

Zimbabwe Weekly Update 17/2011 – 25 April 2011

Overview

1. **Elections:** Election Road Map & Agreement on Elections in 2011?
 2. **Natural Resources:** Mpofu against KP Monitor & News about Political Land Grab
 3. **Reconstruction:** UNICEF reports shocking annual child mortality rate due to malnutrition
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1. Elections: Election Road Map & Elections in 2011?

- Negotiators of the Global Political Agreement are this week reported to have agreed to an electoral road map that will now be referred to the Principals in the Inclusive Government for discussion. The roadmap is said to dispel the possibility of elections this year, as some of the reforms agreed to cannot take place this year. News reports quote Edwin Mushoriwa, one of the negotiators from the smaller of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) parties saying 'The negotiators have agreed on certain milestones which need to be completed before we go to elections...If we look at the things agreed, it makes it practically impossible to hold elections this year.' Among the things that are supposed to be done is the crafting of a new democratic Constitution, as well as media and other reforms.

2. Natural Resources: Mpofu against KP Monitor & Land Grab

- Mines Minister Obert Mpofu this week rejected the suggestion that Zimbabwe should have another Kimberly Process (KP) Monitor to take over from South African Abbey Chikane. Hon. Mpofu said that Zimbabwe will not accept another person on the grounds that "he is behind plans to frustrate the country to sell its diamonds" adding that it "was a big mistake that we (the Government of Zimbabwe) accepted the Joint Work Plan because not only is it unprocedural but against the principles of the KP." The Minister said that Zimbabwe no longer needs a monitor because it is now fully compliant with the KP standards.



- Press reports this week indicate that five million hectares of Zimbabwe's best agricultural land, or a third of all land seized from white commercial farmers and some black business people over the past 11 years, is in the hands of a political elite in Zimbabwe. In an updated list of land-grabbers this week, the *Daily News* reports that President Robert Mugabe owns 13 farms, covering more than 15 000 hectares, while his deputy, Joyce Mujuru, her husband Solomon Mujuru and a host of their relatives allegedly own at least 22 farms. The Mugabes are reported to own Gushungo Estates (Mazowe), Gushungo Dairies (Mazowe), Iron Mask (Mazowe), Sigaru farm (Mazowe), Gwebi Wood (Mazowe), Gwinha farm (Banket), Leverdale farm (Banket), Highfield farm (Norton), Cressydale farm (Norton), Tankatara farm (Norton), John O'Groat farm (Norton), Clifford farm (Norton), Smithfield Extension (Mazowe) and Bassville farm (Norton).
- Other Mugabe close relatives are reported to own more than 20 farms. The relatives include President Mugabe's sisters and nephews, Leo Mugabe and Patrick Zhuwao. Military top brass commander of the defence forces, Constantine Chiwenga, and Air Marshall Perence Shiri are reported to have two farms each, while Police Commissioner Augustine Chihuri is reported to have one farm. Apparently, Reserve Bank Governor Gideon Gono and Central Intelligence Organisation boss Happyton Bonongwe own farms that they bought. The "only" one outside ZANU (PF) circles to own a grabbed farm is Professor Welshman Ncube, leader of the smaller faction of the MDC.

3. Reconstruction: Shocking report by UNICEF

- A report released this week by UNICEF and the office of the Deputy Prime Minister Thokozani Khupe has shocking statistics regarding the child mortality rate in Zimbabwe. The report, titled "***A Situational Analysis on the Status of Women's and Children's Rights in Zimbabwe, 2005-2010***", shows that up to 12 000 children die of malnutrition each year. The report says that the situation has been exacerbated by food shortages noting that "Rates of chronic malnutrition have increased by nearly 40% since 1994 and, at present trends, will reach critical levels within the next decade."

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