

Zimbabwe Weekly Update 40/2011 – 26 September - 2 October 2011

Overview

1. **Elections:** COPAC Chairman Confirms That First Draft of Constitution Will Be Reviewed By An All Stakeholders Conference – ZEC Calls For US\$ 88 Million For Referendum
 2. **Natural Resources:** Out of Concern on KPCS's Stance on Zimbabwe NGOs Will Boycott Plenary
 3. **Reconstruction:** Who Owns Indiginisation? Kasuakwere: ZANU-PF Tsvangirai: All Parties
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1. Elections:

- As reported last week, the Constitutional Select Committee (COPAC) Thematic Committees' compilation of district and provincial reports has been completed. This week, Munyaradzi Paul Mangwana (ZANU-PF), COPAC Chairman, reportedly confirmed that a team of three specialist lawyers would begin work on a draft shortly. The first draft, would be reviewed by an "all stakeholders' conference" where amendments could be suggested.
- State media reported this week that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) estimates that US\$ 88 million have to be raised to hold a referendum on a new constitution. Joyce Kazembe, ZEC's Acting Chair, was quoted as saying: "The referendum needs money as an enabling resource and we are talking of over US\$ 88 million for the whole process. As much as we welcome support from various stakeholders, the funding of an election or referendum is the responsibility of the State. We cannot let anyone fund any electoral process because we would be undermining our own sovereignty."
- Innocent Gonese, Chief Whip of the Movement for Democratic change (MDC-T), has steered a new notice to introduce the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) Amendment Bill in this Parliamentary session. Thereby Mr. Gonese reanimates the Bill after President Mugabe did not mention it as being on the legislative agenda in his opening address of the Fourth Session of Parliament. In the previous legislative session, Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Patrick Chinamasa (ZANU-PF) blocked an initiative to bring the proposed legislation before the Senate on grounds that the matter was before the Global Political Agreement (GPA) negotiators. Reportedly, Minister Chinamasa said this week that Gonese's latest move would suffer the same

fate since a meeting on the issues had not taken place by the GPA negotiators: “The senate will shoot down Gonese again. What Gonese does not understand is that what was agreed by the negotiators cannot be undone unilaterally.” Commenting on the issue, Priscilla Misihairabwi-Mushonga (MDC) is quoted: “We have not come up with a date to meet as negotiators, but we will meet to attend to unfinished business.”

2. Natural Resources

- Civil society members of the Kimberley Process Certification Scheme (KPCS) have announced this week that they will boycott next month's KPCS's critical plenary session. The NGOs do not agree that amongst other the KPCS's Chairperson Mathieu Yamba is trying to give Zimbabwe a green light to sell diamonds despite continued human rights abuses, corruption and strong opposition by powerful KPCS members including the US, Canada and the EU. Partnership Africa Canada (PAC) and Global Witness state: "We have grave concerns about the ability of the Kimberley Process to respond effectively to situations where diamonds are fuelling armed violence and gross human rights violations. We remain particularly concerned that this plenary will likely end all meaningful oversight of (Chiadzwa) Marange, despite ongoing and credible concerns about its compliance and cooperation with the KP in meeting minimum standards."

3. Reconstruction

- This week, Youth, Indiginisation and Empowerment Minister Saviour Kasukuwere reportedly said that the indiginisation program will benefit mostly ZANU-PF supporters since “The MDC has refused to embrace indiginisation [] They have said they are not interested in taking companies from their white owners, so they won't benefit from the indiginisation drive. So our people, our Zanu PF supporters will benefit and become empowered through this programme.” Prime Minister Tsvangirai reportedly commented on the Minister's decision to be partisan over indiginisation: “I am surprised. I thought this was a government policy and this government also has other parties. There is sometimes ignorance that it's no longer a Zanu PF government but a new dispensation. I thought it was a genuine programme to uplift the majority of Zimbabweans from poverty.”

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