

## Zimbabwe Weekly Update 16/2011 – 18 April 2011

---

### Overview

1. **Elections:** 31<sup>st</sup> anniversary of Zimbabwe's Independence – Again: MDC Minister Arrested - Mugabe warns of possible further MDC arrests
  2. **Natural Resources:** Kimberley Process Decides on Resumption of Diamond Export
  3. **Reconstruction:** World Bank urges for Consistency and Competitiveness
- 

## 1. Elections

- In the past, ZEN has reported about increasing arbitrary arrests of civil society activists and politicians as well as of the growing curtailment of public space by the banning of meetings. On the road to the anticipated elections, a next level of tensions in the pre-election and civil society operating environment has been reached by the arrest of the National Healing and Reconciliation co-Minister Moses Mzila-Ndlovu (MDC-N) on 15 April – the second minister after the Minister of Energy, Elton Mangoma (MDC-T), was arrested in March. Mr Mzila-Ndlovu was detained in Lupane on his way to Victoria Falls where he was scheduled to make a presentation on how far the ministry had gone in the process of national healing.
- Meanwhile in his speech to mark Zimbabwe's 31<sup>st</sup> Independence Day, which is celebrated today, President Mugabe warned of more arrests of senior MDC personnel, saying that those who did not respect the law should expect to be arrested. The President also said that the coalition government with the Movement for Democratic Change faced "outright misunderstandings" and that it had missed some of its objectives "here and there". The President appealed for non-violence in what sceptics believe are hypocritical statements to mollify the Southern African Development Community (SADC) over its hardening stance on Zimbabwe.
- Amnesty International in its statement released for Independence Day also deplored the fact that Zimbabweans are celebrating independence "amid fear", citing restrictions on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

## **2. Natural Resources: KP Decision - Resumption of Diamond Exports**

- An agreement on conditions for the resumption of diamond exports from Chiadzwa was reached at a meeting of the Kimberley Process (KP) Working Group on Monitoring Thursday this week in Dubai. The text of the agreement has been given to the KP Chair, who will forward it to the Zimbabwe Government which was not present at the KP meeting. Zimbabwe's Mines Minister Obert Mpofu was in Dubai but did not attend the meeting. He however addressed a meeting of the World Federation of Diamond Bourses which took place in Dubai prior to the WGM meeting. Mpofu reportedly stated Zimbabwe "would not be restricted from selling diamonds, and would not allow that to happen again". Civil society activists continue to deplore these statements, saying that "the KP is lowering its standards to try and appease Zimbabwe....while the situation on the ground is appalling" according to Farai Maguwu of the Centre for Research and Development.

## **3. Reconstruction**

- Speaking at an African Regional Strategy workshop in Harare, the World Bank country manager in Zimbabwe, Nginya Mungai Lenneiye urged the government of Zimbabwe to practice competitiveness and consistency in its national policies before begging for money from the World Bank. He mentioned that "Zimbabwe should produce competitive goods with competitive prices and those goods must be of higher quality". In response to that the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion, Desire Sibanda, urged the World Bank to open lines of credit and assist in infrastructural development noting that competitiveness and quality cannot improve without the infrastructure.
- The Prime Minister condemned the indigenization drive by ZANU (PF) saying that it lacked transparency and lamenting that when ZANU (PF) would talk about indigenization and black economic empowerment: ".....they are not referring to broad-based empowerment of the ordinary man and woman, but the looting and plunder of national resources by a small, parasitic elite."

*-Ends-*