

**Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 29 March, 2010 (20 March– 28 March, 2009)**

**by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for Zimbabwe**

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 20, 2010, in English)**

**“MDC-T Launches Smear Campaign” by Michael Chideme**

*According to SW Radio Africa, the MDC-T is supporting victims of the 2008 election violence in calling for the prosecution of perpetrators of these human rights abuses. Four Zanu-PF officials have been named (parliamentarians Herbert Paul Mazikani, Luke Mushore, Newton Kachepa and Bright Matonga). During the 2008 election, MDC supporters were murdered, beaten and raped by Zanu-PF supporters, the police, military and CIO.*

*In 2008 former South African President Thabo Mbeki commissioned a fact finding mission into state sponsored violence in the run up to the elections but the report has yet to be published.*

*According to South African president Jacob Zuma no hard copy of the report exists but a South African NGO, convinced that a report exists, is trying to have it published.*

- MDC-T functionaries are criticized for launching a “smear campaign” against Zanu-PF officials ahead of the elections by claiming that the latter are involved in corruption and other forms of abuses. Among those targeted are Local Government Minister Ignatius Chombo and Secretary for Women's Affairs Cde Oppah Muchinguri.
- Minister Chombo is criticized by the MDC-T for refusing to fire the Chitungwiza council after the MDC-T fired the councilors from the party.
- Minister Chombo said the MDC-T is using “phoney documents,” including the setting up of a land audit committees meant to find Zanu-PF functionaries who benefitted from land sales.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 20, 2010, in English)**

**“Youths Hail Country's Land Reform” [Author unknown]**

- The World Federation of Democratic Youths praised the land reform programme for empowering Zimbabweans. Cde Jesus Mora, WFDY secretary-general, stated that a thriving economy should be based on full ownership of land and called on other African states to learn from the programme.
- Cde Mora also criticized the West for maintaining illegal sanctions on the country.
- Harare youth chair Cde Jim Kunaka, meanwhile, declared that while Tsvangirai had responded to their ultimatum to call for the lifting of the sanctions or face consequences, he should continue to call for their of sanction. He reiterated that young people “would take unspecified action” against Morgan Tsvangirai if he failed to call for an end of the sanctions.
- MDC-T Harare Youths Assembly is criticized for demonstrating against “selective application” of the law against MDC-T members. They petitioned the Organ on National Healing and Reconciliation, Parliament, the Attorney-general and the Justice Ministry to punish perpetrators of political violence.

- Innocent Gonese, MDC's secretary for legal and parliamentary affairs, also called on the Parliament to appoint a committee in charge of investigating violence.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 22, 2010, in English)**

**“Zanu-PF Should Stay United – Shamu”** [Author unknown]

- Zanu-PF political commissar Cde Webster Shamu said party members should put their differences aside in order to concentrate on rebuilding the party and on the needs of Zimbabweans. Shamu declared the party should focus on reviving the spirit of the revolution.
- He added that while the party was fully behind the constitution-making process, the liberation struggle and heritage should not be undermined. He also called for the mobilization of support ahead of the elections that should take place next year.
- Zanu-PF lands and resettlement national secretary Cde Ignatius Chombo, meanwhile, called for his party to push the government to include women in the land reform and empowerment programs. He said women were not receiving enough land or inputs and the problem should be rectified.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 22, 2010, in English)**

**“GPA - Time to Walk the Talk”** [Author unknown]

- Negotiations between the three main political parties to the GPA, which started three years ago and laid the foundations for the inclusive government, will end on March 31. The three principals have agreed on the implementation of three key issues, that is the status of RBZ governor Gono and Attorney General Tomana, the issues of provincial governors and the issue of the sanctions.
- *The Herald* calls for non-fundamental issues to be set aside in order to foster a stable political and socio-economic environment. The government should act collectively, especially on the issue of the sanctions as well as the indigenization and economic empowerment drive. “The inclusive Government as a collective can achieve more than what Zanu-PF, MDC-T and the MDC acting separately can.”

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 24, 2010, in English)**

**“Canadile Wants More Land At Chiadzwa”** [Author unknown]

- Canadile said it required more land in Chiadzwa in order to inject the US\$100 million investment it agreed with Government. Canadile thought they would be getting more land, including some of the land Mbada Holdings is mining now.
- Canadile also denied rumors that they had been convicted of diamond-related abuses in Angola.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 25, 2010, in English)**

**“We're KP Compliant, Say Mbada, Canadile” [Author unknown]**

- Mbada Holdings and Canadial Miners said they were now in full compliance with the KP's requirements. They are now waiting for Abbey Chikane, the South African monitor selected by the KP and the government, to certify them but said the delay was affecting operations.
- Relocation of villagers living near the diamond fields will start soon. Mbada and Canadile said they had set money aside to build new homes and relocate villagers.
- Last week, the two companies said they would not attend the parliamentary portfolio committee yet the committee declared it was an offence to defy the invitation.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 25, 2010, in English)**

**“EU-Zim Dialogue Set to Resume” [Author unknown]**

- Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said Zimbabwe was ready to reengage in dialogues with the European Union as the two parties are looking to normalize relations despite the fact the sanctions were recently extended. Meetings are said to take place in Brussels.
- The European Union extended a US\$10.5 million grant to Zimbabwe's education sectors, which is facing serious financial problems.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 25, 2010, in English)**

**“Govt to Acquire Chiyangwa's Farms” [Author unknown]**

- The government announced the compulsory acquisition of three pieces of land owned by businessman Phillip Chiyangwa. Negotiations with the businessman are said to be taking place in order to compensate him.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 26, 2010, in English)**

**“Chiadzwa - Companies Tighten Security to Comply With KP” [Author unknown]**

- Mbada Holdings and Canadile Miners intensified security on the Chiadzwa diamond fields in order to comply with the Kimberley Process certification Scheme requirements. They said chances of diamond leakages were now unlikely thanks to the new security systems used, which include X-ray machines, cameras and more armed personnel. The companies also added that diamond smugglers would be handed to the police regardless of their status.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 27, 2010, in English)**

**“No Agreement Yet – President” by Sydney Kawadza**

*Reports last week seemed to show that South African President Zuma and the three principals to the GPA had reached an agreement, yet the following statements by Zanu-PF's politburo and President Mugabe shows that the deadlock has not yet been broken and talks might head to another collapse. ZANU PF spokesman Rugare Gumbo also spoke to The Zimbabwean Independent about the issue, maintaining that no solution to the outstanding issues would be found unless the sanctions are lifted. He added that it was the MDC-T role to decide whether this would happen.*

- President Mugabe said no agreement had been reached with the NDC formations over the outstanding GPA issues. Moreover, he declared no solution would be found until the issue of sanctions is fully addressed. He said the Gono, Tomana and Bennett issues had never been part of the agreement. Nonetheless, Bennett has a case to answer and is currently facing charges. He said no further concessions would be made until the illegal sanctions are lifted. Mugabe therefore dismissed recent report that an agreement on the issue of provincial governors had been reached.
- President Mugabe also criticized Zimbabweans who are against the indigenization economic empowerment programme. He said such reactions were caused by “a backward mentality of servitude.” He argued that white people and business owners are still trying to be owners by opposing empowerment programmes.
- Mugabe said young people needed to be empowered and referred to the diamond-mining sector, where, he believes, few Zimbabweans and Zimbabweans companies are involved. He declared that Zimbabweans had to “grow out of the slave mentality.”