

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 5 July, 2010 (24 June– 4 July, 2010)

Government-owned media

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for Zimbabwe

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 30, 2010, in English)

“Diamonds, When Regime Change is Forever” by Stephen Gowans

- As a result of the US, Canada and Australia’s demands Zimbabwe will have to find a way to sell its gems without the approval of the KP process.
- The three countries base their decision on claims by two organization which claim that human rights abuses by the military are being committed on the diamond fields. They also argue that the military is smuggling diamonds.
- The Herald argues that the KP “seeks to prevent the sale of rough diamonds to finance rebel wars, not to prevent human rights abuses and smuggling.” Moreover, the KP’s chairman said there was "no proof of alleged human rights violations at the Marange diamond fields".
- The aim of the three countries in denying certification is to drive Mugabe and his party out of power. But these aims are hidden under the veil of “democracy promotion.”
- If the MDC is to govern on its own, it would en, if not reverse, Zanu-PF’s policies of land redistribution and economic indigenization, “an inspiration poor and landless Africans.”
- The two NGOs, Global Witness and PAC, are said to be far from independent since they are funded by several foreign affairs department.
- Australia, Canada and the US are criticized for abusing the Kimberley Process. Their arguments are said to be unrelated humanitarian principles.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated June 30, 2010, in English)

“Copac, Threat to Inclusive Govt?” by Goodson Nguni

- The constitution outreach programme is described as the biggest threat to the security and survival of Zimbabwe. The writer believes that Western conspiracies, MDC formations and land reform opponents, and now the constitution outreach programme will destroy the inclusive government.
- Zanu-PF cannot accept that Zimbabweans have rejected the land reform programme while millions are now being spend on a constitution outreach programme, which will reverse the land reform programme. Zanu-PF also not accept that as a result of he new constitution, the MDC will gain what they failed to gain in 2008. Finally, Zanu-PF would not accept that a Zimbabwe governed or driven by white people.
- The constitution-making process will lead to the collapse of the government because the MDC was created to reverse the land struggle.
- The constitution-making process is “lethal” because it is run by MDC activists.
- The MDC is criticized for wanting to give citizenship and therefore voting rights to Rhodesians even if they do not live in Zimbabwe. This would lead Zimbabwe to be

renamed “Zimbabwe-Rhodesia”. The party is also criticized for attempting to remove the current Attorney-General because he prosecuting white commercial farmers and Roy Bennett.

- The most dangerous issue in the constitution outreach programme is the question of war veterans and how they should be constitutionally provided for. War veterans could be constitutionally mandated to support the Government only, not Zanu-PF.
- Zanu-PF cannot accept such a process and Zanu-PF members will reject the constitution. The process is an attempt to recolonize Zimbabwe and effect a regime change but Zanu-PF.
- Readers and Zanu-PF members are warned that the MDC-T is seeking total power, including a return to Rhodesia.
- “The constitution outreach programme is going to lead to the largest mass mobilization campaign by the war veterans as they defend the homeland and their project Zimbabwe.”

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

“Why Alter Rules on Gems?”

- Zimbabwe is praised for having done everything possible to fulfill the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme’s regulations but the Herald believes rules are being changed to meet political ends. This is proof that western powers do not want Zimbabwe to see an end to the country’s economic depression.
- Although, KP Monitor Abbey Chikane has been criticized by foreign and independent newspapers, the Herald considers him as a man of good reputation and someone who cannot be accused on being soft on Zimbabwe.
- Pre-conditions set by western nation are said to have no merit. These include: “the release of Farai Maguwu, the replacement of Mr. Chikane by a proxy of the West and the demand that one percent from the sale of Zimbabwe’s diamonds be allocated to civil society.”
- The Herald finds the idea of giving a certain percentage of the sales to civil society “completely ridiculous” since they do not represent the people of Zimbabwe and were created by western power to effect a regime change in Zimbabwe.
- The Herald believes Zimbabwe should now sell its gems and continue to work with the KP monitor.

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

“Major Poll Changes Unveiled” by Takunda Maodza

- Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Patrick Chinamasa proposed an amendment to the Electoral Act that would ensure election result are made public within five days after the day of voting.
- A proposal to amend Section 55 of the Act has also been considered. The goal of the amendment is to make it clear that police officers at polling stations should not interfere with electoral process, and should only maintain law and order.

- Other sections will also be amended. Illiterate or physically incapacitated can be accompanied by a person of his or her choice and presiding or polling officer can be present to ensure that the voter's will is respected.
- The amendments also seek to provide for an audit of Presidential election results.
- The parties also agreed to set up a special body to receive allegations of politically motivated acts of violence, to monitor and carry out investigations. Special courts will be established to try such cases, particularly if the act is committed by a candidate.
- Parties agreed to maintain the system that provides that the winner should win at least 50 percent plus one vote.

