

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 2 August, 2010 (22 July– 1 August, 2009)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for Zimbabwe

State-owned media

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

“Healing: Let’s all walk the talk”

- The three parties to the GPA are praised for calling for unity of purpose, peace and tolerance. The parties described political violence as an inhuman engagement, despite reports that political violence is currently taking place as a result of the constitutional outreach programme.
- The leaders to the GPA are praised for urging the police to put an end to violence and send a clear message to the perpetrators.
- The Herald nonetheless criticizes the parties for blaming the media for the violence instead of accepting some of the culpability as well.
- The journalist calls for a “spirit of tolerance and maturity”. Meanwhile, the leaders are urged to call for an end to the illegal sanctions currently crippling Zimbabwe’s economy and for an end to foreign interference in internal affairs. The West only wants to see political violence erupt in the hope to see the GPA fail. The MDC formations should also stop their relationship with pirate radio stations.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 29, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Political Will, Commitment Critical for Results – Official”

- Deputy Chief Secretary to the President and Cabinet Dr Ray Ndhlukula called for political will and leadership commitment so that cultural, operational and legal reforms can be implemented.

Privately-owned media

(Financial Gazette, private business weekly, Harare, July 22, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Minister, CO-PAC Differ Over Violence Reports” by Wonai Masvingise And Kudzai Bare

- Constitution Parliamentary Select Committee, Paul Munyaradzi Mangwana (Zanu-PF), and Minister of Constitution and Parliamentary Affairs, Eric Matinenga (MDC-T), gave conflicting statements regarding alleged political violence. While Matinenga said he was aware of incidences of violence, Mangwana contradicted him during a press conference and said the reports were false.
- The MDC-T has several dossiers of alleged political violence and wants the incidents to be investigated. Matinenga also added that he would start attending meetings in order to monitor them.

- The Financial Gazette reports of several incidents in various provinces, including physical harm, destruction of property, and disruption of meetings by Zanu-PF activists.

(Financial Gazette, private business weekly, Harare, July 22, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Indigenisation Minister Not Giving Up Over Empowerment” by Nelson Chenga

- Youth Development Indigenisation and Empowerment Minister, Saviour Kasukuwere, is not ready to give up on his indigenisation drive yet. He said it was important to review the behaviour of some companies regarding Zimbabwe’s resources.
- Kasukuwere is still pushing for a 51 percent (Zimbabwean) and 49 percent (foreign) ownership of Zimbabwean firms.

(Financial Gazette, private business weekly, Harare, July 23, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Coalition Government Fails to Deliver – MPs” by Clemence Manyukwe

- Lawmakers from the three parties to the GPA said the inclusive government had so far failed to deliver. The government is said to be more preoccupied with politics than issues truly concerning Zimbabweans.
- Finance Minister Tendai Biti agrees that issues like the land reform programme, the Chiadzwa diamonds and the indigenisation programme have a lot to do with partisan politics.

(Financial Gazette, private business weekly, Harare, July 23, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Country Needs Political Stress Cleansing” by Evelyn Mazvizvo

- The Organ for National Healing and Reconciliation should deal with the use of political rape which not only affects the victim but the family and community as whole. It should also deal with the use of political torture during conflict, including the 2008 election campaign, which has left many people distressed and traumatized.
- The government should acknowledge the abuses that took place during the elections and take responsibility.
- Church and community leaders should educate the young about political violence in order to put an end to the use of politically driven violence.
- The army and national leaders should make sure Zimbabweans are protected and their rights maintained.
- The Organ for National Healing and Reconciliation is believed to be unable to prevent further political violence and reforms of legal institutions and of the constitution are therefore needed.

(The Standard, private weekly, Harare, dated July 24, 2010, in English)

**“Zimbabwe: Silence on Rights Abuses Condemned” Fungai Machirori
24 July 2010**

- Aids-Free World and activists from South Africa, Botswana and other countries criticized regional and international bodies such as SADC, the African Union and the UN for failing to condemn and investigate the sexual abuses that took place during Zimbabwe's 2008 elections.
- Aids-Free World's co-director said Mugabe and his supporters would perpetrate sexual abuses again. He strongly condemned the use of rape as a political weapon.

(The Standard, private weekly, Harare, dated July 24, 2010, in English)

**“Zimbabwe: Zanu-PF Poll Strategy Hits Sour Note” by Caiphas Chimhete
24 July 2010**

- Political analysts declared that partisan jingles played on state radio and television were an attempt to win back votes ahead of next year's elections. However, they added that the strategy could backfire since they remind the electorate of the 2008 election violence. They also said the jingles reminded Zimbabweans of the propaganda songs being played when Jonathan Moyo was still Information Minister. At the time, the songs helped spur discontent against Mugabe's rule.
- The songs hail President Mugabe and describe him as the supreme leader. The songs are being played twice an hour.
- The songs are believed to be part of an undeclared election campaign. The campaign started with the harassment of its supporters during the country-wide constitutional outreach programme.
- The MDC failed to have the jingles pulled off the air.
- MDC-T spokesperson Nelson Chamisa said the party was petrified to see Mugabe being described as a “representative of God on earth.”

