Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 15 February, 2010 (6 February– 14 February, 2010)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for Zimbabwe

S-FM radio, operated by state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH), Bulawayo, 0400 GMT February 20, 2010, in English.

- President Mugabe said the a deadlock in the ongoing GPA talks would destroy unity and progress so far made and should therefore not occur. He explained that the sanctions were outstanding issues in the GPA but matters concerning Roy Bennett or the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe should not affect the GPA since these issues are not part of the agreement.
- Mugabe added that the extension of the sanction was an attempt to undermine the inclusive government.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 20, 2010, in English) "'New Sanctions Will Motivate Nation'"

• Commander Lieutenant-Colonel Don Chidavanyika told Zimbabweans to remain united against the sanctions and to be motivated by the extension. He asked the Zimbabwe National Army to be courageous, dedicated and disciplined.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 22, 2010, in English) "President Hails Sino-Govt Ties" by Sydney Kawadza

- President Mugabe hailed Sino-Zimbabwean relations, saying that China had given Zimbabwe tremendous support, including during the liberation struggle.
- Ambassador Shunkang, meanwhile, said Mugabe was an icon to the people of China as his Look East policy had seen positive results.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 22, 2010, in English) "EU Undermining GPA by Tandayi Motsi"

• *The Herald* criticizes the EU reason for extending the sanctions, arguing that a stable economy and political environment had been created. The newspaper agrees with President Mugabe that the EU envies Zimbabwe's resources but that Zimbabwe should use this moment to exploit the country's resources and ignore the sanctions that are hurting the economy.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 23, 2010, in English) "Zuma Blasts Sanctions' Extension"

• South Africa's President said the sanctions were undermining the GPA and criticized those who are skeptical of South Africa's stance on Zimbabwe. He said his country had helped the formation of the GPA and was still working on creating a "conducive environment" that would allow Zimbabweans to conduct elections.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 23, 2010, in English) "'Zanu-PF Ready for U.S. Dialogue'"

• Zanu-PF is said to be ready to engage the US in dialogue in order to improve strained relations. Cde Gumbo said he saw no reason why the US should still condemn the party since progress had been made. He also believes the US's Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act should not be maintained but admitted that the restoration of Zimbabwe's IMF vote was a positive step.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 23, 2010, in English) "Political Violence in Epworth"

SW Radio Africa reports that Zanu-PF members drove a car through the crowd during an MDC-T rally, leaving many injured. The party had been given permission to hold the rally.

- Six Zanu-PF youths have been injured by MDC-T supporters when political violence erupted in Epworth, putting strains on national healing efforts. The Zanu-PF youths were running a firewood project when 60 MDC-T youths attacked them.
- Zanu-PF's Harare provincial chairman Cde Amos Midzi described the act as barbaric and disrespectful of the national healing process championed by the president.
- MDC-T spokesperson blamed Zanu-PF for the violence saying they had disrupted a rally.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 25, 2010, in English) "Sanctions Ultimatum for Tsvangirai"

• Prime Minister Tsvangirai received a petition written by Zanu-PF Harare Provincial Youth League members warning the PM to call for the removal of the sanctions or "risk action from the youths of Zimbabwe." Addressing youths in Harare, Cde Gumbo said they would fight the sanctions until they are removed.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 26, 2010, in English) "Zuma Takes Sanctions War to London"

• Zuma declared the sanctions are "suffocating" the inclusive government and said he would talk to Britain about the issue. He questioned the motives behind the sanctions since they do not seem to have any positive effects. Zuma explained that since an agreement has been made between the MDC and Zanu-PF, the sanctions should be lifted, even if only conditionally

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 26, 2010, in English) "Stay Out of Politics, NGOs Told"

• NGOs have been warned not to meddle in Zimbabwe politics after reports showed that some of them were interfering in the constitution-making process. NGOs were warned that they would "flushed out" of the discriminated citizens and aligned themselves to political parties

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 26, 2010, in English) "Govt, Botswana Row Resolved"

• The row between Zimbabwe and Botswana following the arrest of three armed Botswana rangers has apparently been settled. The two countries are also said to be working on other issues in order to improve relations.