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

“Maguwu Admits Drafting Chiadzwa Document”

- Centre for Research and Development Trust executive director Farai Maguwu is said to have admitted that his organization drafted the documents detrimental to the State. However, he denied circulating it. The documents claimed that human rights abuses were taking place on the Chiadzwa diamond fields.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated July 2, 2010, in English)

“NGO's Violence Claims Dismissed”

- The Parliamentary Select Committee has dismissed reports by several NGOs and independent media that the constitutional outreach programme has been accompanied by violence and intimidation.
- Copac co-chairperson Cde Munyaradzi Paul Mangwana stated that the general atmosphere was peaceful and said there was no such thing as an “outreach monitor” since there was no reason for the process to be monitored. He criticized NGOs for trying to derail the process and spread lies.
- Douglas Mwonzora (MDC-T) said individuals and organizations will be accredited to observe the outreach.

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(The Standard, private weekly, article dated June 24, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Zanu PF Swallows MDC-T” by Pauline Henson

- A comment by Lindiwe Zulu, the spokesperson for the GPA facilitators, stating that South Africa would "remain engaged until Zimbabwe is back to normal" must have caused Zimbabweans to wonder what “normality” means in Zimbabwe.
- A normal country would not experience police harassment and brutality for having a different view or for having a different skin color; a country where rule of law would exist and where political allegiance would not determine your value as a citizen.

- The facilitators are criticized for remaining silent about Farai Maguwu's arrest and other human rights violations taking place during the on-going constitutional outreach programme. Mugabe's claims that he did not want violence during the process is completely misleading: his youth militia and war veterans are committing these acts.
- The writer believes the MDC is "being swallowed up by Zanu-PF" and has remained silent.
- Schools being used as bases for the militia and school children are being forced to attend training sessions where they are taught violence. This operation is called "Operation Chimumumu" ("deaf and dumb").

(The Standard, private weekly, article dated June 26, 2010, in English)

"Zimbabwe: Zanu PF Gives in to MDC Demands" by Kholwani Nyathi

- Zanu-PF wants the new constitution to create provincial governments and put a limit on presidential terms. Observers believe this is an attempt to gain more supporters for the waning party. Zimbabweans are said to be weary of Mugabe 30 year rule. Zanu-PF now believes a president should serve maximum of two five-year terms. The party, however, does not mention the blocking President Mugabe from standing another term, saying that the decision would only apply after the constitution is adopted,
- A 95 page document used to coach supporters on what to say to Copac (The Zanu PF document titled Zimbabwe Constitution Consultation Process 2010: Defining, Promoting, Defining Popular Power, Sovereignty, Freedom, Justice, Unity and Peace) , Zanu-PF says it wants more regional government. This matter is surprising since the party has also heavily relied on a centralized system. The provincial councils would be made up of governors appointed by the president.
- PM Morgan Tsvangirai has also been pushing for decentralization.

(The Standard, private weekly, article dated June 26, 2010, in English)

"Zimbabwe: Constitution Outreach Needs Re-Directing"

SW Radio Africa has also reported violence saying that three civil society monitors had been injured. These monitors are part of a 420 independent monitors seconded by the Zimbabwe Peace Project, the Zimbabwe Election Support Network and the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human rights. Intimidation and harassment have also been observed in the Masvingo province. Copac has held a meeting in order to find a solution to the numerous problems the constitution-making process is facing. SW radio Africa also reports that soldiers have been forcing people to support the Kariba draft. Armed soldiers have been chanting Zanu-PF slogans and threatening to 'threatening to bring war to the doorsteps of those who will give different views to those of ZANU PF in the constitution consultation meetings'.

- The constitution-making process is facing numerous difficulties, particularly because there is little interest in "this noble national process." Some would like to see the project fail because they would not benefit from it.
- Parties are apparently coaching people on the answers they should give to Copac and Zanu-PF has not done this peacefully. People have been herded to rallies against their

will. A Zanu-PF document called Zimbabwe Constitution Consultation Process 2010: Defining, Promoting, Defending Popular Power, Sovereignty, Freedom, Justice, Unity and Peace was forcibly given to the public. If they failed to come to the rally or pay for the document, people risked losing their market stalls. Other acts of acts of coercion have taken place, confirming fears by civil society, which from the start had been against entrusting the constitution-making process to politicians.

- Zanu-PF's goal in coaching the public is to promote their agenda and ensure that Mugabe stays in power. Instead of serving the general public the new constitution would serve the interest of the few.

