

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 13 September, 2010 (3 September-12 September, 2010)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS reporter for Zimbabwe

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated September 6, 2009, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Party of Excellence, My Foot!” by Frank Banda

- A columnist for Talk Zimbabwe criticized the MDC-T for its corrupt councilors and for thinking that they can “repeat their electoral fluke” in the forthcoming elections. He also criticizes PM Morgan Tsvangirai for calling his party “a party of excellence” as the MDC-T’s claims have not been back by action.
- Reference is made to the MDC-T’s parallel government and to Tsvangirai’s demands to have a “peacekeeping force” monitor the next elections, although peacekeeping operations are reserved for conflict-ridden countries. The Prime Minister is criticized for lying to civil servants about their wages simply in an attempt to outshine President Mugabe. References are also made to Tsvangirai official residence, the MDC-T ministers’ cards, Minister of Finance Tendai Biti’s failure to consult a parliamentary committee concerning the budget.
- The future elections will prove that the MDC-T is far from being the party of excellence

(The Chronicle, government-owned daily, article dated September 7, 2009, in English)

“MDC-T has failed to present credible challenge to Zanu-PF” by Nancy Lovedale

- The MDC-T is described as an emerging political party that have sought to replace Zanu-PF and a party of “quid pro quo” desperate in its drive for power.
- Independent media are criticized for siding with the MDC-T, for morphing into a propaganda machine “demonizing and criminalizing Zanu-PF.”
- The MDC-T has failed to present a challenge to Zanu-PF and has no credible agenda. The MDC-T has lost its supporters and now pains to achieve relevance on the country’s political landscape.
- The MDC-T’s disapproval of the land reform program has long been discredited by the successes seen in agricultural production.
- The MDC-T has failed to gain enough support because Zimbabweans know that policies such as the land reform program and the indigenization policy will benefit the country. The MDC-T has failed to mobilize enough mass anger to oust the President Mugabe.
- The MDC-T has also failed to understand the importance of the liberation war in the minds of Zimbabweans.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated September 7, 2009, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Court Revokes ACR Licence” by Chakanetsa Chidyamatiyo

- The High Court has revoked the African Consolidated Resources’ mining claims in Marange arguing that the company had fraudulently acquired the mining rights. Justice Hungwe said the company had yet to be registered when the rights were acquired.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated September 8, 2009, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Govt Stops Diamond Sale Announcements for Security Reasons”

- The government has decided not to announce future diamond sales for security reasons and line with international standards governing marketing of the precious stones. Mines and Mining Development permanent secretary, Thankful Musukutwa, said diamond sales would now be private affair, far away from media attention. He therefore refused to reveal the date of future diamond sales.

(The Chronicle, government-owned daily, article dated September 9, 2009, in English)

“MDC activists ‘invade’ farm”

- Nearly 2000 people, including members of the MDC (MDC-T and MDC-99), invaded a farm near Harare. The invaders proceeded to parcel the land to each other. The land had apparently been unused for years and MDC supporters argued that the land belonged to them as MDC Senator Kombayi was in the process of buying the property when he died.
- Three committees, allegedly made up of war veterans, were then set up on the farm in order to bring order back on the farm. People had to give their names.
- MDC-99 Midlands province chairperson, Josiah Makombe, refuted allegations that the farm invasions were political.
- Gweru acting district administrator, Langton Mupeta, said the invasion were illegal as the farm was not meant for resettlement but for urban expansion
- According to the Herald, the invasion of the farm shows that while the MDC formations denounced the land reform program, their supporters are hungry for land. The MDC is criticized for being “out of touch” with the reality on a grassroots level.

