

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 15 March, 2010 (6 March– 14 March, 2009)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for Zimbabwe

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 6, 2010, in English)

“No Rifts in Govt, Says President” [Author unknown]

- President Mugabe said the three principals to the GPA had overcome their initial skepticism and mistrust. He dispelled claims of rifts between the principals and urged the nation to unite. On his relationship with Prime Minister Tsvangirai, he said there were no doubts about each other’s honesty anymore.
- Mugabe added that the inclusive government was fully operational and dismissed claims that the GPA had not been fully implemented.
- After receiving complaints that the Prime Minister was not getting fair coverage in The Herald, he also urged media to promote unity and to be objective.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 6, 2010, in English)

“President Our Candidate - Zanu-PF Youth” [Author unknown]

- Zanu-PF Youth League national executive said President Mugabe was their sole candidate in case elections are held next year. Cde Leslie Ncube said the Youth League was ready to face elections and argued that the President had been constant with the principles of the revolution and was therefore a better leader. Indeed, she believes Mugabe is the only candidate able to finish the revolution. She also added that youths had done the groundwork to ensure a Zanu-PF victory. He also called on the government to ensure youths get land, especially as they make up 70% of the electorate.
- On Thursday, President Mugabe declared elections might take place after the two-year subsistence period provided for the GPA has been fulfilled.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 7, 2010, in English)

“Shun Political Violence – President” [Author unknown]

A report on the use of torture by Robert Mugabe’s regime was released on Thursday by the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition launched (“Cries from Goromonzi - Inside Zimbabwe’s Torture Chambers”) and contains 23 testimonies from individuals tortured between 2000 and 2009 by youth militia, soldiers, CIO, police and other state security agents. According to the CZC, the report examines the “pervasive use of torture and imprisonment of citizens in secret detention camps in Zimbabwe to extract information, stifle public dissent and determine political processes and electoral outcomes.” The report also features testimonies from MDC spokesman Nelson Chamisa who was brutally beaten last year. Women were apparently gang raped According to London-based SW Radio Africa, Morgan Tsvangirai, who was present to commission the report, raised questions about how to confront a dictator using democratic means. He said national healing could not take place without justice and believes the country

needs some from of transitional justice system before elections can take place. He added that progress made by the inclusive government was constantly being threatened by decision made by Mugabe and his party.

- President Mugabe said political leaders should tell grassroots movements to shun violence and urged Zimbabweans to realize that “humanity come first before politics.”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 8, 2010, in English)

“Media Have Duty to Promote Unity” [Author unknown]

- Speaking to editors of local media houses, President Mugabe called on the media to promote national unity and reconciliation. He criticized private media fro trying to see the cracks in the GPA while doing nothing to mend them.
- He also called on political parties to promote unity and complement the work of the principals of the GPA. He stated that while politics had me them strangers in the past, better politics would make them closer.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 8, 2010, in English)

“Tsvangirai Slams Corruption” [Author unknown]

- Morgan Tsvangirai admitted that the MDC-T is riddled with corruption, which is threatening the party’s integrity. He vowed to fire all the guilty members. Chitungwiza councillors were recently fired for corruption. Rumors of corruption in Chegutu, Bindura and Kadoma have also emerged as councilors are accused of self-enrichment.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 8, 2010, in English)

“Chiadzwa - ACR Challenges Cancellation of Claim” by Takunda Maodza

- The London Stock Exchange-listed Company African Consolidated Resources (ACR) is taking legal action and challenging the government’s intentions to cancel its diamond claims in Chiadzwa. The ACR argues that Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe has no legal claims to the diamonds.

S-FM FM, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Bulawayo, 1100 GMT March 18, 2010, in English.

“Zimbabwe's Mugabe laments lack of funding for constitution-making process”

- President Mugabe said everything was being done to ensure that the constitution-making process reflects the views of all Zimbabweans and complained about the lack of funding. He added that donors should not influence the law of the land.
- The president declared that elections would take place, with or without a constitution.

- He called also on political parties leaders to promote national healing in order to avoid election violence

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 10, 2010, in English)

“Typhoid Outbreak Claims Five” by Paidamoyo Chipunza

IRIN reports that the area has rarely received any reliable supply of water, therefore forcing people to dig wells themselves. However, these are often polluted. According to WHO, the fatality rate is around 10 percent. Zimbabwe is also still on alert for cholera, which cause the death of 4,000 people between August 2008 and July 2009.

