

JANUARY 2013

Thurs 31

Headline – *Economy on rocks as diamonds disappear* – as it is assumed that the Mugabe family and its supporters (qv 13/11) have syphoned off the excessive wealth that had been derived from the Marange diamond fields in the east of the country.

Following the recent sale of \$685m diamonds and the cost of civil servants salaries just paid finance minister Tendai Biti discovered that there was only £138 /\$US 217 in the public accounts of the Harare government.

From being the 'bread basket of the continent' in the 1980's through the troubles of the inflationary 1990 's; where the rate reached 231, 000 per cent, it has been said that the plundering of Zimbabwe 's wealth is “perhaps the biggest single plunder of diamonds the world has seen since Cecil Rhodes. GDN page 21 C 1

FEBRUARY

Tues 19

Headline – *EU relaxes sanctions as reward for reforms* – as it has now done in recent years. This time round. The Union's foreign ministers, meeting in Brussels have ended the travel restriction on six unnamed members of the Harare administration. Also one company and 21 unnamed people can now travel in Europe freely.

As to the selling of diamonds, by the Zimbabwe Mining Development Company, this would be allowed four weeks after the expected elections if they were decreed to have been 'peaceful, transparent and credible. - GDN page 20 C 4 -

MARCH

Fri 15

News item, on the eve a national referendum of constitutional changes a BBC news crew, reporting from Harare, were attacked by a mob as they reported on events. - Radio 4 22. 00 -

Sat 16

News item, despite both the coalition members of the Zimbabwe unity government urging their supporters to support the constitutional changes; powers to limit the actions of the president, supporters of the MDC and Zanu PF clashed in the capital Harare. - Radio 4 22 00 -

Sun 17

News item, despite the number of Zanu PF notables having their European Union travel sanctions lifted in 2012 (qv 27/7) those imposed on Robert Mugabe are still in place. Despite this it his intention to travel to to Rome to attend the inauguration of the new head of the Catholic Church; Pope Francis. Vatican City is an independent state and not a member of the EU. Radio 4 news 22. 00 -

Mon 18

News item, all indications are that the voters in the country adopting a new constitution (qv 16/3); giving the press a greater amount of freedom, has been supported by the majority of the population .
Today 6 30 am

Headline *Why is 'Mugabe Chic' so popular in Zimbabwe* - even as the ruling ANC across the River Limpopo became a 'branding' tool in 2012 (qv 25/1) it would seem that the under 30 's across the border in Zimbabwe have found their own fashion icon; Robert Mugabe.

Discovered by the Mail and Guardian journalist, Jason Moyo, the signature emblazoned items manufactured by the House of Gushungo are all the rage for the young business man who, after 33 years of rule are doing 'just fine.'

Not to be outdone the ruling Zanu PF are now interested enough to muscle in on the brand. They plan to patent the presidents signature that appears on the items that range from T shirts, priced at \$10 / £6.50 and baseball caps that have all been popular in the three years that the company has been in production. - GDN G2 page 2 C 1 -

Tues 19

Headline – *This Apathy Suits Mugabe* – it would seem that the reported Zimbabwe referendum was 'supported by the majority of the population' (qv 18/3) was culled from reports in the Sunday Mail; a paper that follows the Zanu PF party line, and therefore not totally impartial. This writer implies that support for the new constitution has only been shown by just over two million of the 6.6m eligible voters in the country; a case of voter apathy if ever there was one.

Voting in this new law would allow the ruling party to replace a president, who died in office, with another party member therefore meaning that the nation will have a president that no one has voted into office. Changes to the make up of the constitutional court will see members of the lower supreme court, out of favour with the current regime, be moved up into the supreme court the highest court in the land. Land ownership, always a contentious issue, will see the white farmer loose out in the compensation battle. Money will only forwarded to 'someone indigenous'; ie black.

As to the fact as to whether anyone had even a chance to read, and digest the, document the chances seem slim. Only 90, 000 copies were printed four weeks before voting day. Other points addressed include a limit to the number of years a president can retain his position. The rights of the countries national born to parents from outside the countries borders who are still termed 'aliens.' A Bill of Rights obliges the government to empower females, a practice that is well outside the the current treatment of women and girls in Zimbabwe. The Bill also tackles the issues of the death penalty, ends torture, allows freedom of expression and beliefs. Guarantees the people shelter, good health facilities and education, food and legal aid.

