

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 19 July, 2010 (9 July – 18 July, 2009)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for Zimbabwe

Government-owned media

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 10, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Constitutional Committee to Give NGOs Code of Conduct”

- The Parliament Select Committee agreed to come up with a code of conduct for NGOs that intend to observe the constitution outreach programme. The Parliament Select Committee came to the conclusion that NGOs are allowed to observe but not monitor the programme. They were advised to report any incidents of violence to COPAC and not to the international media.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 12, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: There's No Blood On Our Diamonds, Says Mpfu” by Lloyd Gumbo

- Minister Obert Mpfu said Zimbabwe’s gems are not blood diamonds and Western countries would be unable to push changes to the definition. He also insisted that his country had met the Kimberley Process’ minimum requirements
- Minister Mpfu also added that some western countries wanted diamonds from River Range Mine barred because they discovered the company was partly owned by investors from the UAE and not by white people.
- Minister Tendai Biti said Zimbabwe should export its diamonds since Zimbabwe had complied with the KP. He said diamond sale would improve the country’s economy

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 12, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: 'Use Constitution Process to Defend National Sovereignty'”

Mugabe recently commented on the constitutional outreach programme saying that the main voice would be Zanu-PF because the party had been chosen by the people. His statement shows that the whole process is very much dominated by political parties rather than the people. Arguments over the division of powers between the President and the Prime Minister, over the President's term limits, and the devolution of some powers to the regions have created tensions between the two main parties.

- Air Force of Zimbabwe commander Air Marshal Perrance Shiri said Zimbabweans should use the constitution-making process to reaffirm the nation’s sovereignty and freedom. The goal is to empower and unite future generations, dispossess or “leave them at the mercy of the vagaries of international cultures and influence.”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 13, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: U.S. \$1500 Bail for Diamond Activist”

- Centre for Research and Development Trust director Farai Maguwu was granted US\$1 500 bail after facing charges of spreading falsehood about alleged human rights violations on the Chiadzwa diamond fields

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 14, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: 'Constitution Must Meet National Values'”

- Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Patrick Chinamasa said Zimbabweans should create a constitution that meets national values and aspirations. He made a reference to the issue of land, indigenization, health and education. He criticized those refusing to take advantage of the indigenization programme asking them if they refused to be rich.
- He added that Zanu-PF promoted the interests of the people and would therefore abide to people's opinions.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 14, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Political Tolerance Hailed”

- Chairman of the Organ on National Healing and Vice President John Nkomo hailed political tolerance, peace and national healing.
- Nkomo only expressed some concerns of political violence in some areas.
- He is yet to meet members of political parties not part of the GPA to get their views on national healing.
- MDC-T deputy organizing secretary Morgan Komichi stated that the parties to the GPA do not condone political violence and intimidation. Meanwhile, MDC national youth secretary-general Ellen Shiryedenga added that those who have committed or are committing violence, including the government, should be held accountable.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 14, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Mozambique's Diamond Capital” by Cletus Mushanawani

- The Herald reveals that illegal diamonds and gold have found their way into the Mozambican town of Manica. The police said they were now monitoring the movement of foreigners close to the border and said they were now on top of the situation.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 15, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Govt to Summon NGOs”

- Prime Minister Tsvangirai said all NGOs would be summoned in order to define priority areas and set up a coordinated approach. Tsvangirai said the most important issue was food security.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 15, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Nation Can Reform Its Own Systems”

The Economist Intelligence Unit reports that Zanu-PF is likely to continue its “divide and rule strategy” as it has made little concessions in recent months. Regulations such as the indigenization programme shows that the party is still very much in control. Zanu-PF also uses its control over mainstream media to promote the idea that the MDC is in trouble. The Prime Minister’s recent decision to reshuffle the Cabinet has given the party an excuse to do as well.

