

Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting, 22 February, 2010 (15 February– 21 February, 2009)

by Marie Lamensch, MIGS Reporter for Zimbabwe

S-FM radio, operated by state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH), Bulawayo, 1100 GMT December 17, 2009, in English.

- The EU extended its sanctions against Zimbabwe citing “lack of progress in the implementation of the GPA” and is pushing for the Kimberly Process to investigate diamond trade in Zimbabwe but observers says the move is meant to hold back Zimbabwe’s economic revival. The EU is criticized for claiming that the economic and humanitarian situation in the country has deteriorated in recent months.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 17, 2010, in English)

- The extension of the sanction is deeply linked to allegations that human rights abuses are taking place in Chiadzwa. Britain is criticized for influencing the EU’s decision since it is well aware of the country’s rich mineral resources and the effects diamond trade would have on the economy. Zimbabwe would be “the biggest and most welcome foreign currency earner.” Britain does not have rich resources and therefore called for sanctions to be imposed on Zimbabwe, hiding behind human rights accusations and labeling the diamonds as “conflict diamonds.” The West is perpetrating the idea that Africans are a “barbaric people who must be liberated from that backward state of existence by the good grace of whites.”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 18, 2010, in English)

The Zimbabwe Independent reports that the fight over the control of the diamond fields in the east could erupt into an open conflict involving politicians and businessmen. The fight pits the government, which is working with Mbada Diamond Mining Company, against the London Stock Exchange-listed African Consolidated Resources. Seizures of diamonds and office break-ins have allegedly taken place.

- Two new disputes are threatening the national empowerment agenda and security interests. The first dispute concerns the Mbada diamonds: public hearings are being conducted by the Mines and Energy Portfolio Committee, leading to the publication of defamatory information about the partnership. And there have been widespread reports that Minister Mporofu appointed a sister in law to the board of Mbada, thereby raising the specter of corruption. *The Herald* declares these allegations are false.
- The second issue concerns a campaign led by some members of the inclusive government against the Indigenisation and Empowerment

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 18, 2010, in English)

- President Mugabe called on Zimbabwe to ignore the EU's decision to extend illegal sanctions and to concentrate on exploiting the country's resources instead. He argued that the West always had always worked against the rise of developing countries.
- On the West's efforts to use diamond as part of the embargo, Mugabe says the country will find other markets. The government and Kimberley Process have appointed a South African industrialist to act as monitor to help Zimbabwe conform to KP standards.
- Mugabe criticized those against the Indigenisation and Economic Empowerment Regulations, arguing that these individuals only want to protect the interests of Zimbabwe's enemies.

S-FM radio, operated by state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH), Bulawayo, 0407 GMT December 18, 2009, in English.

- The government believes Iran and Zimbabwe should enhance their bi-lateral relations. An Iranian delegation was recently in Zimbabwe to seek investment opportunities. Cooperation is already taking place in areas of agriculture, oil, trade, and education.
- Iran is also praised for its achievements since the Islamic Revolution.

S-FM radio, operated by state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH), Bulawayo, 0400 GMT December 18, 2009, in English.

This is the first time since independence that ambassadors outside Zanu-PF are appointed by President Mugabe. The appointments were made possible by the GPA.

- President Mugabe appointed five new ambassadors from the MDC formations to represent Zimbabwe in Australia, Senegal, Germany, Nigeria, and Sudan. The ambassadors pledged to work hard to improve relations between Zimbabwe and the host country.

ZBC Power FM, government-owned Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, Gweru, 1102 GMT December 19, 2010, in English.

- The six men accused of plotting to topple President Mugabe are now being accused of trying to escape from prison. The trial should take place next month.

S-FM radio, operated by state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH), Bulawayo, 0403 GMT December 19, 2009, in English.

- Zanu-PF's Secretary for Information and Publicity said the extension of the sanctions is a demonstration of Europe's shamelessness. He believes it is another part of old racist ideologies that view Africans as incapable of making their own decision. He believes the real reasons behind the extension are the land reform programme and EU's attempt to topple the president. He said Zanu-PF would fight the sanctions the same way they fought during the national liberation struggle.

S-FM radio, operated by state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH), Bulawayo, 0400 GMT December 19, 2009, in English.

- President Mugabe and a delegation of US congressmen agreed that a team of Zimbabwean ministers should visit the US to defend their nation's case and should do so more often to improve ties between the two countries. They also agreed that the US Congressional Black Caucus should meet in every year to get an understanding of developments in Zimbabwe in the area of governance.

S-FM radio, operated by state-run Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings (ZBH), Bulawayo, 0405 GMT December 19, 2009, in English.

- The Deputy President of the Senate said the extension of the sanctions is a non-event and that they would be defeated the same way imperialists were defeated in 1980.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 19, 2010, in English)

- Speaking with Commonwealth Local Government Forum Mr. Carl Wright, VP John Nkomo said the sanctions would not force the government to let go of its natural resources. Zanu-PF said the EU's reasons for the sanctions were "spurious, callous, frivolous and without foundation." The party's spokesperson said no one should dare to question the integrity of and capability of African institutions.
- Carl Wright wants to renew ties between Zimbabwe and the Commonwealth.

(The Herald, government-owned daily, article dated February 19, 2010, in English)

- The Sudanese Embassy in Harare criticized the Wes for attempting to undermine the future elections by intimidating voters and pushing them to violence.