

## Zimbabwe Domestic Broadcasting (25 January - 31 January, 2011)

By Zuzia Danielski, MIGS media monitor for Zimbabwe

### State-owned Media

“COPAC data disappears” by Takunda Maodza

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 26 January 2011, in English)

- Data collected from citizens on questions of land, natural resources, and environment during the constitution-making outreach phase has disappeared from computer servers in Harare where it was being stored under 24-hour guard.
- While the circumstances surrounding the technical issue are unclear, the ZANU-PF suspects a computer expert tampered with the data.
- During the collections, there had been reports of MDC-T members trying to ‘sidestep citizens’ contribution on land’, with the two parties often clashing on land reforms. The MDC-T has been accused of trying to protect the white minority’s interests at the black majority’s expense.
- The ZANU-PF is confident the constitution will be completed by June, with the UNDP sending in technical help within the next week and all information being retrieved from original documents.

“MDC seeks to discredit referendum: ZANU-PF”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 27 January 2011, in English)

- The MDC-T is spreading false information, accusing the ZANU-PF of violence ahead of the possible referendum and general elections to be held later this year, party leaders say.
- ZANU-PF Harare Province chairman Cde Amos Midzi said that the party was optimistic about the upcoming polls and didn’t need to ‘resort to violence’, as claimed by MDC-T. Rather the MDC-T know they will not have the outcome they desire and are trying to overturn it before it is even held.
- According to the Global Political Agreement, the inclusive Government ends in February and Mugabe can extend it by six months to allow the constitution time to be completed. Mugabe has said however, elections will most likely be held due to the other side’s insincerity.

“IMF hails Zim efforts”

(The Herald, government-owned daily, 28 January 2011, in English)

- The International Monetary Fund praised Zimbabwe’s efforts to boost economic growth after years of stagnation and the progress the government has made to reduce inflation due to the introduction of the multi-currency system.
- The fund pledged to work with international donors to bring the country back into the global economy which would provide billions of dollars needed to support economic growth.

- There are still has a number of structural weaknesses including price distortions, lack of liquidity and foreign currency for companies to import raw materials.

“President Mugabe in Ethiopia for AU Summit” by Caesar Zvayi in Addis Ababa  
(The Herald, government-owned daily, 28 January 2011, in English)

- Mugabe arrived at the 16<sup>th</sup> Ordinary Session of the African Union General Assembly which will focus on continental unity and integration
- Will be preceded by special summit of AU Peace and Security Council held today, focused on finding solutions to security challenges on the conflict. Zimbabwe was elected into the Council for a three-year term in January 2009.
- Attempts by some groups to address the issue of Zimbabwe during the council were ‘shot down by the AU’ as Zimbabwe was described as stable. AU Commission Secretary Jean Mfasoni said that Zimbabwe was not on the agenda because it is ‘now calm and these days there is no more fear that the situation will degenerate into a crisis’.

“Major blow for COPAC”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 29 January 2011, in English)

- The Constitution Parliamentary Select Committee (COPAC) is broke and says that unless it receives more funds, the next stage of the constitution-making process might fail and delay the referendum.
- The second phase of the constitution, the data-uploading process, has been completed and the team is expected to move to thematic committees.
- The constitution-making process failed to begin on time due to delays in funding by the donor community and government.

“President warns MDC over Mutambara ouster”

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 29 January 2011, in English)

- During a luncheon hosted by Zimbabwe’s Ambassador to Ethiopia, President Mugabe, said that the ousting of Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara has legal implications, and was essentially the decision of Mutambara whether to resign or not. Mugabe said he would accept Mutambara’s decision.
- Mugabe said that the Global Political Agreement was not a permanent structure and Mutambara had been sworn in constitutionally, and therefore it was his personal decision whether to resign.
- The MDC has undergone internal disagreements and the newly elected leader, Welshman Ncube claims he is replacing Mutambara.

“Ibbo Mandaza blasts MDC-T” by Tinashe Farawo

(The Sunday Mail, government-owned daily, 30 January 2011, in English)

- Political analyst Dr. Ibbo Mandaza described the MDC-T, led by PM Tsvangirai as 'weak and fractious', saying it has lost its appeal to Zimbabweans at a policy dialogue organized by the Southern Africa Political and Economic Series.
- Mandaza said that the MDC-T 'demonstrated it was unreliable' and even if Mugabe left the political scene, they would not be a suitable replacement. He added that the West 'preferred a reformed ZANU-PF after realizing that the MDC-T was not a viable option'.
- His opinions were supported by other political analysts who said without doubt, the ZANU-PF would form the next government.

"Police urged to brace for elections"

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 30 January 2011, in English)

- Zimbabwe's Police Deputy Commissioner Godwin Matanga has called on police officers to fully equip themselves to ensure peace prevails 'before, during and after' the upcoming referendum and elections.
- Matanga said police must show patriotism and defend the country's sovereignty, and the population must be aware of 'detractors who masquerade as masters of democracy'.
- The force will undertake training to properly manage relevant situations.

