

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 4 October, 2010 (24 September-3 October, 2010)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS reporter for Zimbabwe

Government-owned Media

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated September 28, 2009, in English)

“Zimbabwe: PM Sees Indigenisation as Empowerment”

- In his address to the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators in Zimbabwe, PM Morgan Tsvangirai said the Government's indigenisation and economic empowerment programme is meant to empower Zimbabweans, not scare off foreign investors.
- Tsvangirai said it was crucial for the country's economy to attract foreign investors. He therefore urged Government, corporates and civil society to create an environment conducive for investment. He also called on members of the Institute to report corruption. He described corruption as “the cancer that we have inherited from the bearer cheque syndrome of the past decade.”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated October 2, 2009, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Embargo Poisons Political Environment, Germany Admits”

- German Ambassador to Zimbabwe Albretch Conze admitted that the sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe are creating political tensions in the country, making it difficult for South African President Jacob Zuma to facilitate a dialogue between the MDC formations and Zanu-PF. He added that the EU was looking at ways to revise the measures.
- He said he was satisfied with what the Sadc Troika said about a roadmap on elections at the Sadc meeting in Windhoek earlier this year.

Privately-owned media

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 24 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Fear for Abducted MDC Official as Zanu PF Violence Continues” by Tererai Karimakwenda

- Violence against individuals whose ideas oppose Zanu-PF policies have continued in Manicaland province as MDC officials fear for the life of one of their abducted members. Blessing Matake was abducted by four armed men last week and has not been seen since.
- Attacks on MDC supporters were also reported in Midlands North province. One supporter was attacked by thirty young Zanu-PF supporters after he voiced his support for Morgan Tsvangirai.

- Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition had strongly condemned the violence and urged the government to investigate cases and prosecute perpetrators.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 24 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: U.S. Says Targeted 'Sanctions to Stay Put' Because of Violence” by Tichaona Sibanda

- The US deputy assistant secretary of State for African Affairs, Susan Page told journalists that sanctions against Robert Mugabe and his party would not be lifted as human rights violations, arbitrary arrests, land seizures and brutality have continued in Zimbabwe.
- A delegation comprised of Elton Mangoma from the MDC-T, Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa of ZANU PF and MDC-M's minister of Regional Integration, Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga.
- Was fighting to have the targeted sanctions removed.
- While the US recognizes economic progress has been made, Page urged the government to work on its human rights record and to build strong institutions to sustain economic growth.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated 24 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Poll Violence Victims Recount Ordeals, Demand Justice” by Wongai Zhangazha

- Victims of the 2008 political violence testified at an indaba that brought together Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, National Healing minister Sekai Holland, Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (Jomic) representative Lovemore Kadenge, victims, civil society and doctors who treated wounded activists. Zanu-PF members did not attend the meeting.
- Failure by the inclusive government to deal with issues of transitional justice have led many to believe that only a clear winner in the next elections can lead to peace, justice and reconciliation. Victims believe that transitional justice will not occur as long as Mugabe stays in power. Many victims want the UN to intervene.
- Victims said they were ready for elections despite the fact that many civil society organization believe the environment is not conducive for elections next year. Victims said the situation would remain tense even if elections are put on hold. They are therefore calling for internationally supervised polls.
- All the victims recounted their ordeal and asked for compensations for the trauma they suffered or property they lost. Tsvangirai agreed that the state has an obligation to compensate victims of political violence. He said transitional justice was not about retribution but about laying “a foundation for peace, tolerance and progress” as well as about listening to both victims and perpetrators.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 27 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: 'Negotiated' Constitution on the Cards as Outreach Process Fails” by Alex Bell

- PM Morgan Tsvangirai said the new constitution would probably be a negotiated document rather than a people-driven document as initially promised: "It has to be ultimately a negotiated settlement."
- He also criticized the violence and mismanagement that has marred the constitutional-outreach meetings.
- He said his party would try to convince principals to the GPA that the country needs a “credible and legitimate constitution.”
- The PM’s statement comes as an acknowledgement that the process has been a waste of resources and time.
- National Constitutional Assembly chairperson, Dr Lovemore Madhuku, said last week that COPAC had failed in its mission. He believes the government has “no respect for the people of Zimbabwe.”

