

JANUARY 2009**Tues 13**

Headline - *Armed riot police patrol Harare as crisis deepens* - with no improvement in the political and economic situations in the country a heavy presence of troops can be seen on the streets of the capital.

The authorities deem there be a need as the number of protests, from opposition supporters, those scavenging for food scraps and health and medical services as these provisions become hard to find. - **GDN page 21 C 1** -

Thurs 15

Headline - *Toddler son of detained couple released from jail* - on the orders of Chief Justice G Chidyausika. The two year old Nigel Mutemagau, whose parents Collen M and Violet Mupfuranhehawe, are among a number of MDC supporters accused of a plot to kill Mugabe (qv 27/12), will now live with family relatives.

As to the continued detention of the accused the judge has ordered that all the defendants be examined in hospital after claims that they were tortured. - **GDN page 20 C 5** -

Fri 16

Headline - *Tsvangaria to return home for meeting with Mugabe* - on 17/1. The leader of the MDC will be accompanied by the South African president, Kgalema Motlanthe, is host in recent times, and an attendee at his talks with Mugabe.

It is said that as many as 2, 100 lives have been lost in the cholera outbreak that has hit the country. - **GDN page 25 C 1** -

Sun 18

Headline - *MP's fight to stop the deportation of activist* - who comes down of the Movement for Democratic Change. Having entered the country with a Malawian passport Luka Phiri, a former aid to T Khupe the vice president of the opposition party, now resides in the Colnbrook Immigration Centre awaiting a second attempt to send him out of the country.

With the intervention of MP Steven Timms, on 14/1, and a number of other politicians and the chair of the all party parliamentary group of MP's Kate Hoey, a judicial review of the initial deportation order was granted.

It would seem that although the government has agreed to halt all deportation of Zimbabwe nationals in 2006 (qv 15/10), having entered Britain on the Malawian travel document, the rules did not apply. It is now known that because of the overcrowding in that countries jails Phiri will be sent back to the land of his birth. where his life would be in danger because of his political associations. - **OBS page 13 C 1** -

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Mon 20

Headline - *Mugabe talks of 'last chance' on coalition* - as parliament begins, within 24 hours, to begin the debate on a bill that creates the cabinet positions that were agreed - although only by the ruling party - on 29/3.

However Morgan Tsvangaria, who has returned from his self imposed exile, will have a number of other points to raise with the president as the two parties try and come to some deal after the seven month impasse since the date of the election. - **GDN page 22 C 5** -

Wed 21

Headline - *Tsvangari warns of a 'dark day' as Zimbabwe power - sharing talks fail* - after only 12 hours. In response the regions leaders, from the Southern African Development Community will - again - convene a special meeting to consider a next move. If this heads of government fails, again to reach concerted plan of action, the 'Zimbabwe problem' will be handed over to members of the African Union. - **GDN page 25 C 1** -

Fri 23

Headline - *Film of Zimbabwe vote rigging is judged est news programme* - at the prestigious Broadcasting Awards ceremony. In the judges opinion **The Stolen Ballots**, secretly filmed by Shepherd Yuda the Harare based prison officer (qv 5/7), was judged the best news film submitted.

Now settled in Britain, after fleeing the country after tricking his employers he wanted an African based holiday, the MDC supporter is on a degree course at Teesside University. When qualified in forensic techniques he hopes to return to a 'free' Zimbabwe and work towards the prosecution of those who were responsible for the murder of a friend. - **GDN page 14 C 1** -

Leader Comment, **Diplomacy's last chance**, the death rattle of Mugabe's regime continues as Zanu PF refuse to hand over the running of the security and police departments. These are seen, by Mugabe, as the real 'ball breakers' of the long running impasse in the country.

This ongoing stalemate with the Movement of Democratic Change leave Mugabe only "with the ability to repress. Time, if anything is on the MDC's side." Where time is running out is with the members of the Southern African Development Community. With its policy on 'quiet diplomacy' on the way to becoming a "busted flush" it has one more chance.

"As Human Rights watch said ... it would the be up to the African Union to step in." - **ditto page 38 C 1** -

Tues 27

Headline - *EU adds British based firms to Zimbabwe sanctions blacklist* - helped by evidence gathered with the help of the London bases Serious Fraud Office and the authorities in the United States.

One, who has been named, and had his London office and home raided in 2008 (qv 27/11), is the sometime backer - and friend of Mugabe - is John Brendemcamp who has been known to offer the Zimbabwe 'logistical and financial support' which has gone a long way to ensure retention of

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power in the country.

In a second move, at the Brussels meeting of foreign ministers a 36 world wide firms, who work in the EU will no longer be contracted by European authorities if they continue to offer their services to the regime in Harare. Of these 18 were registered in Britain or off shore dependencies such as the Isle of Man or the Channel Islands. They also proscribed a further 27, to add to the 177 already 'banned' persons.

In a separate decision the Brussels called for an investigation into the diamond trade in the country. It is said that the authorities are sponsoring violence against those working the mines and the dealers. - **GDN page 10 C 1** -

Wed 28

Headline - ***Zanu - PF threaten to rule alone without MDC*** - as the president prepares to name a new administration on 13/2. This leaves the opposition only a few days to decide whether to take part in a unity government. An announcement would be made on 30/1. - **GDN page 21 C 2-**

Thurs 29

Cartoon, "It's from Zimbabwe" food aid from one beleaguered country to another - **Metro page 5 C 5** -

Fri 30

Headline - ***Food aid cut to starvation levels for millions ... as cash dries up for UN ..*** - to a level that is judged to be below the amount that is acknowledged to be below what will keep an adult alive.

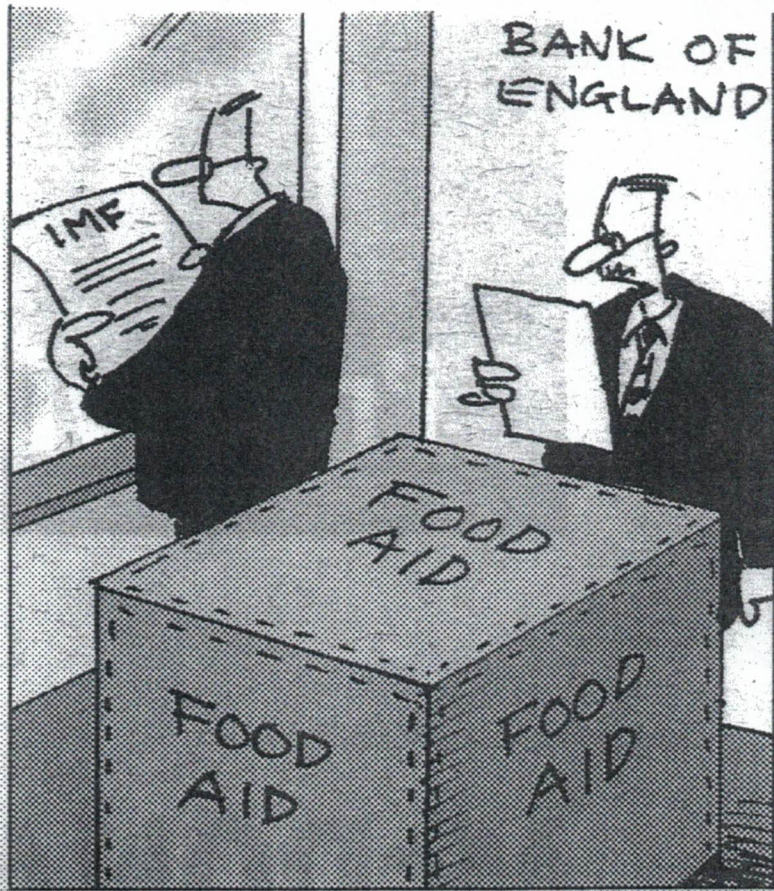
From 2/09 the United Nations World Food Programme will cut the core maize ration, a Zimbabwe staple food, from 10kg to 5kg per month. This will mean that charities such as Oxfam, who are feeding 253, 000 in the countries Midlands province, will see more families selling what they can for money to buy food, parents missing meals in order for their children to continue eating or sending the children on berry and root foraging missions to fill empty bellies.

