

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting (8 March – 14 March, 2011)

By Zuzia Danielski, MIGS media monitor for Zimbabwe

State-owned Media

“Zim pays tribute to women”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 8 March 2011, in English)

- Commemorating International Women’s Day in Harare, the Women’s Coalition of Zimbabwe said the women in the country had a lot celebrate since 1980, when a ZANU-PF government instituted policies and programs to protect women’s rights. National celebrations will be held Friday in Chinhoyi.

“Dubious conference blasted”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 9 March 2011, in English)

- Observers criticized the Zimbabwe Investment Conference held this week, which disguised as a business gathering, allowed the MDC-T leadership to counter last-weeks Anti-Sanctions Campaign and provided them with a political platform to attack the President.
- Political commentator Jonathan Kadzura described Tsvangirai, ‘as a confused leader who does not know what to say, when and where’.
- State Enterprises Deputy Minister Chidhakwa said the composition of panellists at the conference indicated the MDC-T’s ‘deep rooted dependence on European donors, whose known and confirmed agenda is to unseat a constitutionally elected government of President Robert Mugabe and replace him with a white man in black man’s skin’.

“US extends illegal sanctions”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 9 March 2011, in English)

- The US government has extended illegal sanctions on Zimbabwe by another year. This comes a week after President Mugabe launched the Anti-Sanctions Petition Campaign.
- US President Obama cited ‘unresolved issues and political violence within the Global Political Agreement’ as the reason for extending the illegal sanctions which cause suffering among the nation. Recently, the EU extended sanctions as well citing the same unfounded reasons.
- ZANU-PF has blamed MDC formations for not campaigning vigorously for sanctions removal. Earlier this week, PM Tsvangirai did not denounce the sanctions while addressing an on-going Investment Conference in the capital, and

instead used the platform to denounce the GPA, justifying the existence of an economic embargo.

“Ruling on Party Speaker hailed”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 11 March 2011, in English)

- Legal experts in Zimbabwe hailed the Supreme Court’s landmark ruling nullifying the election of Lovemore Moyo as Speaker of Parliament’s Lower House. The court also ruled no appeals are allowed.
- Business in the House of Assembly will not continue until a new Speaker is elected.
- The judgement stands as testimony that ‘flawed electoral processes will always be dealt with by the laws of the land’ and the ruling addressed an anomaly where electoral regulations were not adhered to.
- The ruling followed an appeal by Tsholotsho North legislator Jonathan Moyo and 3 other members of the Lower House.

“PM’s women – MDC speaks out”

(The Sunday News, government-owned weekly, 12 March 2011, in English)

- The MDC blasted women’s rights organizations yesterday for not taking action against Prime Minister Tsvangirai, saying his multiple love escapades were a ‘disgrace and tantamount to abuse of women’.
- Addressing a rally in Stanley Square, top MDC officials condemned women’s rights organizations for selectively raising their voices against political parties and turning a blind eye against the PM.
- MDC Deputy President Mushoriwa said that Tsvangirai’s impregnating different women are the PM’s major achievements since coming into office, ‘What I can tell you is that President Mugabe will tell you all the history of the country while Tsvangirai will tell you that “I have impregnated this one and that one and nothing more”. That is part of his achievement in Government and that position has helped him in achieving that’.
- Party National Chairman Chumbaira said it was shallow of the PM to think that he could not get HIV/AIDS because of his political position and that he seemed more interested in women, than important development issues.

“Journalists castigated for spreading falsehoods”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 12 March 2011, in English)

- ZANU-PF criticized local journalists who ‘thrive on spreading falsehoods bent on tarnishing Zimbabwe’s image’ and that of President Mugabe. National Chairman Khaya Moyo made the remarks at the launch of Pan-African magazine, Light of Africa, which is aimed at telling the true story of the people of Zimbabwe and their aspirations.

“280 bodies exhumed in Mt Darwin”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 13 March 2011, in English)

- More than 280 bodies were exhumed from a disused mine in Mt Darwin, evidence of mass human rights atrocities committed by the Ian Smith government in pre-independent Zimbabwe. More than 400 bodies remain in the mine.
- The bodies were removed by the Fallen Heroes of Zimbabwe Trust from a mine which belonged to a German company in Ruya village.

“MDC mayhem continues”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 14 March 2011, in English)

- Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara has dismissed reports that the Welshman Ncube-led MDC are seeking his arrest for contempt of court after Mutambara continued to represent the party in weekly inclusive government meetings.
- The MDC also say they will file contempt of court charges against President Mugabe and PM Tsvangirai for allowing the DPM to participate in meetings, a violation of a recent High Court order barring Mutambara from exercising any function vested in the role of president of the party.
- Mutambara faction says the order, while preventing him from carrying out duties as president of MDC, did not mention his duties as ‘principal in the inclusive government’.