- President Mugabe opened the third session of the seventh Parliament of Zimbabwe showing Zimbabwe’s commitment to reform its own system and implement the GPA. Changes will be made in electoral laws, media legislation, human rights, women’s empowerment and mineral laws, the goal being to democratize the whole system.
- The new legislative agenda laid out by President Mugabe shows Zimbabwe’s commitment to peace and stability, without nonetheless compromising national sovereignty.
- Zimbabwe’s agriculture and mining industries are said to have grown significantly in the past year.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 15, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: No Blood On These Gems, Albion” by Tichaona Zindoga

- The current disputes over the sale of diamonds is described as a war between Zimbabwe and an “unholy alliance of US, Canada, Australia and the “, an “axis of evil.”
- The West is criticized for trying to portray the gems as “blood diamonds”, a term that the newspapers rejects since the government of Zimbabwe is legitimate and not a rebel movement: “Any right thinking world citizen knows there is no blood in Zimbabwe's diamonds.”
- Accusations that President Mugabe is using the military to intimidate citizens are also deemed unfounded.
- PAC and Global Witness are described as Western-controlled anti-Zimbabwe lobbies.
- Human Rights Watch is also criticized for alleging that the military continues to engage in human rights abuses in Marange and for portraying diamond activist Farai Maguwu as a martyr.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 15, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Corruption Derailing Economic Growth, Development Efforts” by Christopher Takunda Mugaga

- The government is said to have created an Anti-Corruption Commission in order to improve accountability and integrity. Corruption is said to be derailing economic growth and development.
- Corruption is said to be taking place in education, company ownership, the music industry and in the private sector.
- Perpetrators of corruption are police forces, legal stakeholders and complainants.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 15, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: First Family Not On Terror List”

The Times newspaper and the Voice of America reported that President Mugabe, his wife and nephew have been placed on a US Treasury list of people believed to have funded terrorist groups. The treasury office enforces sanctions against those listed.

- Contrary to international and independent media reports, President Mugabe and his wife have not been classified as terrorists or as people suspected of funding terrorism. Media houses are to have misinterpreted sanctions imposed on individuals in Zimbabwe by the US (Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act).

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 16, 2010, in English)

Zimbabwe: Government Considers New Diamond Act

- The government is considering a new diamond act which would make participation of the government in alluvial diamond mining activities obligatory. The government has apparently lost US\$30 million worth of diamonds which were sold without the knowledge of the Treasury. The new act would enhance transparency and all income from the diamond sale would be transferred to the treasury immediately.
- The new act would also deal with the issue of relocation of families and compensation. It would provide for the establishment of a diamond fund.

Privately-owned media

(The Financial Gazette, private weekly, Harare, article dated July 9, 2010, in English)

Zimbabwe: Electoral Changes No Guarantee to Free, Fair Play by Clemence Manyukwe

- Changes to the country’s electoral laws predict that elections will take place soon.
- Among the changes include the announcement of results not later than five days after polling, allowing illiterate or physically incapacitated voters to vote with the assistance of persons of their choice in the absence of presiding officers or polling agents, and requiring the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to give political parties and candidates the total number of ballots printed and ballots distributed to each polling station.
- However, analysts warned that the amendments do not deal with the issue of disputed elections. Analysts said some displaced voters or Zimbabweans in the Diaspora might be

disenfranchised by the new system since voters can no longer vote from anywhere in the country. The new system is also said to make intimidation and violence easier.

- Another analyst said five days for the announcement of presidential poll results should be reduced to two or three days in order to avoid rigging.

(The Financial Gazette, private weekly, Harare, article dated July 9, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Electoral Commission Ready for Elections” by Levi Mukarati

- The newly appointed Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) said it was ready to hold national elections and a constitution referendum

(The Standard, private weekly, Harare, article dated July 10, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: MDC-T Wants Security Forces Barred From Outreach Meetings” by Caiphaz Chimhete

- The MDC-T wants security forces to be barred from attending constitutional outreach meetings in rural areas as they prevent people to express their opinions freely. The presence of security forces is also said to be a reminder of the violence that took place in 2008 during the elections.
- The MDC-T has alleged that soldiers have been threatening villagers with disappearances and murder if they failed to support Zanu-PF’s demands and endorse the Kariba Draft, a document which allows President Mugabe to retain controversial executive powers.
- The presence of police forces will not allow for the constitution to be people-driven. The MDC-T also asked Zanu-PF to stop coaching people on what to say during the meetings.
- Co-chairperson of constitutional select committee Paul Mangwana said he had not heard anything about violence or the presence of security forces.
- In villages, chiefs loyal to Zanu-PF have been speaking “on behalf” of the people, therefore not letting others express their views. War veterans are reportedly also involved in the process.
- Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) secretary general Wellington Chibebe said the process was chaotic as political party positions take precedence over people’s opinions

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated July 15, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Zanu PF Stance Threat to EU Re-Engagement” by Farai Mutsaka

15 July 2010

- As coalition attempt to reengage with the European Union, Zanu-PF’s hard-line stance and the EU’s mistrust of Zimbabwe are likely to cause disputes. A week after re-engaging with the West, president Mugabe urged Zimbabwean representatives to abandon “useless initiatives.” He also said Zimbabwe should turn its back on countries hostile to his country.

