

## JANUARY 2010

### Sun 3

Headline - *'Mugabe can jail me and steal my farm, but he will never break me'* says Roy Bennet MDC MP who, freed on bail (qv 15/10) on treason charges, will have his day in the Harare high court on 12/1.

The case hangs on the evidence of M Hutchinson, aged 49 and having served 2 years in jail for admitting hoarding weapons on his farm. In a 2008 police statement he will give evidence that this was given after a prolonged beating and threats that his wife and child would be harmed if he did not sign one of five statements - only one of which implicated the deputy minister of farming was involved in an act that broke the Public Security and Security Act. - **OBS page 30 C1** -

## FEBRUARY 2010

### Sun 14

Headline - MDC calls for early elections in Zimbabwe - with the bet time, to show that the region is determined to continue to strive for peace, being before its southern neighbour hosts the World Cup which begins on 11/6.

Although the signs at this moment in time are not giving out this message, talks to extend the on going this interim administration brought about by the Harare Accord ended in deadlock, the media spotlight on the region in the coming months has the MDC's leader believing that such an event could tip the balance in his favour.

In the eyes of the countries finance minister, Tendi Biti, Zanu PF's disregard for the needs of its people. If the president, and his followers, continue along this path it would be saying "Zanu PF cannot continue to urinate on us. They have no right to abuse Zimbabweans." - OBS page 41 C1

### Sun 28

Headline - Mugabe celebrates 86th birthday with lavish party - as, according to Delma Lupepe, a leading member of the Zanu PF party says "we have to celebrate our leader, who is now 86. How many people reach that age?"

It is estimated that the celebrations, which cost \$300, 000, were fully funded by party members. The Chinese embassy gave Mugabe a cake the size of a large television set. - OBS page 11 C 2

## MARCH

### Mon 1

Programme - Zimbabwe's Forgotten Children, BBC4 21. 30 - 22. 30 Shot entirely undercover, this moving film follows the lives of three children as they struggle to survive in a country ravaged by economic difficulties. It also meets an African filmmaker who tells the story of how quickly a society can fall apart. Stored on Zimbabwe Disk 1 -

Thurs 4

Headline - Zuma's right on Zimbabwe - Continued European Union sanctions, against notable Zanu PF members and president Mugabe as argued by president Zuma (qv 3/3) "would give Zimbabwe an opportunity to move forward" it was said recently. With international sanctions in place it can be argued, by one half of the unity government that the other side is at an unfair advantage and lead to accusations that the MDC is in 'cahoots with imperialist western states.'

"Few, if any African countries look up to the EU and the west generally as champions of human rights and democracy. It is time to start listening and taking our cue from leaders like Zuma who are far more engaged with the region and better placed to bring about free and fair elections in Zimbabwe." - B M Tendi researcher and writer - GDN page 35 C 5 -

News report Legislation has been passed in the Harare parliament that follows the example of the Mugabe doctrine of 'Africanisation' of the countries resources. As with the farming industry, so with the local and international businesses that are located on the land.

It would seem that an Empowerment Act is calling for 10% of all businesses be handed over and run by Zimbabwe nationals. Although a Zanu PF sponsored move a spokesman for the MDC does not see the proposals being unchanged before - and if - they become law. - Radio 4 22. 00 -

Sun 7

Programme notes (qv 1/3) 1 :7 people HIV+ve and 1:5 child mortality rate before the age of five years. Cost of education - US\$10/ year. Salvaged bottles sold 10 for one US dollar. Cholera deaths 4, 000 +. In one school of 1, 000 primary school pupils 889 were sent home for want of payment.

Tues 9

Letter, Brenden Barber General Secretary TUC points out that despite the plea (qv 4/3) repressive actions against members of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions is still occurring. Reports reach London that within the last four weeks "the leader of the rural workers union, Gertrude Hambira was forced to flee to South Africa. Two of her colleagues were arrested. Their crime was to reveal the extent of farm invasions." In the writers opinion the last thing the Zimbabwe people need is to let these people off the hook - GDN page 31 -

Sat 27

Headline - Mugabe's anti gay stance backed by prime Minister - as moves are made to have written into a new constitution a clause that would allow homosexual practices be given the same legal citizenship rights as those practiced by a man and a woman.

As the country belatedly celebrated International Women's Day, which was on 8/3, Mugabe repeated his opposition to rights for gays, who he called 'worse than pigs.' Mr Tsvangaria said that he agreed with the president's stance.