Privately-owned media

(Financial Gazette, private weekly, Harare, article dated 3 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Sibanda Defies Zanu-PF” by Clemence Manyukwe

- Jabulani Sibanda, a war veteran leader, defied Zanu-PF directives to stop addressing meetings in Masvingo. There have been allegations of violence ahead of the next polls.
- MDC-T provincial chairperson, Wilstaf Sitemere, said that while Sibanda had been barred from meetings, the war veteran came nonetheless and said he wanted to “preach a gospel of peace.”
- The MDC-T has complained to the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee that the Sibanda’s inflammatory statements had resulted in the torching of the house of an MDC-T member in early August. Sibanda has also been accused of using meetings to criticize PM Tsvangirai.
- JOMIC said it would summon Sibanda to answer to the violence allegations.
- Meanwhile, Zanu-PF accused MDC-T MPs of organizing revenge missions but the MDC-T denied allegations of violence.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 3 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: No Food Aid in Matabeleland South Due to Zanu PF Violence” by Tererai Karimakwenda

- Angeline Masuku, Matabeleland South’s governor, said 300,000 villagers needed food supplies as serious food shortages have hit the province. Organizations that usually provide villagers with food have left the area due to interference by Zanu-PF and their violent supporters. Andrew Langa, a Zanu-PF thug already involved in the 2002 violence against MDC supporters, is said to be responsible for the violence.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 3 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: More Corruption Ahead for Diamond Industry” by Alex Bell

- Business people linked to Zanu-PF are set to get involved in the diamond industry, a situation which, according to analysts, will lead to more corruption. These individuals and groups will be involved in diamond cutting and polishing at the controversial Zimbabwe Diamond and Technology Centre (the centre is being constructed by Canadile Mining, one of the controversial government approved firms illegally mining in Chiadzwa). The Affirmative Action Group (AAG) will get involved in the diamond industry under the guise of empowerment and indigenization but it has been involved in looting the economy for several years.
- The involvement of corrupt groups adds to some analysts’ skepticism that any profits will be made from diamond sales.
- Finance Minister Tendai Biti has proposed a Diamond Law meant to end corruption in the industry.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated 3 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Indigenisation - Public Policy for Private Gain”

- The Indigenization and Empowerment Act is criticized for being used for private gains by politicians. Like other policies in the past, such as the War Victims Compensation Fund which only benefited a handful of people or the Low Income Housing Fund which was used to build mansions for top politicians while driving farmers away, the Indigenization and Empowerment Act will only benefit a handful of people.
- Few are likely to be regarded as indigenous Zimbabweans and the majority of Zimbabweans is unlikely to be able to buy a company’s stakes since the country does not have a large middle class.
- The indigenization of the economy will only legitimize more corruption, with only policy-makers and “fat cats” benefiting from the act at the expense of national development.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 6 September, 2010, in English)

**“Zimbabwe: Unity Government Endorsed Decision to Deport Locals From South Africa”
by Tichaona Sibanda**

- The inclusive government reportedly endorsed a decision by the South African government to deport Zimbabweans from the country. The decision, which was taken in April last year after thousands of Zimbabweans tried to flee the country, ended a special dispensation that allowed Zimbabweans to enter South Africa without documents and supported the deportation of illegal Zimbabweans from December on. The decision was taken by co-Home Affairs Minister, ZANU PF's Kembo Mohadi.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 6 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Jamming of SW Radio Africa Broadcasts Continues” by Lance Guma

- Zanu-PF has been jamming broadcasts from SW Radio Africa using a heavy noise to drown out news bulletins. The Central Intelligence Organization, which falls under the President's Office, is running the operation.
- The Zimbabwe National Students Union criticized the jamming and described it as 'an attempt to subvert a people's right to receive and impart information as prescribed by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to which Zimbabwe is a signatory.'

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 7 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: High Court Cancels ACR Mining Licence” by Alex Bell

- The High Court has cancelled the African Consolidated Resources' mining licence. The ACR are the legal owners of the Chiadzwa diamond mining site.
- In September 2009, High Court judge Charles Hungwe ruled that the title belonged to ACR but since the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation involvement, the ACR has been embroiled in a legal battle. The ZMDC together with its partners firms, Mbada Investments and Canadile Miners, continued mining the site.
- The ACR will appeal the decision.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 7 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Analysts Predict Chaos If Mugabe Dies in Office” by Tichaona Sibanda

- Analysts have predicted that Zimbabwe would be thrown into chaos if Mugabe was to die in office as Zanu-PF factions would fight for control of power. It has become clear that the party is incapable of resolving the succession issue. A military coup should also not be ruled out as powerful generals are trying to protect their wealth.

- There have been rumors about Mugabe's deteriorating health.
- In case the President is no longer able to rule, it is unlikely that Mugabe will be replaced democratically because of the close link between the security sector and the Zanu-PF. The 2008 elections proved that a power transfer was impossible even though Mugabe had lost the elections.