- His position also shows a lack of commitment to the GPA, especially as reforms are currently at a standstill and activists are regularly being harassed.
- The MDC is urged to be more forceful in its re-engagement with the EU and within the coalition government.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated July 15, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Net Closes in On Zanu PF Looters”

SW Radio Africa reports that co-Home Affairs Minister Theresa Makone has received a long list of cases where officials have looted property or taken land in defiance of court orders. The document reportedly states that a "situation of lawlessness now persists on the farms with the tacit approval of the police." The document also shows that many Zanu-PF officials show no respect for the rule of law as some have gone as far as using national army soldiers to evict people from their farms. Harare based lawyer David Drury said big Zanu-PF officials are unlikely to be prosecuted (SW Radio Africa, “Zimbabwe: Document Exposes Zanu PF Chefs Who Looted Farms” by Lance Guma, July 16, 2010)

As the Economist Intelligence Unit also reports farm invasions continue to take place. Sixteen farmers have been evicted from their land in early June. The wheat production is also set to decline because of ongoing invasions and the late of delivery of crucial inputs.

- A document disclosing Zanu-PF officials and military officers involved in land invasions during the land reform programme is currently circulating.
- Co-Home Affairs Minister Theresa Makone wants the police and the High Court to deal with these cases even though they have previously declined to take actions. One of the reasons might be because some individuals are considered “untouchable.” The police have also indicated that they feared an armed response from soldiers if the court order were enforced.
- Another co-Home Affairs minister said the cases should be dealt with irrespective of the person’s position within the government.
- Commercial Farmers Union (CFU) said this proved the fact that land invasions took place under the guise of the land reform programme.
- Harare lawyer David Drury said he was dealing with more than 600 cases of white farmers who lost property to Zanu-PF officials and army generals. Attempts to prosecute these individuals have failed.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated July 15, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Country to Sell Diamonds Under Stringent Conditions”

- The deadlock over Zimbabwe’s diamonds has been broken as the KPCS negotiators have agreed to allow the export of a limited stock of diamonds under strict monitoring and regulation.
- Mines and Mining development minister Obert Mpofu said Zimbabwe would adhere to the regulations.

- Farai Maguwu's release on bail this week softened the West and NGOs who had been resisting certification.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated July 15, 2010, in English)

“Southern Africa: Zuma in Final Push to End GNU Stalemate” by Farai Mutsaka

- South Africa President Jacob Zuma wants to settle the disputes between the parties to the Global Political Agreement. Zuma is set to return to Zimbabwe soon in order to engage with the principals.

President's Address at the Opening of 3rd Session of the 7th Parliament of Zimbabwe

“Zimbabwe: Full Text of President's Address” by Comrade R.G Mugabe

- Robert Mugabe criticized detractors for challenging Zimbabwe's development. He said that through the Short Term Emergency Recovery Programme (STERP) the government had succeeded in bringing some stability to the economy despite the illegal sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe.
- He underlines the importance of a people-driven constitution.
- Concerning the mining sector, the president the Mines and Minerals Amendment Bill would ensure that the country derives maximum benefit from the minerals. Mugabe said Zimbabwe was resolved to sell its diamonds despite some countries' disapproval.
- Mugabe also commented on health, education, immigration, tourism, infrastructure, companies and industries, the civil service, foreign relations, agricultural inputs and women's empowerment.
- Mugabe paid tribute to the defense and security forces responsible for maintaining peace and tranquility in Zimbabwe.
- He urged Zimbabweans to create an environment of dialogue, trust and tolerance. He praised the Organ for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration for engaging with political parties, civil society, churches and traditional leaders in an attempt to promote reconciliation. He said the coalition government provided a sense of unity and optimism that should be cherished. This peaceful environment will allow for a strong, democratic and sovereign Zimbabwe to exist.