There is only one near neighbour country on the whole of the African continent - South Africa - with equal rights for gays written into their constitution. - The Times page 53 C6 -

## APRIL

Tues 13

Obituary Abel T Muzorewa 14. 4. 1925 - 8. 4. 2010 with the British government in disarray, as Ian Smith had declared UDI in 1965, it was not until 1972 that the Bishop was able to plead the case, successfully, for the black majority before the London sent Pearce Commission as the British government refused to grant Smith his wish of an independent Rhodesia.

For this apparent victory the cleric was sent into exile, in neighbouring Mozambique, from whence he returned - mobbed by a crowd of 100, 000 - in 1976. The struggle moved on to Geneva for an all Zimbabwean independence conference where his United African National Council [UNAC] party took on a more heavyweight persona. With such luminaries as J Chikerema. G Nyandoro and the soon to be chief justice E Dumbushena. From Ghana, through an appeal for gladly given funds senior judge R H Benjamin became constitutional adviser. Media relations were handled by C Duodu.

A failed conference led to a rethink on strategy in Ghana, much of which was put down to the Bishop's poor hold over the UNAC delegates. By 1978 he had agreed to an 'internal settlement' with the whites. Even with a black prime minister there was no let up in the guerilla war that engulfed the country.

At the 1979 Lancaster House all party conference Rhodesia emerged from its long struggle to gain freedom from Britain. However so little did the majority think of the work of the cleric turned politician that there were only three seats for United African National Council.

Born in Umtali/ Mutare and eldest of nine children. Education village mission school then Old Umtali Methodist boarding school. Went into teaching in 1939, seminaries at home and America. It was in 'the land of the free' that he gained a masters degree at Scarrit College for Christian Workers Nashville in Tennessee.

In 1951 he had married M Chigadora, the mother of his five children. Back from

overseas in 1953 to preaching and political work did not stop his appointment as the country's first black Bishop in 1958. - GDN page 34 C 1 -

Wed 14

Headline - Unwanted : job as hangman in Zimbabwe jail - to be more precise the maximum security Chikurubi Prison in Harare. The post, which has been vacant for the past five years, was last held by a man from Malawi.

According to sources even with a 94% unemployment rate and 50 men awaiting the noose there is little chance of having this unnamed man return to his position. GDN page 24 C3

Thurs 15

Headline - Mugabe inflames the Afro - pessimists, but Zimbabwe's story is much deeper - as all around signs that after 30 years of self rule in the first 20 of those much was gained by both black and whites who remained after the bloody civil war that killed thousands.

Education has proved a big winner, even as of this time, those out of school age are rushing out of hours to extra learning classes. Education of females, which is so poor in many other countries all over the continent, which has empowered them and led to an equality - between man and women - uncommon in the rest of rural Africa.

Disregarding the recent election turmoils the ethnic groups - white, Shona or Ndebele have not tried to create a dominance over aspects of life in Zimbabwe - author of short stories - in this diararists possession - P Grappah, GDN page 38 C3 -

Fri 16

Headline - UK investors buy into Zimbabwe - through the London based African Century which is only two years old. Co founded by J Chenevix - Trench who previously was employed by the investment bank Morgan Stanley. One of the investment groups first purchases was a 25% stake in one of the country's largest financial services companies, NMBZ. at a cost of £3.16m /\$4.9m for which 2 seats on the board were given up.

The first moves, for the new board members, will be to travel throughout the country seeking out sources of funding which will, in time get the businesses of Zimbabwe up and running again. "If Zimbabwe is to recover you have to have the agriculture and mining industries to get going again. They desperately need credit." The British purchase is seen to comply with the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe's requirement that commercial banks, as part of NMBZ, should have at least \$12.5m capital. - GDN page 34 C5 -

Sat 17

Headline - Stop the big brother act, Machel tells Britain and leave her former colonies to work out their own way of conducting every day life in the country. In the

words of the former first lady of Mozambique - now the wife of Nelson Mandela -  
“When a nation is independent there is no big brother. They are partners. Part of the reason why Britain finds it difficult to accept Zimbabwe is precisely because of the relationship of a big brother is influencing [efforts] to understand.”

