

## FEBRUARY 2015

### Sat 21

Headline – *Party time for world's oldest leader ...* – will be an expensive occasion, as in times past the celebration of Mugabe 's 91 birthday year will cost anything in the region of £650, 000 /\$1m when the country is rated bottom of a world index of a nations governance and development. **GDN page 21 C 1**

## APRIL

### Tues 7

Headline – *The comedians taking on the Mugabe regime* – soubriquet names of Comrade Fatso and his associate Comrade Outspoken whose given name is Samm F Monro is speaking out before a C4 's Unreported World programme to be broadcast on 10/4 19. 30.

The two satirists and their production team 'appear' to be reporting on life under Mugabe and his one party state government, as Zambezi News. Their targets are wide and various; from the stumble of the 91 year old president to the carrying ons of his wife Sally.

With tag line that the broadcast “will leave the audience in stitches ... because our CIO will beat you if you don 't find in funny, ” makes one believe that either the government/Mugabe is happy at the content; giving the lie that to give no reaction is to show to the world that there is free speech in Zimbabwe. Other thoughts; president Mugabe is loosing his grip on events inside the country.

Despite no distribution of the programmes, content on the national airwaves , output is watched by in excess of 30, 000 nationals via samizdat DVD 's, shares on Facebook and other social media outlets. - **G2 page 3 C 1** -

### Thurs 9

Headline – *Mugabe condemns Blair for funding failure on ..... land reform* – during a state visit to South Africa. In essence land was seized as a result of the then prime ministers refusal to fund the compensation due to white farmers as promised under the Lancaster House Agreement. “You keep your money its our land we will take it” was Harare's thinking. - **GDN page 13 C 1** -

### Fri 10

Headline – *Mugabe denies wife will succeed him but she keeps her options open* – when talking to members of the British media on day two of their state visit across Zimbabwe 's southern border.

The president noted that she does not have those ambitions. She has accepted the role of secretary for women 's affairs as well as her own charity to care for. - **GDN page 27 C 4** -

## JUNE

### Sat 13

Headline – *Zimbabwe offers a few cents for a fistful of dollars* – if they happen to be Z\$, which

have; in all reality been usurped from 2009 as all financial transactions from that date have been carried out in South African Rand or the American dollar. From 15/6 nationals with bank accounts financed by Z\$'s will be refinanced by the government in US\$'s so says John Mangudya the governor of the Zimbabwe Reserve Bank.

“Bank accounts with balances up to 175 quadrillion Z\$'s will be paid \$5. Those with balances above ..... will be paid at an exchange rate of \$1 for 35 quadrillion.” Such was the inflation rate prior to the 2009 changes that the Z\$1trn note, issued in '08 was not enough to purchase a 5 day bus travel pass. Exchanging one, at this time, would get the owner only \$0.40. Cash exchanges can be made till 9/15. - **GDN page 37 C 1** -

## JULY

### Wed 8

Headline – *Mugabe makes second cabinet reshuffle in six months* – with the downgrading of the outspoken information minister Jonathan Moyo; from being a member of the cabinet up to 14 days ago, to a lesser position. The move comes less than six months after his removal of the then vice president Joyce Mujuru in 2014 on 6/12. Professor Moyo will take up the position of higher education minister. - **Daily Nation; Kenya** -

### Wed 15

Headline – *Is this the next president of Zimbabwe?* - a close look at the life of Grace Mugabe who, from being a demure and passive shadow in support of her husband for the last 20 years, has in recent times seemed to be mounting a campaign to take over as Zimbabwe's ruler once Robert Mugabe is no more.

It would seem that such a move is her only option if she is to survive the turbulent political times, with a lot of scores to settle by the public and her political enemies that 'Amazing Grace', 'the lady of the revolution, the first shopper'; unflattering soubriquet the 'first lady' has acquired since becoming the consort of president Mugabe. - **GDN page 27 – 29**

### Mon 27

Headline – *Zimbabwe seeks hunter who paid to kill Africa's most famous lion* – named Cecil who, for research had been tagged with a GPS collar for the last 13 years. During this period Oxford University scientists had used the data gathered in a study of the welfare of lions living in Hwange National Park.

This valuable arm of research came to an end when the animal was found outside the National Park and thus lost its protection. Cecil died at the hands of a Spanish hunter who paid £35,000 / \$50,000 to park guides to assist him. The King of Beasts was then lured outside the park then shot with a crossbow and tracked for 40 hours, it would have been illegal to kill Cecil within the Park. The NP employees have already been detained by the police.

Thus the nation has lost one of its tourist 'must sees' in Hwange and the park itself six grown up lions as the cubs sired by Cecil will not survive as no other 'father' will tolerate another lion's cubs.