If as seems likely the present administration wins the vote the party 's respect for the views of its people 's choice and with a supposed general election imminent the MDC 's share of the vote a low turn out would harm their chances because the party, and other groups are rural based; transport problems ensue. Pass these obstacles then Zanu PF may do what they have done during earlier elections and disregard the law and turn to violence to prevent the opposition supporters casting their vote. - Petina Grappa author GDN page 28 C 2 -

Wed 20

Headline *Outcry after arrest of human rights lawyer* – Beatrice Mtetwa as the police were taking her to the magistrates court; from detention in a police cell despite her release being ordered by the court on 18/3.

Originally detained by the police in Harare on 17/3 while representing four officials of the Movement for Democratic Change, including Morgan Tsvangirai 's main legal advisor who were being searched by police. The prosecution allege that the four were searching or information on why the judiciary were not prosecuting corrupt officials. Lawyers acting for Ms Mtetwa indicate that the states intention, by her arrest, was a ploy to stop her defending the MDC members. - **GDN page 24 C 1 -**

Tues 26

News item, making good their 2012 promise (qv 24/7) foreign ministers of the European Union have recommended that the economic sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe 'notables' and companies be lifted with immediate effect.

However still subject to a travel ban will be president Mugabe, a number of Zanu members and some industrial concerns. **Radio 4 news 22. 00 -**

Wed 27

Headline – *Has EU Dropped Sanctions Against Zimbabwe Too Soon?* - as the proxies of the ruling Zanu PF party, the police, continue to harass those opposed to the involvement of Robert Mugabe and his political friends in running the government.

Even as the human rights lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa (qv 20/3) was released from detention on 25/3 police decided to set free the 6 MP 's of the MDC seeming to show that despite the EU declaring the recent constitutional election as being “peaceful, successful and credible” the old ways still prevail.

As to the 26/3 lifting of sanctions fine details show that only 81 officials and 8 firms were freed from restriction. Still restricted in their movements re Mr and Mrs Mugabe two companies, one of which is the state run Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation; a company that uses the revenue from the sale of diamonds, from the east of the country; dug out with 'slave labour' to finance the continued repression of those opposed to the Zanu faction of the government. - **GDN page 27 C 1 -**

Sun 14

Headline - *Thatcher 'gave her approval' to son Mark 's 2004 Coup attempt in Equatorial Guinea* – was already written into the manuscript of the 2009 of the book Cry Havoc; the story behind the Wonga coup attempt in the east African state written by S Man (qv).

What has just been revealed, now that British prime minister has passed away is that the countries first women prime minister approved of the action that the mercenaries, with financial backing from her son Mark Thatcher (qv) was supportive of the attempt to overthrow that countries leader as with the encouraging words “we have to look after our own” even the outcome was a disaster for her older child. - **OBS page 4 C 1 -**

MAY 2013

Thurs 9

Headline – *Arrested youth leader denies insult to Mugabe* - with the words that describe the president as “a limping donkey.” For this insult the youth leader of the Movement for Democratic Change 's Solomon Madzore must spend a second week in jail after his arrest on 2/5 when addressing a pre election rally. Legal argument, from the prosecutors out manoeuvred the judges who wanted to release him on \$100 bail. It is believed that charge was 'invented' by the police who are loyal to Zanu PF.

Tension within the country has also been raised; as a presidential election looms, has been escalates as a newspaper editor and a journalist have been arrested and charged with publishing false statements that were prejudicial to the state. - **GDN page 26 C 5** -

Sat 11

Headline – *Mugabe at first a hero villain and finally the redeemed father of the nation* – as the international community attempt to rehabilitate the longest serving national leader on the African continent.

With presidential and parliamentary elections due, in 8/13 or 9/13, the international community is likely to deem them 'credible' despite the overpowering influence of the Zanu PF ruling parties overwhelming control of all things national.