Speaking, from her home in Johannesburg the ‘first lady of South Africa’ indicates that the louder the British complain the more the Harare government will believe that all we want is to interfere in the running of a ‘free and independent Zimbabwe - GDN page 24 C 1 -

Headline - Liberator and tyrant: wrecked hopes of the Mugabe years - as recounted by those who were with the Zanu leader during the civil war - Simba Makoni and the then exiled David Coulter who is now the MDC MP and education minister in the coalition government - ditto page 25 C1 -

Sun 18

Headline - World Cup warm up faces protest threat - with money to be made, from their proximity to South Africa Mugabe’s government have offered training facilities to a qualifying team whose soldiers - in the mid 1980’s - caused havoc among the non Mugabe supporters of Zimbabwe.

This time North Korea, with a training base in Matebeleland - where the actions of soldiers from Battalion 32 mostly destroyed Joshua Nkomo’s political base, which resulted in the situation of Mugabe having sole rule for the next 20 years - the national team is preparing to do battle in Group 3.

Based in Bulawayo, if Efe Ncube has his way, there stay - from 25/5 will be dogged by human rights protesters who are still angry at the 20, 000 plus who dies two decades ago. - OBS, Sport page 20 C 2 -  
Mon 19

Headline - Mugabe rejects violence as Zimbabwe turns 30 - In the revamped, closed for three years of repairs by Chinese engineers, Highfields Harare stadium president Mugabe spoke out against Britain, the USA and the international community who still maintain economic and travel sanctions in place against party members. Whilst the criticisms were not at their most strident this time round there was a call for an end to the political violence that has been part of life since before, during and after the 2008 elections.

Previously the Movement for Democratic Change has revealed that 253 people and more than 200, 000 were uprooted in election related violence in 2008. - GDN page 16 C 1-

Fri 23

Headline - Ahmadinejad flies in to meet new friend Mugabe - at the beginning of a state visit. As the Iranian president is viewed, by the rest of the international community as the leader of a pariah state the two should go well together.

Such is the abhorrence that the co unity government member - prime minister Tsvangaria - that he and his Movement for Democratic Change party will have nothing to do with the two leaders as they go about their business.

As a man with an image problem to repair president Mugabe is going the wrong way about it, as in the last 30 years since independence the Zanu PF ruler has invited various unsavoury characters into the country. - GDN page 27 C1 -

MAY

Sat 1

Headline - Zimbabwe plan to host North Korea squad sparks row - as predicted (qv 18/4). With their planned two match training schedule in Bulawayo, the main city in Matebeleland, campaigners have threatened to target the teams hotel and the matches themselves.

Speaking, as one who lost a father, during the reign of terror of the North Korean military, Max Mkandla of the Liberation Peace Initiative, says "we don't want anything from Korea because that reminds us what they did , training the locals to slaughter the people of Matebeleland."

As of this time, according to Zimbabwe's sports minister, D Coltart, the dates for the teams visit had still to be confirmed and it was important that it was dealt with in a sensitive way. However the minister indicated that it was not right to 'attack young players for what happened 27 years ago. - GDN page 28 C 3 -

Wed 5

Headline - Zimbabwe crime victims drive accused to court - if they want to see justice done as the countries prison service has, according to spokeswoman Pricilla Mtembo, run out of the ability to service the courts in the capital in Harare. All prison vehicles are off the road.

As of this time victims who need swift justice can offer to transport the culprit, along with the security of prison guards, too and from the courts.

Such are the privations felt by Zimbabwe's schools and hospitals the efficiency of the prison service has been hit by the hyper inflation rife in the country. It must be noted that as conditions for inmates have deteriorated because of shortages of food and dirty cells it is estimated that 1,000 prisoners over the countries 42 prisons died in 1 - 6/09. - GDN page 26 C1 -

Mon 10

Headline - MDC politician in court on'trumped up' charges - makes an unusual offer as he faces being informed, after being returned to jail on 15/10, if the courts throw out charges of insurgency, sabotage, banditry or terrorism. If he was to be tried on any of these charges Roy Bennet (qv) could face the death penalty. The Opposition

party's treasurer has offered to stand down as an MP and thus trigger a by election, which the MDC would like as not win, as he was popular in his constituency.

Looking at the situation, from the point of view of Mugabe and Zanu PF the longer Bennet is away from parliament, whether as a defendant in a trial or just sitting in a jail cell, the more influence the party has in the running of the country. - GDN page 22 C 5 -

Tues 11

Headline - Mugabe opponent Roy Bennet acquitted of terrorism charges in the high court in Harare. Much as it would suit Zanu PF MPs in parliament the have a coalition party looses out on a vote if the MDC representative for Matebeleland was jailed high court judge Chinembiri Bhuna had other ideas.