(Reporters sans Frontières, press release dated 7 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: London-Based Exile Radio Station's Broadcasts Jammed in Harare”

- Reporters Without Borders condemned the jamming of some of the SW Radio Africa's programs, including Newsreel. Various sources said Zimbabwe's Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) was responsible for the jamming. Reporters Without Borders said this was “an extremely negative sign” and urged the inclusive government to clarify the situation.
- In 2005, the government had already jammed SW Radio Africa, Voice of America's Studio 7 and Radio Voice of the People (VOP), using Chinese equipment. The president regards these stations as pirate radios whose sole aim is to overthrow him.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 7 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Critics Blast National Healing Organ a Failure” by Lance Guma

- Participants who attended a workshop in Bulawayo said the National Healing and Reconciliation Organ is a failure. War veterans were particularly critical of the organ and described some of those involved as incompetent.
- SW Radio Africa newsreel asked one of the three Ministers in the 'Organ,' Sekai Holland, if the organ was reluctant to confront the real problem of continued ZANU PF impunity. But Holland said that since the GPA was a compromise agreement, the organ was trying to use strategies for common ground to be found.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 8 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Farm Invading MP Evicted, But Warns He Will Return” by Alex Bell

- The MP behind the invasion of a farm in Somabuhla has been evicted from the property, but warned he would return to take over the land. MP Jabulani Mangena has already led a campaign of intimidation and violence against the legal owners of the land.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 8 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Second Diamond Sale to Be Held in Secret” by Alex Bell

- The second auction of the country's diamonds will be held in secret, after the Mines Ministry announced it would not make the details of the sale public. The ministry argued this was for security reasons.
- KP monitor Abbey Chikane should arrive in Zimbabwe soon to approve a second auction.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated 9 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: I Am Still Fit Enough to Fight Sanctions – Mugabe” by Cris Chinaka

- President Mugabe dismissed rumors of ill-health and said he was ‘still fit enough to fight the sanctions and knock out (my opponents).’
- Mugabe said his government was waiting for western countries to start a dialogue with Zimbabwe in order to improve ties. He added that the goal of the sanctions was to oust Mugabe but that a regime change he would only go if Zimbabweans wanted him to. He also explained that the government was waiting to see if President Obama and British Prime Minister Cameron would be “aggressors” like their predecessors.
- He reiterated the government’s desire to have Zimbabweans control the country’s resources, including 51% shares in foreign-owned firms. He argued that these policies are meant to redress colonial injustice.
- There have been various reports on Mugabe’s health, including rumors of cancer.

(SW Radio Africa, independent Zimbabwean radio, London, UK, dated 9 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Makone, Mohadi Urged to Clarify Involvement in Deportation Plan” by Alex Bell

- Co-Ministers of Home Affairs, Theresa Makone and Kembo Mohadi, are being urged to clarify their involvement in South Africa's plans to resume deporting Zimbabweans. Deportations will begin 31st December.
- A moratorium on Zimbabwean deportations was announced in May last year, at the same time that the South African government announced it intended giving Zimbabweans a special dispensation permit that would assist Zimbabweans in legalizing their situation. However, few Zimbabweans have been helped.
- The Zimbabweans government, in particular Co-Minister of Home Affairs, has apparently endorsed the decision to resume deportations.

(Zimbabwe Independent, private weekly, Harare, article dated 9 September, 2010, in English)

“Zimbabwe: Zanu PF Chefs to Grab Farming Implements” by Brian Chitemba

- Top Zanu-PF officials have agreed to share amongst themselves Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe farming implements stored in Bulawayo and meant for farmers. President Robert Mugabe ordered the decision, saying that implements should benefit those who deserve them. The equipment will be given to Zanu-PF supporters in the area.

- The farm implements were supposed to be auctioned in April by a company that supplied the materials and was not paid by the RBZ, but Mugabe invoked the Presidential Powers Act to stop legal action aimed at auctioning the assets.
- A similar situation already took place in 2007, when a countrywide farm mechanization program led by Gono benefited Mugabe's supporters and security chiefs only, some of whom are not farmers. The equipment has not been used.