Many of the supporters of the governments coalition partners, the Movement for Democratic Change or as supporter S Kasukuwere calls them the Movement for Dangerous Children, notes that the leader and the 'notables' are becoming seduced by the trappings of power. Even leader M Tsvangaria is mired in an alleged sex scandal.

One of the 89 year old 's most controversial, as far as the white ethnics are concerned, policies; the resettlement of white owned farm land has been revalued by an academic from the University of Sussex. The 2010 study, published in the book Zimbabwe Takes Back its Land notes, “In the biggest land reform in Africa, 6, 000 white farmers have been replaced by 245, 000 Zimbabwean farmers. These are primarily ordinary poor people who have become more productive farmers.”
GDN page 23 C 1

JUNE

Mon 3

Headline – *Mugabe pledges to call election before August* – after being chided by the constitutional court for not dissolving parliament before the end of his current five year term; on 29/6.

In the interview, given to ZBC while on an official trip to Japan, the outgoing president noted that his delay was caused by other members of the coalition to “enjoy being in power a little longer. AP

Fri 7

Headline – *Opposition unites to reject election ruling* – on the grounds that the five opposition

parties; MDC led by the prime minister M Tsvangaria, a breakaway with the same name led by Welesman Ncube, Mvambo/Kusile Dawn, Zapu and Zanu Ndonga all are of the same opinion that the election infrastructure cannot be in place for the date specified by the constitutional court. **GDN page 34 C 1**

Thurs 13

Headline – *Tsvangarii suspicious of Mugabe 's early poll call* – which as prime minister he will not allow the poll to take place on 31/7 as the president complies with a constitutional court ruling (qv 3/6). His main argument is that there has been no consultation between the coalition partners.

In the mind of the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change party a poll in 9/13 would be more acceptable as there would be time to properly plan for a poll. An early poll was open to exploitation by Zanu PF loyalists. **GDN page 28 C 7 -**

Fri 14

Headline – *Mugabe and Tsvangaria clash over poll date* – as this date, 31/7, has been deemed “unlawful” by the countries prime minister. Making light of bypassing parliament, the usual way to have a dissolution Act pushed through the legislative, the president felt he had to use a presidential decree;

“Given the deadline imposed by the constitutional court it is expedient to await the passage through parliament of an act” The MDC leader also noted that his coalition partner infringed the voter registration process by disenfranchising those who had reached voting age and were not on the electoral role. - **GDN page 30 C 1 -**

JULY

Wed 24

Headline – *Party member arrested over Mugabe 's lost face* – scraped off the many items of general election paraphernalia by a government supporter. The culprit was exposed as a member of the Zanu PF provincial youth league in the Bulawayo region of the country.

The lack of campaign hats was first noticed by the mines minister O Mpfu who informed the NewsDay paper. It would seem that these 'bare' items were then put on sale for \$2/£1. 30. However the youth league chair person, Mabutho Moyo denied any knowledge of the incident. - **GDN page 18 C 1 -**

Sun 28

Headline - *Mugabe defies age and rivals to aim for election victory and respectability* – as the western governments come to accept that there is little they can do to isolate a Zanu PF government if the party wins the coming presidential election.

At his most recent political rally in the city of Bulawayo, attended by between 15 – 20, 000 supporters much was made of the comparisons between the now hospitalised Nelson Mandela; resigned as South Africa 's leader after five years and his own 33 year rule as this nations leader. In his address to the assembled crowd president Mugabe had harsh words Desmond Tutu and the American president. Both support the moves to allow gay marriage. “Man can marry man, women can marry women. Never never never said the 89 year old Mugabe.

As for the future of the Movement for Democratic Change 's leader Morgan Tsvangaria his time is up as leader of the opposition. One worry prevails following a revaluation of the 2008 voting figures hints at a dead heat election result. Should this happen going on the votes, cast last time, there is the possibility of the MDC leader coming out as an unexpected winner or the country deteriorating, again into the violence the last vote. - **OBBS page 23 C 1** –

Mon 29

Headline - ***Broadband and cheese come to Zimbabwe – but will vote halt recovery*** – as the economic minister, Tendai Biti cut the countries growth forecast from 5.0% to 3.4%. Notes from the shoppers at the Sam Levey Village in the Harare suburb of Borrodale indicate that a 180g bar of Dairy Milk chocolate costs Z\$4/£2.60.