Much of the food shortage is down to the non fulfilment of an international appeal for aid by the WFP. As of now the world has donated \$200m which officials indicate is \$65m short of its targets set for 2008/9. The crisis encompasses, now, 4.5m nationals. By the end of 2/09 it is expected that a further 1.5m Zimbabweans will become reliant on these food hand outs. It is not as if the authorities have been able to import its target amount of maize of 800, 000 tonnes. The most likely estimate of overseas imports is only 200, 000 tonnes.

The latest figures from the cholera outbreak show that approximately 1000 people have died from the 58, 000 cases reported.

Sat 31

Headline - ***Tsvangaria agrees to join unity government*** - rather than face the criticism that he had put his own interests ahead of the country. The decision was made following a meeting of the MDC's national council who were under pressure after the recent meeting of the Southern African Development Community. The new prime minister will swear the oath of office on 11/2



'It's from Zimbabwe'

Metro Thurs 29 January

29/1/09

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and take up his duties 48 hours later.

An update on the cholera epidemic that is sweeping the country by the World Health Organisation, said that 69 Zimbabwe national had died in the last 24 hours. This takes the number of deaths to 3, 161 since the outbreak began in 8/08. As of this time the number of cases recorded is in excess of 60, 000. - **GDN page 20 C 3 -**

FEBRUARY

Sun 1

Headline - *Mandela's 'elders' welcome coalition deal* - in a statement that was issued by Carter and Annan. The main message was a hope that the deal would ease the countries humanitarian crisis. There also added that the world would "give this agreement the best chance of success. **OBS page 40 C 5 -**

Tues 10

Headline - *Mugabe regime goes back on deal over activists* - now that it seem that members of the regimes Joint Operations Command [JOC] took a special interest in the case. It was foreseen that, after negotiations between Zanu's Nicholas Gotche and the MDC, 16 detainees were to be released on 6/2. There was to be a second spate of releases, 8 in number on 11/2, after a quick appearance before a judge on that day.

The agreed plan, which was a condition - set by Morgan Tsangaria as a condition of his being sworn in as Zimbabwe's prime minister - did not happen. The eight were not presented to the court on the orders of Major General P Zimondi. Attached to the JOC, at the time of the presidential elections, he was responsible for the ensuing violence and fear spread throughout supporters of the MDC .

Eight of those being held are women, including Jestinaa Mkoko, a member of the Zimbabwe Peace Project (qv 13/12. - **GDN page 15 C 5 -**

Wed 11

Headline - *Tsvangaria to be named Zimbabwe's prime minister* - where the aim of this administration is to work with, not join with Mugabe in the running of the country.

The working arrangements between the two, Zanu and the MDC, are such that even though the security and police portfolios stay with there present cabinet bosses, the financial purse strings are now held by Tendai Biti a lawyer and party secretary general of the MDC. The down side of this arrangement is that the governor of the central bank is still Mugabe's man.

Even with fiscal arrangements as they are there were warnings, from the British representative in Harare, that the hoped for inflow of international aid would be forthcoming. In a notice, placed in the capitals newspapers, there is neither support or rejection of the new administration. It is however noted that given Mugabe's "resistance to change to date his failed economic policies and

his propensity to rail against the outside world, it is unlikely that any government involving Mugabe will inspire donor confidence and attract the support it badly needs." In essence there will be no change, social, economic or financial without international aid. - **GDN page 23 C 1** -

Leader Comment, **Divide and rule**, would seem the only way, from the point of view of the Movement for Democratic Change, if the country is to be lifted out of the economic, financial and social catastrophe it is in at present.

Prime Minister Tsvangaria and the new finance minister T Biti have, at the very minimum two years to turn there policies into positive forces. As the UK's Harare notice states there will be little overseas aid offered for the stated reason. Therefore these next 24 months, after which there will be new elections, must achieve Zimbabwe's stabilisation. These aims can be achieved by careful lobbying of disaffected members of Zanu PF who can see that there futures are more secure in an administration that is not led by President Mugabe.

"Mugabe's man remains at the central bank. Conflict awaits round every corner. Yet it still might work, if the players are astute and with some skillful pressure from outside. - **ditto 32 C 1** -

Thurs 12

Headline - ***Tsvangaria finally in power - on paper at least*** - even as Mugabe's security forces hunt for Roy Bennet a newly appointed - MDC loyal - cabinet minister. He was not found this time.

In his speech after the swearing in ceremony the new prime minister could not help alluding to this date in 1990, the day Nelson Mandela walked out of prison as a free man. From that time on, for four more years there talks between politicians before the new administration finally began governing South Africa. Such will be the way forward in Zimbabwe he said.

However, as always, the state had ways of limiting Tsvangaria's message. Firstly the state controlled media blamed all the countries ills not on the present administration. Rather the plundering of the nation was blamed on the likes of Gordon Brown. Then just to add insult to injury as the prime minister began to speak, an agreed text, the television coverage was cut as dinner was being served.

There was some good news for teachers, soldiers, doctors and health workers they would continue to be paid in US dollars or South African rand until the six trillion inflation rate is brought under control. - **GDN page 1 C 5** -

Headline - ***Tsvangaria sets out plans to restore rule of law and revive devastated economy*** - "and will pass legislation to restore peoples freedom", re - establish the rule of law after years of impunity in which the ruling Zanu PF murdered and terrorised its opponents , and allow a free press to operate. A priority is to lay the groundwork for a new election within the next two years. A second priority is to bring the current outbreak of cholera that is sweeping the nation under control.

"in the immediate days ahead we will focus on the cholera crisis." More than 3, 300 Zimbabweans have died of cholera and about 70, 000 have been infected. - **ditto page 25 C 1** -

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Fri 13

Headline - *How did it come to this?* - when at one time, only ten years ago, Zimbabwe was self sufficient in food.

Not only have the people to contend with the shortage of food, there are other consequences for the malnourished to contend with. With one in four of the population suffering with, or infected by the HIV virus, going without food makes the taking of prescribed anti retroviral drugs 'like digesting razor blades' according to one health worker who has contact with Juliana Tafirei aged 36, who lives Muzondo village in Masvingo province.

The Zimbabwe Red Cross feeds 260, 000 people who are carrying the HIV virus or who have the full blown disease. As a typical recipient of the charities help, Tambudsai Savera aged 42 living in the mainly agricultural Masvingo province as one of the agreed 1.3m population, receives 50kg of maize, 5kg of beans and a little cooking oil. This food, enough for herself and her four children, provides little more than 1, 000 calories per day.

