

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting (22 March – 28 March, 2011)

By Zuzia Danielski, MIGS media monitor for Zimbabwe

State-owned Media

“Anti-sanctions campaign a success: Zanu-PF”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 22 March 2011, in English)

- The Zanu-PF hailed the launch of the Anti-Sanction Petition campaign in 10 provinces this past weekend as a success. Zanu-PF Secretary for Information and Publicity, Rugare Gumbo, said the overwhelming turnout ensures that two million signatures will be reached.

“MDC snubs MDC-T”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 23 March 2011, in English)

- Allegations of bribery have arisen as the MDC-T tries to convince MDC members to elect Lovemore Moyo as Speaker in Parliament.
- Sources in the MDC-T told ZBC that the group approached Ncube’s MDC with cash in an attempt to influence their vote, but the legislators refused.

“Biti finally meets war vets”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 24 March 2011, in English)

- Finance Minister Tendai Biti ‘swallowed his pride’ and met with war veterans, promising to pay their children’s school fees within days, as owed by the government.
- Representatives of the veterans still expressed disappointment that their pensions would not be raised. The Minister said there was no money for this, however government revenue has increased after the sale of diamonds.

“Dethroned Speaker Moyo barred from Parly” by Zvamaida Murwira

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 24 March 2011, in English)

- The Clerk of Parliament stated that former Speaker Lovemore Moyo would be barred from attending the new Speaker’s election. Austin Zvoma told The Herald that ‘adequate measures’ would be in place when Parliament resumed to ensure that Moyo would not vote, even though he is eligible to still stand as a candidate.
- The Supreme Court on March 10 found irregularities in Moyo’s election as Speaker and following consultations, Zvuma concluded that Moyo was no longer a Member of Parliament.

“Elton Mangoma re-arrested” by Innocent Ruwende
(The Herald, government-owned daily, 25 March 2011, in English)

- Energy and Power Development Minister Elton Mangoma has been arrested on new charges of criminal abuse of office. Mangoma will spend the weekend in jail and bail proceedings will begin next week.
- Mangoma was arrested two weeks ago and appeared in court on charges of criminal abuse of office dealing with a US \$6 million fuel procurement deal. The new charges allege the minister cancelled a tender for supply and delivery of a pre-payment revenue management system to Zimbabwe’s Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company.

“Former Speaker Moyo faces arrest”
(The Sunday Mail, government-owned weekly, 27 March 2011, in English)

- Former House of Assembly Speaker Lovemore Moyo is facing arrest for contempt of court after accusing the Supreme Court of siding with Zanu-PF on important decisions. A source in the Attorney General’s Office told the newspaper that a docket for the charge was being prepared.
- Prime Minister Tsvangirai also openly attacked the judiciary for the nullification of Moyo’s post, however later ‘made a veiled attempt at apologizing’ and has promised to send a formal apology to the court.
- After consultations, it was confirmed that Moyo no longer held his seat as MP for Matobo North, losing it as a legal consequence of becoming Speaker.

“45 day ultimatum for mining firms”
(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 28 March 2011, in English)

- Foreign owned mining firms in Zimbabwe have been given 45 days to submit implementation plans to the government in order to conform with the indigenization program. The Minister in charge of the program, Saviour Kasukwere said the government expects the mining sector to finish indigenization within 6 months.

“Speaker election on tomorrow”
(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 28 March 2011, in English)

- The election for Speaker of the House of Assembly will take place on Tuesday, March 29. The two candidates will be Zanu-PF’s Simon Khaya Moyo and MDC-T’s Lovemore Moyo. The MDC has announced it will support Lovemore Moyo.
- Chief Whips of both parties expressed confidence at their impending victory.

Private-owned Media

“Special cabinet meeting held Thursday” by Lance Guma
(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 24 March 2011, in English)

- In an effort to defuse tensions in the coalition government, a special cabinet meeting was held Thursday. Ministers from the three parties confirmed a meeting took place, but refused to disclose what was discussed.
- It had been reported that the agenda would focus on issues arising from the previous weeks, which had included the ‘virtual collapse’ of the coalition, highlighted with the arrest of MDC-T Members of Parliament.
- Constitutional Affairs Minister Eric Matinenga confirmed Thursday that a draft constitution would only be ready for a referendum in September and not June as expected.

