

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting (1 March – 7 March, 2011)

By Zuzia Danielski, MIGS media monitor for Zimbabwe

State-owned Media

“Lets take actions against Britain and its allies: President”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 2 March 2011, in English)

- President and ZANU-PF Leader Robert Mugabe called for action against countries supporting sanctions on Zimbabwe during the launch of the Anti-Sanctions Petition Campaign in Harare Wednesday.
- Mugabe described the suffering Zimbabwe has undergone due to the sanctions imposed years ago. Even though the country did nothing wrong, sanctions were imposed based on Tony Blair’s lies.
- The President added that if internationally owned companies based in Zimbabwe did not join the fight, action would be taken against these corporations.
- After his speech, Mugabe signed the petition. More than 1.4 million people came to the capital for the launch.

“MDC-T snubs anti-sanctions campaign launch”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 2 March 2011, in English)

- MDC-T leader Morgan Tsvangirai who snubbed the launch of the National Anti-Sanctions Petition Campaign launch, said his party had no obligation to call for the removal of sanctions because he was not part of a government that caused their imposition. The PM addressed the media at his home in Harare.
- Despite Tsvangirai’s denial that his party was not involved in bringing sanctions to Zimbabwe, former British Foreign Secretary David Milliband has said before that Britain can consider removing sanctions on advice from MDC.
- WikiLeaks also revealed that MDC-T Secretary General Biti provided the list of candidates to be put on the sanctions list.

“Sanctions targeted: US official”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 4 March 2011, in English)

- While visiting this week, US Deputy Secretary of State for African Affairs Susan Page reiterated her country’s decade long lie that sanctions on Zimbabwe are targeted and have little impact on the economy. Page is in the

country to solicit support to land the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme Vice Chair.

- In a shocking statement proving the west's arrogance, Page insisted the sanctions have not hurt Zimbabwe's economy. However, cables revealed by WikiLeaks show that sanctions were supposed to destroy Zimbabwe's economy.
- Page publicly displayed her support for the MDC-T, and in a speech with a pro-regime change tone, attacked Zimbabwe's security forces, blaming them for inciting recent violence. Contrary to Page's assertions exonerating MDC-T for recent violence, statistics revealed in Parliament this week confirmed that the MDC-T was behind 101 out of the 121 reported cases of recent political violence.

"Khaya Moyo blasts Biti"

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 4 March 2011, in English)

- The ZANU-PF accused Finance Minister Biti of refusing to release money for completion of the constitution process in a bid to delay general elections. ZANU-PF National Chairman Khaya Moyo said Biti was violating the GPA by stalling the process.

"Foreign companies list compiled"

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 7 March 2011, in English)

- In a response to sanctions, the government compiled a list of 400 western companies operating in Zimbabwe and is mapping out strategies to ensure the corporations adhere to indigenization regulations.
- Even though Britain and its allies imposed illegal sanction on Zimbabwe, these 400 companies are still operating in the country and enjoy maximum economic development, which must end.
- Responding to calls by Mugabe, Minister Kasukuwere who is responsible for indigenization programme, said that a roadmap was being implemented to ensure these companies would fulfil the policy, 'We have compiled a comprehensive list of these companies for the indigenization programmes. Of course, they have to comply [and] if they don't, we [will] move with drastic measures'.

"Zuma snubs Ncube" by Itai Mazire and Kuda Bwitit

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 7 March 2011, in English)

- South African President Jacob Zuma has rebuffed attempts by Welshman Ncube's MDC to amend the Global Political Agreement.
- The MDC wrote to Zuma asking for Article 20 of the GPA be amended to read Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara was representing the ZANU-PF

party, and a second DPM would be appointed from the MDC-T. The MDC claim Mutambara does not represent its interests in the government.

- In a telephone interview last week, Zuma's advisor Lindliwe Zulu, confirmed the letter was received, 'We are not specifically looking into that letter at the moment and as it stands the amendment of the GPA can only be done after discussions are held with the other parties in the inclusive Government and at the moment the letter has to be shelved as there are pressing issues we are dealing with'. Any amendment has to be done with consent of all three parties.

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"Principals agree to start GPA implementation", by Faith Zaba
(Zimbabwean Independent, independent weekly, Harare, 3 March 2011, in English)

- The three political principals in the inclusive government have agreed to start implementation of the 24 agreed principles in the GPA, in accordance to the timeline adopted last August.
- This comes as South Africa's President Zuma, SADC appointed facilitator, said this week he will not allow Mugabe to hold elections until all outstanding issues of the power-sharing agreement are resolved, including the adoption of a new constitution.
- Top government sources said Mugabe, Tsvangirai and Mutambara agreed at their meeting last week to follow the implementation matrix adopted in August at the SADC Summit in Windhoek. The timeline failed after ZANU-PF declared it would not make more concessions until sanctions were lifted.

"Police ban ZCTU march commemorating Women's Day" by Tererai Karmakwenda
(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 4 March 2011, in English)

- The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions reports they were denied permission by police in Bulwayo to organize a march commemorating International Women's Day. Police claimed there was a directive from head office in Harare, banning all processions until further notice.

"ZANU-PF arming its militia in Nyanga North" by Tichaona Sibanda
(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 4 March 2011, in English)

- MDC-T in Manicaland on Friday accused the ZANU-PF of arming its militia to create instability in the province.
- The MDC-T spokesman for Manicaland said militia and war vets were behind recent violence which saw hundreds of villagers cross over into Mozambique. They are now facing serious food shortages.
- MDC-T won over ZANU-PF in the last election in the province.

“Mugabe gives way to PM in Cabinet” by Caiphas Chimhete
(The Standard, independent weekly, Harare, 7 March 2011, in English)

- For the first time since the formation of the inclusive government two years ago, Prime Minister Tsvangirai chaired a cabinet meeting, authoritative sources reveal.
- The MDC leader was a nominal deputy chairperson of the Cabinet because Mugabe denied him the chance to chair in his absence, postponing meetings.
- A source said that Tsvangirai continued to chair the meeting even as Mugabe excused himself and left the room. When the President returned, the PM continued as chair until the Cabinet meeting was finished.
- Ministers traded insults while discussing sanctions, diamonds and the political violence engulfing the country. The meeting Tuesday came up with a number of decisions that could indicate Mugabe’s willingness to make concessions on various outstanding issues in the GPA.

“MDC banned from holding office, home or public meetings” by Irene Madongo
(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 7 March 2011, in English)

- Zimbabwean police have banned the MDC from holding any rallies or gatherings, including holding any meetings at offices or homes.
- The latest ban on political meetings (other than those held by the ruling party) suggest the country is facing an undeclared state of emergency.
- In the past weeks police have increased their clampdown on civic groups, arresting many activists and observers say this is to protect Mugabe from a possible North African style revolt.