

**Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 22 March, 2009 (13 March – 21 March, 2009)**

**by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for Zimbabwe**

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 13, 2009, in English)**

**“We Are Ready to Defend Country – ZDF”** [Author unknown]

- The Zimbabwe Defence Forces declared they were ready to defend Zimbabwe from “external and internal enemies” and “those attempting to divide the nation on the basis of race, color and creed.” ZDF said they would do so despite hard economic times.
- Major Gen Chedondo said relations between civilians and the army are harmonious.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 13, 2009, in English)**

**“Country's Empowerment Law Not Unique”** [Author unknown]

- Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment Minister Saviour Kasukuwere declared Zimbabwe’s desire to empower its people was not unique to the country and argued that South Africa and Botswana used similar models since they aim at active participation of indigenous people. He said relationships between foreign investors and Zimbabweans should be based on mutual benefit.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 15, 2009, in English)**

**“Chiadzwa - Govt Shelves ACR Licence Cancellation” by Daniel Nemukuyu**

- The government has temporarily decided no to proceed with its intention to cancel the ACR’s diamond mining claims in Chiadzwa. The parties to the dispute decided to wait for the court’s ruling.

**S-FM radio, operated by state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH), Bulawayo, 0400 GMT March 15, 2010, in English.**

- Dr Sidney Sekeramayi, Minister of State for National Security and ZANU-PF Secretary for Security, said the government needed to ensure that indigenization and economic empowerment regulations benefit the majority of Zimbabweans because the country’s would be best protected by the majority rather than the minority.
- He also urged Zanu-PF members to avoid factionalism and corruption and remain careful of those trying to infiltrate the party’s strongholds.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 15, 2009, in English)**

**“We Do Not Need Peacekeepers”** [Author unknown]

- Morgan Tsvangirai is criticized for calling on the Sadc and the African Union to deploy peacekeepers to monitor the elections that should be held next year. He is criticized for sending the wrong message to MDC-T supporters, especially since the nation is concentrating on national healing and reconciliation, and they were “led to believe that they should prepare for war.”
- *The Herald* hails the US embassy for reminding the MDC-T leader that peacekeeping troops could only be deployed in times of war.
- *The Herald* argues that Zimbabwe does not need peacekeeping forces because the country “has always had the most peaceful polls” despite the Prime Minister’s and the West’s allegations. Moreover, Zimbabwe’s army is a “venerated force” and very much capable of maintaining peace.
- Tsvangirai should therefore abstain from making such statements and only concentrate on speaking on the economic war waged by the West on Zimbabwe.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 16, 2009, in English)**

**“Tsvangirai Denounces Violence” by George Maponga**

*A/N: During his visit in Zimbabwe, Zuma failed to denounce continued political violence spearheaded by Zanu-PF in rural areas. In the eve of the constitutional outreach programme, many are apparently concerned that violence will only increase if nothing is done to control it. Zanu-PF supporters have apparently been telling people that the party will revert to violence if they do not support the Kariba draft.*

- Prime Minister and MDC-T leader Morgan Tsvangirai urged supporters to avoid engaging violence and build peaceful relationships with Zanu-PF. He said he had a good relationship with President Mugabe.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 16, 2009, in English)**

**“Indigenisation Act Should Empower General Public, Parly Committee Told” by Lloyd Gumbo**

- Delegates who attended a public hearing on the enactment of the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act urged the government to implement mechanism that would target the general public rather than the elite.
- Zimbabwe Indigenous Economic Empowerment Organisation president Paddington Japajapa said political and economic independence had to go hand in hand, while Pachikayi Mubhonderi said he was worried about people claiming that the act would scare away investors.

**S-FM radio, operated by state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH), Bulawayo, 0400 GMT March 17, 2010, in English.**

- Comrade Ji Peiding, the Chinese minister of Foreign Affairs, told President Mugabe his country was interested in securing deals in the medical, mining and infrastructure development sectors. Ji Peiding is in the country to assess business opportunities with Zimbabwe and cement Sino-Zimbabwean relations.
- The Foreign Minister described Mugabe as “the most practical and respected modest friend of the people of China.”