**GDN page 16 C 1**

## Wed 29

Headline – *Cecil, Africa's most famous lion shot by US dentist .....* - and not, as first thought a Spanish national. The alleged killer; Walter Palmer, with a practice in Minnesota, was said to have paid \$50, 000 for the privilege was now said to be 'quite upset' now that the Zimbabwe police he might face poaching charges.

Along with a professional hunter Theo Bronkhorst, the 'king of the jungle' was tracked for many hours after being lured outside the national park as a dead carcass was dragged behind a vehicle. The bolt from a crossbow, fired by the dentist, failed to kill Cecil. Hours later he died as a result of a bullet shot to the head.

Back in Eden Prairie; a suburb of the mid west town, here were social media inspired protests outside the surgery from which the tooth doctor worked. - **GDN page 1** -

## Thurs 30

Headline - *Protests as lion killer says 'I had no idea'* – that “the lion I took was known local favourite and collared and part of a study until the end of the hunt.” Never the less his surgery in the Minnesota suburb of Dale Park was closed. Outside the police kept a watchful eye of those protesting at the death of Cecil.

In Zimbabwe, those accused of assisting in the animals killing appeared in court on poaching charges. The named professional hunter was accused of failing to prevent an unlawful hunt; a charge, if proved, could land each men in jail for 15 years. - **GDN page 19 C 1** -

## Fri 31

Headline – *US investigating death of Cecil the lion* – as W Palmer issues a statement noting that hunting was an “emotional charged topic .....

not everyone shares the same views.” Two hundred protesters gathered outside his dental practice and called for him to be sent back to Zimbabwe to face the courts there. - **GDN page 19 C 1** -

Leader Comment, **The immorality of the hunt is the pleasure in the death of another** which is the emotion that can plainly seen on the face of Walter Palmer in photos of his other 'kills' paraded on social media outlets.

“Factory farming may be more cruel to the animals. But it takes no pleasure in its cruelty. And that is why the condemnation of Dr Palmer is fully justified.”

## AUGUST

### Sat 1

Headline *Zimbabwe calls on US to hand over the dentist who shot Cecil* – citing the existing bilateral extradition agreement, for actions that are deemed criminal in both countries. The call was made by Harare's environment minister, O Muchinguri. The 55 year old “foreign poacher” had already absconded to his country of origin she said.

At the same time 160, 000 people had signed a White House petition for his return to the Zimbabwe courts. - **GDN page 22 C 5** -

*Intermittent news* a number, this author thinks two, of American airlines has brought in a ban on the carrying of animal trophies in the light of the death of Cecil the 'star' of Hwange National Park in Zimbabwe.

### **Thurs 6**

Headline – *Cecil charge is frivolous, says hunter* – Theo Bronkhorst who made his first appearance at the magistrates court in Hwange. The hunters lawyer, Givemore Muvhingi said that his client would plead not guilty to the charge of failing to prevent this illegal hunt. A new trial date of 28/9 was set. - **GDN page 16 C 1** -

### **Tues 11**

Headline – *Mugabe tells Zimbabweans they 'failed Cecil' as hunting ban lifted* – after its swift imposition days after the lions death at the alleged hands of an American dentist from the mid west. The president was speaking at the ceremony to celebrate the deaths of all those nationalist fighters who lost their lives during the civil war.

The president noted that “all the nations resources are yours ... even Cecil the lion is yours. You failed to protect him .... all wildlife is yours we should protect them.”

Others of note in the travel business, Bex Ndlovu chief executive of African Bush Camps agreed that both the people and the system failed to protect Cecil. “That is why the government is putting stringent measures in place now.” **GDN page 14 C 1** -

### **Wed 12**

Headline - *Zuma draws anger over Cecil comments* - when at the time of its killing the US hunter was unaware of the lions importance; a local favourite or involved in a research study. His comments were made at a Pretoria press conference.

Back up north, across the River Limpopo, and into Zimbabwe the president of the Safari Operators Association, Emmanuel Fundira, noted his surprise at the comments from 'down south' in regards to an animal hunted in a neighbouring country. He deemed it undiplomatic an unfair to comment on activities inside another sovereign state. - **GDN page 22 C 1**

### **Thurs 12**

News item, during the presidents Hero 's Acre speech (qv 11/8) demand on the former colonial power, Britain were made. Mugabe has demanded the return of the skulls of those who fought, and died, defending their lands from the white settlers who crossed the Limpopo river and expanded London 's influence north in the 1890 's.

