

## Zimbabwe Weekly Update 26/2011 – 27 June 2011

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### Overview

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| 1. Elections:         | MDC-T Minister Jameson Timba Arrested, Released and Re-arrested            |
| 2. Natural Resources: | Cabinet Might Investigate Chiadzwa – Disagreement on Content of KP Outcome |
| 3. Reconstruction:    | US Embassy Announces Positive Figures of Trade Relations with Zimbabwe     |
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### 1. Elections:

- ZEN reported last week that propaganda coming out of the state media after the SADC Summit prompted the Movement for Democratic Change, MDC-T's Jameson Timba, who is a Cabinet Minister in Prime Minister Tsvangirai's office, to allegedly call President Mugabe a "liar". Hon Timba, who is also MDC Secretary for International Affairs, was arrested on Friday and taken to several locations, including Matapi and St Marys police stations where he was reportedly refused lawyers, food and blankets. Judge Joseph Musakwa ruled on Sunday that Hon Timba should be freed owing to the fact that his rights had been violated. He is quoted saying that "There was a violation of his rights. He was not informed of the charges he was facing. Therefore, there is no justification for his continued detention".
- However, immediately after his release, Hon Timba was again taken by reportedly "plain clothes security details" and whisked away to an unknown place. Hon Timba's lawyers fear for his safety. His arrest further strains the Inclusive Government. Hon Timba's arrest followed ZANU PF Politburo member and former Minister of Information Johnathan Moyo's call reported earlier in the week for the arrest of Prime Minister Tsvangirai and Hon Timba for allegedly undermining the President in that they continued to refute ZANU PF statements alleging that the SADC Summit overturned the SADC Troika's Livingstone Resolutions.

### 2. Natural Resources:

- Reports this week indicate that the Cabinet might investigate the looting of diamonds taking place in Marange/Chiadzwa. Reports indicate that Mines Minister, Obert Mpofu could also be

the subject of such an inquiry as he has reportedly irregularly awarded licences to 28 companies through the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe. Most of the companies are said not to have equipment for polishing and cutting diamonds, although they have been issued with licences to do so. Some are said not to have offices. It is reported that the discovery of illegalities motivated the Minister to cancel some of the licences.

- Unnamed sources quoted this week indicate that the diamonds would be grossly undervalued when they were sold to the companies that were given the licences irregularly and that they would then be sold for a very high value after being smuggled to countries such as Lebanon, Dubai and India. Although there were guidelines for the sale of diamonds under the Procedures for Diamond Sales for Export, it is reported that Mines Minister removed these guidelines and introduced a new system called the “Referred Negotiated Sales System” under which the diamonds are now allegedly being looted.
- Meanwhile, the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KP) concluded its intersessional meeting in Kinshasa Thursday this week amid conflicting reports regarding the outcome on Zimbabwe. While the DRC chair say that the KP gave Zimbabwe the green light to resume the exports of the diamonds, the United States and others maintains that there was no consensus, which would have given legitimacy to any decision arrived as. In a statement released by the US State Department spokesperson Victoria Nuland is quoted, "the Kinshasa Intersessional did not reach a consensus text. The Chair has circulated a text to participants which did not attract consensus."

### **3. Reconstruction:**

- Trade relations between Zimbabwe and the United States continue to improve despite the existence of targeted measures between the 2 countries, according to the US Embassy in Zimbabwe: In 2009, total annual bilateral trade volume stood at US\$107.6 million, in 2010 US\$126.5 million, while the first 4 months of 2011 saw a total of US\$24.6 million.

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