

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 21 February, 2010 (12 February– 20 February, 2009)
by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for Zimbabwe

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

“Put Polls On Hold – Chiefs”

- At a meeting between the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee members and traditional leaders in Harare, chiefs called for the suspension of all elections in Zimbabwe until the national healing process is concluded and peace has been restored. They described the atmosphere as volatile and argued that it would be counter-productive to hold elections before the healing process is completed. They believe it would divide people again and added that people were still worried about what happened last time elections were held.
- The chiefs also said the inclusive government should concentrate on the economy first. People should concentrate on what they want to achieve in life instead of being distracted by elections.
- Jomic co-chairperson Cde Oppah Muchinguri (Zanu-PF) concurred with the chiefs that people were still divided along political lines and an early election would worsen the situation. He said the situation was still tense and a conducive environment free of violence, corruption and intimidation was yet to be created.
- Professor Welshman Ncube (MDC), who is also Jomic co-chairperson, said negotiators of the three parties in the inclusive Government had decided not to fix the election date before the environment was conducive.

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

“Regime Change Agenda Behind Sanctions – Ncube” by Lloyd Gumbo

- MDC secretary general Professor Welshman Ncube revealed that the sanctions would stay as long as the President Mugabe is in power. He explained that the continued existence of the sanction was a testimony that the West wants a regime change.
- Ncube said there was a need for the government to devise a mechanism that would put an end to the sanctions and outdo their effect.
- Elton Mangoma (MDC-T), another Jomic co-chairperson, said the issue of the sanctions had been politicized and that the MDC-T felt Zanu-PF held them solely responsible to call for the lifting of the embargo. He added that the responsibility should be taken by the inclusive government as a whole.
- Chief Musarurwa called for the removal of the sanctions and believes that the party who invited the sanctions should be banned from political participation.

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

“European Union Insincere – Govt”

- Foreign Affairs Minister Simbarashe Mumbengegwi said the European Union was insincere and not committed to re-engaging Zimbabwe in dialogue. He said Zimbabwe

was still waiting for the EU to indicate to them when a delegation could be sent. He also said that, unlike Zimbabwe, the EU had not produced a commitment plan.

- Mumbengegwi added that the EU had refused to hear Zimbabwe's position on the illegal sanctions before renewing them for another year.
- During a meeting with Mumbengegwi, Portuguese State Secretary for Communities António Braga said he was facing a difficult task in convincing EU hardliners on the need for dialogue. Portugal is looking to improve bilateral relations with Zimbabwe

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

“Diamond Exports Face New Threat” by Hebert Zharare

In a report entitled "Diamonds and Clubs: The Militarized Control of Diamonds and Power in Zimbabwe", PAC argues that the government is sponsoring diamond smuggling and human rights violations in Chiadzwa.

- Canadian-based organization, Partnership Africa Canada asked the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme to redefine the term “blood diamonds” so that it encompass gems mined in Chiadzwa.
- A meeting of the KP will take place in Israel next week during which Zimbabwe will argue that the continued denial of KP certification is slowing down economic transformation. Mines and Mining Development Minister Obert Mpofu said Zimbabwe had complied with all KP requirements and defined Zimbabwe as a principled country. He added that Zimbabwe would deal with international organizations legally. He explained these organizations should be lucky to be in Zimbabwe as in some Western countries they would not get away with spreading falsehood about the State.
- Mpofu argued that the Canadian definition of blood diamond does not define Zimbabwe.
- PAC also declared that the KP had lost its credibility but Mpofu argued that Zimbabwe had complied with the KP’s requirements.
- On the issue of NGO activist Farai Maguwu who is currently facing charges for giving KP monitor Chikane confidential State information, Mpofu declared the law would decide and he would not interfere.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 17, 2010, in English)

Embrace Empowerment - President

- President Mugabe says youths should take advantage of various economic empowerment initiatives and safeguard Zimbabwe's independence. He added that companies had to open up, especially since they had taken enough of Zimbabwe’s gold and diamonds should now go to the country’s youths who should act as shareholders.
- He called on the youths to have an entrepreneurial mind.
- President Mugabe also urged youths not to forget sacrifices made by the revolutionaries in liberating Zimbabwe and the continent.
- Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai added it was important for youths to fight for their rights and advocate for peace and national unity.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 17, 2010, in English)

“Principals in Call for Unity” by Takunda Maodza and Lloyd Gumbo

- The principals to the inclusive government have called for peace, tolerance and unity of purpose during the constitution making outreach programme that will take place next week.
- President Mugabe stated that Zimbabweans should be allowed to give their opinion on the new constitution and pleaded for no quarrelling, violence or conflict to take place. “Difference of opinion is permissible” he added, “We do not want to hear that others are being denied the chance to air their views and it should be balanced.
- Mugabe also criticized private newspapers which claim there are tensions between him and Morgan Tsvangirai and therefore called for the media to report objectively.
- PM Tsvangirai also called for peace and tranquility. He also asked police forces to oversee safety and security and resist acts of intimidation.
- Deputy PM Arthur Mutambara described constitution-making as the "ultimate expression of national sovereignty" and called for the document to be people-driven. He added that all political parties and interest groups should be free to participate.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 18, 2010, in English)

“MPs Applaud Principals' Call for Peace”

- Lawmakers have applauded the principals in the inclusive government for calling for peace and unity during Constitution outreach programme which will be launched next week.
- Zanu-PF House of Assembly members said the three principals had laid the foundations for peace and freedom of speech. MDC-T House of Assembly representative uttered similar comments and added that the principals showed their commitment to a people-driven constitution.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 18, 2010, in English)

British Firms Buy Chiadzwa Diamonds by Takunda Maodza

- The Herald reports that British and Belgian companies have been buying diamonds from the Chiadzwa fields while their governments call the gems "blood diamonds" and believe Zimbabwe should not be given KP Certification to export them. The Herald is in possession of a detailed report compiled by an independent investigator on behalf of the Government.
- Belgium, influential in the KP certification scheme process, apparently imported diamonds between May 2007 and October last year.
- Government has said it would sell its diamonds with or without the KP certificate if detractors continue to derail Zimbabwe’s efforts to export.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 18, 2010, in English)

“Clinton Misleads World On Country”

- US Secretary of States Hillary Clinton is criticized for misleading the world when she claimed American congressman Donald Payne had been denied a visa to Zimbabwe. Contrary to Clinton’s statement, Payne is said to have spent two days in the country, his second trip to Zimbabwe. Clinton claims that Donald was denied a visa because the government does not want somebody who has expertise in African politics from seeing the difficulties the country is currently facing.
- The Herald reports that Payne spent two days in Zimbabwe during which he met PM Morgan Tsvangirai and lobbied for he enactment of the US sanctions law, the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act.
- Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Media, Information and Publicity George Charamba criticized Clinton’s “ignorance” and emphasized that Payne was granted a visa, "despite him being a proponent of our demise".