

Weekly Press Review
October 9-14, 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

Archbishop harassed

DailyNews, October 11, 2011

Visiting Archbishop of Canterbury Rowan Williams was yesterday verbally harassed and barred from attending a church service in Mutare and Penhalonga in the Eastern part of the country by thugs believed to have been hired by the excommunicated Bishop Nolbert Kunonga.

He later told President Robert Mugabe to stop the madness and violence. Williams, who leaves for Zambia today, was in the country at the invitation of the Anglican Province of Central Africa (CPCA) where he tackled Mugabe over the issue of murder, violence, intimidation, education, health, relief and development programmes which were being compromised by Kunonga's interference.

Williams said a woman of Harare Diocese was murdered on the 18th of February this year, allegedly because she belongs to the diocese of Harare CPCA, and her body was not discovered for two days until Sunday morning when friends came to join her to walk to the church.

AG through with sanctions lawsuit

The Herald, October 12, 2011

Attorney-General Mr Johannes Tomana and a team of legal experts have finished drafting court papers to mount a lawsuit against the European Union that imposed illegal sanctions on Zimbabwe.

The sanctions were imposed unilaterally by the 27 member EU bloc and the United Nations Security Council has refused to ratify them.

Government contends that the imposition of sanctions and their continued existence was a travesty of international law since UN did not approve them.

In an interview yesterday, Mr Tomana confirmed the development saying the court papers were likely to be filed in European courts before the end of this month.

Mr Tomana said the EU, as a bloc would stand as a respondent in long legal battle, which is likely to draw world attention.

The lawsuit is the first legal step by the Zimbabwean Government to compel the EU to lift the embargoes.

The lawsuit comes hot on the heels of an "empty" visit by the EU managing director for Africa Mr Nick Westcott.

Mr Westcott met President Mugabe and other senior Government officials over the sanctions issue but failed to find a common ground.

Political Violence/Elections

Zanu PF activists up for murder

NewsDay, October 11, 2011

Last week five suspected Zanu PF activists from Zaka District appeared before High Court judge Justice Samuel Kudyia accused of the murder of two MDC-T activists, Peter Mabika and Innocent Muregi in 2002.

It is alleged the suspects burnt their victims' backs and then assaulted them with bricks and sticks until they died.

This comes hardly a month after four other Zanu PF supporters were jailed 18 years each for the murder of a Gokwe MDC-T activist, Moses Chokuda, in March 2009.

We do not belong to anyone: Chief

Daily News, October 11, 2011

A chief in Masvingo Province has lambasted political parties in the country for using traditional leaders as weapons of political violence during elections and pleaded with Prime Minister Tsvangirai to engage other party leaders in the shaky inclusive government to resolve the issue before the next polls.

"I want to tell you that chiefs do not belong to any political party and should not be used as agents of political violence against their innocent subjects," he said.

"We are custodians of our culture and tradition not weapons of violence. We are tired of parties who come to us to force our subjects to support and vote for them," he said.

Zanu PF has repeatedly been accused of using traditional leaders as agents of political violence, ordering them to whip their subjects into line by intimidating and threatening to sack them from their areas of jurisdiction.

Public hearings on Electoral Bill next week

NewsDay, October 11, 2011

Parliament will next week conduct public hearings on the Electoral Amendment Bill, which seeks to change the country's electoral system. The Bill seeks to extend the jurisdiction of the Electoral Court as well as the timely announcement of Presidential election results.

Constitutional referendum set for next year

The Herald, October 14, 2011

A referendum to decide the fate of the proposed new constitution is likely to be held in February next year after Copac failed to meet its deadline to complete the process in September this year.

Initially, Copac had indicated that a plebiscite for the new constitution would be held before the end of this year.

Copac co-chairman Cde Munyaradzi Paul Mangwana said the remaining stages did not make it possible to have a referendum this year.

He said drafting of the new constitution was the most crucial stage of the process and was likely to surpass the projected three weeks set by Copac. Cde Mangwana said after completing the drafting stage, they would convene a second all stakeholders conference where the draft constitution would be subjected to debate by various stakeholders before it was presented to Parliament.

Human Rights

Chinamasa defends POSA

The Herald, October 11, 2011

Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Patrick Chinamasa says Government has no intention of amending the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) and Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) as it is convinced they are justified pieces of legislation.

He said the two pieces of legislation were as a result of wide consultations in Zimbabwe and abroad including countries such as the United Kingdom, Australia and United States.

The Minister said this yesterday while delivering a paper at the 12th session of the United Nations Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review focusing on human rights in Geneva, Switzerland.

The Minister said many countries had similar legislation with Zimbabwe but have not attracted criticism.