(The Zimbabwe Telegraph, aggregated independent online newspaper, article dated July 26, 2010, in English)

“Perpetrators of violence share platform with victims” by Sarah Ncube

- Alleged perpetrators of violence and victims assembled at a meeting in Harare to discuss issues of violence and national healing. The meeting was meant to ensure that the three political parties to the GPA adhere to Article Three and 18 of the GPA urging all parties to avoid violence and promote peace.
- The consensus was that the executive must promote a violence-free environment. The delegates agreed that peace and healing cannot take place without justice, compensation and the arrest of all perpetrators of violence.
- They also agreed on the establishment of an Inter-Party-Organ on Dialogue (IPOD). The Organ would allow parties at provincial, district and village level to debate on matters of violence. It should also create an environment of truth-telling.
- ZBC and The Herald were criticized for promoting hate speech and creating rifts.
- MDC secretary-general Hon Tendai Biti said the meeting was ground-breaking and added that no nation could develop if violence and intolerance prevailed.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated July 27, 2010, in English)

**“Zimbabwe: Zanu PF Jingles Out of Tune With Spirit of Coalition” by Lance Guma
27 July 2010**

- The ZBC vowed to continue plating Zanu-PF jingles on state radio and television.
- Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai used a cabinet meeting to protest the matter, describing them as “offensive and contrary to the spirit of the GPA”
- The head of ZBC invited the MDC to produce their own songs to be broadcast.
- Former Information Minister Jonathan Moyo declared the songs were meant to celebrate the “rich legacy of the liberation struggle.” However, one of the songs hails Mugabe and the two vice presidents claiming that the country is run by them, while the MDC are junior partners.
- MDC spokesman Nelson Chamisa said the jingles were “undesirable and unnecessary”

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated July 27, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: More Intimidation Reported At Constitutional Outreach Meetings”

- District Administrator in Masvingo has gone into hiding after being threatened by Zanu-PF for suggesting that the PM should have executive powers.
- Further intimidation and physical assault of officials and independent monitors have also been reported by independent monitoring organizations.
- The MDC'S national Women's Assembly secretary said Zimbabweans should participate to the constitutional outreach programme in order to create a new Zimbabwe.

(The Zimbabwe Telegraph, aggregated independent online newspaper, article dated July 28, 2010, in English)

“‘Military junta’ rules Zimbabwe, says MDC’s Bennett” by Sarah Ncube

- In a BBC interview, Roy Bennett said a military junta is currently ruling Zimbabwe and President Mugabe can only thank a group of generals for remaining in office. They are forcing the president to remain in power because they are enriching themselves. He also believes that Mugabe does not fully know what is going on under his rule.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated July 28, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Constitutional Meetings Rendered Pointless by Zanu-PF Intimidation” by Tererai Karimakwenda

- Zimbabweans have lost faith in the constitution-making process as a result of violent behavior of Zanu-PF activists and soldiers. The process has therefore become pointless and will not reflect the opinion of Zimbabweans.

- The MDC and Zanu-PF's behavior is remindful of the March 2008 elections, when Mugabe's party unleashed a campaign of violence against their opponents. The MDC prefers to keep quiet and will not report incidents to the police.
- Torture bases are believed to have been reactivated since the beginning of the process.
- Soldiers and Zanu-PF youth militia have been particularly active in sponsoring violence.

(The Zimbabwe Telegraph, aggregated independent online newspaper, article dated July 28, 2010, in English)

“ZANU PF reminds voters of past brutality” by Gertrude Gumede

- Songs praising President Mugabe are being played every thirty minutes on state-controlled radios and television. The songs belittle Prime Minister Tsvangirai and his party: “Who is in charge? It is President Mugabe ... Who is the second most powerful? It is Vice President Mujuru ... And the third most powerful? It is John Nkomo,”
- The Prime Minister complained about the jingles at a cabinet meeting
- Political analysts believe the songs are an attempt to win back voters yet the move might backfire as they remind the electorate of the 2008 political violence.

(Daily Nation on the Web, private newspaper, dated July 28, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Tsvangirai Turns to Zuma After Mugabe Row” by Kitsepile Nyathi

- Prime Minister Tsvangirai has turned to South Africa President Jacob Zuma's after fresh disputes have emerged between the members of the inclusive government. Last week, President Mugabe reshuffled key diplomatic pots without consulting the two MDC formations. The two formations said the move was a violation of the GPA.
- Disputes have also erupted over pro-Mugabe jingles being played on national radio and television.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated July 28, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Court Helps Ensure Bennett's Swearing-in Delayed 'Indefinitely'” by Alex Bell

- The Supreme Court postponed Roy Bennett's case “indefinitely”, ensuring that he would not be sworn in as Deputy of Agriculture Minister. In May, Bennett was acquitted on charges of possessing weapons of war and plotting to oust Mugabe but the State filed an appeal in the Supreme Court.
- Chief Justice Godfrey Chidyausiku said the record was “bulky” and there postponed the matter.
- Mugabe recently said he would not swear-in Bennett until he is cleared of all charges. This outstanding issue has been putting strains on the GPA's performance and progress.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated July 28, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Diamond Researcher Slapped With Fresh Charges” by Alex Bell

- Two weeks after being released from jail, diamond researcher and human rights activist Farai Maguwu has been accused of news charges, re-arrested and later released. He has been accused of stealing a vehicle.
- Maguwu’s lawyer said the charges were an excuse to persecute Maguwu. Bere added that it was not sure at first whether the authorities would actually release Maguwu, something which he says constitutes a “contravention of the constitution and international statutes of the law.”

