

## Zimbabwe Weekly Update 27/2011 – 4 July 2011

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### Overview

1. **Elections:** Agreement of Negotiators on Election Road-Map – Elections in Fall 2012
  2. **Natural Resources:** Continuing Disagreement on Content of KP Outcome – Resumption of Sales
  3. **International Relations:** Friends of Zimbabwe Meeting – Real Progress in Democratization Needed
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### 1. Elections:

- Reports indicate that the 6 negotiators from ZANU PF and both formations of the Movement for Democratic Change have reached a unanimous agreement to hold elections in August or September 2012. The negotiators are expected to meet on Wednesday to sign the roadmap, but allegedly the contentious issue of a reform of the security sector has not been agreed on, yet. Concurrence seems to exist on the holding of the elections after a Constitutional Referendum.
- Although the Minister of Constitutional Affairs has said that a new Constitution should be out by September 2011, the exercise has stalled. Reportedly, the Select Committee of Parliament on the New Constitution (COPAC) explains the delay with lack of funding. Reports also indicate that there also have been disagreements regarding whether to use qualitative or quantitative methods to capture the opinions gathered from the outreach.

### 2. Natural Resources:

- According to reports Zimbabwean rough diamonds worth about 160 million dollars, which were mined from the Marange fields and were confiscated in November in Dubai, have been released for sale. Mines Minister Obert Mpfu is quoted: 'We still have hurdles to jump before it is a smooth sailing. We notice that it has not sunk (in) to America that it lost its efforts to have our diamonds off the world market.'

- Meanwhile, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, who was reportedly expected to meet villagers from Chiadzwa this week, was allegedly barred from visiting the villagers. His Spokesperson, Luke Tamborinyoka has however refuted these allegations.
- Finance Minister and MDC Secretary General Tendai Biti this week denied that he was refusing to pay civil servants more on their salaries despite having received money from the sale of diamonds. In an interview this week, the Minister said that he last received money from diamond sales last year. Mines Minister Obert Mpofu reportedly stated that “because of the hurtful and debilitating effect of the sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe and the determination of [the US Treasury] to seize all diamond revenue, our efforts to secure receipt of diamond sales revenue into Zimbabwe continue to be impeded.” Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai is quoted as having said: “Where are all the proceeds going? Who is pocketing the proceeds from our national resources which must benefit all Zimbabweans in their diversity.”

### **3. International Relations:**

- On 28 June 2011 the European External Action Service hosted a meeting of the main donors to Zimbabwe: The “Friends of Zimbabwe” group, in Brussels. In a Communiqué the group of countries and organisations reiterated its “continued commitment and support for a prosperous and democratic Zimbabwe”. The group welcomed the conclusions of the SADC Extraordinary Summit held in Sandton in June. The group stressed that it was standing “ready to review and adjust, as appropriate, the full range of our efforts and policies in response to real progress in the democratization process.” But serious concerns remained due to disregard of human rights and the lack of the rule of law and governance.

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