Another aspect; the education system was in turmoil at the time of the last election. Previously, in 2008 only 27 school days. With the new education minister, D Coltart in post in 2/09 conditions were low. Almost all of the school, 8, 000 were closed as 90% of the teaching staff were on strike and one text book had to be shared between 15 students. As of now text book ratio 1 : 1 and 15, 000 teachers have returned to the sector in the last 4 years. - **GDN page 3 C 1**

News item, investigation of the current electoral register in Zimbabwe notes that there are hundreds of centenarians all born in 1900 eligible to vote in the 31/7 general election. Most unlikely and election fraud most likely. - **ITV 18. 30** -

Tues 30

Headline – ***Mugabe 's opponents scent change ahead of election*** – as the Movement For Democratic Change holds its last rally in Harare, where it was said that 100, 000 supporters gathered. Acknowledged, by Zanu; the party of Mugabe that their support in the cities is lost and rural support is their support base the increased mobile phone penetration from 13% at the last vote to 85% as of now could have a decisive step in preventing voter intimidation throughout the country.

Rally organiser Nelson Chamisa even encouraged party members to register their vote with a company, via a text message, across the border in South Africa as a means of ensuring a true count can be made. - **GDN page 19 C 1** -

Wed 31

Headline – ***Violence and intimidation taking place in rural Zimbabwe ... says MDC*** – and one case has been catalogued in Mashonaland West; a centre for previous cases of violence before the last elections in 2008.

The latest incident was reported in Chinhoyi on 27/7 by an unnamed forty eight year old supporter of the Movement For Democratic Change. Wearing a MDC emblazoned T shirt he was attacked by at least five who ordered him to remove his T shirt. This he refused to do then the beating with sticks and stones began. The incident was watched by a crowd of 50 watching the assault.

On reporting the incident to the police the five, assumed to be Mugabe supporters, were arrested and detained and then released after telling the court that the victim was 'not strong enough to vote.'

Another incident, involving the towns former mayor, P Mataruse, who is standing as an MDC parliamentary candidate hearing of a plan to kidnap him refused to work. - **GDN page 22 C 3** -

AUGUST

Thurs 1

Headline – *In Zimbabwe 'thousands of 114 year old 's vote* as well as other age groups who seem, to cabinet minister and MDC MP Tendai Biti. This was only one of the alleged misdemeanour's perpetrated by Zanu PF officials when they compiled the voting register.

The MP and party secretary general was on hand when a bus load of voters, who he thought were to be too young to vote, turned up at the polling station in the Mount Pleasant area of Harare. The vehicle was adorned with a sign which indicated it had travelled from the Honde Valley; a distance of 185 miles from the country's capital. When challenged the bus driver said “It 's no secret ...we 're not allowed to talk about it.

Elsewhere in the country there was little sign of voter intimidation and president Mugabe made it plain that if he was to lose the presidential vote he would stand down. **GDN page 17 C 1 -**

Fri 2

News item, as the observer team from the African Union give a favourable account of the Zimbabwe elections early declared results indicate that both the president and Mugabe 's party will remain in power. Of the seats declared 52 : 10 is the split.

Much discussion as to why the ruling Zanu PF will remain in power what with the overwhelming evidence of voter fraud and irregular use of the electoral roll. Those interviewed put this down to troubled life of the opposition leader M Tsvangirwa following the death of his wife in a road accident. **Today: Radio 4 6. 38 am -**

Headline – *Tsvangirwa warns of fresh crisis as Mugabe claims landslide win in ... poll* – as the leader of the Movement For Democratic Change denounces the running of the elections with names of the voters roll of people that are dead and other voters driven into the area to vote for Zanu PF.