At one time the family had an income from the vegetable stall. This has now stopped because of her poor health and the severe down turn in the economy. A small monthly income, £3.50/R50, is made from renting out the road side stall. - **GDN G2 page 10 - 13 -**

Sat 14

News item, As members of the joint Zanu PF MDC cabinet were being sworn into office security police announced that the hunted Roy Bennet (qv 12/2) had been detained on a charge of treason. Designated to be a deputy minister the MP was held at an airport outside Harare. - **Today, Radio 4 7am -**

Headline - *Let's forget about Mugabe, says Zimbabwe's new PM* - and concentrate on the future. As far as Tsvangaria is concerned the two main stumbling blocks is the presence of Gideon Gomo as the governor of the country's central bank and the Zapu loyalist attorney general Johannes Tomana remaining in their respective positions. On the one hand, Gomo, has failed to ensure a stable economy while the chief law officer in the country has locked up many of the MDC's supporters over the last few years.

The newly installed prime minister also feels that there are growing divisions at the higher levels of Zanu - PF. The most noted of which was the non attendance of police chief A Chihuri or the head of the armed forces C Chiwenga refuse to attend the ceremony. - **GDN page 30 C 1 -**

Sun 15

Headline - *Power sharing in Zimbabwe threatened by a five man cabal* - namely members of the Joint Operations Command. With the state intention of preserving the rule of Mugabe or at the very least moulding the post Mugabe era to one of non prosecutions for previous crimes committed, they are - as one African diplomat says - 'the real enemy of democracy.'

A full list of the JOC, who have powers that enable them a full range of powers from being able to vet the next days front page of the Herald newspaper to agreeing the monetary policy of the reserve bank, as well as Chihuri and Chiwenga (qv 14/2) include the intelligence chief Happyton Bonyongwe, air force head P Shiri and the head of the prison service P Zimondi.

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Detailing the charges against Roy Bennet (qv 14/2). The deputy agricultural minister has now been charged with treason as it is said that he was mastermind behind a 2006 attempt to kill Mugabe. He was held by the authorities at the Charles Prince airport near Harare. It was thought he was returning to South Africa from where he had just come back after three years self imposed exile.

The fate of many of the detainees (qv 10/2) is still uncertain, at least three others Mukoko, G Mudzingwa (qv 13/1) - a political assistant to Tsvangaria and F Chirimba aged 72 have been hospitalised despite a court order for their release. - **OBS page 36** -

Mon 16

Headline - ***Zimbabwe politician faces terror charge*** - even it is not one of terrorism Roy Bennet MDC MP (qv) he will face a judge imminently. Lawyer for one, who according to Morgan Tsvangaria is a victim of "a malicious political vendetta," Trust Maanda says that the authorities were on a fishing expedition looking for a charge to fit the crime.

In the end they settled on a section of the Public Order and Security Act which makes it a crime to criticise the office of the president. In reality, according to the MDC leader who will not let the arrest of this man effect the party working in a coalition government, the arrest was organised by members of the JOC (qv 15/2).

Wed 18

Headline - ***Return to rule of law Tsvangaria tells cabinet*** - as the defence minister, E Mnangagwa, the state security minister, S Sekeramayi and the home affairs minister K Mohadi were given notice that legality before political loyalty was the only way forward in this a new era of Zimbabwean politics.

Overall the countries first joint cabinet meeting went, according to MDC sources, as fairly cordially but insubstantive. There was, from the president, a less than generous reaction over the Roy Bennet issue as Mugabe did not address it in a serious manner. **GDN page 117 C 1** -

Fri 20

Headline - ***Tsvangaria fulfils pledge to pay soldiers and civil servants in US dollars*** - as was stated on the day of his swearing in ceremony 12/2. In all, despite the questionable concerns of foreign diplomats, the \$100m/£70m has been found with - as the finance minister T Biti says - by a little 'juggling' of the books. The 130, 000 public service workers are being asked to return to work on 23/2. - **GDN page 26 C 1** -

Sat 21

Headline - ***Harare horror told in Mugabe ballet*** - a tale told firstly on the London stage (qv 30/11) is coming to the Carriageworks in Leeds on 17/3 as part of a nationwide tour. - **YEP page 6 C 3** -

Sun 22

Headline - ***Mugabe demands cash and cattle for a surreal 85th birthday banquet*** - as the prime

minister worries about finding 'maybe £3.5bn/\$5bn' to ensure the countries survival.

In respect of the spending by the nation for Mugabe's birthday there are \$100 raffle tickets to sell. Diplomatic tickets, priced at \$100, for a banquet at the plush Rainbow Towers hotel in the capital Harare. The each of the nations districts must give 50 cattle and raise £1, 000/\$1, 500 US. This will be spent at a giant rally and feast in the town of Chinhoyi which is 50 miles west of the capital.

As to the more relevant search for investment a likely source has emerged with finance ministers of Southern African Development and the African Development Bank agreeing to meet within the next seven days [source YEP 21/2 p 4]. Aside from the financial concerns the cholera outbreak has, according to the South African president, been 'contained.' This said the United Nations indicates that 3, 888 people have died.

Cabinet agreements have been broken by Zanu PF. The Harare Accord agreed that the previous administration would give 31 ministerial posts to party supporters. To date Mugabe has appointed 61 loyalists. A further drain on the countries failing resources 'they will all need there Mercedes 4x4's, drivers, bodyguards and housing says John Makumbe political science professor of the University of Zimbabwe. - **OBS page 33 C 3 -**

Thurs 26

Headline - ***Terrible toll*** - the latest update from the World Health Organisation on the outbreak of cholera that is sweeping the country says there are 79, 813 suspected cases reported by Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Welfare. Of the reported cases 3, 731 have proved fatal. Therefore the fatality rate is 4.7%.

As to the area affected - all 10 of the countries have reported outbreaks. For ongoing treatment the Ministry of Health and Child Welfare have provided 365 treatment centres where only half of the deaths are occurring. - **GDN page 20 C 2 -**

Fri 27

Headline - ***Time for Tsvangaria to tighten grip is limited - and Mugabe knows it*** - in essence the allotted 'honeymoon period' normally due to newly installed prime ministers is now over. It is time for the man to show who should hold the real power in the country.

The struggle will be hard fought, Zanu PF are refusing to let go of their man as governor of the central bank, which was a key element from the MDC side of this unity government. There is also the underhand workings of the Joint Operations Command (qv) whose top ranks have recently heard that Johannes Tomana, the countries attorney general, is not to continue an investigation of claims of violence perpetrated around the time of the presidential election in 2009. - **GDN page 27 C 1 -**

Sat 28

Radio report, Speaking at a rally celebrating his 85th birthday president Mugabe told his supporters that he would 'stop messing around' with members of the prime ministers supporters. However there was as promise of more farm land seizures. - **Radio 4 23. 00 -**

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MARCH

Fri 6

Headline - *Judge's stolen land taken back from him by Mugabe's wife* to give to a son from her first marriage as a birthday present.

Mr Justice Ben Hlatshwayo will face the same situation, forfeit of land, as happened in 2003 to Vernon Nicolle's 580 hectares estate in Blanket the white owners of the land. Proved to be a productive farmer, there was always a good harvest from the land, the eyes of the presidents wife fell on the land.

