



Zimbabwe Weekly Update 19/2011 – Monday 9 May 2011

Overview

1. Elections: Negotiators to the Global Political Agreement met in Cape Town (SA)
 2. Natural Resources: Iran-Zimbabwe relationship over uranium ore likely to develop
 3. International Relations: SADC negotiators call for the lifting of targeted measures
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1. Electoral Preparations

- Negotiators to the Global Political Agreement met this week in Cape Town, South Africa ahead of the Extra-ordinary SADC meeting on Zimbabwe expected to take place on 20 May 2011. Reportedly, South African President Zuma's international relations advisor, Lindiwe Zulu, highlighted that the agenda of the meeting was the review of the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) and finalising the roadmap to elections. Lindiwe Zulu expressed optimism on the progress made so far. She stressed however that there were some unresolved issues amongst the political parties. She is further quoted ruling out the possibility of elections this year, citing the need to strengthen institutions and creation of an enabling political environment prior to elections.
- Calls for the diaspora vote increased this week with the MDC-T, MDC-N and ZAPU adding their voices to the need for restoring the franchise for over 3 million Zimbabweans in the diaspora. In a statement, the MDC-T argued that "...there can never be any justification for official discrimination against citizens in the diaspora" while the National Spokesperson of MDC-N said that "It is important to deal with the diaspora because they are a part of the nation and should be included in the reconstruction of the country's government" The calls follow statements by the Minister of Defence, ZANU (PF)'s Secretary for Legal Affairs, Emmerson Mnangagwa this week stating that there will be no diaspora vote until restrictive measures against Zimbabwe are lifted. Zimbabwe Exiles Forum also welcomed the position taken by a majority of political parties, saying that the diaspora vote cannot be made conditional on the targeted measures because it is a right that accrues to all Zimbabweans.



- Meanwhile, Minister of State for Presidential Affairs, Didymas Mutasa, ZANU-PF, had to be escorted by South Africa police from Hillbrow Theatre in Johannesburg where he attempted to address a rally on “anti-sanctions”. In a rare show of unity, supporters of the MDC-T, MDC-N, ZAPU and the Mthwakazi Liberation Front (MLF) confronted the Minister, disrupted his speech and almost assaulted him. These supporters wanted the Minister to address the dire human rights situation in Zimbabwe and the Gukurahundi genocide.
- It is alleged that the Ministry of Information has been recruited to solicit signatures for the anti-sanctions campaign at the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF)

2. Natural Resources

- Noting press reports that a British national has been proposed by the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme (KP) to take over as the Zimbabwe Monitor after Abbey Chikane, ZEN has been reliably informed that this is not correct. We have been informed that the person proposed to the KP is not a British national.
- The possibility for an Iran-Zimbabwe relationship over uranium has been reported. Avi Jorisch, President of Red Cell Intelligence Group in the USA, cited intelligence reports that were allegedly leaked by the U.N. International Atomic Energy Agency. The report highlighted Zimbabwe as “the most promising source” (from a list which included Nigeria, Congo and Senegal) where Iran can get uranium to develop a suspected nuclear weapons programme.

3. International Relations

- South African President Zuma’s International Advisor this week confirmed that negotiators from SADC had visited Washington, London and Brussels to try to remove the targeted measures on Zimbabwe. In press interviews this week, she was quoted saying

“The word we came back with from almost all was, 'We are not inflexible to the discussion about the lifting of sanctions.' What does that mean? They are not saying, 'We shall not lift sanctions.' They are now saying, 'Let us talk’.