(Human Rights Watch, Washington, press release dated 27 September, 2010)

Zimbabwe: Violence, Intimidation Mar Constitutional Outreach

- The increasing violence and intimidation that have marred the constitutional outreach meetings in Zimbabwe highlight the lack of progress in ending human rights violations and passing human rights reforms in Zimbabwe.
- Africa director at Human Rights Watch said Zanu-PF and their allies, particularly war veterans, continue to commit abuses with impunity. She urged the government of Zimbabwe to put an end to the violence and create a conducive environment for free and fair elections. The government should also repeal or amend law restricting civil rights, including the right to demonstrate.
- A MDC supporter died last after being assaulted by Zanu-PF members and uniformed police.
- 83 men and women from the group Women of Zimbabwe Arise were arrested as they demonstrated against the lack of professionalism by the Zimbabwe police.
- Human Rights Watch believes perpetrators of violence should be brought to justice.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 28 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Illegally Exported Diamonds Seized in Dubai” by Alex Bell

- Diamonds believed to have been illegally exported from Zimbabwe’s Chiadzwa diamond fields were seized in Dubai last week. This comes as a proof that diamond smuggling has continued in Zimbabwe: the export is a violation of an agreement reached by the Mines Ministry and the Kimberley Process.
- The MMCZ has reportedly claimed that the parcel only contained diamonds produced between 2007 and 2009, before the KP agreement was reached.

- Belgian authorities have reportedly also seized Chiadzwa diamonds sent from Dubai to Antwerp.

(IRIN, Humanitarian news and analysis, project of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, article dated 28 September, 2010)

“Zimbabwe: Struggling to Create a Constitution”

- Violence has marred the constitutional outreach meetings being held across Zimbabwe.
- Twenty-two year old Brian Kachingwe was injured last week when violence broke out during one of the meetings. He was later detained for six hours at a local government hospital. The attackers were not arrested. The young man said this was “a blow on democracy.”
- Chrispen Mandizvidza, an MDC activist, died last week after violence broke out at an Harare meeting.
- COPAC, which is jointly led by the MDC and ZANU-PF, suspended the process in Harare and Chitungwiza, citing allegations of threats and violence.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 29 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Intimidation of Farmers Intensifies But PM Remains Silent” by Alex Bell

- Intimidation of Zimbabwe remaining commercial farmers is intensifying but the government has failed to comment on the issue. Farmers have urged Prime Minister Tsvangiri to put a stop to land seizures.
- Catherine Jouineau-Meredith's Twyford Farm was burned down earlier this month by a Zanu-PF senator Jamaya Muduvuri who had already looted the farm several times. Jouineau-Meredith called on the PM to intervene but the latter failed to do so. She is seeking full compensation for the loss of her farm.
- Deon Theron, the President of the Commercial Farmers Union (CFU), said the situation was “returning to the old ways when the land reform programme started.” He said him and his mother have also been under threat as the two have been locked out of their farm. Police also took part in the operation. Theron said this was a “very scary, tragic situation” which could only “spell out bad things for the future of this country.”

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 29 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Copac Orders Fresh Outreach Meetings for Harare” by Tichaona Sibanda

- The COPAC management committee condemned the fact that 42 outreach meetings were not conducted properly or were abandoned. The committee wants them to be rescheduled. An investigation of each failed meeting will be conducted.
- The rescheduled meetings will contain new conditions, including mechanism aimed at maintaining law and order, and ensuring the safety of all participants.

- An MDC-T legislator said parties should denounce violence and urged the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation to inform people about the venues. The meetings will also be held in smaller groups.
- The President has been urged to “act decisively on errant members of the uniformed forces.”

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 29 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Tsvangirai Shoots Down Zanu PF Sanctions Argument” by Lance Guma

- Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai blamed ZANU PF for destroying the economy and criticized them blaming the sanctions. He said bad governance, violent land reforms, intimidation, lack of foreign investors, and RBZ's printing of worthless currency were the reason. He denied the existence of economic sanctions on Zimbabwe but said there were restrictive measures.
- President Mugabe has used the maintenance of targeted sanctions as the excuse for not honouring his party's obligations under the GPA.
- The death b highlights the tenuous relations between the two parties: the two MDC formations said they would not attend the burial at the national Heroes Acre. After his death in August, Zanu-PF refused to recognize MDC founding figure Gibson Sibanda sparking anger among the MDC formation. Masawi has already been granted hero status, even though he did not take part in the liberation war.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 30 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Zuma Faces Criticism at European Parliament” by Tererai Karimakwenda
30 September 2010

- South African President and regional facilitator Jacob Zuma is faced criticism from the European Parliament for the way he handled the Zimbabwe crisis.
- Zuma urged the international community to lift the targeted sanctions on Zimbabwe and said this would help the SADC to do more to help Zimbabwe. Members of the EU parliament were not convinced by Zuma's words, with the harshest criticism coming from the British Conservative MEP who accused Zuma of “acquiescing’ while people in Zimbabwe starved.” Yet Zuma defended the role of his country, “arguing that it gave leader before anyone else did.”