“It never rains for dethroned Speaker”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 14 March 2011, in English)

- Lovemore Moyo is no longer part of the legislature and is ineligible to vote when the House of Assembly sits to elect a Speaker to replace him. However, he can contest the post as he is a former MP.
- A by-election is pending for the open seat.
- The House of Assembly will resume sitting on March 22, at which point an election for a new speaker will be held if members will be ready.
- Senate has not been affected and will resume on March 29.

Private-owned Media

“Mangoma arrested over US\$6m fuel deal”, by Paul Nyakazeya

(Zimbabwean Independent, independent weekly, Harare, 11 March 2011, in English)

- Energy Minister Mangoma was arrested yesterday on charges of criminal abuse of duty and office, due to how he awarded a multi-million dollar fuel tender to South

African firm NOOA Petroleum. The deal was blamed for causing severe fuel shortages earlier this year, although suppliers say at least three million litres out of five have been delivered.

- Police Spokesman Bvudzijena confirmed the MP was behind bars for awarding the contract without going to tender.

“Tsvangirai admits unity government not working” by Alex Bell

(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 11 March 2011, in English)

- PM Morgan Tsvangirai admitted the unity government was not working, referring to it as a marriage with ‘irreconcilable differences’. He made the statements in a news conference in Harare Thursday after the arrest of party MP and Cabinet Minister Mangoma.
- Speaking about recent arrests and intimidation by ZANU-PF, Tsvangirai said ‘We have reached a moment where we are saying, let’s agree that this is not working, it’s dysfunctional’. He added that there was a total disregard for the provisions of the GPA.
- Tsvangirai said, ‘If people find that a marriage has reached irreconcilable differences, they agree to divorce’. The PM said that all parties must agree that elections should be held according to the roadmap set out by the facilitator.
- Analysts warn that the MDC should not pull out of the government until elections are held, as this could signal victory for the ZANU-PF who have no interest in equal partnership and a collapse of the unity government would not be in the best interest of the nation.

“Mugabe uses Tsvangirai birthday to go for the kill” by Lance Guma

(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 11 March 2011, in English)

- On Thursday, as Mugabe left for a meeting of the African Union’s Peace and Security Council, the PM was left to deal with political and legal landmines.
- Energy Minister Elton Mangoma was arrested on corruption charges. Mangoma, an MDC-T MP, was one of the chief negotiators to the power sharing deal.
- The Supreme Court nullified the August 2008 election of MDC-T Lovemore Moyo as Speaker of Parliament.
- The Supreme Court also announced that MDC-T Treasurer general Roy Bennett had been fully acquitted of terrorism and banditry charges. Analysts say the acquittal was meant to divert attention from the evident bias of the court.

“Matabeleland secession: Who will benefit?” by Khanyile Mlotshwa in Bulwayo

(The Standard, independent weekly, Harare, 13 March 2011, in English)

- A regional magistrate ruled Friday that three leaders of a group campaigning for Matabeleland secession will be tried for treason. Paul Siwela, John Gazi, and Charles Thomas were arrested for allegedly distributing MLF flyers calling for

Mugabe's ouster. Matabeleland Liberation Front was launched in December by South African based Zimbabwean exiles.

- The case, while largely ignored by media, has touched a nerve among locals were people are unanimous in calling for devolution of power in the new constitution. There is division however whether the MLF's radical approach will bring results.

"Mystery surrounds origins of Upfumi Kuvadiki group" by Jennifer Dube
(The Standard, independent weekly, Harare, 13 March 2011, in English)

- Despite living in elite suburbs, driving posh cars and dressing like music stars, executive members of the shadow pressure group Upfumi Kuvadiki are camera shy. They are willing however, to have their names printed.
- The group came into the limelight recently when members sealed off premises of a Harare parking company and claimed to be the new owners. This came after they went on a rampage and looted shops in the Gulf Complex.
- Their offices in Mt. Pleasant Harare are half-empty and the group's deputy finance secretary Wesley Bvekerwa says they are facing funding problems as they only started formal operations mid-January.
- The group has 20,000 members, between 15-35 years old, and 12 executive members between 24-31. Most, according to Bvekerwa are business people in the economic sector.
- A search on Facebook revealed that the youths do not hide their ZANU-PF links, posting several messages praising both Mugabe and party policies.
- On Thursday, the Zimbabwe Youth Council, an umbrella body for all youth organizations, distanced itself from the group's violence.