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 17, 2009, in English)**

**“Chiadzwa - Cabinet Endorses Mbada, Canadile Activities”** [Author unknown]

*A/N: SW Radio Africa reports that Mines Minister Mpofu also blamed the British African Consolidated Resources for the diamond crisis. He said that as long as he was minister the ACR, 'controlled by one white man', would never mine in Chiadzwa. He said the firm should be penalized for not allowing him to sell diamonds at an auction earlier this year.*

*Last week, Human Rights Watch also urged Switzerland to help put an end to the “blood diamond” trade in Zimbabwe (Switzerland plays an important role in the jewellery business and the country also plans to establish an international diamond exchange in Geneva). As a founding member of the Kimberley Process, Switzerland should work on correcting the KP’s deficiencies (such as the lack of independent monitoring) and should condemn the sale of blood diamonds.*

- Minister Obert Mpofu said the Cabinet had endorsed Mbada and Canadile’s diamond mining activities in Chiadzwa (a joint venture companies between the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation and South African investors).
- Minister Mpofu said he presented a report prepared by an inter-ministerial taskforce to Cabinet that called for implementation of various recommendations to bring operations in Chiadzwa at par with internationally acceptable standards. The report discussed questions of foreign investors, production levels, compliance to shareholders agreements and relocation of affected communities.
- The taskforce was established to oversee compliance with minimum Kimberley Process Certification Scheme requirements.
- Mpofu also criticized individuals who are attempting to make diamond mining and trading a political issue. He also emphasized that the inter-ministerial committee included individuals from all parties in government (Emmerson Mnangagwa (Zanu-PF), Welshman Ncube (MDC), Tendai Biti (Zanu-PF), and Elton Mangoma (MDC-T)).

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 17, 2009, in English)**

**“White Farmers Abuse Justice”** [Author unknown]

- Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Patrick Chinamasa accused former white farmers of abusing the justice delivery system by seeking to reverse the land reform programme. He described the white farmers as “criminals” since they refuse to vacate State-owned land.

- The High Court recently ruled that the land reform programme was irreversible but Chinamasa defended the fact that judges been allocated land and argued that this move had not affected their judgement and professionalism.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 18, 2009, in English)**

**“Zuma Holds Talks With GPA Principals” by Takunda Maodza and Sydney Kawadza**

*According to the Zimbabwean Independent, South African President Zuma managed to win concessions from the principals to the GPA. According to Zuma, the parties agreed to implement “a package of measures.”*

- South African President Jacob Zuma held closed meetings with the principals to the GPA. All the principals are said to be happy with the progress made. Sources said no major changes would be made as everyone involved seemed to agree: “There is a general understanding that all issues on the GPA have been dealt with.”
- The biggest issue seems to be the Human Rights commission and the Zimbabwe Media commission.
- A final report outlining areas of agreement and disagreement should be published soon.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 19, 2009, in English)**

**“Principals Agree On Deadline” by Takunda Maodza and Farirai Machivenyika**

- Party negotiators have been given until the end of March to conclude GPA discussions as the principals to the GPA have agreed on the measures to be implemented. Though the South African President would not say what the parties agreed on, sources believe it concerns the appointment of provincial governors as well as the status of key figures Reserve Bank Governor Dr Gideon Gono, Johannes Tomana and Deputy of Agriculture Minister Roy Bennett, whom Zuma also met during his visit.
- President Zuma said he was happy with the co-operation between the principals.
- Zanu-PF expressed concerns over Roy Bennett’s status, particularly his relations to Rhodesian elements who seek to reverse the land reform programme.

**(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 19, 2009, in English)**

**“Govt to Rationalise Farm Sizes” [Author unknown]**

- Mashonaland Central Provincial Governor Advocate Martin Dinha those illegally leasing their land to former commercial farmers would see their land re-demarcated. He argued that more then 3 000 applicants were waiting for land and the government could therefore not allow white farmers to get land.
- He added some of the farmers had too much land and could therefore not use it to its full potential.

- Dinha dismissed rumors that included Media, Information and Publicity Minister Webster Shamu and his Local Government counterpart Dr Ignatius Chombo were sub-letting land to commercial farmers.