

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 14 June, 2010 (16 April— 13 June, 2010)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for Zimbabwe

ZBC Power FM, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Gweru, 0400 GMT April 16, 2010, in English.

“Zimbabwe's Mugabe urges African youth to jealously guard continent's sovereignty”

- President Mugabe called on African youths to guard the sovereignty of the continent by participating in the development of their communities. He argued that young people should have access to land, minerals, and capital if they want to have a meaningful participation in the economy.
- He added also that young people should uphold the visions of the African Union.

ZBC Power FM, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Gweru, 1600 GMT April 22, 2010, in English.

- Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinezhad has arrived in the Zimbabwe to officially open this year's Zimbabwe International Trade Fair in Bulawayo.

ZBC Power FM, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Gweru, 0400 GMT April 23, 2010, in English.

“Zimbabwe, Iran sign memoranda of understanding to boost cooperation”

Zimbabwe and Iran have signed Memoranda of Understanding in an effort to strengthen cooperation between the two countries. Areas of cooperation include tourism, education, science and technology, youth affairs, culture, banks, and technical cooperation.

- President Mugabe said Iran and Zimbabwe had a lot in common, including similar stance on anti-colonialism, anti-imperialism and the need to countries to control their own resources and interests.

S-FM radio, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Bulawayo, 0403 GMT May 6, 2010, in English.

“Zimbabwean minister says constitution process delays no fault of any party”

- Minister of Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs Advocate Eric Matinenga said delays in the constitution-making process should not be blamed on any party.
- The constitution-making process is six months behind but Matinenga said that as soon as the funds are released the outreach programs would begin.

S-FM radio, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Bulawayo, 0400 GMT May 12, 2010, in English.

Zimbabwean attorney-general to appeal acquittal of MDC official

- The attorney general's office said it would file an application to appeal for leave before the High Court against the acquittal of MDC-T treasurer general, Roy Bennett. Bennett was acquitted after his defense filed an application for discharge.

ZBC Power FM, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Gweru, 0400 GMT May 14, 2010, in English.

“Zimbabwe's ZANU-PF hopes UK ties to improve during Conservative Party reign”

- ZANU-PF secretary for Foreign Affairs, Dr Stan Mudenge, hopes relations between the UK and Zimbabwe will improve now that the Conservative Party is in government. He argued that the Labour Party was responsible for strained relations between the two countries as its policies were meant to safeguard the interests of white Zimbabweans.

S-FM radio, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Bulawayo, 0402 GMT May 14, 2010, in English.

“Zimbabwe's Mugabe arrives in Iran for NAM summit”

- President Mugabe is in Iran for the Non-Aligned Movement, NAM, at the G15 summit.

S-FM radio, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Bulawayo, 0400 GMT May 18, 2010, in English.

“President Mugabe criticizes US, UK for "abusing" UN organs”

- Addressing the 14th summit of the G15 in Tehran, President Mugabe condemned the US and UK for abusing UN organs, particularly the Security Council. He argued that the two countries used the Council to interfere in domestic affairs, occupy and threaten weaker nations who are trying to “assert sovereignty over their own resources for the betterment of their people.”
- Mugabe called for the reform of the UN and also criticized Bretton Woods and the IMF. He argued that Bretton Woods had caused the financial crisis, therefore undermining efforts to contain the HIV/Aids epidemic, reduce child mortality and hunger, and embark on gender equality programs.

S-FM radio, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Bulawayo, 0400 GMT May 20, 2010, in English.

“Zimbabwe deputy premier denies claims Mugabe not invited to World Economic Forum”

- Deputy Prime Minister Professor Arthur Mutambara denied claims by private newspapers that President Mugabe was not invited to the World Economic Forum. He added that Zimbabwe’s participation in the forum proved the inclusive nature and cordiality of the current government.

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

“Govt to Process, Sell Diamonds”

According the Centre for Research and Development’s director Farai Maguwu the Diamond Technology Centre will not benefit Zimbabweans and will be system riddled with corruption and based the economic interest of the few.

- The government and diamond company Canadile Miners have established a joint venture. A multimillion-dollar Diamond Technology Centre will be established and will contain a marketing wing, a diamond gems processing centre, the Ministry of Mines and Mining Development, Kimberley Process Certification Scheme offices and banks.
- Grassroots people will benefit from this and Affirmative Action Group president Supa Mandiwanzira added that the centre would ensure transparency and accountability.

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

“State Must Process, Sell Own Goods”

- A decision by the government and diamond firm Canadile minors to invest in the construction of diamond technology centre is being praised. President Mugabe’s calls for developing countries to benefit from their own resources seem to be making an impact.

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

“Peace a Prerequisite for Development, Says President”

- President Mugabe declared that African leaders were determined to create a peaceful environment conducive for peace, security and development. He argued that stability was a necessary precondition to socio-economic development.
- He added that Africans should strive to safeguard the legacy of the liberation struggle and honor the memory of Africa’s founding fathers.

