

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 15 November 2010 (2 November- 9 November, 2010)

By Ilia Sorokin, MIGS media monitor for Zimbabwe

Privately-Owned, London-based *Zimbabwe independent* SW Radio Africa, London, in English, dated 2 November 2010.

1) Ambassador says EU will not interfere with Mugabe's postings by Alex Bell

- The EU ambassador to Zimbabwe Aldo Dell'Araccia, has insisted that the EU will not interfere with Robert Mugabe's unilateral appointments of ambassadors since it is an internal matter.
- Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai last month told the EU and the United Nations that ambassadors appointed solely by Mugabe don't speak on behalf of the whole government.

2) Regional campaign to highlight Zim crisis by Tichaona Sibanda

- Zimbabwe's Civil Society organizations (CSO's) will embark on a regional advocacy campaign to try to ensure the elections due in the country next year are free and fair.
- Under the banner of the Crisis Coalition in Zimbabwe, the CSO's will visit Botswana in two weeks' time for talks with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) secretariat, based in Gaborone.
- Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is worried that the regional bloc has not yet come up with a clear roadmap towards the poll, to ensure it is radically different from the very violent 2008 election.

Dated 9 November

3) Soldiers demonstrate in support of Mugabe in Masvingo by Lance Guma

- Between 300 to 500 soldiers marched in support of Robert Mugabe in the Mucheke Suburb of Masvingo on Sunday, chanting slogans demanding that Mugabe rule forever.
- ZANU PF has admitted that its party structures have been crumbling in recent weeks and has reverted to using soldiers to shore up support.
- The local MP, Tongai Mathuthu, has said, commenting on reports that parliaments committee on Defence and Home Affairs would look into the role of the army and police in the country's electoral process, that from his experience resolutions from the committees were always ignored by the executive arm of government, or Robert Mugabe

Privately-Owned, London-based *Zimbabwe independent* SW Radio Africa, London, in English, 0000 gmt, dated 3 November 2010.

1) US Sets Record Straight On Policy Towards Zimbabwe by Tererai Karimakwenda.

- The United States Embassy in Harare has released a statement clarifying the US policy towards Zimbabwe. The statement said in part: "US sanctions are not blocking Zimbabwe's economic recovery. The US does not maintain sanctions against the people of Zimbabwe or the country of Zimbabwe. US sanctions target individuals and entities that have undermined democratic processes or institutions in Zimbabwe."
- The statement was released in an effort to dispel the much publicized ongoing comments by Robert Mugabe and ZANU PF that blame sanctions for the deterioration of the country's economy, calling them "illegal."
- Sharon Hudson-Dean, spokesperson for the Embassy, explained that there are restrictive measures taken against certain individuals in Zimbabwe, most notably Robert Mugabe and ZANU PF members. The measures restrict these individuals from travelling to the United States, investing money or doing business in the United States and restrict American companies from doing business with them as well.
- Mugabe said that the current levels of hunger and starvation and the failed healthcare and education systems, are a result of the country's inability to borrow money from international institutions due to the sanctions.

Dated 4 November

2) EU yet to make decision on Zim ambassador by Alex Bell

- The EU is yet to make a decision on whether or not to accept the ambassador appointed unilaterally by Robert Mugabe, Aldo Dell'Ariceia, after the EU's own diplomat in Zimbabwe said the ambassador was likely to be accepted.
- The United Nations has said that it cannot expel the Zimbabwean diplomat appointed by Mugabe, saying the ambassador has been 'properly accredited' in July.
- Member of European Parliament Geoffrey Van Orden, campaigning for the body to take strong action against the Mugabe regime, said this week that no EU decision has been made and that the EU will not necessarily follow the UN's lead.

Dated 9 November

3) MISA Criticises Government for Maintaining Broadcasting Controls by Irene Madongo

- The Media Institute of Southern Africa Zimbabwe (MISA) has said that sections of Zimbabwe's government are still fighting plans to liberalise the airwaves despite promises of change. Independent broadcasters are not allowed to operate in Zimbabwe because of resistance from the top.

- Journalists working for independent newspapers are still harassed. Others have been tortured and many have fled the country.
- MISA held a broadcasting conference in Harare last Friday, attended by 50 participants made up of journalists and civic organizations, as well as the state broadcaster.
- MISA pointed to the unpopular BSA which gives only the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) the authority to issue licenses, which has still to make an effort in licensing any independent broadcasters.

The *Zimbabwe Independent* website, Harare, in English, dated 4 November 2010.

1) Mnangagwa takes lead in Mugabe succession race by Faith Zaba

- Political heavyweight Minister Emmerson Mnangagwa has gained ground to take over from the ageing leader after his faction was badly routed by the camped by retired army commander Solomon Mujuru at last year's party congress.
- Top ZANU PF officials are now convinced that Mnangagwa is being groomed to take over when Mugabe retires after the next elections, which the president says must be held mid-2011.
- Because of his army and CIO links, Mnangagwa is emerging as one of the most powerful persons in ZANU PF.

2) Zim banking system remains fragile - IMF by Bernard Mpofu

- According to a visiting IMF mission to Zimbabwe, the country's banking system remains exposed despite restoration of the central bank's function of lender-of-last-resort, and has asked the government to immediately step up a restructuring exercise of the debt-ridden Reserve Bank.
- Vitaliy Kramarenko, head of the IMF team, said the central bank owes nearly US\$1.5 billion to its creditors.

3) I will contest 2011 elections - Dabengwa by Brian Chitemba

- Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) president Dumiso Dabengwa says he will challenge President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai in possible mid-2011 elections. His party will field candidates in all constituencies.
- Dabengwa said an election was the only solution to end the political stalemate created by Mugabe and Tsvangirai and allow Zimbabweans to choose the next government.
- Dabengwa led the revival of ZAPU after pulling out from the December 22 1987 Unity Accord that was signed between PF-ZAPU and ZANU PF, accusing Mugabe and his allies of marginalizing the Matabeleland region.
- The former Zipra intelligence supremo was elected ZAPU president at the party's inaugural congress in September.

4) Gov't must not interfere with judiciary: Makarau by Paidamoyo Muzulu

- Supreme Court judge, Justice Rita Makarau, has said government should make the judiciary more independent by involving parliament in the selection of judges. The government should

create a panel of judges with varied law backgrounds for the Supreme Court, which also operates as the Court of Appeal.

- Makarau made this statement as a response to Robert Mugabe's recent unilateral appointment of judges, governors and ambassadors.

Privately-owned Zimbabwean weekly newspaper *The Standard* website, Harare, in English, dated 6 November 2010.

Fibre-Optic Roll Out Near Completion by Kudzai Chimhangwa

- Minister of Information and Communication Technology, Nelson Chamisa, said last week that the fibre-optic cable roll out programme, expected to increase connectivity and improve telecommunication efficiency countrywide, will be complete before the end of the year. The government made a US\$6.2 million budgetary allocation for the project, started early 2010.
- The government is expanding the fibre-optic cable programme in key cities and towns of the country while invitations are open to the private sector to implement a similar project in rural areas.