Such skeletal remains were not known to be housed in any location in London. However the foreign office will, if contacted by the Harare authorities, will probe into whereabouts and negotiate their return. - **Today; Radio 4 6. 50am** -

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **Tues 8**

Headline – *US dentist who killed lion goes back to work 'for his patients* – as he comes out of his

self imposed exile after officials in Zimbabwe want him to return to face charges of killing Cecil the lion (qv 6/8 et al). He has not been charged in the United States with any breach of its laws yet. Walter Palmer assured the media, both local and national that had he known that Cecil was honoured in Zimbabwe and part of an academic study, he would have not killed this King of the Beasts. - **The Guardian page 18 C 5** -

### **Wed 9**

Headline – *Killer of Cecil the lion goes back to work* – and was faced with a lesser demonstration, by those who call for Minnesota dentist Walter Palmer to be prosecuted over his death, than when the big hunter tried to return to his dental practise after returning from Zimbabwe.

In anticipation of a large demonstration police had closed the street where the building that housed the dentists place of work. **GDN page 22 C 5** -

In a letter, concerning the actions of WP; in so much as the dentist has stated that he would have not executed Cecil if he had known that the lion had been named, L M of Barlow, Derbyshire England calls for the 'naming' of all hunted animals and thereby stop people hunting them. - **GDN page 36 C1** -

### **Thurs 17**

As the 91 year old president Mugabe opened the current session of the Zimbabwe parliament it was noted, by some, that the speech he delivered was one he had used in recent past times 25/8. There was polite, embarrassed support from his supporters. From Opposition MP 's there was an respectful, awkward silence.

On this hearing there was no jeering from The MDC as unknown 's had sent death threat text messages warning Tsvangaria supporters not to disrupt the proceedings. Whilst there were no protests from members an MDC spokesman called for the presidents resignation; “he no longer has the requisite mental facilities that are needed for him to continue in office.” - **G2 page 3** -

### **Tues 29**

Headline – *Vice president sacked by Mugabe returns with alternative vision to revive ...* - and thus the star of Joyce Mujuru sacked in 2014 (qv 10/12) prompts speculation that there may be a challenge, to the rule by Zanu, made in 2018 's presidential election.

Having left the political scene after loosing here post, the civil war veteran fighter and wife of the Zipra commander of Mugabe 's guerilla army, has come out with a two page manifesto, given the name Build, with which a newly formed political party; the Zimbabwe African National Union Peoples First, will challenge the ruling Zanu – Peoples Front and thus keeping the peoples history well and truly in the forefront of the Zimbabwe people.

Here challenge will be to 'connect with the people' will be easier than those opposed to the present regime, Morgan Tsvangaria, Tendai Bitti and Welshman Ncube, through her combat role in the black nationalist struggle which ended in independence in 1980, as well as a=her association with the politicians of the day and of the 94 year old president. - **GDN page 19 C 1** -

## OCTOBER

### Tues 13

Headline – *No charge over US dentist who killed Cecil the lion* – after the police verified the facts, as told previously by Walter Palmer, that his hunting papers were in order and because he had legal authority to do so. However the environment minister, Oppah M Kashir would be welcomed back into the country as a tourist. His hunting licenses were revoked.

Still to face court is professional hunter Theo Bronkhorst who is charged with breach of the hunting rules and a game park owner was charged with allowing an illegal hunt. Both men will also answer to the court for using bait to lure Cecil out of the game park. - **GDN page 20 C5** -

### Fri 23

Headline – *Anger in Harare as Mugabe wins 'China's Nobel Prize* – known as the Confucius prize because, according to the committee chairman Qiao Damo, the president “has worked hard to bring political and economic order to the country and to improve the welfare of the Zimbabwean people by overcoming hardships.”

The awards committee comprises of 76 persons and only 36 voted to award the £51, 000 /500, 000 Yuan prize plus a gold trophy.

Inside the country opposition politicians are up in arms about the award as politicians note that “the rule of Mugabe is paved with blood violence, arson and cruelty.” noted Gordon Moyo; secretary general of the People's Democratic Party. - **GDN page 27 C 5** -

### Sat 31

Headline – *Official suspended over size of of Mugabe 's cap* – that he was supposed to wear when, as chancellor of the University of Zimbabwe he was honoured to present graduation certificates to those who had completed their degrees.

The 'crime' an ill fitting / wrong size mortar board for the president on two occasions; starting with the 2014 ceremony, then again this year saw assistant registrar Nngaatendwe Taakawira suspended from her post. With the possibility of her losing her job she has now gone to law; the high court calling on it to have the disciplinary action dismissed.

Prior to this the president, when attending the India Africa Forum Summit appeared unsteady on his feet while progressing to meet prime minister Modi in Delhi. - **GDN page24 C 4** -

## November

### Mon 23

Headline – *Mugabe to rule from 'special' wheelchair* – which will be pushed by his wife Grace. It has already been noted that the 91 year old has, on occasions, faltered or stumbled, when attending official functions. The help that the wife is willing to give is to enable the president to continue to rule over Zimbabwe and defy the president's critics that he is too old to run the nation he wrested from colonial rule in 1980. - **GDN page 19 C 1** -