“Over 200 MDC flee Zanu-PF attacks in Chimanimani” by Tererai Karimakwenda
(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 24 March 2011, in English)

- MDC-T reported that hundreds of supporters have fled from Zanu-PF sponsored violence in Chimanimani East districts in Manicaland province. At least 20 activists were in the MDC Mutare office seeking shelter and others were in local clinics for medical attention.
- The MDC-T Provincial Spokesperson said attacks began after a Zanu-PF anti-sanctions rally, with those not present being targeted and fleeing to other districts or Mozambique.

“MDC Home Affairs Minister Makone in hiding” by Alex Bell
(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 24 March 2011, in English)

- MDC co-Minister of Home Affairs, Theresa Makone, believes she is the next official to be arrested and has gone into hiding.
- Makone told the BBC News she is hiding to avoid a ‘state plot’ and had been told at least one other MP and the MDC nominated Speaker Lovemore Moyo, face imminent arrest.
- Political analyst John Makumbe said this was an effort by Zanu-PF to ‘whittle down numbers’ of MDC members in Parliament ahead of the speaker’s election.

“Zuma still working on election roadmap” by Wongai Zhangazha
(The Zimbabwe Independent, independent weekly, Harare, 24 March 2011, in English)

- South African President and Zimbabwe-crisis facilitator Jacob Zuma will only present a progress report rather than the election roadmap at the SADC troika

- meeting next week in Zambia, as it is not ready. Zuma's international relations advisor, Lindiwe Zulu told the paper that they were still seeking something 'attractable and accepted by all'.
- Zulu and her team were to meet the parties in Zimbabwe this week but were forced to postpone until April due to 'other pressing issues'. This will allow the parties to work on their reports.

"Daily News return marred by attack on reporter" by Alex Bell
(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 25 March 2011, in English)

- The Daily News, shut down by Robert Mugabe for eight years, released its first edition last week. Editors announced in an editorial they will expose the nation's 'bad governance'.
- One of its reporter's Xolisani Ncube, was attacked outside MDC headquarters on Thursday. Reporters without Borders condemned the attack, allegedly carried out by supporters of PM Tsvangirai who hit the journalist in the face and stole his camera.

"Police raid MDC-T offices, officials flee" by Patience Nyangove
(The Standard, independent weekly, Harare, 26 March 2011, in English)

- Police on Saturday raided the Harare headquarters of the MDC-T party where activists from Mufakose had assembled to hold primary elections. Police chanted liberation war songs and beat up party members.
- Motives of the raid are unknown and come after the re-arrest of Minister Elton Mangoma for alleged abuse of office. There are reports that nine other MDC-T MP's are being targeted for arrest including Deputy PM Thokozani Khupe, Home Affairs co-minister Theresa Makone, former Speaker Lovemore Moyo, and MP's Paul Madzore, Sibonile and Nyamudeza.
- The attack on the MDC-T office occurred as party leader and PM Tsvangirai was meeting with South African President Zuma to update him on the 'dire situation' in the country. Zuma's advisor, Lindiwe Zulu confirmed the meeting.

"Upfumi Kuvadiki targets telecoms firms, media" by Jennifer Dube
(The Standard, independent weekly, Harare, 26 March 2011, in English)

- The youth empowerment group, Upfumi Kuvadiki says it is looking for a share in the telecommunications sector because leaders in the industry are employing foreigners and sub-contracting work to foreign firms.
- The group executive told reporters it would take up a program to challenge 'flawed' deals. Seeking revisions, it would go to court and Parliament.
- The group has been viewed as part of a Zanu-PF initiative, emerging earlier this year after challenging a Harare car park deal and its ownership.

“German national abducted, deported” by Jennifer Dube
(The Standard, independent weekly, Harare, 26 March 2011, in English)

- A visiting German national was abducted on Friday evening during a meeting of human rights defenders on Friday evening in the capital. The German Ambassador was informed that Yvonne Paperndorf had been deported without consular aid in violation of international law.
- Paperndorf’s hosts, Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights, said she had been taken away for not possessing a work permit in a vehicle that belonged to state immigration officials.