

Zimbabwe Weekly Update 42/2011 – 10–16 October 2011

Overview

1. **Election Environment:** - Chinamasa Rejects Recommendations Made During UN Universal Peer Review on Zimbabwe Which Allege Human Rights Violations in the Country
 2. **Reconstruction:** - Prime Minister Tsvangirai Meets Archbishop; Acknowledges Problems of Anglican Church
- High Court Rulings against the Seizure of Anglican Church Buildings and Evictions of Staff
 3. **Natural Resources:** - Kasukuwere: 90% of Mining House Proposals Do Not Meet Requirements
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1. Election Environment:

- Last week the MDC-T publicly denounced the report to be presented by Minister of Justice Patrick Chinamasa, (ZANU pf) to the UN Universal Periodic Review as not being representative of the full Government of Zimbabwe. Despite this, Mr. Chinamasa presented the criticized report in the name of Zimbabwe in Geneva last week.
- During the interactive dialogue 177 recommendations were made to Zimbabwe by 55 delegations. After adoption of the Draft Report of the Working Group of the Universal Peer Review on Zimbabwe, the Minister accepted 81 recommendations, rejected 67 and promised “to give due consideration” to 31 recommendations. The Minister highlighted that all recommendations were rejected “that contain innuendos that Zimbabwe is a violator of human rights.” The Minister stressed that the recommendations by the “Western group are very paternalistic and condescending as they are made in bad faith as if Zimbabwe is a colony”. The West was still thwarting human rights efforts via the “regime change agenda”. POSA and AIPPA were “there to stay. These pieces do not violate any fundamental freedoms []”. Pointing to the targeted measures of the EU, the Minister stated that the Illegal economic sanctions were not only causing “untold suffering and violated the people of Zimbabwe” but they were also retarding the full implementation of the Global Political Agreement. Commenting on recommendations calling for security sector reform, the Minister said: “Zimbabwe will not even entertain the recommendation. Reform for who? For what? How dare they recommend that to those who fought against colonialism and all its ugliness.”

2. Reconstruction

- After meeting the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams, this week, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai reportedly said that government has ordered a stop to the takeover of Anglican churches and mission schools by the ex-communicated Anglican Bishop Nolbert Kunonga: “We discussed the problem the Anglican Church is facing in the country, we want a solution to be found and we agreed in cabinet that the state through the police had to take action to ensure that there is peace in the church. People are suffering needlessly. We all went to the mission schools including politicians from ZANU PF and it is very unfortunate that we let these institutions be destroyed by an individual. We want this problem to come to an end.” Archbishop Williams is quoted as saying: “The Anglican Church needs to be protected by the law and this is what President Mugabe and the Prime Minister have assured me in my discussions with them, today. What is happening here is very sad and we hope that it shall end.”
- This week, reportedly the High Court ruled in two cases against the seizure of Anglican Church buildings and evictions of staff by Nolbert Kunonga.

3. Natural Resources

- Minister for Youth, Indiginisation and Empowerment, Saviour Kasukuwere (ZANU-PF) reportedly said that there was still resistance to implement the indigenisation and economic empowerment initiative – especially in the mining sector: “The general trend of submitted plans shows a level of resistance in moving away from the proposal by the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe. The mining businesses are offering to dispose of 26 to 30% as equity on commercial value. The balance is to be claimed as empowerment credits for corporate social responsibility programmes. It appears this approach has been agreed to and coordinated under the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe”. Reportedly, Mr. Kasukuwere’s overall assessment is that over 90% of the submitted proposals do not meet the minimum requirements of the General Notice 114 of 2011. He would meet with various mining houses “to achieve agreement on compliance with the law.”
- Minister Kasukuwere reportedly also announced that Murowa Dianonds has agreed to surrender a 51% stake in view of the governmental indigenisation and economic empowerment initiatives.

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