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 30 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: MDC Calls for Arrest of War Vets Leader Jabulani Sibanda” by Lance Guma

- The MDC has called for the arrest of war veteran leader Jabulani Sibanda saying the 'self-styled war veteran' had caused 'so much suffering in Masvingo province during the past three months, without any restraint from the police.' Sibanda is seen as one of the fifteenth

most violence war veterans in Zimbabwe, preaching hate and inciting violence. Police have been widely supportive of Sibanda during his campaigns.

- The MDC therefore urged Zanu-PF to speak out against Sibanda but support by the police seems to be a proof of the uneven distribution of power in the coalition government

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated 30 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: 'Army in Renewed Terror Campaign'” by Faith Zaba

- Constitutional Parliamentary Committee co-chairman Douglas Mwonozora has accused Zanu-PF militants, the military and other state security agents of terrorising villagers during the constitutional outreach meetings. He believes the climate of fear is growing in strength.
- The PM has also voice his concern over the violence-ridden constitution-making process and called for an investigation.
- Director of Defence Forces Public Relations department Everson Magwiza denied the army and disrupting meetings and inciting violence, arguing that soldiers were not deployed during meetings.
- Douglas Mwonozora, MDC representative and joint chairman of member of the Constitutional Parliamentary Committee (COPAC), said he had evidence of military and police involvement during and after meetings. MDC have been widely threatened and attacked in several areas. He believes operations by soldiers are well coordinated or organized.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated 30 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: 'Heroes Acre for Zanu PF Members Only'” by Brian Chitemba

- At the burial of Zanu PF politburo member Ephraim Masawi, President Robert Mugabe declared that the National Heroes Acre was solely for the burial of Zanu PF members who participated in the liberation war. The MDC boycotted the burial as they do not believe Masawi deserves it. Masawi was declared a national hero.
- The MDC believes the National heroes Acre has lost its national shrine as only Zanu-PF members are buried therefore.
- In August, MDC founding father and Vice-president Gibson Sibanda was denied burial at the Heroes' Acre.
- The issue of national heroes is one of the 24 agreed matters in the Global Political Agreement (GPA).
- In his speech, Mugabe also reiterated that Western investors should stay way from his country if they are not ready to cede control to Zimbabweans under the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Act (the act seeks to give 51% shareholding to locals in existing businesses).

(Radio France Internationale, French state-funded public broadcaster, article dated 1 October, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Mugabe Says Citizens Must Control Foreign Investors” by Ryan Truscott

- Zimbabwe's President Robert Mugabe said foreign investors must be willing to hand over majority shares to local people if they plan to invest in the country. He added that Zimbabwe does not need investors who are unwilling to work on his government's terms.
- White Zimbabweans and foreigners who own large companies must sell off majority shares to local blacks. Analysts believe this widely put off foreign investors.
- Rfi believes the President's speech sounded very much like the beginning of an election campaign, especially as Mugabe wants to hold elections next year, with or without a new constitution.

(IRIN, Humanitarian news and analysis, project of the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, article dated 1 October, 2010)

“Zimbabwe: A Fourth Chimurenga, for Gold”

- There has been a new wave of farm invasions in Zimbabwe. The goal of Fourth Chimurenga (liberation struggle, the operation's name) is to look for gold. More and more Zimbabweans are looking at illegal gold mining as answer to their daily plight. However, they are now spreading onto farms placed near rivers. This is seen as a new wave of land invasion.
- Due to the large number of illegal miners and intense competition, alluvial gold is becoming scarce and therefore no longer lucrative. However, the farms are rich in gold. Illegal miners are not being prosecuted because the authorities accept bribes.
- Some farm owners who acquired their farms thanks to the land reform program have also readily employed illegal miners to dig for gold as these new farmers themselves have been struggling to live off agriculture. Gold is seen as an alternative.
- Some farmers are worried but the impact of illegal mining on agriculture, environment, erosion and food security. Some farmers have been harassed by illegal miners, some of whom have also been stealing livestock and farming equipment. Some believe that illegal gold mining will lead to the failure of the land reform programme.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 29 October, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: 20,000 Displaced People Face Eviction At Hatcliffe Extension” by Tererai Karimakwenda

- Residents of a small town outside Harare, Hatcliffe Extension, have been threatened with eviction by the government, despite the fact that they were allowed to settle there by the same authorities who destroyed their homes originally. Those who want to renew their lease need to pay \$140, a sum most Zimbabweans don't have.
- Amnesty International called on the government to stop evictions and make plans to properly resettle displaced people. The organisation said the government should provide protection from cycle of insecurity by providing security of tenure and affordable leases.
- The town originally developed when Mugabe's regime destroyed their homes in "Operation Murambatsvina" (clean out the filth). Nearly one million people were

displaced and moved out of the city, near roadsides. At the time, the MDC said the operation was an attempt by Zanu-PF to disenfranchise voters.

- Other people living in settlements across the country have been threatened with eviction.