

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 30 August , 2010 (19 August-29 August, 2010)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS reporter for Zimbabwe

(The Chronicle, government-owned daily, article dated August 31, 2009, in English)

“Terror suspects sue ministers” by Harare Bureau

- Eighteen people, including a five year old child, arrested on terror-related charges in 2008, are suing four Cabinet Ministers for alleged torture, malicious prosecution, abduction and unlawful detention. The ministers are Patrick Chinamasa (Justice and Legal Affairs), Kembo Mohadi (Home Affairs), Giles Mutsekwa (ex-Home Affairs), and Didymus Mutasa (ex-State Security). Several other authority figures are also being sued.
- The hearings were supposed to start on Monday but the case was postponed after State lawyer Advocate Farai Mutamangira failed to turn up due to other pressing commitments. The eighteen people were accused of plotting to bomb infrastructure and undergoing banditry training in 2008.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated August 31, 2009, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Election Preparations Must Be a Process”

- President Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said they wanted an election to follow the constitution-making process. Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara wants the election delayed as much as possible, probably because he would not win the elections.
- Zimbabwe wants credible elections and obstacles which have led previous elections to fail must be removed, including voters roll.
- Constitutional commissions such as the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and the Zimbabwe Media Commission are needed yet these are being poorly funded and cannot work properly. Money is lacking which may mean that elections will not be held next year. Foreign money should not be used as this would open the door foreign states and actors to manipulate election. Institutions must be run locally and by patriotic Zimbabweans.
- The West is seen as responsible for undermining Zimbabwe’s democratic process as the economy is suffering as a result of the sanctions.

(The Chronicle, government-owned daily, article dated September 1, 2009, in English)

“MDC’s duplicity, dangerous politics not good for Zim”

- The MDC is criticized for its duplicity. The newspaper refers to a statement by Morgan Tsvangirai 10 years ago in which he said that Mugabe should go peacefully or would be removed violently.
- The MDC is currently facing corruption charges, despite calling itself the party of excellence.

- They claim Zanu-PF successes as their own, particularly in the agricultural, human rights and educational sector.
- Patriotic Zimbabweans should “tread carefully with these men.” Anti-Zanu-PF politicians in Zimbabwe are putting the nation’s security at risk in order to gain power. MDC supporters are becoming increasingly cruel in their attacks: “alone, they are nothing but a handful of annoying fleas on the tushie of the Great Elephant.
- “Together, they are an uncompromising swarm of vermin that must be controlled or we will all suffer what could be catastrophic consequences as they alter their language to pursue personal agendas from another angle.”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated September 3, 2009, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Chaos at Copac Outreach” by Samuel Kadungure

- Rivalry between the NDC and Zanu-PF is disrupting the constitutional outreach programme and adds to the impression that the process is driven by political parties. Copac leaders appealed to political parties.
- Zanu-PF sympathizers accused Mr. Muchauraya of trying to influence the contributions of villagers to reflect the MDC’s stance. Muchauraya dismissed allegations arguing that Zanu-PF was uncomfortable to have him chair the meeting and was trying to oust him.
- MDC-T legislator, Senator Patrick Chitaka (Mutasa-Nyanga) allegedly forced the stoppage of another meeting, arguing that the information dissemination system had been manipulated in favor of Zanu-PF.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 31 August, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: So Called 'Implementation Matrix' Exposes Farce of Coalition” by Lance Guma

- A so-called 'implementation matrix' agreed by the political parties is meant to see a total of 24 issues being implemented. Zanu-PF is making demands that are paralyzing the government such as the issue of “pirate” radio stations. These stations are fully legal and independent. The three political parties can therefore not call upon foreign government to stop hosting such stations.
- Concerning the sanctions, Zanu-PF is pressuring the MDC to get the West to remove their targeted sanctions before they agree to implement any of the other agreed issues. Yet it is not in the MDC’s power to influence the foreign policy of other countries. Governments have made it clear that respect for human rights is a pre-condition for lifting the sanctions yet violence and intimidations campaigns still occur in Zimbabwe,
- Other issues include the regularization of the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe board, a land audit, cabinet rules, electoral vacancies, national heroes, hate speech in the media etc. But the problem is that there is not clear-cut method of implementation.
- Analysts say they are surprised at some of the things the MDC have signed up to do and the party is also criticized for failing to use their position to criticize Zanu-PF actions.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 31 August, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Mugabe Vows No Reversal of Land Grab” by Alex Bell