After listening, to already tainted evidence, from an arms dealer who confessed - under torture by the authorities - all charges were dismissed. He also ruled that, e mails purporting to come from Bennet to the arms dealer, were genuine. - GDN page 24 C 2 -

Fri 14

Headline - Welfare fears as Mugabe sends 'ark' to North Korea and its honoured leader Kim Jong - il. Among the 'gifted animals will be a pair of 18 month old elephants who are, in the opinion of J Rodrigues head of NGO the Conservation Task Force of Zimbabwe, too young to be separated from there mother living in the Hwange national park. Other residents of the countries largest game reserve destined for relocation are pairs of giraffes, zebras and other native African animals.

The game ranger has called on the international community of wildlife experts to mount a campaign to put pressure on the Harare government to stop this shipment. Previous exports of wild animals from Zimbabwe are known to have ended in disaster. In the 1980's two rhino's were gifted to North Korea. Within a few months the male and female animal were dead as the conditions in the Seoul zoo were of a poor standard. - GDN page 27 - C5 -

Radio report - in the words of R Dowling of the African Institute in London who had an encounter while attending a conference in Tanzania. The uninvited guest was president Mugabe, who mad a well received speech. As he was leaving the conference hall he stumbled across this teller of tales.

Words spoken by the eighty four year old implied that he was 'tired by this long running conflict with Britain.' It would seem that the long running dispute, with the British government stems from the promise of money - to pay white farmers to leave their land - agreed at the 1980 Lancaster House Conference which was not topped up when he and the Labour prime minister Blair met at a conference in the late 1990's. The World Tonight, Radio 4 22. 00 - 22. 30 -

Tues 25

Headline - Gay rights pair held in Zimbabwe for displaying a letter from W L Brown a former mayor of San Fransisco in which he complained about the countries anti gay policy. The missive went on public view after being nailed up outside the offices by members of the Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe organisation.

Two officials, E Chadehama aged 34 and I Mhambi aged 38 were arrested on 21/5, not for being homosexual rather they were accused of ‘undermining the authority of the president.’ - GDN page 20 C 4 -

JUNE

Thurs 3

Headline - Brazil win - but Mugabe scores World Cup coup - as the Fifa ranked third most successful football club stops of for a match with the 110th before travelling south for a more serious set of matches.

Playing before an exuberant crowd of 60, 000 Zimbabwe Warrior supporters - each paying between \$10 - \$60 for a place in a crumbling stadium saw their team keep a clean sheet. After missing an open goal in the 19th minuet, their opponents scored in the 40th.

As to those who criticised the costs involved when the country was in such an economic mess the Zimbabwe tourism minister, W Mzembi, made assurances the Brazillian Football Federation had only received 30% of government money. The remaining 70%, of the £1.2m/ \$1.8m had come from a mining and a mobile phone company. - GDN page 23 C 1 -

Sat 5

Headline - New independent paper is first for seven years - and is called NewsDay. The first edition hit the streets on 4/6 with the aim of providing a counterpoint to the state media which is pathologically loyal to president Mugabe. The publisher, Trevor Ncube, said thee paper will not fall prey to “hate divisiveness, abhorrent propaganda and personality cults.”

This new journalistic enterprise was only possible after a new media licensing authority was formed by the coalition government. This new media outlet will, in the fullness of time, have two other daily newspapers seeking readers.

The last last independent daily newspaper was closed down in 2003 (qv 13/9) as it was far to critical of the activities of the government of the time. - GDN page 30 C 5

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Wed 9

Headline - At last Zimbabwe gets an independent daily newspaper - which has to compete with the still all powerful Herald newspaper. NewsDay (qv 5/6) will be edited by Vincent Kahiya and will toe no party line. There will be equal criticism of both Zanu PF and the MDC if there actions merit it. A a daily print run of 20, 000 -



selling from 7/6 - for US\$ 0.50 or R5 from vendors along major highways. -  
Shortcuts, G 2 page 2 -

Thurs 10

In praise of Trevor Ncube as the addition of a new independent newspaper NewsDay, is added to his already large newspaper empire. Born in Bulawayo and a journalist who rose to own a major share of South Africa's Mail and Guardian, now does battle back home. One stick patch recently, journalist giving away copies of NewsDay were arrested, and then released by police on the grounds that they were obstructing traffic - GDN page 32 C 1 -

Sun 27

Headline - Zimbabwe's street children belie image of change - as post unity government, and the end to trillion dollar inflation, Operation Murambatsivana in 2009 (qv) - the destruction of shanty homes on the outskirts of Harare - is still having an adverse effect on the nations poor black children.

