

Weekly Press Review

September 10-16, 2011

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## Politics/International Relations

### **EU panics over ultimatum**

**The Sunday Mail, September 11-17, 2011**

Panic has gripped the European Union (EU) following last week's ultimatum issued by the Government for the regional bloc to justify the imposition of sanctions on Zimbabwe amid revelations that a top envoy from the grouping is expected in Harare tomorrow for talks with Zimbabwean authorities.

It has emerged that following a 14-day ultimatum by Attorney-General Mr Johannes Tomana, the EU resolved to dispatch its managing director for Africa, Mr Nick Westcott, who is expected to hold meetings with various groups.

EU head of delegation to Zimbabwe Ambassador Aldo Dell'Ariceca yesterday confirmed Mr Westcott's scheduled two-day visit.

However, he downplayed the purpose of the visit, saying it had nothing to do with the ultimatum.

However, sources said the visit was a swift reaction to a letter that was written by Mr Tomana questioning the legality of the sanctions on Zimbabwe, adding that it was not a coincidence.

It is understood that the EU envoy will hold talks with the MDC-T and initiate moves to remove names of some local officials on the sanctions list.

It is also understood that Mr Westcott will hold talks with NGOs, MDC and other organisations that are against Zanu-PF to gather malicious evidence to use against the country in the event that Zimbabwe goes ahead and sues for the illegal sanctions.

### **Don't judge us, EU told**

**The Herald, September 13, 2011**

President Robert Mugabe yesterday told the European External Action Services managing director for Africa, Mr Nicholas Westcott at State House in Harare that the Global Political Agreement is an internal political arrangement which Europeans should never use as a pre-condition for the removal of illegal economic sanctions they imposed on Zimbabwe.

A source that attended the meeting said President Mugabe said this after Mr Westcott had called for the implementation of the GPA as a pre-condition for the removal of sanctions.

President Mugabe, the source said, added that the EU should judge itself first before judging other countries.

### **EU donates US\$14m**

**The Herald, September 13, 2011**

The European Union has donated US\$14 million to enable the Government to procure essential medicines and drugs.

The money would be used under the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare's

Essential Medicines Support Programme.

Receiving the money on behalf of Government, the Minister of Health and Child Welfare, Dr Henry Madzorera, said the drug procurement programme had improved the availability of essential medicines in the country.

Dr Madzorera said the programme had improved the capacity for the management of essential medicines at NatPharm and the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare.

The funds would also help with the delivery of medicines to all 1 400 primary and secondary health care facilities nationwide.

### **"We respect Govt stance on EU election monitors"**

**The Herald, September 14, 2011**

The visiting European Union (EU) Managing Director for Africa, Mr Nick Westcott yesterday said the EU respects Zimbabwe's decision not to invite the bloc to observe its elections because of its inherent bias. Westcott said it was still important for Zimbabwe to invite observers who are independent.

The European bloc last observed elections in Zimbabwe in the 2000 general elections where it showed bias towards its preferred horses in the MDC, which it sponsors, and in 2002 head of the EU observer mission, Pierre Schori was booted out in the run-up to the elections after he began behaving like a contestant.

The EU used that as a pretext to impose economic sanctions on Zimbabwe which have been renewed on February 18 every year since then.

Mr Westcott said there was nothing wrong in Zimbabwe seeking redress in courts over the illegal sanctions the grouping imposed on the country.

He was responding to Harare's two week ultimatum given to the EU to explain the motive behind the illegal sanctions or face litigation at the General Court of European Court of Justice.

### **Mugabe meets US envoy Ray**

**NewsDay, September 14, 2011**

President Robert Mugabe yesterday met the United States Ambassador to Zimbabwe at the former's offices in Harare.

Ray said he found President Mugabe to be alert and mentally engaging throughout the hour-long meeting.

But President Mugabe and Ray avoided discussion on disclosures that the President's senior aides and ministers shared with US diplomats sensitive information regarding the veteran leader's private life, political strategies and political dynamics in Zanu PF and also expressed their desire to see President Mugabe vacate his post and pave the way for a younger leader.

