

Weekly Press Review

August 9-12, 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

NATO now terrorist organisation: President

[The Herald, August 9, 2011](#)

President Robert has told people at Heroes Day celebrations in Harare that Western countries have turned the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) into a terrorist organisation that can be used to enhance their political agendas. He accused the West of having no regard for international law in their regime change agenda. President Mugabe said the time had come for the country to retaliate against countries that have imposed illegal sanctions and added that these countries do not deserve to be treated fairly. He revealed that Tony Blair's Government would have invaded Zimbabwe if SADC was not united in support of Zimbabwe.

Chiefs, EU to meet

[The Herald, August 11, 2011](#)

THE Zimbabwe chiefs' council will this week meet European Union embassy officials accredited to Zimbabwe as part of its efforts to engage the bloc to lift sanctions imposed on the country.

Chiefs' council president, chief Fortune Charumbira, on Tuesday said the meetings start in Harare tomorrow. Chief Charumbira said the chiefs' council would first engage the British embassy and other EU embassies later. Charumbira said the chiefs' council had decided to join Zimbabweans in the fight against sanctions because the most affected people were from their communities

End sanctions now, say liberation movements

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

Leaders of liberation movements that brought independence to Southern Africa yesterday demanded that the West lifts its illegal economic sanctions on Zimbabwe which have crippled the economy and hurt the ordinary man.

In a joint communiqué released after their one-day meeting in Windhoek, Namibia, the liberation movements called for the immediate and unconditional removal of the inhuman and illegal economic sanctions against the people of Zimbabwe.

It was signed by representatives of the African National Congress of South Africa, MPLA of Angola, Chama Chama Pinduzi of Tanzania, Frelimo of Mozambique, Zimbabwe's Zanu PF and Swapo of Namibia.

The EU imposed sanctions on Zimbabwe at the behest of former coloniser Britain and its ally, the United States, in a bid to boost their quest for illegal regime change in Zimbabwe through economic hardships.

Western countries working in cahoots with MDC-T have insisted on maintaining the illegal sanctions regime on Zimbabwe.

Zuma jets in for more talks

[NewsDay, August 12, 2011](#)

The Sadc facilitation team to the Zimbabwe political crisis jetted into the country yesterday to assess progress on the implementation of the provisions of the GPA ahead of the Sadc Summit in Luanda, Angola this weekend.

The facilitation team, comprising South African President Jacob Zuma's international relations advisor Lindiwe Zulu and spokesperson Mac Maharaj, met Jomic in Harare for close to four hours yesterday.

Jomic monitors and supervises the implementation of the GPA signed on September 15 2008 leading to the consummation of the inclusive government whose leaders are President Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara.

The facilitation team is expected to meet with negotiators from the three main political parties in the GPA in South Africa today as part of preparations for Luanda.

Human Rights issues

Police hunt down journalists

[Zimbabwe Independent, August 12-18, 2011](#)

Police are looking for Zimbabwe Independent journalists, Wongai Zhangazha and Constantine Chimakure over a story which appeared in the paper's July 8 edition entitled "*Ministers rejected Kasukuwere's plan*". The police officers claimed that the story was written from cabinet deliberations and wanted the journalists to reveal their sources.

Court orders medical exam for MDC activists

[The Herald, August 11, 2011](#)

The Zimbabwe Prison Services has been ordered to ensure that MDC activists facing charges of murdering a policeman, Inspector Petros Mutedza in Glen View, are medically examined while the State has been given another chance to produce their medical affidavits.

Failure to do so would be regarded as contempt of court.

The 24 activists yesterday appeared before Harare magistrate, Mr Shane Kubonera, who said the absence of an officer from the AG's office should not hamper the progress of the case and gave the State until August 17 to produce the affidavits. Seven of the suspects are still in remand prison. The State had been given until August 4 to furnish the court with the medical affidavits in order for the magistrate to make a determination yesterday.

Economic Issues

Zim seventh top world diamond producer

[The Herald, August 9, 2011](#)

A Kimberley Process report released last Friday reveals that Zimbabwe is now the world's seventh biggest diamond producer, six steps up from its previous ranking. The country is riding fast to the top despite the illegal economic sanctions imposed by Britain, the United States and the European Union that have made the marketing and sale of Marange diamonds difficult. Botswana is the top producer in the world.

Bloch blasts fiscal policy

- **Says Biti failed to identify negative effects of overspending**
- **Government must remove ghost workers from payroll**

[DailyNews, August 9, 2011](#)

Economist Eric Bloch says Government's fiscal pronouncements do not aid economic recovery and are actually an impediment. Although Finance Minister identified some of the key challenges affecting the economy he failed to identify the negative consequences of overspending and the manner in which Zimbabweans is pursuing is indigenisation programme. Bloch said Government was guilty of overspending and its land reform programme has led to economic and international isolation.

Mugabe lashes out at mines

- **We have to hit back over sanctions**

[NewsDay, August 10, 2011](#)

President Robert Mugabe has once again threatened to punish foreign-owned companies whose countries have imposed sanctions on Zanu PF members, saying their mines cannot continue doing business here if the sanctions are not removed. Mugabe said Government would ensure that the Indigenisation Act benefits both indigenous businesses and other investors.

MP urges Govt to indigenise banks

The Herald, August 11, 2011

Legislator and businessman Mr Simbaneuta Mudarikwa says the Indigenisation and Empowerment process should start with banks because it is the financial sector which drives the economy. The Uzumba MP was giving oral evidence before the Senate Thematic Committee on Indigenisation and Empowerment recently to appraise it on what his company was doing to comply with the indigenisation law. The majority of Zimbabwean banks are indigenous owned with the exception of Standard Chartered, Barclays, Ecobank, MBCA and Stanbic while the others have foreign investors who are minority shareholders.