To the man in the street, the effects of the unity government has been nullified to a certain extent by the inactivity of the Movement of Democratic Change element. There are even wide spread rumours, denied by the party but believed by the masses that Mugbe's patronage extends to awarding MDC ministers farm land seized from the previous white owners.

A second happening is the growing cross tribal support, in Matebeleland, for the politics of the late Joshua Nkomo's Zimbabwe African Peoples Union [Zapu]. - OBS page 26 C1 -

One way out of the economic hardship that the country endures would be helped if the rich diamond fields located in Marange. However to be sold legally on the open market they have to gain a certificate as part of the so called Kimberly Processing Scheme which its backers claim excludes those mined in inhuman or dangerous conditions.

Executives of the Scheme, meeting in Tel Aviv, have within the last seven days turned down Harare's plea for inclusion. The executive board have decided that Zimbabwe must stay suspended as there are too many deaths and human rights abuses of workers in the diamond field.

It is estimated that the value of precious stones, when sold on the open market, could bring as much as \$1bn to the countries exchequer. - ditto page 40 C 1 -

JULY

Sun 4

Headline - From 'death sentence' to leader of battle against Aids has become the life

commitment says widowed Litta Zharare who, as a 38 year old, living in Harare with three children, thought about committing suicide when told that she was HIV + ve. All this changed with the assistance of the Positive Initiative Trust, who used the notion of football helps infected persons to lead full and positive lives despite their medical problems

Such was she inspired, to rid the public of their fear when being near infected people, that a formation of the Stigma Eradicators football team ensued. As a peer educator in Epworth, a township outside the Zimbabwe capital, the challenges - poverty and child prostitution - are still there to be tackled. - OBS, Sport, page 11 C1 -

Mon 5

Headline - Aids scientists call for a month of sex abstinence - as epidemiologists, from London and southern Africa trialised such a scheme. Infection rates fall, it was noted in the Zimbabwean Christian community the Marange Apostolic sect as sex is banned during Passover - GDN page 20 C 3 -

Wed 7

Headline - Plan For Nkomo statue in Harare condemned as insult to family - because of its planned location. To have been sited, inside the Kariamombie building in Harare, which at one time was known as the Piccadilly centre, was the planning centre of the operation that decimated Nkomo's supporters in his political heartland of Matebeland.

A second objection - the Matebele/ English for Kariamombie means 'one who takes the bull by the horns' has associations with the Mugabe family, a group that Joshua Nkomo fell out with in the 1980's when the "Farther Zimbabwe" lot his provincial power base at the hands of he infamous 5th Battalion of the North Korean army. The recent visit of the countries World Cup team (qv 1/5) still raises a sore point - GDN page 17 C 4 -

Fri 9

Headline - Blood diamonds 'could swamp world market' unless a way is found that sees the vast diamond wealth discovered in near the Mozambique border in 2008 (qv 11/12) brought legitimately to the word market. As of this moment, with the wealth of the mined diamonds allegedly being used by president Mugabe - and the claims of human rights abuse made by the international community - the mined stones will never be allowed on the world market legitimately.

In recent times the Zimbabwe diamond industry has been judged, by the standards of the Kimberly Process after a meeting in Tel Aviv, of failing to adhere to international standards of good practice when mining stones. Despite a clean report, after an inspection visit, the meeting in Israel will not allow the stones onto the international market.

Such is the need of the country for the foreign currency that the authorities in Harare are prepared to sell to anyone 'no questions asked.' If this were to happen the

American buyers will not allow diamonds into the country. Actions such as this would precipitate the collapse of the diamond market throughout the world.

The European parliament has passed a resolution that calls on Zimbabwe's president to stop using the money from the sale of these diamonds for his own benefit. - GDN page 18 C1 -

Fri 16

Radio report - with some trepidation those that monitor the Kimberly Process (qv 9/7) have admitted Zimbabwe to its organisation after a meeting in Russia. Radio 2, 16. 00

Tues 20

Headline - Some say Zimbabwe's diamonds are drenched in blood. They are wrong - says this writer. After being allowed into the 'exclusive club' known as the Diamond Council that bases its existence on the Kimberly Principals when it met recently (qv 16/7) in the Russian city of St Petersburg for the second time?

