-T activists facing charges of murdering a policeman in Glen View, failure of which he said the state will be in contempt. The activists' lawyer told the court that his clients were being denied access to medical attention despite a court ruling that they receive treatment.

Economic Issues

Zim delegation set for US-Africa Business Summit

[NewsDay, August 3, 2011](#)

The United States embassy in collaboration with the American Business Association in Zimbabwe is in the process of assembling a delegation of local business leaders to attend a US-Africa Business Summit in Washington, which is scheduled for October 5 to 7.

US Ambassador to Zimbabwe Charles Ray last week said the summit will have a day-long seminar on "Doing Business in Zimbabwe" expected to reach over 250 American firms and government officials.

700 firms submit proposals

...as indigenous process moves to banking sector

[The Herald, August 1, 2011](#)

700 foreign-owned companies have submitted their indigenisation and empowerment proposals to the Government with indications that there are soon to be moves to ensure that banking institutions also comply with the law amid concerns of their

apparent lack of keenness to lend to local firms.

Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment Minister Saviour Kasukuwere told the Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries annual congress in Victoria Falls last week that 175 mining companies were among those which had submitted their proposals.

Minister Kasukuwere said Government sought to ensure the growth of the economy by bringing disadvantaged groups into the mainstream economy. Government rejected the mining companies' proposals to sell 25 percent direct equity to locals and 26 percent to be made up of social investment credits. The Indigenisation and Empowerment Act requires foreign mining firms to sell 51 percent direct equity to locals or the State.

Watch it on banks-Gono

[DailyNews July 30, 2011](#)

Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) governor Gideon Gono says Government should take a sectoral approach in indigenising foreign-owned firms, with particular attention towards sensitive sectors such as banking and mining.

In his monetary policy statement yesterday, Gono said indigenisation had to be implemented in a manner that will immediately reduce poverty, ensure equitable redistribution of wealth across the board not only to a few elite politicians. Gono added that at least 30 percent of supplier companies should be controlled by women, women cross border traders should be exempted from paying duty and at least 15 percent of Zimbabwean businesses should be sold to women.

Biti puts Zimra funds into enemy hands

[The Sunday Mail, July 31-August 6, 2011](#)

Finance Minister Tendai Biti, without Cabinet approval, directed the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (ZIMRA) to deposit all its revenue into private banks, some of which are hostile to Zimbabwe through their parentage in Europe and America, shunning the exchequer account that is housed at the Reserve Bank.

Two of these banks, Standard Chartered and Stanbic, have also been accused of refusing to lend individuals or companies in the country as their head offices are situated in countries that have imposed sanctions against Zimbabwe.

Land reform costs country \$12bn

[DailyNews, August 5, 2011](#)

The outgoing Commercial Farmers' Union (CFU) says the country's chaotic land reform programme chased away productive farmers leading to an endemic economic collapse, which cost the nation US\$12bn since it was launched in 2000. He added that agriculture was the largest revenue earner and was the largest employer and largest supplier of raw materials to the manufacturing sector before the land invasions.

Social Issues

"Health sector underfunded, relies on donors"

[DailyNews, August 3, 2011](#)

An official in the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare has revealed that the country's health sector is so underfunded to an extent that it largely depends on donors' funds to keep afloat. The official told a Parliamentary Portfolio Committee that the Ministry had requested more than US\$500 million allocation in the 2011 budget but they were allocated US\$250 million, which they have still not received.