Having served court papers Justice Hlatshwayo complaining how he was illegally deprived of ownership, after a visit from three high ranking cabinet members, security minister D Mutasa justice minister P Chinamasa and agricultural mechanisation minister J Made. - **GDN page 23 C 5**

News item, The prime minister of Zimbabwe Morgan Tsvangaria and his wife have been injured in a traffic accident outside Harare. The condition of the prime minister is not serious although his wife suffered severe injuries. - **Radio 2 17. 00 -**

News item - The wife of the prime minister has died after a road accident as the couple were travelling to their home outside the capital. The driver of other the vehicle admitted that he fell asleep at the wheel. - **ITN 18. 30 -**

Sat 7

Headline - *Tsvangaria survives as car crash kills his wife* - Susan of 31 years and the mother of his six children. In retrospect described as 'a quiet women' and deeply religious who had recently spoken out about women's rights and the scourge of the Aids virus. - **GDN page 19 C 5 -**

Sun 8

Headline - *Mourning Tsvangaria flies out of Zimbabwe* - to neighbouring Botswana. There he will spend time adjusting to the death of forty nine year old wife Susan killed in an rta on 6/3. As party supporters flock to outside his Harare home, to show support for the prime ministers loss relatives begin to gather with the PM from their homes in Australia and South Africa.

As to any conspiracy theory over the casus of the accident, growing among some party members, a local union official was sent to the crash site to take photos of the overturned Land cruiser and check the vehicle's brakes for evidence of tampering. Mission accomplished, by cattle farmer D Theron, the camera was confiscated by the police on arrival. - **OBS page 40 C1 -**

Mon 9

Headline - *Tsvangaria to return for wife's funeral after tests in Botswana* - after only an overnight stay and a number of medical tests. The funeral of his wife will take place on 11/03. As the prime minister is away from his duties his deputy, Thokozoni Khuphe, will take day to day control of affairs until after the funeral. This will take place in the town of Buhera which is about 50 miles south of Harare and the destination - to a political rally - of the fateful 3 vehicle convoy

on 6/3.

Reporting on his inspection of the crash site, D Theron union official and cattle farmer, said that he had climbed on top of the upturned vehicle. He could not see any tampering with the break pipes or the steering. - **GDN page 17 C 5** -

Obituary Susan Nyaradzo Tsvangaria 24. 4. 1958 - 6. 3. 2009, If if Grace Mugabe was “the queen of consumers” then Susan was cut short in her attempt to become ‘mother of the nation. Born and educated in the Buhera, as was her husband. During the time spent before Morgan diversified into politics, whilst he was a foreman at a nickel mine, and as well as raising 3 boys and three girls there was her taking in of sewing and the running of a catering company.

Politically she was there during the hard times, the court cases 2003 and the police assaults 3/07. All the while aware of the danger her husband and family were in there was this thought “I would be lying if I said it had been easy. There were times when I feared for my husbands life. But at the end of the day I had to support my husband that is the role of a wife , a good wife at least.”

One legacy left is her setting up of the **Susan Tsvangaria Nyaradzo Trust** with an aim of helping Zimbabweans, mainly women and children to “not only feed them but to teach them to feed themselves. - **ditto page 34 C 5** -

Tues 10

Headline - ***Tsvangaria rules out foul play in fatal car crash*** - thus ending days of speculation, that the “accident” was an anything other than that. With these words the prime minister, still with his face swollen, arrived in Harare to prepare for the funeral of his wife. - **GDN page 23 C 3** -

Cartoon, culled from the archives Operating a Bank of Zimbabwe printing press the president comments “Gordon and I have a partnership of purpose”! *authors note both countries are in need of cash to survive if there personal position is to be secured.* - **The Times 6/3 page 30** -

Wed 11

Headline - ***Mugabe says death of PM's wife an act of God*** - when he spoke at a memorial service, in Harare, attended by the prime minister and his children and other close relatives. Later a gathering of 15, 000 ordinary Zimbabweans heard the PM said “lets celebrate her existence as God's gift to me and to you.”

During the presidents eulogy there was a call for an end to inter party violence between Zanu and the MDC as “this is what Susan would have wanted : for us to co - exist peacefully. He has lost a partner and we must all rally to support him.” - **GDN page 24 C 1** -

Fri 13

Headline - ***Pay up or Zimbabwe deal fails, warns Biti*** - who as minister of finance is desperate for the unity government to be able to keep its commitments to those people who elected it. This can be best done by the international community honouring agreements made to provide aid to ease the peoples situation.

With this aim in mind the Australian government have donated £4.7m, to be channelled through



GORDON AND I
HAVE A
PARTNERSHIP
OF PURPOSE!

BANK OF ZIMBABWE
PRESS

Peter Brookes 6 iii 09

The Times Fri March 6

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aid agencies and Britains International Development Department, which the secretary general of the MDC, has promised to ensure is not misdirected away the finance ministry and into Zanu approved projects.

The whole issue of funding the joint administration was discussed at a conference, hosted by the Tanzanian president in Dar es Salaam recently. Attending were representatives of the International Monetary Fund with the aim of "resuming relations" despite Zimbabwe already owing the body £90m. Further assistance may come after a meeting in Washington, USA on 20/3 where countries will endeavour to ensure any donations do not fall into the hands of Mugabe and his cronies.

The MDC secretary general/finance minister has asked for £1.4bn/\$2bn over the next 10 months. The reply was firstly the governor of the central bank, Gideon Gono must be sacked, whose policies have been blamed for the countries hyper inflation. - **GDN page 19 C 1** -

APRIL

Sat 4

Headline - ***Public rage over perks for new ministers*** - as members of the unity government gather for a summit in the plush surroundings of the Victoria Falls.

The gathered ministers, were in this one time popular tourist destination, to discuss ways of boosting the economy and especially encouraging the resumption of the influx of the overseas visitor, was somewhat disrupted when ministers appointed from the Movement for Democratic Change wing of the administration also arrived in state sponsored \$50,000 Mercedes vehicles.

In the public's perception accepting these, and other perks such as meeting in this setting is not what the MDC wing of the unity government were expected to condone, let alone participate in. However there was one member of the cabinet, MDC MP David Coulart minister for education, who has refused this type of transport. The reason being that this type of vehicle was not suitable for the rural roads of his constituency. -

Following the lead of the Australian government's promise to the country's finance minister T Biti (qv 13/3) members of the Southern African Community have pledged help as the Zimbabwe government seeks loans of US\$8.3bn, of which \$2bn is needed urgently, to rebuild the shattered economy. - **GDN page 33 C 1** -

Mon 6

Headline - ***Second tragedy for Tsvangaria as grandson drown*** - in the swimming pool of the prime minister's Harare home in the suburb of Strathaven. The Sean, and his parents - Garikai and Lilian - who live in Canada, were coming to the end of their stay following the funeral of Susan Tsvangaria (qv).

Whilst still grieving for the loss of his wife this second loss will prey heavily on the PM's mind as he continues in his aim to sort out the country's hyper inflation as well as a new constitution, a land audit and preventing fresh land invasions all before fresh elections in 18 months time. - **GDN page 14C 3** -

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Tues 7

Headline - *Zimbabwe coalition to relax tough media restrictions* - according to reports in the state owned Herald newspaper. This decision came at the much criticised '100 day strategy meeting' that was held at the Victoria Falls resort (qv 4/4).