State controlled television said the ruling party had won 13 of the 15 wards in the local elections in Chinhoyi (qv 31/7). Minister D Coltart (qv 29/7) although an MDC MP was a member of the Welshman Ncube faction of the opposition party lost his seat of Bulawayo East to Zanu PF challenger Thabitha Khumalo by 19 votes only. “There 's no point in putting a gloss on it. Zanu PF will win a majority of seats in parliament and Robert Mugabe will get more than 50%.” - **GDN page 21 C 1 -**

Leader Comment, **Mugabe 's last stand** as party members begin to tire of the man who has ruled the country 33 years. The election monitors, from the AU and the SADC have called repeatedly for the elections to be delayed and re run only to be outfoxed by the eighty nine year old president.

“The SADC and the AU should now think hard about endorsing the result when it is announced and call for a rerun of the election in three months time. In the meantime the coalition government should continue. Mugabe 's last stand? It looks much like all the others.” - **ditto page 36 C 1 -**

Sat 3

Headline – *Dilemma for west as Zanu PF claims Zimbabwe election victory* – now that two thirds of the votes have been counted , with 142 in the 210 seat parliament, the west must decide whether the incoming government will be here for some time. - **GDN page 23 C 1 -**

Sun 4

Headline – *What next or Zimbabwe 's opposition leader after Mugabe wins election* - with 2, 110, 434 or 61% of the countries electorate happy to see the same regime keep power for the next five years.

Morgan Tsvangaria will be consoled that both the US and British governments were not happy about the outcome of the election even if the election monitors declared them fair and free of violence. The three times challenger, for the top job in the country, will no ask for international support to demand a new poll. Internal opposition will be mounted as well as a peaceful challenge in the courts to have the elections re run. - **OBS page 21 C 1 -**

Mon 5

Headline – *Left on the sidelines, Zimbabwe opposition hints at uprising* – as party leader Morgan Tsvangaria observes that the election was branded “a coup by ballot” in which only 34%of voters endorsed the parties policies.

“Revolutions are not called by leaders” was his rallying call to those disappointed” by the result were words he spoke to the South African media outlet. - **GDN page 12 C 1 -**

Headline – *No pictures of joy at prospect of 5 more years* – even in the most loyal of media outlets. Gone from state run TV stations were the pictures of celebration to be replaced by old picture news pictures of a youthful Mugabe. It was noted that now that Zanu PF would be ruling alone, its greater vote count that the ANC across the counties southern border, will lead to a greater public scrutiny of the mistakes made; it has no other other party to blame . - **ditto C 5 -**

Tues 6

Headline – *Zimbabwe 's choice* – to have Mugabe for a further five years as president indicates either “a patriotic vote or an illegitimate election result” depending on your point of view. A debrief and a little understanding of the outcome and Zimbabwe 's future relationship with the USA and Europe. - **Knox Chitiyo, African associate fellow Chatham House London; GDN page 26 C 2 -**

Thurs 8

Headline – *Mugabe plans stock exchange for black owned businesses* – to aid his soon to be announced economic empowerment drive. This on the day that the existing bourse, assets valued at \$5bn/ £3.2bn, saw share values fall on the day after the Zanu PF election victory.

Even though the plan was not ready to be divulged the countries indigenisation and empowerment minister, S Kasukuwere, noted that all the detailed work would be left to the new finance minister. The chief executive of the Small and Medium sized Enterprises Association indicated told the South African newspaper Business Day that the new bourse could be seen as a stepping stone to the main board. - **GDN page 19 C 5 -**

Sat 10

Headline *Opposition files court papers over election* – in an effort to force a re run of the election in which the Movement for Democratic Change only won 49 seats. Analysts deem the parties chances as slim as the Constitutional court is packed with judges appointed by the president. - **GDN page 24 C 3 -**

Tues 13

Headline *Defiant Mugabe tells critics to 'go hang'* – as the president makes his first speech after the recent elections. Speaking to the large crowd who had gathered at the countries Hero 'Acre the president noted that, in essence, the legal challenge made by the MDC was a challenge made “We won so overwhelmingly that some people are hurting badly. - GDN page 16 C 3 -

Sat 17

News report, the leader of the MDC, Morgan Tsvangaria, has decided to withdraw his court action (qv 10/8) on the grounds that his complaints are unlikely to have a fair hearing. - World Service, Radio 4; 5 25 am -

Thurs 22

News item, the re elected president Mugabe was officially named as president of Zimbabwe for the next five years. The crowning ceremony was held in the National Football Stadium in the centre of Harare.