"Factionalism rocks MDC-T"

(Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation, government-owned broadcasting, 31 January 2011, in English)

- Challenges bordering on tribal lines in Matabeleland have hit MDC-T where the region's electorate feels sidelined. Party leader, PM Tsvangirai has attacked the Matabeleland North provincial executive for dividing the party through factionalism.
- Bulwayo East Member of Parliament, Tabitha Khumalo is campaigning to overthrow the party's deputy president Thokozani Khupe who has fallen out of favour within his constituency, as people feel he has not made enough impact.

### Private-owned Media

"200 MDC seek refuge from ZANU PF militia in Mbare", by Irene Madongo

(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 25 January 2011, in English)

- 200 MDC-T members were forced to seek refuge at their party's Harare headquarters after ZANU-PF youth hunted them down in Mbare over the weekend. The Mbare office was attacked and vandalized, with staff assaulted.
- "Traditional leaders forcing villagers to sign anti-sanctions petition", by Tererai Karimakwenda

(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 27 January 2011, in English)

- Villagers in remote areas are being forced to sign a ZANU-PF 'anti-sanction petition', with traditional leaders and soldiers forcing them to add their signature or face violent consequences. Reports have surfaced from Rusape in Manicaland, Gokwe in the Midlands and parts of Masvingo province.
- The campaign is part of ZANU-PF's attempt to get more than a million signatures against the restrictions which have been placed on Mugabe, which he says is part of the West's attempt at regime change in Zimbabwe.

"MDC-T can't stop ZANU PF abuses"

(Zimbabwe Independent, independent weekly, Harare, 27 January 2011, in English)

- The New York-based advocacy group Human Rights Watch has said that MDC-T lacks 'real power' to institute a political agenda that can put an end to human rights abuses in Zimbabwe. In its "World Report 2011" HRW wrote that in its two years in power, the MDC-T has failed to stop or reduce politically motivated prosecutions.
- Shortly after being sworn in, Tsvanigrai in a rally in 2009 pledged to end the political violence plaguing the country.
- HRW also stated that the MDC-T has been unable to properly address Zimbabwe's deficiencies in respect to the Kimberly Process and blood diamonds.

"Johane Masowe church releases dossier on ZANU PF killings", by Lance Guma

(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 31 January 2011, in English)

- The radio station has been supplied with a dossier compiled by members of the Johane Masowe WeChishanu Apostolic Church detailing how their members have been killed, tortured and assaulted by ZANU-PF for the last three years.
- The church is believed to have over a million followers in Zimbabwe and its success has encouraged ZANU-PF to gain supporters among its members.
- The dossier describes how ZANU-PF district leader, Bonas wekuMazonde, tortured and killed Prophet Partric of Machaya in Muzarabani because the party felt he did not open access to the church for the party. The dossier detailed a number of such incidents.

"AU appoints Mugabe to mediate Ivory Coast crisis", by Tichaona Sibanda

(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 31 January 2011, in English)

- President Mugabe has been appointed to sit on the African Union's crisis panel to help mediate the crisis in the Ivory Coast. However outside analysts have serious concerns about Mugabe's involvement.

- Former Zimbabwe diplomat to Ethiopia, Clifford Mashiri said that Mugabe was 'unsuitable for the role' and there would be a conflict of interest as it was a situation surrounding election fraud.
- Earlier in January, Ivory Coast's President Gbagbo had dispatched an envoy to seek advice from Mugabe.

"Tsvangirai justifies Egypt-style uprising for Zimbabwe" by Irene Madongo  
(SW Radio Africa News, independent Zimbabwean radio, London UK, 31 January 2011, in English)

- PM Tsvangirai has told Fox News that it would be understandable if Zimbabweans rose up against autocratic ruler Mugabe following in the footsteps of others in North Africa. He said that 'oppression is resented and people are right to demand their freedom'.

"Mugabe off Ivorian mediation panel" by Faith Zaba in Addis Ababa  
(NewsDay, independent daily, Harare, 31 January 2011, in English)

- President Mugabe will not be sitting on the African Union's mediation panel in the Ivory Coast, contrary to previous media reports.
- A top Zimbabwe diplomat in Ethiopia said that Mugabe was not able to be part of the panel as he had his own elections to organize.

"Tsvangirai accuses Mugabe of causing needless alarm over elections"  
(New Zimbabwe, independent weekly, London UK, 31 January 2011, in English)

- PM Tsvangirai has accused President Mugabe of causing needless 'alarm and despondency' after the President threatened to dissolve parliament and call snap elections.
- Mugabe said last week that he could use his powers under the "old constitution" to call elections. However, the Prime Minister said there is no such thing and that the leaders cannot act exclusively when making executive decisions.
- The last amendment to the constitution in 2009 added clauses from the power-sharing deal between the two politicians ensuring neither could make unilateral decisions without consultation of the other.