With minds concentrated both wings of the unity government came to a joint conclusion that the time to save the country was upon them. They must find a way that would accommodate the demands of the international community's demands that before aid would be provided a much more fair and open society must be allowed. There also was a decision to concentrate on the inequalities and hardships in the justice and prison system. It was revealed in a SABC programme that inmates in Zimbabwe jails were literally starving to death. - **GDN page 16 C 4** -

Sun 19

Headline - *'No one could take Susan's place, with the same love and care'* - is the main theme of the recently widowed Morgan Tsvangaria. During this, his first interview since the loss not only of his wife and grandson, there is an explanation of their life together and his hopes for the future of new unity government.

As the prime minister sees it Zimbabwe's climb out of there current state of chaos and economic underachievement will not be alleviated until the judiciary and the transparency of land ownership becomes more transparent. The MDC faction of cabinet believe this will only be achieved when Gidion Gomo, the head of the central bank has been removed from office. - **OBS page 17 C 1** -

Tues 21

Headline - *Bank head took private cash to prop up ministries* - with the intention of keeping Zimbabwe afloat. This admission, along with the mitigation to "let bygones be bygones" would seem to be a last chance effort, by central bank governor Giddion Gono, to keep his position as top man in the Reserve Bank. - **GDN page 17 C 4** -

Sat 25

Headline - *MDC look forward to Zuma victory* - which seems the most likely result. With 95% of the votes counted the ANC claim that they have secured 66. 1% of the vote. The reason for the Tsvangaria wing of the unity government's optimism came from Tendai Biti the finance minister who said "I do'nt think it will be a quiet diplomacy I expect a more forthright, hands on diplomacy." - **GDN page 23 C 5** -

Tues 28

Headline - *Alarm over Zimbabwe's fleeing elephants* - as poaching and the destruction of the animals habitat, for food production, are a growing concern for the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force.

The plight of the elephant versus man confrontation has seen at least three invading the outskirts of the eastern town of Mutare as there grazing grounds have been taken over for farming purposes as the economic struggle for survival continues despite the efforts of the unity government. - **GDN page 17 C 1** -

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Leader Comment, **Help where it's needed**, is the plea that those in control of Zimbabwe's finances are urging on the west if the country is to climb out of the present economic melt down. This call for help will be reinforced with the imminent arrival of Tendai Biti of the MDC and also the countries finance minister.

With this the first stop of his travels he carries a message to the west with a demand that may be hard to meet, because of the economic climate, "\$8bn from Europe and the US to reconstruct the country that the other half of the government as plundered and continues to do so."

As these financial battles rage the internal politico/military battles are progressing under the surface. The loyalty of the lower ranks, now that they are being paid in foreign notes, is not assured as there seniors battle to either secure their positions or undermine the authority of the president. Apart from the economic benefits, gained from the international community, back home "it will bolster the MDC as pragmatists within Zanu PF."

"Conflicts ... do not have redemptive ending and the end is never neat. But the paramount aim is to ensure that the conflict does end. Justice, for the moment, must bide its time." - ditto page 32 -

MAY

Mon 4

Headline - ***Zimbabwe urged to slash fees to avert schools collapse*** - as the unity government remains on the verge of insolvency. As the new school term begins and fees have been set at \$20 to \$280 two months ago with the expectation that the international community had answered the administrations 13/3 plea all seemed well. However non substantial financial help has been forthcoming except a credit line of \$400m from African states to revive the countries failing industries.

With the country in such dire financial the people have been told that state employees are limited to a wage of only \$100 per month. This included the president. At this time Zimbabwe's main union have demanded a wage of \$450 per month for its members.

As education of the children is the future for the country University students, who have been denied an education for approximately 12 months re opened in 3/09. Closed because of broken services only 68 of the registered 12, 000, students at the University of Harare had enrolled at the recent restart of classes. With fees of \$300 the unpaid fees were due to the declining economic climate from twelve months ago. - GDN page 20 C 1-

Wed 6

Headline - ***Activists among 16 held in custody on terror charges*** - which include already detained, and following court moves released, released members of the Zimbabwe Peace Project who were first detained in 12/08.

Named, among those who are alleged to have planned to assassinate the president was Jestina Mokoko a member of the ngo who were last year detained for gathering evidence that the ZPP hoped would lead to the arrest of Mugabe on human rights charges along with members of the

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Movement of Democratic Change. - **GDN page 18 C5** -

Thurs 7

Headline - ***Rights activists get bail after Tsvangaria steps in*** - to ensure that Jestina Mokoko, and colleagues from the ZPG, had their bail conditions reinstated after appearing before Harder magistrate Catherine Chimanda.

In the end only 15 of the 18 detained walked free from court. - **GDN page 22 C 5** -

Mon 11

Headline - ***Mugabe 'part of the solution' - Tsvangaria*** - even though there are many people who say that the prime minister has ceded too much to his president. These comments were made, as the 100th day of his prime ministerial role falls away, as the PM was speaking at a gathering of South African students in Johannesburg. In essence Tsvangaria was saying that policy is made unhindered by the thoughts of the president.

Away from personalities, Annan, Mandela et al, who oversaw the beginning of the Harare Accord (qv) have called on the international community to give the unity government 'the benefit of the doubt,' in regard to the presence of Mugabe, and come forward and donate much needed foreign aid to revive the devastated Zimbabwean economy.

Noting that in 2008 Britain, and other countries, donated £444m/\$670 in emergency humanitarian aid there were calls for promised commitments to be honoured. The Elders chairman, Desmond Tutu, said "now is not the time for donors to take a 'wait and see' approach. This is the best chance that Zimbabweans have had for decades." - **GDN page 23 C 1** -

Sat 23

It would seem that the repressive Act of parliament, relating to the activities of the local and foreign media - **see page 141** - can be ignored, if the words of Morgan Tsvangaria are to be believed. Speaking to the South African media outlet The Star as the prime minister's 100 days in the unity government said that his working relationship with president Mugabe was "workable and respectable."

As to whether the international community were willing to provide a hoped for £5.2bn/ \$8.3bn fund to see Zimbabwe through difficult economic times the PM said that there was some positive engagement ... they accept there is change taking place ... There has been some positive engagement with them they will eventually open [their purses]." - **GDN page 29 C 3** -

Sun 31

Headline - ***Tsvangaria frustrated*** - in his efforts to bring the rule of law to the country. Speaking at the annual conference of the Movement of Democratic Change the prime minister the party leading of the unity government had harsh words for its partners.

"We have not yet succeeded in restoring the rule of law ... our people do not live free from fear, hunger and poverty." There was however no talk of pulling the plug on the infant unity government - **OBS page 37 C 2** -

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JUNE

Tues 2

Headline - *Mugabe is a typical Victorian gentleman says Tsvangaria ally* - which is the same conclusion that the author Heidi Holland the author of *Dinner with Mugabe*, first mentioned by this author in 2007, has now echoed by Tendi Biti the countries finance minister.

The, seen as Number 2 to the prime minister, finds it hard to equate the perfectly mannered and well dressed man with the person who has been responsible for much of the violence and starvation politics of the last 20 years and the person that he works wit. - **GDN page 17 C 1** -

Mon 8

Headline - *Must do better: verdict on fragile regime* - an overall verdict on the actions of the unity government in the eyes of newly qualified teacher Davison Makhado as he takes charge of 35 pupils at the Ellis Robesns School in Harare.