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

“Diamond Monitor Hails Country” by Takunda Maodza

- The KP Certification Scheme diamond monitor, Abbey Chikane hailed Mbada Diamonds and Canadile Miners for working hard towards meeting the association’s requirements. He said a lot of improvements had been made. Amid allegations of diamond smuggling, Chiadzwa said he would meet a number of stakeholder (possibly non-governmental organizations).

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

“Govt Bans Diamond Exports” by Takunda Maodza

- Until the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme certifies the sale of diamonds from Chiadzwa,
- The government has banned diamond exports from any mine operating in the country. Two companies are currently operating in the minefields (River Ranch and the Australian-owned Murowa Diamonds). Export clearance have yet to be issued to controversial companies Canadile Miners (controlled by the government) and Mbada housing.
- Minister Mopfu criticized “enemies” who are trying to delay the sale of Zimbabwe’s diamonds by claiming that human rights abuses are taking place on the fields.
- KPCS monitor for Zimbabwe Abbey Chikane is in the country to monitor progress made in complying with international standards.

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

“Govt-Iran Ties to Stay - Khaya-Moyo”

- Speaking at the Zanu-PF Headquarters in Harare, Iranian Ambassador to Zimbabwe Mohammad Pournajaf said Zimbabwe and his country would keep working together to defeat Western imperialist machinations that seek to reverse the countries’ revolutionary gains.
- The party's national chairman Cde Simon Khaya-Moyo said the two countries enjoyed cordial relations and would continue to do so in the future.

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

“Bennett - Pressure Mounts On PM”

- According to confidential MDC-T documents, Morgan Tsvangirai is believed to be under pressure from the West to push for the appointment of Roy Bennett as Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development Deputy Minister, and not to succumb to the dictates of Zanu-PF. Britain apparently believes that sidelining Bennett would be tantamount to racism.
- Zanu-PF and some MDC-T members have objected to Bennett’s appointment. Zanu-PF cited his history as a Rhodesian military man, while some MDC-T members believe he will represent foreign interests.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated May 28, 2010, in English)

'Disputes Won't Affect KP'

- KP monitor Abbey Chikane said ongoing legal disputes over diamond exports would not affect Zimbabwe’s chances of obtaining KP Certification. He underlined that the KP should not interfere in internal processes as Zimbabwe is a sovereign nation. He believes

that the government's decision to ban all diamond exports is a sign of desire to attain KP Certification and start international trading.

- He added that most recommendations made to Mbada Holdings and Canadile Miners had been addressed.
- Members of the Zimbabwe National Army have secured the unmined area while Canadile and Mbada have secured their fields. Chikane fears that if the army is removed, illegal miners might move in and he therefore believes that the army should stay until the government has created a conducive environment for investors. He also added that soldiers should properly trained to comply to diamond mining rules.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated May 28, 2010, in English)

“India Backs Govt On Diamonds”

- India said it would continue to support Zimbabwe's diamond mining sector, arguing that there was not proof that the country had not complied with the Kimberley Process' regulations. India's ambassador to Zimbabwe stated that Zimbabwean diamonds were not conflict diamonds.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 1, 2010, in English)

“Let's Honor Our Own Prophets” by Dalla Bill

- After attending a training attended by participants from various African countries, the author believes that many African countries wished Mugabe was their president. He was described as a “fearless, principled, a visionary and dedicated leader whose only "crime" was to challenge and fight imperialists and their machinations.”
- Other participants showed interest in the inclusive government, the land reform, empowerment and indigenization. Zimbabwe was also praised for surviving the sanctions imposed on the country.
- A participant from Rwanda apparently declared that “if Africa had six leaders of President Mugabe's caliber, then Africa would be different from what it is right now. “
- Mugabe is described as a leader who put his reputation on the line for the masses.
- The author calls for a strong empowerment and indigenization programme that will let Black young people control resources instead of white youths.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 3, 2010, in English)

“Misreading African 'Silence'” by Tichaona Zindoga

- *The Herald* examines Morgan Tsvangirai speech at the National Democratic Institute's Averell Harriman Democracy Award Ceremony earlier last month. Tsvangirai called for an end of the “conspiracy of silence” in Africa. He argued that many African leaders do not respect good governance and the rule of law, allowing for repression to continue.

- Tsvangirai is criticized for chiding African leaders and for attempting to meet Western ideals of democracy, property and human rights. In doing so, Tsvangirai criticized “quiet diplomacy” and the formation of the Inclusive Political Agreement.
- The MDC has often called for the “restoration of human rights in Zimbabwe,” meaning the removal of President Mugabe, but this would not have done Africa any good. Tsvangirai is said to be an accomplice in the “subjugation of the continent.”
- For the West “good governance” is a metaphor for “securing minority white interests.” Their attitude has led them to support corrupted African leaders, such as Kenyan Prime Minister Raila Odinga and Botswana’s Seretse Khama Ian Khama. The two leaders are criticized for speaking against Zimbabwean interests. In conclusion, “good governance” (along Western lines) dehumanizes and subjugates African peoples. Along with Kenya’s and Botswana’s leaders and the West, Tsvangirai is criticized for resisting efforts to give Africans their rights back. The West refuses to let Africa progress.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 4, 2010, in English)