Before an estimated crowd of 40, 000 party members and the heads of African nations the Zanu PF leader pledged to abide by the constitution. The leader of the Opposition, Morgan Tsvangaria stayed away from the ceremony in protest at what MDC call the stolen election. - Radio 4 news 22. 00 -

Mon 26

Headline – *Mugabe threatens to oust foreign companies* – as the European Union and other western nations refused to acknowledge that Zanu PF won the right to elect him as president for the third time.

Speaking at the funeral of a military chief the president noted that foreign companies were keen to exploit their black employees the time will come when this will have to end. We will decide when this time is and we will “take no ideas from London or Washington” as to the timing. The ultimate aim is to split African//foreign ownership 51%/49% when the time is right. This, the economists indicate will trigger another economic downturn similar to that of 2000. - GDN page 14 C 5 -

Tues 27

Headline *'Disneyland in Africa plan for Zimbabwe* – was the plan announced the countries tourism minister, Walter Mzembi, to the general assembly of the World Tourism Organisation. The site of this new tourist attraction is expected to be about \$300m/ £193m. It will be located on 1, 200 hectares of land adjacent to Victoria Falls.

To accommodate the expected influx of visitors to the town the Harare government has allocated \$150m for the expansion of the towns airport. According to the minister all funding, both government and private, had already been found. GDN page 13 C 3 -

SEPTEMBER

Thurs 5

Headline – *Millions face hunger in Zimbabwe says UN* – especially the rural poor, estimated at 2.2m or 1 : 4 of country dwellers so says officials from the World Food Programme. Those hardest

hit are from the south of the country and where the forecast for the harvest is very poor.

Making their report the WFP officials little mention of the chaotic land policy of the recently re elected Mugabe government from 2000. Most of the blame was placed on the adverse weather unavailability and high cost of agricultural imports; fertiliser and high cereal prices; a 15% rise over the last 12 months.

According to economist V Musewe, most of the current problem can be places at the door of the small scale black farmer who is growing tobacco, which sell at a high price, rather than food crops. Already noted, in an academic report from I Scoones in 2010 of Sussex University, the 6, 000 white farmers have handed over their land to 245, 000 black farmers. These new incumbents will take twenty years to reach maximum production and return to 1990 levels.

Headline *'A country with so much promise has been forced to its knees* – so says a 'child of the Mugabe era.' With the pen name NoViolet Bulawayo/Elizabeth Tshele nominated for the Guardian First Book Award and has reached the Long List for the The Man Booker Prize as author of *We Need No Names*, left at 18 years old to live in the USA and returned home in 4/13. - **GDN page 18 C 1** -

NOVEMBER

Thurs 28

Headline – *Blair plotted to oust Mugabe by force, says Mbeki* as the former South African president gives a television interview to the Arab based al Jazeera television station. Detailing the events in the early 2000 's the economic plight of the country and the white farmers, who were told that their land would be seized by the government, was the lynch pin of the plan.

While all those involved around that time, South African and the British government wishes to do something there were differing vies of how to go about it. Brought into focus was a 2007 interview of London 's chief of the defence staff, the now Lord Guthrie, who recalled that “people were always trying to make me look at toppling Mugabe.”

Responding, through a spokesman, Tony Blair noted that while Zimbabwe would be much better of without the leadership of Robert Mugabe he at no time asked anyone to plan or take part in any military action against him. - **GDN page 4 C 1**

DECEMBER

Sun 1

Headline – *Podcast technology is transforming the quality of life in Zimbabwe villages* – as exemplified in Huambane; population 1, 500 50 miles away from the gold mining town of Gwanda in Matebeleland South.

As explained, the joint venture by the Ministry of Agriculture and the charity Practical Action, enables rural dwellers to access all kinds of information, from health care to house building, for the setting up and training finance of \$7, 500. Monies are needed to purchase the MP3 players

Because of shortage of funds the pod cast information, gathered previously by members of the training team, is disseminate at the start of the day meetings. - **Observer page 17 C 1** -