(The Standard, private weekly, article dated June 26, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Marange Diamonds - the Test That the KP Failed”

- The Kimberley Process is criticized for failing to take a strong stand on the issue of Zimbabwe's diamond fields and for failing to fulfil their role.
- Human rights violation have been widely reported and the military has been facilitating diamond smuggling out of Zimbabwe to Mozambique and South Africa. NGO's and the 2009 Kimberley Process Review mission called for an end to the violence but nothing has been done yet. The KP teams conclusion were that the government had used “extreme violence” against diamond miners.

(The Standard, private weekly, article dated June 26, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Mugabe Succession Challenge Vexes Constitution Outreach” by Kholwani Nyathi

In its June report, The Economist says there are fears that further arguments between the two parties could lead the MDC to leave the coalition government, which would lead President Mugabe to remain in power. The Economist also believes that tensions will increase over the next year.

- Zanu-PF hard-line positions and the MDC's position concerning presidential term limits and the retention of the Prime Minister's post might be the most problematic issue in the constitution-making process. Zimbabweans are hoping that the new constitution will put an end to Mugabe rule. Zanu-PF wants “Mugabe at the helm until he drops dead” but has given in to calls for presidential term limits. Yet this would only be applied after the constitution is adopted.
- The MDC also wants the president to share executive authority with the Prime Minister and Cabinet, while Zanu-PF wants the president to be all-powerful. Mugabe has also already declared he was ready to stand as a candidate in the next elections
- Zanu-PF has also demonstrate that it would not hesitate to use violence to make its position clear. While they failed to impose the Kariba Draft, which would have left Mugabe's rule intact, the party is now coaching supporters and non-supporters in order to get what they want.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated July 1, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Mpofu Misleads Nation On Diamond Sales”

Following the failure by the KP to find a consensus on Zimbabwe’s diamond issue, SW Radio Africa has expressed fears that the government would continue to sell illegal diamonds.

- Mines Minister Obert Mpofu has been lying to the public concerning the cabinet’s position concerning the Chiadzwa diamonds. Information obtained from high-level sources show that cabinet did not approve the sale of the Chiadzwa diamonds, contrary to Mpofu’s statement.
- Last week, Mpofu said to the media: It was clear from the meeting that cabinet agrees with immediate sale of our diamonds. We need to come up with a mechanism of proceeding with this process. The mechanism will be transparent and accountable."
- Mpofu statement was rejected by World Diamond Council president Eli Izhakoff.
- The diamond issue has left the Cabinet divided. While President Mugabe and Zanu-PF argue that Zimbabwe must allowed to sell its diamonds because it has fulfilled KPSC requirements, PM Tsvangirai and Deputy Prime Minister Mutambara believe all the procedures must be met first.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated July 1, 2010, in English)

**“Zimbabwe: Constitution-Making Off to False Start” by Nqobile Bhebhe/Farai Mutsaka
1 July 2010**

- The constitution process is off to a false start with a decision to stop journalists from reporting on public views and contribution offered to constitution-making process outreach teams. The process has also been marred with violence and logical shortcomings. The problems reinforced suspicion that the coalition government might manipulate the whole process.
- Journalists’ unions have criticized the decision not to allow journalists to report on public contribution and question the credibility of the process. Zimbabwe Journalists for Human Rights (ZJHR) released stated that the move was “repressive and typical of political parties hell-bent on excluding the media from its activities to escape public scrutiny and accountability.” The groups called for a transparent process. Zimbabwe Union of Journalists as well declared that the process should be made “as transparently as possible.”
- The Independent says the treatment of journalists is reminiscent of the way journalists were treated just before the coalition government was created.
- Villagers in Mataberland North said Zanu-PF activists have been coaching villagers on what to say during the outreach hearings. Activists apparently warned them that they would use COPAC footage to witch-hunt those who would go against Zanu-PF’s position.
- Police forces have not been deployed and instead gangs of Zanu-PF supporters have been disrupting meetings.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated July 1, 2010, in English)

“Villagers 'Coached' to Back Kariba Draft” by Faith Zaba

- Zanu-PF has been telling villagers that any constitutional provisions not present in the Kariba Draft will promote gay rights. Zanu-PF is using the issue of homosexuality to have people support the Kariba Draft. Villagers were also told that they should ask for a president with far-reaching powers and allowed to appoint without consultation.
- It is clear that intimidation has been used as the villagers refused to give their names or simply refused to talk.
- During village meetings, people constantly referred to the powers of the “executive president.” The villagers said the executive president should appoint people to positions such as attorney-general, Reserve Bank governor, Public Service Commission, Anti-Corruption Commission, Media Commission, Electoral Commission, Human Rights Commission, Truth and Justice Commission, Gender Commission and Land Commission. In addition, the villagers said the president should appoint heads of the police, defense forces, prisons services and cabinet. These appointments should be done without consultation.
- Villagers also said a Prime Minister was not needed because it is a “foreign” concept.