The concerns, at that time, was the heavy presence of the military in the Marange eastern region of the country, and the human rights violations which were well documented by among others Doctors /Lawyers for Human Rights and the Centre for Research and Development which prevented the immediate economic advantages being utilized for the benefit of the Zimbabwe people.

One of the reports claims, that the Joint Operations Command [JOC] made up of high level officers of the army police and air force is a rebel force whose aim is to undermine the authority of the government in which members, of the MDC, have long campaigned to be allowed the mined diamonds on the worlds markets.

Still a large worry is with this large wealth will the 'man on Harare high street' benefit or will it be squandered by the Politicians? - Petina Gappah, author, GDN page 25 C2 -

Wed 21

Headline - Drive to circumcise Zimbabwe men - who, being aged between 15 - 29, are deemed to be responsible for much of the HIV virus infections throughout the land.

Detailed, at the 18th International Aids conference in Vienna, is the countries Population Services International [PSI] initiative. its aim, once enough medical staff have been trained, is to operate on 80% of this age range of the Zimbabwe male youth. This would total 1.2m persons where HIV rates are 13.7% for men under 49. If they are circumcised the infection rate falls to 10%.

To achieve such high operating rates PSI have devised a new strategy. Models of Optimising Volumes and Efficiency [Move}. This is, in effect, a speeding up of the medical procedure where four patients are lined up - separated in a curtained cubical - as the local anaesthetic is administered by the doctor on patient four, patient one is

ready for the procedure. Working in this way the team are able to eight to ten per hour whereas previously only 2 was possible. In this way up to 40 patients per day can be attended to. - GDN page 14 C 1 -

Sat 24

Headline - Inside a brutal trade: the deadly cost of Zimbabwe's blood diamonds - there are vast fortunes to be made, despite the inherent dangers of the police and the violence offered, in and around the Marange diamond fields, if the word of 'Gambo' is to be believed. In the three years that the fields, close to the city of Murare, he claims to have made \$200, 000. In the last seven days alone it is claimed that he has sold on a stone valued at £14, 300/ \$22, 000 on the black market. - GDN page 20 C 1 -

Headline - Flawed regulator must end half measure - as the Kimberly Process (qv 16/7) allows the coalition government a 'one off' limited sale. Any forthcoming exports will only be countenanced once demilitarisation of diamond mining, a crack down on smuggling and ending human rights abuses in the diamond fields has occurred. - ditto 21 C 3 -

Thurs 29

Obituary Lt Gen Peter Walls born 1927 - 20. 7. 2010 childhood stated in colonial Southern Rhodesia and in his teens home to the mother country to enrol in Sandhurst Military Academy. At the end of WW Two, passed out as an officer in the Black Watch regiment where he served in Somalia, resigned and returned to his home to Africa.

Aged 24 commissioned into the Northern Rhodesian Regiment in 1951 with the rank of captain. As number 2 in the command structure of a regiment of scouts, trained for service in troubled Malaysia, to fight - and loose - to the communist rebels there.

Promoted to major of the C Squadron Rhodesian SAS and awarded an MBE in 1953 for services rendered in Malaya his unit faced disbandment and he was sent to the army staff college in Surrey. In 1964, promoted to Lieutenant Colonel, he was given command of the Rhodesian Light Infantry in 1965.

Political aspirations, out of his control - UDI from prime minister Smith - changed the military's role in the illegally declared independent colony. With the rise of black nationalism and civil war fighting the communist insurgents was put in the hands of now Brigadier Walls.

The battle lost, in 1980, the military man stayed on in post to integrate the Zipra and Zanla forces into the national army. By 9/80 a change of heart saw the family make the trip south to a home in the Eastern Cape province of South Africa. - GDN page 30 C 1 -

AUGUST

Fri 6

Headline - Life and death in Zimbabwe the tale of a journalists electricity bill, for £,1287/ US\$2, 047. 78 which needs immediate payment or the state electricity board Zesa will cut of the household and charge another another US\$250 reconnection fee when the bill is paid.

Claimed as an ineptitude, there was a concerted effort by the residents of Avondale, an up market suburb of Harare to confront Zesa. What became more alarming was the death of a Christian neighbour, who because of the lack of electricity had passed away. Even more alarming the neighbour had no savings left to pay for her funeral.

