

Weekly Press Review

August 29-September 2, 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 knock off Met Dept radio project

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

THE Meteorological Services Department has suffered a major knock from effects of illegal sanctions imposed on the country by the West as its multi-million dollar community radio project has collapsed after the United States withdrew sponsorship. The US provided funds to buy broadcasting equipment. It has helped countries such as Zambia, Uganda, Malawi and Mozambique in the setting up of such stations. MSD head commercial services and marketing, Mr Maurice Sahanga, revealed that the department had intended to start the project to help farmers with seasonal weather information.

Libyan Envoy gets 72 hr ultimatum

[The Herald, August 31, 2011](#)

Zimbabwe yesterday gave former Libyan Ambassador Mr Taher Elmegrahi and his embassy staff a 72-hour ultimatum to leave the country following their renunciation of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi's authority last week.

Foreign Affairs Minister Simbarashe Mumbengegwi told journalists in Harare yesterday that Mr Elmegrahi's actions contravened international law and protocols governing diplomatic relations and he and his staff no longer have diplomatic status or standing in Zimbabwe because Zimbabwe does not recognise the National Transitional Council.

Earlier in the day, Mr Elmegrahi had met Foreign Affairs Secretary Ambassador Joey Bimha, where the Government's decision was conveyed to him in a note verbale.

Storm over envoy

[DailyNews, August 31, 2011](#)

Foreign Affairs Minister Simbarashe Mumbengegwi's decision to expel Libyan Ambassador Taher Elmagrahi and his staff has opened fresh fissures within the coalition government.

While President Robert Mugabe's Zanu PF ordered the expulsion due to the 87-year-old's friendship with the toppled Libyan dictator, Muammar Gaddafi, the MDC says the move is undiplomatic.

"It's undiplomatic because the African Union (AU) has not yet decided on the matter. In any case, we are not agreed as government. Even the United Nations recognises the people who forced the tyrant out and who are we to defend him."

Mumbengegwi told journalists yesterday that the Libyans must leave because they had breached Zimbabwean laws by abandoning Gaddafi in favour of the Transitional National Council (TNC) now in charge in Tripoli.

The Libyan envoy and his officers were given 72 hours to leave the country following the withdrawal of their diplomatic status.

Zanu PF, SADC clash

...as party plots to snub bloc's monitors

[DailyNews, September 2, 2011](#)

The Zanu PF Politburo on Wednesday resolved that it would not accept the SADC-appointed monitors seconded to Zimbabwe to work with the Joint Monitoring and Implementation

Committee (JOMIC) to monitor reforms. Zanu PF says the three monitors could be on a mission to interfere in the country's internal processes. SADC appointed the three monitors to ensure that some outstanding issues are addressed.

Political Violence/Elections

Donors urged to fund constitution-making

[The Herald, August 31, 2011](#)

Zanu-PF national chairman Cde Simon Khaya Moyo has said donor agents in Zimbabwe should mobilise resources and help fund the constitution-making process to pave the way for the holding of elections.

Cde Khaya Moyo yesterday met the new USAid Mission director to Zimbabwe Mrs Melissa William at Zanu-PF Headquarters in Harare.

The meeting follows a similar one by US Ambassador to Zimbabwe Mr Charles Ray last week.

Cde Khaya Moyo said it was disheartening that the parties had agreed in the Global Political Agreement to work together against the sanctions but Zanu-PF was surprised that their colleagues were calling for their maintenance yet the land issue was a bilateral disagreement between Zimbabwe and Britain

Economic Issues

Zim loses investment over indigenisation

[DailyNews, August 29, 2011](#)

A \$10 billion Impala Platinum Holdings (Impala) investment is in doubt if Zimbabwe's government continues with its indigenisation policy.

David Brown, Implats chief executive said the group was willing to invest more in the Southern African nation, but the country's indigenisation model would not work.

"We believe that 51 percent equity just does not work," he said.

"What they are doing is very bad for the country ... and has the potential to retard investment," he said in comments that were unusually blunt for a company official on the issue.

He also said the company wanted to see the law changed.

Impala is currently the biggest investor in Zimbabwe's mining sector, with the country in the third year of recovery from a decade-long recession sparked by the seizure of white-owned commercial farms for redistribution to black subsistence farmers.

AAG castigates NGOs' stance on diamonds

[The Herald, August 31, 2011](#)

THE Affirmative Action Group has castigated some Non-Governmental Organisations operating in Zimbabwe that have been actively demonising the local diamond sector. AAG chief executive Dr Davison Gomo said such efforts by these organisations were misdirected as they were aimed at immobilising the country's capacity to meet its needs from its own resources.

Some NGOs and civil society organisations have been campaigning for decertification of diamonds mined in the Chiadzwa fields on unsubstantiated allegations of human rights violations.

The Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) has since given Zimbabwe the go-ahead in respect of unconditional international trade. Nonetheless, the organisations in question have taken the initiative to oppose the country's right to sell its gems.

Kasukuwere warns Implats

[NewsDay, August 30, 2011](#)

Youth Development, Empowerment and Indigenisation minister Saviour Kasukuwere warned Impala Platinum Mines (Implats) to stop meddling in the country's politics but instead to comply with indigenisation and empowerment regulations.

Kasukuwere was responding to Implats chief executive officer David Brown's statement regarding the country's political uncertainty, describing it "as most chilling". In a statement accompanying Zimplats financial results Brown said: "Zimbabwe's economic future remains very much linked to a speedy resolution of the political challenges facing the country.

Political uncertainty together with the unresolved indigenisation and economic empowerment policies, have resulted in many potential investors adopting a wait-and-see attitude with regards to investment in the country."

Kasukuwere added, "Every country has laws and the empowerment law is ours as Zimbabweans and those who want to invest and make reasonable profits are welcome."

Murowa equity plan gets govt approval

DailyNews, August 31, 2011

Murowa Diamonds (Murowa), 78 percent owned by global miner Rio Tinto, has become the first foreign-owned mining firm to receive government approval on its indigenisation plan.

The pipe diamond producer said it would continue to engage government with regards to finalising its proposal.

The Zvishavane-based mine was among the 11 foreign-owned firms given a 14-day ultimatum to submit "acceptable" indigenisation proposals to Saviour Kasukuwere's Indigenisation Ministry.

Last year, the company announced a \$300 million expansion project for the mine, which would increase its production seven-fold from the current 300 000 carats, but the plan was mainly hinged on the approval of its indigenisation proposal.

World Bank, Zim in debt talks

NewsDay, September, 2011

The World Bank (WB) is engaged in discussions with the government on the clearance of the \$8, 8 billion debt arrears the country with a view to finding a debt resolution and re-establish full trading relations with the country.

WB country director for Zimbabwe, Zambia and Malawi Kundhavi Kadiresan yesterday said there was need to address the arrears owed to the World Bank and other multilateral institutions.

Kadiresan said they were waiting for a progress action plan on ghost workers, government stance on indigenisation and to make sense of the law.

She believes the country would require \$13 billion in investment to stabilise the energy sector and to roll out the rural electrification project.