(The Zimbabwe Telegraph, aggregated independent online newspaper, article dated July 29, 2010, in English)

“Joshua Nkomo Statue at Karigamombe Defeats National Healing Efforts” by Bongzi Dlodlo

- The plan to erect a statue of late Zanu leader Joshua Nkomo in Karigamombe Centre in Harare, a site that saw the death of more than 20,000 Zanu supporters in 1980s, is seen as “offensive and equal to a public crucifixion.” It is also seen as defeating all national healing efforts.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated July 29, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: MDC Harassment Continues as ZPF Start 'Electioneering'” by Alex Bell

- Zanu-PF is feared to have started an early election campaign.
- MDC deputy organizing secretary, Senator Morgen Komichi, was arrested on Wednesday and charged with communicating falsehood and undermining the police by accusing the provincial police of confiscating three MDC vehicles in 2008. Komichi’s lawyer said the charges constituted nothing more than “political harassment” and showed a “selective application of the law against the MDC.”
- MDC activists in Matabeleland have also reportedly been threatened with death by a group of Zanu-PF activists led by a MP.
- Soldiers and war veterans forced local residents to attend meetings and those who refused to attend were threatened with death.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated July 29, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: 'Operation Shut Your Mouth'” by Tererai Karimakwenda

- Intimidation and violence perpetrated by Zanu-PF continues and has now been called Operation “Shut Your Mouth” (“Vhara Muromo”). Those opposed to the controversial

party are warned to keep quiet and many MDC supporters have gone into hiding in order to avoid being assaulted.

- The Operation is reported to be particularly strong in Mashonaland Central and Manicaland.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated July 30, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: No Rule of Law, Despite the Unity Government” by Alex Bell

- Several international legal organizations warned that Zimbabwe’s current legal and justice system encourages impunity. A coalition of several legal groups and human rights experts published a report ('A place in the sun: report on the state of the rule of law in Zimbabwe after the Global Political Agreement') which states that the rule of law has not improved in Zimbabwe since the formation of the inclusive government.
- The report warns of extra-judicial killings, kidnapping, torture and other human rights abuses. These have remained un-investigated. Members of the judiciary “remain fundamentally compromised by state patronage, grants of land and other gifts [...]” Legal groups have come to the conclusion that access to justice remains “virtually non-existent”, in part because the infrastructure is crumbling.
- The report therefore calls for an end to impunity and the investigation of state security forces in rights violations. Furthermore, the government should comply with its obligation under the SADC Treaty, something it has failed to do, particularly regarding Mugabe’s land reform programme.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated July 30, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Police Trying to Block MDC Hwange Rally” by Alex Bell

- According to the MDC-T, Security forces in Hwange attempted to stop a MDC rally scheduled for Saturday. Prime Minister and party leader Morgan Tsvangirai is expected to give a speech on the performance of the inclusive government.
- The police claim they do not have the manpower to hold the rally.
- The MDC also expressed concerns over war-vet leader Jabulani Sibanda, who is apparently intimidating villagers. Zanu-PF youths are also harassing people ahead of the constitutional-outreach meeting.
- MDC deputy organising secretary, Senator Morgen Komichi, was arrested and is facing charges of “communicating falsehood.”
- According to Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, police in Banket detained a local councilor after he attempted to report a case of harassment by Zanu-PF activists who reportedly threw stones at him.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, dated July 30, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Party Leaders Said to Have Dropped Many Outstanding Issues” by Lance Guma

- The three political leaders to the GPA are believed to have dropped several outstanding issues as some of them were putting strains on their relationship. Instead, the three leaders will focus on reform related to senior appointments (Roy Bennett, Johannes Tomana and Gideon Gono).
- President Mugabe appointed Reserve Bank governor Gono and Attorney General Tomana, although there was no consensus on the issue. He refused to swear in Roy Bennett as Deputy Agriculture Minister and who is backed by the MDC-T. He also unilaterally appointed judges and ambassadors, a move considered as a breach to the GPA.
- Little has been divulged to the public about the issue, something which has become typical of the government. There seems to be a complete deadlock concerning Gono, Tomana and Bennett, leading the leaders to appeal to the SADC.
- Meanwhile, MDC-T spokesman Nelson Chamisa said no outstanding issues had been dropped because the principals had agreed on those issues.
- Mugabe and his party do not want Zimbabwe to be on the next SADC summit’s agenda, although Tsvangirai is pushing for it. African leaders such as DRC’s Kabila tend to agree with Mugabe.