“Govt, Sudan Decry Sanctions”

- Khartoum's Ambassador in Harare Elsidieg Abdalla said Sudan and Zimbabwe should work together to defeat the illegal sanctions imposed on the two countries by the West. He praised bilateral ties between Sudan and Zimbabwe and believes these should be strengthened.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 5, 2010, in English)

“ZNA Must Safeguard National Sovereignty – Nyikayaramba” by Andrew Mambondiyani

- The Zimbabwe National Army have been told to uphold the ideals of the struggles for freedom and justice and guard against attempts to violate country’s sovereignty, even with minimum resources. Brigadier-General Douglas Nyikayaramba argued that if the military was weak, so country would as well.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 7, 2010, in English)

“Remain Vigilant, Locals Urged”

- The chairman of the newly founded Zimbabwe Revolutionary Volunteers Front, Cde Goodwine Mureriwa Zimbabweans were warned to remain vigilant and were told to keep defending the gains of the liberation struggle from those trying to meddle in Zimbabwe’s domestic affairs to effect a regime change.
- She also added that the constitution-making process was a defining moment for the country.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 8, 2010, in English)

“State Meets KP Criteria” by Takunda Maodza

According to the Zimbabwe Independent Abbey Chikane urged the government to put in place proper security measures at Chiadzwa diamond fields to facilitate the withdrawal of soldiers accused of human rights abuses. He removal of the army should be gradual. Human rights activists have been pushing for the demilitarization of the area. It seems that the government is now moving towards the withdrawal of the army from Chiadzwa.

- After a fact-finding mission, it was determined that Zimbabwe has satisfied minimum KP requirements and is ready to trade. KP monitor Chikane said he was impressed by the security arrangements on the minefields and added that the Zimbabwe National army should remain there in order to avoid illegal diggers to return. Gradual demilitarization should however be planned by the Zimbabwe Republic Police.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 9, 2010, in English)

“Govt Sitting On U.S.\$1,7 Billion Diamonds”

- The Zimbabwean government is believed to have stockpiled diamonds worth between US\$32 million and US\$1,7 billion.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 9, 2010, in English)

“GPA Principals Meet”

- The three GPA principals met 8 June to review their negotiators' report on implementation of the agreement that led to the formation of the inclusive government. Emphasis was put on governmental processes such as operation of Cabinet and the Council of Ministers. Issues of external interference, Reserve Bank Governor Dr. Gideon Gono, Roy Bennett, parallel government structures, appointment of judges, land and electoral processes are also discussed in the report.
- PM Tsvangirai is said to have complained about the appointment of several judges but observes argued that these were done constitutionally and Tsvangirai should not expected judges to appointed according to political affiliation.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 9, 2010, in English)

“Chikane Slams Diamond Activist” by Takunda Maodza

SW Radio Africa reports that activists from Centre for Research and Development (CRD) who exposed the violence taking place at the Chiadzwa diamond fields have been forced to remain in hiding as the police is tracking them down. Farai Maguwu, the centre's director has been arrested and his deputy was abducted in early June. He was interrogated by the police who then arrested Maguwu's brother, Lisben, on charges of obstruction of justice.

The CRD argued that large quantities of diamonds without certification from the KP are finding their way to local and foreign buyers (especially Dubai). The prime suspects are the government approved Canadile mining company. According to the CRD 2000 carats of diamonds are being smuggled every day.

- KP monitor Abbey Chikane criticized Centre for Research and Development director Farai Maguwu for illegally giving him a top State secret document. The document was acquitted fraudulently from the Zimbabwe Republic Police. He said this had clear criminal implications and could have led to a diplomatic incident.
- Maguwu has been arrested and appeared in court.
- Chikane also explained that African Consolidated Resources officials tried to block him from travelling to Zimbabwe.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 11, 2010, in English)

“Participate in National Healing, Nation Urged”

Last month, the MDC published the names of perpetrators of violence. Among those accused is a colonel in the National army accused of leading Zanu-PF youths in murdering and raping MDC activists. So far, many sitting Zanu-PF parliamentarians have been named.

SW Radio Africa reported renewed violence at the end of the month. The MDC accused Zanu-PF supporters of abducting and attacking MDC activists in various parts of the country. The situation is apparently getting worse ahead of the constitutional outreach programme mean to start 15 June.

The Standard also reports that Morgan Tsvangirai has called for the withdrawal of the soldiers from the countryside, saying that their presence instills fear among the locals ahead of the constitutional outreach programme. The MDC-T said the soldiers were originally deployed under the government’s Maguta programme and those who spearheaded violence in 2008 were still present forcing local people to attend Zanu-PF meetings.

- Organ for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration Minister, Sekai Holland urged all Zimbabweans to participate in the national healing process in order to promote peace and stability. She said divisions needed to be dealt with and a culture of tolerance should be promoted.