- Five people died from Typhoid in Mabvuku and 40 other people might be carrying the bacteria. Harare City Council's health department has said. 30 people are currently being treated.
- City health services director Dr Stanley Mungofa said water supplied in the suburbs would be improved and he is confident that typhoid will be contained. Health promoters and Mr. Mungofa are also urging people to stick to basic standards of hygiene

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 10, 2010, in English)

“U.S Declares War Against Country” by Tichaona Zindoga

- Barack Obama announced last week that his government is extending sanctions (Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act) on Zimbabwe for another year arguing that the country still posed an “unusual and extraordinary threat” the America’s foreign policy. The author of this article describes this move as a declaration of war: “The US is thus virtually in a war situation with Zimbabwe.”
- The author criticizes the West’s contempt for and impatience with the inclusive government, despite the fact that progress has been made to implement the agreement. While the West claims to be supporting the GPA, it is also doing everything it can to put strains on Zimbabwe economy.
- The author wonders how the GPA and the actions of certain political figures can pose a threat to US foreign policy. Obama is also criticized for his hypocrisy, particularly after promising a new era relations after getting into office.
- The US is described as a “continuous and extraordinary threat” to Zimbabwe as a result of the economic and political sanctions it has imposed on the country. It has maintained a stranglehold on Zimbabwe through “so-called” pro-democracy groups and media. Washington’s actions in Zimbabwe are described as “evil, unjustifiable and undesirable.”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 10, 2010, in English)

“Unpacking Media-NGO Activism” by Reason Wafawarova

- President Mugabe called for more media objectivity. According to the author, media outlets in and outside the country have been serving political interest. “Impostors” have infiltrated media who spread lies about the state of the country.
- SW Radio Africa is described a “pirate radio.”
- Assertions that President Mugabe is a “liberator-turned dictator” are described as baseless and an expression of bitterness by his defeated rivals.
- Western media outlets or NGO reports should not be seen as reliable and do not stand above the ZBC since every single media outlet follows an editorial policy. Many media houses are given a false sense of authority.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 11, 2010, in English)

“Blooding Gems Part of Sanctions War” by Garikai Chengu

- The author argues that the “British-led propaganda campaign” seeking to have Zimbabwe expelled from the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme should be seen as part of the economic sanctions and the West’s attempts to effect a regime change.
- Chengu argues that the best way to combat propaganda campaigns is to tell the truth: diamond revenues could revitalize the country’s economy and education, industries, infrastructure, private banks, farmers and civil servants would all benefit from them. However, Britain is more concerned about the economic boost that diamonds would give the government than about human rights violations on the ground. The country is criticized for “concocting stories of ‘human rights’ abuses” and blood diamonds although the Kimberley Process rejected such allegations. Britain is said to be funding “pseudo-independent” human rights groups so they can condemn Zimbabwe’s blood diamonds.
- Britain is also criticized for not allowing the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation to access loans from multilateral institutions.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated March 11, 2010, in English)

“Bennett Has Case to Answer – Tomana” [Author unknown]

- In the case of MDC-T treasurer Roy Bennett, Attorney General Johannes Tomana urged the court to dismiss the defence’s application seeking to have Bennett acquitted. He argued that the MDC-T treasurer had a case to answer.
- The defence argued that the State should not use Bennett to bolster its case.
- He also stated that the State had successfully proved a strong case against Bennett. He said the State’s witnesses appeared more credible, despite contrary claims by the defence. He maintained email evidence were genuine.
- Meanwhile, According to Tomana, the defence’s submissions were fraught with lies and improbabilities.

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

“PM Wrong On Elections - U.S.” by Hebert Zharare

On 8 March, Morgan Tsvangirai declared he would call on the African Union and SADC to deploy a peacekeeping force to protect voters during the elections that are expected to be held next year. He wants to ensure that the elections will be free, fair and safe. In 2008, Zanu-PF lost the majority in parliament, leading to a campaign of violence against civilians and MDC supporters. However, there is fear that Robert Mugabe will not allow the deployment of forces. Indeed, Peacekeeping forces can be used to monitor elections but only at the request of the government in question.

- An American expert (A/N: *The author says it cannot name the US official for diplomatic reasons*) said no peacekeeping forces would be deployed in Zimbabwe to monitor elections. He also added that Prime Minister Tsvangirai was wrong in suggesting that such a step should be taken.
- The American official said the SADC would not agree to deploy forces as there would be no consensus. He explained that the operation was too complex and peacekeeping forces were only sent in countries war and during peace talks.

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

“Zanu-PF Members Urged to Participate in Constitution Outreach Programmes” [Author unknown]

- Zanu-PF’s secretary for finance said party members should participate in the constitutional outreach programmes to ensure that the party’s views and heritage are represented. He added that he didn’t want to repeat what happened in 2008 or during the provincial elections last year.

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

“ACR Directors Face Arrest” by Martin Kadzere

- African Consolidated Resources officials face arrest as it was discovered that the mining firm was illegally acquiring and trading Chiadzwa diamonds. It has emerged that ACR, which was evicted from Chiadzwa last year, has been illegally purchasing diamonds from miners. The panners are said to be working at night.
- The Precious Stones Trade Act prohibits illegal diamond trade. Mines and Mining Development Minister Obert Mpofu is aware of the issue and wrote a complaint to the Attorney General.
- Government intends to cancel the ACR diamond claims but the move is being challenged by the company.