- At the funeral of his brother-in-law Reward Marufu, President Mugabe vowed not to reverse the illegal land grab campaign started by his party. Mugabe told mourners that efforts to "use" the human rights court of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to reverse such land seizures, would not lead to any result because Zimbabwe is a sovereign and independent nation whose laws should be respected.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 31 August, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Mpfu Faces Court Action for Allowing Chiadzwa Diamond Sales” by Alex Bell

- Mines Minister Obert Mpfu is set to face court action for allowing the sale of diamonds mined at the Chiadzwa diamond fields. A Supreme Court order barred the stones from being sold and African Consolidated Resources, the titleholder of the Chiadzwa claim, is therefore suing the minister for violating the Supreme Court order, allowing the ZMDC to continue mining and then allowing the sale.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 1 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Zanu PF Torture Trial Postponed” by Alex Bell

- The torture trial of an MDC activist, that will see top ZANU PF officials face questioning, has been postponed until later this month. Mapfumo Garutsa was abducted in November 2008 and held for more than two weeks on terror charges. He was accused of bombing bridges, police station and undergoing banditry training in Botswana. Garutsa says he was assaulted and denied food several times.
- Home Affairs co-Minister's Kembo Mohadi and Giles Mutsekwa, Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa and former State Security Minister Didymus Mutasa have all been listed in Garutsa's case.
- The case will now be heard along with that of seventeen other abductees who are suing the ministers and security officials for more than \$20 million.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 1 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: MP Still Refusing to Leave Invaded Farm” by Alex Bell

- An MP in Somabhula is refusing to leave an invaded farm despite court order commanding him to leave. The police have repeatedly refused to support the Philip and Ellen Hapelt, who own the farm. Philip was also almost assaulted by the MPs men.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 2 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Mugabe Regime Resumes Jamming SW Radio Africa Broadcasts” by Lance Guma

- Robert Mugabe's regime has resumed the jamming of news broadcasts from SW Radio Africa, despite the existence of the coalition government with the MDC. Information Communication Technology Minister Nelson Chamisa said he was not aware of the situation and would gather facts. However, a source said the Central Intelligence Organization, which falls under the President's Office, is running the operation.
- The jamming started in 2005 and was later extended to the Voice of America. The act is a violation of international law.
- In March 2007 then Deputy Information Minister Bright Matonga admitted they were jamming the broadcasts. At the time, he argued that the government could not allow foreigners to invade the airwaves without the government's authorization. He added that jamming was a way to protect national sovereignty.
- The fact that the MDC does not know about the jamming shows that they are junior partners in the government

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated 3 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Deal Exposes RBZ's Diamond Activities” by Kumbirai Mafunda

- The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe has been involved in the extraction and processing of diamonds and gold. Carslone Enterprises, a subsidiary of the RBZ, entered into a joint venture with Gweru farmer Magiel Casper Jovner, who owns Kleimpton Farm, in 2007 to carry out mining activities at his Mangwe Mine. Carslone was due to pay Jovner 5% of the total gross value of the gold and/or other valuable products from the mine. However, the deal has now collapsed after Jovner refused to renew the agreement citing the RBZ subsidiary's failure to meet its obligations. Moreover, Jovner explained that his mining activities have been hampered by the RBZ's illegal mining.
- Jovner says Carslone has made racial threats and threatened that they would cause his arrest and grab his farm.
- The value of the diamonds is not known.
- Carslone has also consolidated its presence in the gold-mining sector by acquiring closed or struggling mines.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated 3 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Fresh GNU Row Erupts Over Provincial Governors” by Faith Zaba

- Fresh disputes have erupted between the three principals to the GPA over the appointment of provincial governors, particularly over letters written to Sadc facilitator, South African

President Jacob Zuma, on progress made in the implementation of the global political agreement (GPA).

- The three principals agreed that the issue of provincial governors would be dealt with “simultaneously and concurrently with that of sanctions,” yet the MDC-T now denies linking the appointment of governors to the lifting of the sanctions. The MDC-T has accused Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara of falsifying the letter.
- The President’s spokesperson George Charamba threatened to expose Tsvangirai by making public the letter he allegedly signed together with the other principals.
- Meanwhile, MDC-M secretary-general Welshman Ncube said Tsvangirai was a liar and explained that the principals had agreed that Mutambara should write the letter. He added that Tsvangirai himself then suggested that Mutambara should add paragraphs related to the three outstanding issues, including the appointment of central bank governor, Gideon Gono.