In an effort to sort this out it was agreed, with the complicity of the Muslim Imam that the women could be cremated as a Muslim. G2 page 10 -

Sun 22

Headline - Mugabe orders ..... and fries to boost economy as well as the one off sale of diamonds (qv 24/7) which raised US\$72m the Zimbabwe people will now be given the opportunity to eat from the 'fast food' Mc Donald's.

The American food giant first tried to make an entrance to the country in 1999 only to be thwarted by the countries poor economy. After two years of interim government management feels the time is right to return to the country. - OBS page 36 C 1 -

## SEPTEMBER

Tues 28

Headline - Unreported planet, revealed at the UN - despite the international travel ban imposed on the president of Zimbabwe an appearance at the movement annual general assembly was made. In his speech Mugabe made the point, once again, of the double standards imposed on his country viz a viz international sanctions.

The co leader of the interim government told his audience of world leaders that their imposition was causing "untold suffering among Zimbaneans ..... The people of Zimbabwe should, live every other sovereign state, be left to freely chart there own destiny. - GDN page 24 C 5 -

## OCTOBER

Fri 15

Headline - 10, 000 failed asylum seekers face return as minister lifts country ban with the exception, going on recent reports, of small urban areas such as Biindura and Chiredzi. The decision has been made by Home Office immigration minister Damian Gray once a test case has passed through the judicial system.

The decision the halt expulsions made in 2006 (qv 6/8) has been reversed after a fact finding mission to the country in 8/09. Interviewed were 8 voluntary returnees to both Bulawayo and Harare. In these large centres of population they reported no dangers for showing support for the MDC, whereas to do so between the 2009 election and the formation of the interim coalition, did pose a risk.

Disputing the London move is the Zimbabwe Association who in a recent report the Global Political Agreement that "there has been no improvement and quite possibly a further decline in the respect of the law. - GDN page 5 C 5 -

Mon 25

Radio report - with a general election due, in early in 2011, and despite no new constitution having been agreed between the coalition government in Harare president Mugabe is again calling the lifting of European Commission sanctions imposed as the country disintegrated into civil war in the mid 1990's. While this argument has been used by president Mugabe imply that it is these very sanctions that hold back the development of the country a number of academics within Zimbabwe now seem to back a lessening of restrictions.

In their mind to lift trade barriers or travel restrictions will show that the sanctions have had no real impact on the day to day lives of the nation. What has stifled growth is the constant battle between Zanu PF and the MDC. - Today Radio 4 6.50 am -

NOVEMBER

Tues 2

Headline : 1972 Black thirsts hit by Smiths curfew - as new rules now state that no black man can be served a drink after 7pm on weekdays and 1pm on weekends if he is inside the European area of any town or city in the country.

Laws are enacted that prevents non whites enjoying just a drink at the bar of a majority of the countries hotels and hostleries. Under the new rules a black person, whether he be a national, member of parliament, a visitor from another country, hotel guest or guest of a resident the bar owner must verify these facts for himself. Only 34 establishments have, as yet been granted a multi-racial permit.

Even when inside one of these hotels strict regulations apply. The drink can be only consumed in the restaurant. There is no drinking at the bar or in the hotel lounge before the meal. It is not allowed to have any after dinner drinks after the meal.

Reaction to the new regulations : a town councillor states that the idea is to keep the Africans drinking in their township locations and therefore bar profits will be used for welfare and housing within the township. Members of Salisbury hotel and bar community are fearful of the loss of revenue and are to appeal to prime minister Smith to modify the new legislation. - GDN page 30 C 1 -

Sat 6

Headline 'I danced because I knew that I would die if I didn't they would kill me was an occurrence that had to be endured by those who were caught between living in a land under the thumb of Mugabe and the all powerful Zanu PF.

In an edited extract from Hope Deferred : Narratives of Zimbabwean Lives, ed P Orner and A Holmes, published by McSweeney's the bank trader, white land owner the policeman and the former member of the Zimbabwe National Army tell their tales. - GDN Weekend page 43 -

Mon 8

Headline - Don't judge Zimbabwe - on the effects of a land policy that emanated from Zapu PF policy that was in vogue throughout the 1990's. This diarist has well documented, within these pages, the expulsion of white farmers from their land and being replaced by, firstly war veterans and then cronies of Zapu, friends of the president and top officers in the military. At the time none of the above had any idea how to productively run a farming business.

Named writers have provided information that indicates that production of staple grains are on the increase, so much so that according to Masvingo based farmer S Mafongoya "We got good yields this year I filled two granaries with sorghum I hope to buy a grinding mill and locate it at my homestead."