While the city schools may be well off, in terms of equipment, rural schools survive with only one text book per class. As to the promises payment of US\$100/£63 'allowence' many teachers have not received it, and only by sharing facilities with his brother can Davison continue to live.

As to the wider environment, while surface tensions seem to have diminished hidden away are deep resentments and worries for the future. The recent cholera outbreak the worst in 15 years (qv) has left nearly 5, 000 dead. - **GDN page 20 C 1** -

Headline - *Despite doubts, a warmer tone in London*, is the expected from the minister for Africa, Mallock Brown, as he begins a visit to the southern African region. Whilst there is no intention to go to Zimbabwe the minister will visit neighbouring Mozambique. There, in a speech the government has "recognises areas of progress made by the inclusive government." Despite continuing reservations the authorities in London do not want to be seen to be acting in a manner that hinders the work of the unity government. - **World Briefing S Tisdall, ditto page 21 C 3** -

Wed 10

Headline - *Poachers wiping out Zimbabwe's rhinos as demand surges* - seen as a consequence of the increasing influence of the Chinese in the countries internal affairs (see **Diary page 391**). With their belief in the 'medicinal' powers of powdered rhino horn the Beijing incommer's first need is to find a supply.

According to a report from by members of the Zimbabwe Conservation Task Force such a demand has depleted the numbers of black and white rhino's by 120 since 3/08. Although the numbers of those remaining are in dispute there could be as few as 400 of these animals left. The British based charity Save the Rhino see the number as high as 700.

In times past the meat of the dead animal would be seized by hungry villagers for the pot. To do so now would people die. It has been found that the poachers are using tranquilliser darts that are, not only quiet, but are filled with a drug the residue of which leaves the carcass unreliable.

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So worried are the authorities that the problem will be referred to the 7/09 meeting of the international watch-dog on such species - the Convention International Trade on Endangered Species [Cites]. - **GDN page 17 C 1 -**

Fri 12

Headline - *In praise of ... Zimbabwe's children* - as epitomised by David, aged 14, who has had to give up his schooling to care for his Aids infected widowed mother. Brought to the notice of the Radio 4 listeners to the Today programme this, the third report from reporter M Thompson "puts the concerns of British political life .. into a moving context."

David has not only forsaken his schooling in a country where there are 1.5m orphans among only 11m people, but there is often the duty of carrying his mother to the hospital when she is too sick to walk on her own. There is also the care of his 10 year old sister to consider. - **GDN page 34 C 1 -**

Sat 13

Headline - *Mugabe looks to bring in England and Brazil to save floundering economy* - as well as the west African state of Nigeria as nations prepare to set up training camps ahead of the 2010 World Cup. - **GDN page 25 C 4 -**

Fri 26

Headline - *Children forced to mine Zimbabwe diamonds* - which were seized by the Mugabe regime (qv 11/12) and named after the president's wife Sally. Working conditions at the site, the Marange district in the east of the country, have been highlighted by an investigation by the group Human Rights Watch.

In the Diamonds in the Rough report testimony is taken from a 13 year old girl. Forced to carry ore all day, with only a short rest between times her working day begins around 8am and finishes in darkness, 6pm.

With evidence gathered the HRW report alleges that the monies made from the sale of the diamonds is dissipated among senior Zanu military rather than going into the country's rescue fund. - **GDN page 24 C 1 -**

Headline - *West should not play into Mugabe's hands* - as the MDC's leader ends a 'cap in hand' tour of the first world in an effort to increase the international aid promised in earlier times. It would seem that the three week event has gathered in, not the targeted \$700m - \$1bn hoped for. Rather the smaller amount, closer to \$200m. This sum includes an extra £5m promised by prime minister Brown and \$73m from the administration in Washington. - **S Tidsall World Briefing, ditto C 3 -**

Sat 27

Letter, **C Wright Chair Commonwealth Committee on Zimbabwe**, in praise of the work Morgan Tsvangirai is doing with the acknowledgement that more needs to be done by the international community. To this end, on 9/7, the CMZ will host a two day meeting of regional business and community associations which it is hoped will show the same civic responsibility in

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forcing beneficial changes as shown during the democratisation of Namibia and South Africa in times past. - - GDN page 23 C 5 -

Tues 30

Headline - *Zimbabwe's government faces break up* - after a dispute between the president and his prime minister.

Angry thoughts were expressed by Thokozani Khup, vice president of the MDC, as Mugabe brought forward a cabinet meeting to meet with his intention of travelling out of the city on the normal cabinet day. Normal procedure would be for cabinet to be chaired by the countries prime minister in the absence the usual chair.

Of the brought forward meeting the MDC vice president said "The decision seeks to deny the recognition of the prime minister as the chair of cabinet when the president is away this reflects unilateralism to recognise reality and the spirit of the GPA [Global Political Agreement. - GDN page 14 C 5 -

JULY

Tues 7

Headline - *Mugabe condemns US envoy as 'idiot'* when he met the man from Washington, after once again breaking internationally/European Union imposed travel sanctions (qv), on a visit to the north African country of Libya.

The comments, reported in the state owned Herald newspaper, brought no comment from Jonnie Carson the under secretary of state for African affairs. Going further the Zimbabwe president also said "you wouldn't speak to an idiot of that nature. I was very angry with him, and he thinks he could dictate to us what to do". - GDN page 21 C 1 -

Tues 14

Headline - *Riot police break up constitutional talks* - as members of the unity government gather to hear the opening statement by the speaker of parliament. Those who cause the authorities to act were no observers but conference delegates themselves.

As police moved in to separate the delegates, overwhelmed by the underlying tensions between Zanu PF and members of the Movement for Democratic Change, the president and his prime minister met to discuss the dispute. - GDN page 16 C 5 -

Tues 28

Headline - *Zimbabwe minister receives bullet threat in post* - the fate dealt to the countries finance minister. The parcel arrived at his home in the Highfield suburb of Harare. A party spokesman indicated that, the assumed death threat was being taken seriously. A report had been filed with the police at Harare Central police station. - GDN page 13 C 1 -

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Thurs 30

Headline - *Eight years later, Zimbabwe lifts its ban on the BBC and CNN* - from reporting events there. With an denial that the media organisation had ever been banned the minister, W Shamu of media information and publicity, said that the broadcaster would now be able to "carry out all lawful activities" inside the country.

The return was thrashed out, in London between senior managers and government officials from Zimbabwe. Management are undecided whether to set up a permanent base in the countries capital. - GDN page 15 C 4 -

Fri 31

Headline - *New licence for banned anti - Mugabe newspapers* agreement has come from an information ministry committee set up two years ago years ago. Associated Newspapers of Zimbabwe [ANZ] - which this diarist believes was owner of the Daily News [see P 239] which was closed down for its opposition to the previous regime. - GDN page 19 C 3 -

Headline - *Out of Zimbabwe, telecoms boss means serious business for Africa* - despite living over the countries southern border since 2000. The reason that it would not be adviseable is because Stive Masiyaiwa who at the time was head of the recently re licenced publisher of the Daily News [see above]. - ditto page 27 C 1 -

AUGUST

Sun 2

A rise in the number of arrests, and then detention, of member of parliament belonging to the Movement o Democratic Change is seen - by some - as a new tactic in the battle to return the country to being a one party state.