### **US eager to mend relations with Zim**

**The Herald, September 14, 2011**

President Mugabe yesterday met the United States Ambassador to Zimbabwe Mr Charles Ray and the American diplomat expressed his country's eagerness to mend relations with Zimbabwe despite the illegal sanctions Washington imposed on Harare.

The one-hour long meeting was at Mr Ray's request.

In an interview after the meeting, Mr Ray regretted that so much time and effort was being wasted on non-productive issues instead of building bridges between the two countries.

Mr Ray said he had been active in the past "four to five months in talking to American and South African businesses" to invest in Zimbabwe. The ambassador said "every coin has two sides" and that "it was time to paint a more realistic picture". "A number of American companies have been in touch with us. They are interested, but unsure about Zimbabwe," Mr Ray said. He said there would be a seminar in Washington next month focusing on how to do business in Zimbabwe. Mr Ray said an accurate picture on the situation in Zimbabwe would be painted at the seminar.

### **US faces Zim cash lawsuits** **The Herald, September 15, 2011**

Attorney-General Mr Johannes Tomana yesterday said individuals and companies losing money through the United States' Office of Foreign Assets Control should engage lawyers and challenge the embargo in international courts.

Tomana said although this was expensive, time had come for Zimbabweans to challenge the illegal sanctions.

"Countries that have imposed these illegal sanctions with total disregard of the United Nations structures are actually violating human rights.

Individuals receiving funds from outside Zimbabwe and in the US currency have lost their money.

Transactions in US dollars are processed through that country, giving them access to individual accounts.

"We, as Zimbabweans, are saying these sanctions were imposed without going through due process hence they are illegal. Affected people have to challenge this through competent courts, whether at the EU or in the US."

Mr Tomana said over two million signatures collected under the Anti-sanctions Campaign have shown people's disapproval of the sanctions.

Mr Tomana said by seizing the funds, the US Government contravened Article 17 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

## **Economic Issues**

### **Mining revenues top \$1 billion** **NewsDay, September 13, 2011**

The mining sector produced minerals worth \$1 billion in the first seven months of the year driven by revenues from gold, platinum and palladium, figures from the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe (CMZ) have shown.

The three minerals combined contributed \$731 million to the total.

Minerals included in the statistics are coal, cobalt, ruthenium, palladium, graphite, phosphate, high carbon ferrochrome and quartz.

According to the statistics gold earned \$316 million from 6 736kg in the seven months under review while platinum raked in \$310 million from 6 177kg.

At least 13 000kg of gold are expected this year and 12 000kg of platinum are also expected.

### **Zimplats plan approved** **Daily News, September 14, 2011**

The Government and mining company Zimplats have issued a joint statement announcing that the latter will submit a revised indigenisation and empowerment plan by November 15. This follows recent threats by Indigenisation Minister Saviour Kasukuwere to revoke Zimplats' operating licence over failure to submit acceptable proposals that comply with the indigenisation law.

### **Govt in mines climb-down**

**DailyNews, September 15, 2011**

Mines and Mining Development Minister, Obert Mpofu yesterday told delegates to a Mining Conference in Harare that Government had not withdrawn any mining licences and it had no intention of doing so. His statements come after Indigenisation minister Saviour Kasukuwere recently threatened to revoke South African-controlled mining giant Zimplats' operating licence for allegedly failing to comply with the Indigenisation law that requires foreign-owned companies to cede 51% stake to locals.

### **400 companies eye diamond licences**

- **Country losing billions by not adding value to raw materials**

**NewsDay, September 15, 2011**

Mines and Mining Development minister Obert Mpofu yesterday said the Government has received 400 applications from companies interested in mining diamonds in the country and these were being processed. He said the country was among the largest diamond producing countries in the world and the resource offered opportunities to everyone.

Mpofu added the country remained an active participant of Kimberley Processing Certification (KPC) despite being accused of not having complied with all the requirements.