On the death penalty, Minister Chinamasa said while Zimbabwe was in receipt of submissions against it, it had referred the contentious issue to the people in the current constitution making process.

He denied that the State was abusing Section 121 of the Criminal Procedure and Evidence Act that allows an accused person who would have been granted bail by a presiding magistrate to remain in custody pending an appeal by the State.

He castigated the United States and its Western allies for imposing the illegal sanctions on Zimbabwe.

Cabinet divided over death penalty

NewsDay, October 11, 2011

Defence Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa yesterday told delegates at a function organised by the Zimbabwe Association for Crime Prevention and Rehabilitation of the Offender (ZACRO), during a campaign against capital punishment, that he had been facing resistance in Cabinet as he tried to have the death sentence scrapped from the Constitution. He said Cabinet was divided in the middle over whether or not to abolish the death penalty.

Mnangagwa survived the death sentence because he was underage.

European Union Ambassador to Zimbabwe Aldo Dell Ariccia, whose organisation is helping ZACRO in the fight against the death sentence, said the EU was driven by the realisation that they had made mistakes in the past to introduce the death sentence and wanted to correct the error.

Economic Issues

More BIPPAs set for approval

Daily News, October 13, 2011

Zimbabwe is set to ratify all outstanding Bilateral Investment Promotion and Protection Agreements (BIPPAs) in the first half of 2011, Economic Planning deputy minister Samuel Undenge says.

This comes after the House of Assembly on Tuesday approved BIPPA's with Botswana, India and Iran.

Conditions of the Botswana BIPAA include a \$70 million credit facility, which is meant to promote joint private business partnership between players from

the two neighbouring countries.

Botswana has regularised the trade blue print, which was signed in March 2011 in Harare, and was waiting for Zimbabwe to follow suit.

Both the Indian and Iranian agreements were signed in 1999 with a primary aim to foster mutual trade benefits between Zimbabwe and the two countries.

Mining giant gives shares to communities

Daily News, October 14, 2011

PRESIDENT Mugabe yesterday officially launched the Chegutu-Mhondoro-Ngezi-Zvimba Community Share Ownership Trust and urged foreign investors to respect Government's policy to economically empower indigenous people.

Yesterday's launch at Zimplats is the first such Community Share Ownership Trust in the country.

The trusts are a vehicle for broad-based participation in shareholding in businesses by communities living in areas where the companies exploit natural resources.

Proceeds from such participation are used for the provision of social and economic infrastructure to communities in line with their priorities.

Under the scheme, Zimplats gave 10 percent shareholding to the local community.

It also offered US\$10 million to the local community to be disbursed over a three-year period.

The historic development will see communities deriving direct benefits from the operations of the country's biggest platinum mining company.

Mugabe rejects Zimplats offer

Daily News, October 14, 2011

President Robert Mugabe has rejected Zimbabwe Platinum Mines (Zimplats)'s \$10 million offer to operationalise the country's first Community Share Trust (CST), saying it was insufficient.

The Australian-listed platinum miner on Thursday donated \$10 million to fund operations of newly-formed community share trust founded under the controversial indigenisation program.

The miner however said the funds would be spread over three years as it would not be paying dividends due to its on-going \$460 million Ngezi expansion programme.

"I don't know whether Zimplats was given prior notice of the event or not. They should have multiplied the \$10 million ten times because they are a huge company and also considering the amount of money they made from mining operations. I wanted to sing 10 times 10 today, but I can only sing 10 times one," Mugabe said.

Mugabe said he hoped to see better offers as the CST scheme progressed, adding that the next launch was likely to be in the Marange diamond mining areas where a trust has already been formed.

David Brown, Zimplats chairman and Implats chief executive said communities of the Mhondoro-Ngezi, Chegutu and Zvimba districts where the company operates would be the beneficiaries of the 10 percent reserved for CSTs.

Social Issues

SA begins Zim deportations

Daily News, October 11, 2011

South Africa has started deporting undocumented Zimbabweans including some who are holders of asylum papers and are waiting for permits to regularise their stay despite promises of stalling deportations until the exercise is completed.

The Daily News witnessed a large stream of people being deported at the weekend. Most of them were women and children who were dropped off at the tip of no man's land between South Africa and Zimbabwe.

However, most of the people who were dropped seem to be taking in the embarrassment that comes with deportation within their strides by immediately planning on finding their way back to South Africa.

The South African government has indicated that it will soon start deporting undocumented Zimbabweans but will leave the window open for the thousands of Zimbabwean nationals who are waiting for Home Affairs to issue them with temporary work permits that will last for four years.