Details - C Mwanda, the driver of the crashed vehicle that swerved into the vehicle that Susan Tsvangaria was a passenger in (qv 6/7) has ben charged with culpable homicide. Trevor Saruwaka MP for Mutasa Central in, Maciniland province, : rape and assault charges.. Deputy youth minister Tamsamqa Mahlangu : arrested on 28/7 for stealing a mobile phone. Bail, of US\$5, was first granted by the judge but revoked - under the Police and Criminal Procedure Act - by the state prosecutor. Stewart Garadhi MP for Chinhoyi, detained 31/7 : playing an anti Mugabe song.

Other members of the majority party in the unity government, with 100 seats, face alternative charges of abusing the state farm supply programme. One such, of the 14 alleged cases, concerns Ernest Mudavanhu MP Zaka North who has admitted his guilt.

The danger to the two party unity government's remaining existence is as there is only a one seat majority any convictions would lead to a byelection which, knowing the determination of Zanu PF to take sole command in the country, could see an end of the Harare Accord. OBS P27C1

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Fri 7

Headline - *MDC finance minister fears for his life after bullet in post* - (qv 28/7) An interview that acknowledges that Zimbabwe is going through a change and any change is dangerous, for the instigators of such a policy. Alongside Tendi Biti and prime minister Tsvangaria are "at risk of assassination and I think we are being irresponsible by having lax security arrangements we have, certainly myself." As aware of the danger to his life he is the finance minister does not have a body guard "If they want to do anything to you they can do it".

As if to enforce this danger it has been reported that the gardener at Biti's Harare home was attacked and beaten for a sustained period 20 minutes, by a member of the guard outside the home General P V Sibanda who lives on the same street, for not stopping on request. The 34 year old H Makonza nearly managed to enter the home of his employer before being detained - **GDN page 18 C1** -

Mon 10

Headline - *A new beginning? Food in the shops and functioning hospitals, but the beatings go on* - at this time of healing. With hopes of a settled life many of the accepted signs of a 'stable' country seem to be returning six months after the Harare Accord was signed.

With Hyper inflation standing at 89.7 sextillion %(10²¹) an inflow of tax returns to the treasury that has risen from £2.3m in 1/09 to \$60m - \$70m now will go some way towards growing the economy. This aim is also helped by the \$100m in foreign aid promised by the British government.

2.8m pupils are back at school as their teachers are beginning to be paid the promised \$00 - \$165 a month to work in crumbling classrooms. Classes at the University of Zimbabwe can now be taught in gloomy conditions as the electricians have begun to work after disruption in 9/08, Deaths from Cholera, which is expected to return at the start of the rainy season, have been put at 4, 000.

Crime rates, especially in the large cities, are on the increase. In Harare incidents of car jacking and house theft are of particular notice. Blamed are the returning, from South Africa, national who fled across the Limpopo river - for whatever reason - or army deserters. Whoever is to blame is said to have learned there skills, in the army or from cross border associates.

Political motivated murders, in 2008 election year - 203 say the Movement for Democratic Change, 107 say figures from the Zimbabwe Human Rights Forum. As to 2009 respectively, 30 and just one. The opposition indicate that many of this years deaths are due to the impact of injuries caused during election year clashes. - **GDN page 14 C** -

Headline - *Campaigners see chance to push for equality in new constitution* - as modelled on the black majority government in Pretoria. South Africa's constitution is the only such that enshrines the rights of gay and lesbian and make illegal discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation.

Twice members of Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe[GALZ] have pushed for such a reform. The director, Keith Goddard, now thinks the time or a third push for change is appropriate, as talk of a constitutional revue have been mooted (qv 14/7). Backed by National Aids Council's push in its strategic plan 06 - 10 to decriminalise homosexuality as a way of combating the spread of the HIV

virus there is a 50:50 chance of success.

As to the whole issue of elections, which are supposed to take place within 2 years, it is postulated by some that the recovery of the economy of the country is more important than any battle between Mugabe and Tsvangaria. - ditto C 2 -

Tues 11

Headline - **Robert Mugabe condemns 'racist Britain'** in his usual not unknown tirades against the west who still continue their policy of trade and travel sanctions against him and members of his Zanu party.

The words were spoken during a funeral service, for former vice president J Msika before a crowd of 20, 000 at National Heroes Acre in Harare. Part of his speech to onlookers was a mocking reference to the "Rule Britannia Rule Britannia rules the waves Britannia rules the waves" song of the former colonial power. - GDN page 14, C 5 -

Wed 19

Headline '**Over a long period of time you start to develop some chemistry**' even if that man has tried to have you killed, charged with treason and survived numerous beatings, you still have to work with your president.

Six months into the unity government Morgan Tsvangaria, prime minister, gives out on his working relationship with president Mugabe. "We agree to differ ... communicate, we talk, we discuss, we don't believe there is anything insurmountable to discuss I'm very free." The recent attack by the president on the west and Britain (qv 11/8) was diffused with humour - "Well your statement was quite predictable," said the pm to the president. - GDN page 21 C 1 -

Thurs 20

Headline - **Tension mounts as 10 MDC parliamentarians are arrested** as they gather at the finance ministry building in the capital. After being charged with disorderly conduct they were released by the police. - GDN page 23 C 5 -

Sat 22

Headline - **Face to faith** - a hymn for Zimbabwe Lord we receive/ Your body and your blood/And claim communion/in one bond of love. In faith and hope/for all your world we lead, /Where hungry children/.Cry for bread. Take it in your hands/Once more, O Lord of Life, This broken bread / this cup of sacrifice. So shall the world/In mercy find relief;/Your children make their/Eucharist in peace. - C Chivers, cannon chancellor and director of ExChange at Blackburn Cathedral GDN page 29 C 2 -

Sat 29

Headline - **Zuma holds talks to end Mugabe Tsvangaria rift** - With the stated concerns over president Mugabe's health - see SA diary page 419 - there was a happy atmosphere when all three African 'notables' attended a state banquet. With the intention of ending the perceived feuding between members of Zanu PF and the Movement for Democratic Change the South African

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president noted that "it is very encouraging to note the significant progress that has been made under the auspices of the inclusive government." In response the host said that "the inclusive government is alive and well. - GDN page 22 C 1 -

SEPTEMBER

Fri 4

Headline - *Zim farmers' homes set alight* - Despite the ruling of the Southern African Development Cooperation in 2008 white farm owners Campbell and Frith have been burned out of their homes by supporters of Zanu PF. This issue will be discussed at the forthcoming SADC meeting in Kinshasa in the Democratic Republic of Congo. - **The Mercury [SA] page 5 C 5 -**

Fri 11

Leader Comment, **Failing Zimbabwe**, has continued, even after the election of Jacob Zuma. "There was widespread and justified expectation that regional leaders would address the deadlocked unity government in Zimbabwe."

In reality all that the Southern African Development Corporation has achieved is to "address Mugabe's grievances, by calling on western governments to lift sanctions against him and his cronies."

What they have done is form a Zimbabwe troika who will report to the SADC security organ and their justice delegation will examine moves to have Mugabe accept the legal ruling concerning farm evictions.