In this location more than a quarter of the land taken over by around 32, 500 households on smallholder sites, 1, 200 households on slightly larger sites and 8, 500 h/holds in informal settlement sites take up land. In almost 50% of the 400 homes sampled land owners have brought in new aspects of cultivation. Others have been able to employ extra help. Political patronage was found in only 5% of those studied. Governments have not been able to help as it is broke - I Scoone professional researcher fellow of Institute of Development studies : B Mavedzenge independent researcher authors Zimbabwe Land Reform :Myths and Realities GDN Page 29 C1 -

Mon 29

Headline - Mugabe and Tsvangari resolve their stand off and speaking once again. Speaking to the South African president, Jacob Zuma, they both agreed that there had been a breakdown in communication between them both. They also said that they would continue meetings between themselves.

The statement comes after more than four hours of private discussions by the three leaders which was aimed at easing the tension within the coalition government. - GDN page 29 C1 -

DECEMBER

Wed 1

Headline - Mugabe and his cronies own 40% of land seized from white farmers, inquiry finds - which means that the top echelons of society, the black 'elite', control 5m hectares / 12.5m acres of prime farm land.

This land grab, which began in 2000, has seen this new division of black society in all 2, 200 people, benefit as the countries white farm owners were reduced from 4, 000 to the present 400 that now make their living here.

The president and his wife own 14 farms, spread over 16, 000 hectares. The size of the farms owned by the likes of judges, party members, members of the military and their relatives, range in extent from 250 - 4, 000 hectares. One of the most loyal of Mugabe's entourage, C Chiwnga the defence force commander along with his wife own two farms in the capital. One, the Chakoma Estate covers 1, 200 hectares of fertile land.

As to the productivity a 60% fall has been noted by the reports authors ZimOnline. The sector exports fell from \$1.4bn to \$700m over this ten year period. In 2007 the figure was \$500m. In defence of these moves the land and resettlement minister, H Murerwa, comments the owning of multiple farms does not lessen the impact that more than 300, 000 new land owners have been created during this time span. - GDN page 29 C 1 -

Thurs 9

Headline - Frail or crazy, or charming and sharp? The two Mugabes - the official view of the American diplomats, as revealed in leaked diplomatic cables. The 'crazy old man' was the observation made to America's man in Pretoria when talking to M Nkona Mashambane the countries international relations minister.

In a 12/'09 cable from Harare quoted a European diplomat of saying of Mugabe he was the one sitting at the centre of all things concerning Zanu PF and fully in control. It was recognised that the parties position was in its present position solely because of this man. Without him many would be nothing and would have nothing. - GDN page 7 C 1 -

Sun 19

Headline - UN 'offered Mugabe a deal for retirement in overseas haven - by the then head of the United Nations Kofi Annan. The offer was made at a meeting, in 2000, as the world's heads of government met in New York

This has now emerged following the release of diplomatic cables (qv 9/12). At the time, the ninth month of the new millenium, an American diplomat in Harare met with a senior MDC figure in Harare to tell the tale. A financial package was to be financed by Libyan president Gaddafi. When made to the president it was turned down flat.



It was noted that it was not unlikely that the British based disgraced businessman John Brendemcamp, who was placed on a EU sanctions list in 2009 (qv 27/1), had some input and that he had associations with the countries secret service prior to his fleeing from Zimbabwe. There were also moves to target officials of Zanu PF and offer them inducements. - OBS page 13 C 1 -

Tues 21

Headline - Mugabe and Tsvangirai in show of unity, this days after the president had told a conference of the Zanu PF party as he called for a vote to dissolve the coalition. Despite this slight to the prime minister and his Movement of Democratic Change the two leaders appeared before the press.

Seen as an and end of year message the two top 'notables' in the country urged their supporters to avoid violence. "We have differences, but let it not be said that because of that we are dysfunctional" said Mugabe. The Zimbabwe pm said that the administration would not break up before an election was held. - GDN page 20 C 5 -

Tues 28

Headline - Tsvangaria faces possible Zimbabwe treason charge - if a five man legal commission deem it necessary to make it an offence to call for the imposition of sanctions against the country. Their motivation was the 9/12 disclosures of the diplomatic cables sent by the American ambassador in Harare. In his defence it might be said that the cable also noted that the MDC leader called for some 'flexibility' in sanctions. - GDN page 20 C 1 -