

## Zimbabwe Weekly Update 22/2011 – 30 May 2011

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### Overview

1. **Elections:** **Dispute over who Killed Policeman**
  2. **Natural Resources:** **WCDB Calls for Resumption of Diamond Exports from Marange/Chiadzwa**
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## 1. Elections

- A policeman was been killed in what are alleged to be retaliatory attacks in Harare for the first time in decades. Police Spokesperson Andrew Phiri confirmed that a police officer was killed in Glen View 3, saying that the MDC-T was responsible for his death. Reports indicate that the policeman was stoned and died upon arrival at hospital on Sunday when he and others tried to disperse a group of MDC-T youths from holding a meeting. However, MDC-T Spokesperson and MP for Nyanga North Douglas Mwonzora has refuted these allegations, saying that the police had had a misunderstanding with some patrons in a bar, resulting in the altercation. Hon Mwonzora is quoted saying that “We deny that the policeman was assaulted by members of the MDC. From preliminary reports, police had a misunderstanding with members of the public at a bar which irritated members of the public. It has nothing to do with the MDC”.
- The death of a police officer this week comes amid violence, allegedly perpetrated by vigilante groups close to ZANU (PF), in Mbare. The vigilante groups reportedly led by a certain Chirwa, a mortuary attendant, have allegedly evicted suspected MDC-T supporters and taken over Council houses in the suburbs, leading to the displacements of many. Eyewitnesses have described the situation as resembling “a script out of the South African movie *Jerusalema*”.
- Meanwhile, the Institute for Security Studies based in South Africa has called for a new voters roll before the next elections, while observing that “Zimbabwe’s voter’s roll is beyond redemption and cannot even be used as one of the building blocks in the construction of a new and authoritative voters’ roll. It simply has to be scrapped completely.” In its report, titled “Preventing Electoral Fraud in Zimbabwe” that was handed over to the Zimbabwean Government on Saturday the group noted that there



are 41 119 centenarians on the roll, which is shocking as the UK with a population of over 60 million and a life expectancy 30 years above that of Zimbabwe, has only 10 000 centenarians.

## 2. Natural Resources

- Diamond mining firm De Beers this week said that it had not been formally notified of a Panel of Experts that Mines Minister Obert Mpofu said had been set up to probe allegations that the mining giant smuggled diamonds out of the country. The Minister declared earlier this month that in 2006, De Beers held prospecting rights in Marange and took rough stones without declaring their value to the state. However, De Beers Spokesperson Lynette Gould refuted the claim, saying that "We are confident that should such a panel be convened that they would find absolutely no wrongdoing on the part of De Beers. By way of background, De Beers was prospecting in Zimbabwe for around 10 years until it departed in 2006. It carried out prospecting in the Marange area for only two years, all of which is recorded by the relevant authorities"
- The World Federation of Diamond Bourses (WFDB) this week called upon the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KP) to resolve its internal disagreements in order to enable the resumption of exports of diamonds from Marange/Chiadzwa. WFDB President is quoted this week saying "The KP, due to the deadlock in its decision-making process and its experts' ensuing indecision to allow rough diamond exports from Zimbabwe to resume, is about to cause irreparable damage throughout the entire supply pipeline of our industry and trade, and threatens the livelihood of literally millions of people throughout the international diamond and jewelry sector." The call has however been rejected by civil society organisations, including the South African based Zimbabwe Blood Diamonds Campaign that equated the calls to an attempt to circumvent requirements of the Joint Work Plan agreed to by the KP in Namibia in 2009.

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