"The leaders could and should have resolved both these urgent problems themselves. After a promising start, Zuma seems to have failed his first big foreign policy test." - **Cape Argus page 16 C 1 -**

Mon 14

Headline - *Tsvangaria puts heat on Mugabe as EU retains sanctions* - however it will continue to offer £79m a year for the interim government to use on humanitarian aid and £7.5m education sponsorship fund..

Taking a tough stance, when addressing a meeting of party supporters at a rally in Bulawayo, the prime minister is to go to the people and seek their opinion on whether the ten year old Movement for Democratic Change should remain as part of the government. - **GDN page 22 C1**

OCTOBER

Sat 3

Headline - *Outcry forces Nestle to stop buying milk from Mugabe farm* - which the company says it was doing because the Zimbabwe Dairy Board was strapped for cash.

There are some people, as many as 8, 000 on the Facebook internet site that have long campaigned for an end of the companies involvement in the third world.

The history, of this one named farm, Gushungo, was that it had been subject to seizure under the presidents land reforms (qv) and was actually owned by his second wife Grace. Much as the west detests the farm seizure programme the head of the Commercial Farmers Union, president Dean Theron, said "We're receiving a bigger hiding now than before ... and the rule of law isn't there. It is being applied very selectively - **GDN page 29 C 1** -

Wed 7

Headline - *Mugabe tells west: lets forgive and be friends* - during his speech at the opening ceremony of the new parliamentary year. "Our country remains in a positive stance to enter into fresh friendly and co - operative relations with all those countries that have been hostile to us in the past."

With these words, more for show than substance, indicate that the president because of good relations with the visiting EEC officials recently (qv 14/9) sanctions against hi, party officials and his wife should be removed. Also the countless number of verbal attacks Mugabe has made against Britain or America over the last years.

Commenting a MDC spokesman, A Chadwick, said "You can't read much into this. He says what people want to hear. He didn't mention one thing about the rule of law or legislation to advance people's freedoms. I don't think the speech bore any relation to the reality on the ground. - **GDN page 16 C1** -

Thurs 15

Headline - *Senior MDC member back in jail in Mugabe overthrow case* that has its roots back in 2006. The deputy agriculture minister and former white farmer, Roy Bennet, who was jailed on the eve of the Harare Accord was signed over accusations of hidden weapons being found on his land will have to stand trial accused of plotting against the president.

Freed on bail by the supreme court after his co accused was found not guilty these present moves are seen as being politically motivated. - **GDN page 25 C 5** -

Sat 17

News item It would seem that the re arrest of Roy Bennet (qv 15/10) was the last straw for prime minister Morgan Tsvangeria. Even though the deputy minister of agriculture has now been released the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change will boycott the recently formed unity government. - **BBC Radio 4 7am** -

Headline - *Tsvangaria says he will boycott the unity government* - because of the "dishonest and unreliable" behaviour of his partner in government members of the Zanu - PF led by president Mugabe. - **GDN page 19 C 4** -

Sun 25

Headline - *MDC house raided* - Police raided a house used by executives of Prime Minister

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Morgan Tsvangaria's party, according to Zimbabwe's finance minister. Tendi Biti secretary general of one element of the unity government said 50 armed officers 'ransacked' the Harare house and took away party documents. - **OBS page 47 C 6** -

Fri 30

Headline - *Protests greet plan to resume forced returns to Zimbabwe* - even as intimidation and abductions of 'notables' continue (qv 25/10). The perceived improvement in conditions, as the unity government has been in place for more than six months, has brought about the abandoned policy of 206 of returning failed asylum seekers to Zimbabwe.

The minister, P Woolas, made his decision knowing that since forced repatriations had been stopped numbers of nationals had volunteered to return home. By this method, and with a helping hand of £2, 000 cash inducement, as part of a £6, 000 package, 89 Zimbabweans had gone home in the period 1/09 - 8/09. - **GDN page 6 C 1** -

Headline *UN torture investigator turned away as Zimbabwe power share rift grows* - to such an extent that a delegation from the Southern African Development Community have travelled to Harare for talks.

It was on the same plane that Manfred Norwak the UN's special rapporteur also arrived at the capitals airport on. Invited by prime minister Tsvangaria it was expected that he would be treated with all courtesy. This was not to be. Instead he was held overnight at the airport and sent back to Johannesburg on the first flight available. His treatment has been classed as an insult to the United Nations and a protest will be made.

According to J Moyo, a former information minister, Mr Nowark had been told, whilst still in South Africa, that a postponement of his visit was in order. It was not diplomatic protocol to have two such high level delegations in the country at the same time. It was the UN official who pushed and bullied into Zimbabwe. "Is he Jesus? Why can't respect Zimbabwe" asked the Zanu PF member.

P Gavezere MDC MP and Transport minister has been missing from his home since 28/10. It is details such as these that the three man team from the SADC have come to investigate. - **ditto page 19 C1** -

NOVEMBER

Fri 13

In praise of Roy Bennet - see page 463 - with a basis as a white farmer his life, since independence, has been one of harassment as he has been in and out of jail even when serving as a minister in the unity government.

Still on trial, over alleged treason charges, and a deal worked out in Mozambique which allowed the MDC leader to call of party's boycott of the joint government, the Shona speaking minister is still held in jail. - **GDN page 38 C 1** -

Sat 28

Headline - *Fifa accused of handing Mugabe trophy coup* as he manages to fondles the World Cup as its journey through all 53 African nations on the way to South Africa. Criticism came from Raymond Majongwe the secretary general of the Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe.

Speaking out, against a leader who is responsible for atrocities and the oppression of his people he said "Its a symbol of sporting excellence and the trophy every world leader craves to hold in his lifetime. They could have sent a political message by keeping it away from Zimbabwe." **GDN page 26 C2 -**

DECEMBER

Sun 13

Headline - *Mugabe re - elected as Zanu PF leader for five more years* - mainly because party insiders believe that there is there is no one that carries the political clout with the ability to stand up to prime minister Morgan Tsvangaria or the high fliers - Tendai Biti - in the MDC. If the president, now eligible to stand for the post in the 2013 elections Mugabe would be 89, and have seen off other Zanu Members who may want the position.

In the mind of John Makimbe a lecturer at the University of Zimbabwe the party congress was to find a replacement for vice president J Mski who died in 8/09. Votes went in the majority to John Nkoma who is seen as a protegee of the defence minister E Mnangagwa. With a 'party loyalist' in position a second faction, with ambitions of the top jobs Joyce and Solomon Mjuru the continues smooth running of the country is left in the hands of the MDC. - **OBS page 35 C1**

Thurs 24

Headline - *Nestles halts operation after milk deal goes sour* - from any farm in the country. The move was not in any way motivated by the international campaign against the company (qv 3/10) or that one of the farms that the company took milk from had been taken over by the wife of president Mugabe

The trigger for the pullout was an unannounced visit from the police government officials on 19/12 and were forced to accept a milk delivery non contracted suppliers. Two of its managers were questioned by police and released without charge on the same day.

Explaining the suspension a statement from the world's largest group said that the decision had been made as under such circumstances "normal operations and the safety of employees are no longer guaranteed. - **GDN page 24 C3 -**

Tues 29

Headline - *A child is born ... but what does the future hold for the billionth African?* where, by the estimate of officials from the United Nations Population Fund the number of people living in Zimbabwe - now put at 12.52m - will rise to - by 2050 - 22. 18m. By mid century there will be a 77% increase in population. - **GDN page 23 C 1 -**