

JANUARY 2006

Sun 1

Headline – Named the embassies which owe ... in traffic fines – to compile a list, of diplomats who do not pay when they violate to council invoked Congestion Charge, would see Zimbabwe's London representatives in 7th place.

Out of the total owed, of 3. 5m pounds [English] Zimbabwe House residents have failed to pay 96, 390 pounds. – IOS page 22 C1 –

Wed 4

Headline – African leaders break silence on Mugabe's human rights abuses – the statement from the African Union's Human Rights Commission, came after a 4 day meeting of many of Africa's heads of state

Much of condemnation was based on the evidence from the UN's head of humanitarian aid made her own visit to Harare. There she called for the prosecution of government leaders after the government inspired removal of illegal squatters from the streets and surroundings of Harare.

Critics of the Harare government call the work of the African Union 'good work' as it, once again brings the focus of the world onto Harare's repressive regime. – GDN page 14 C1 -

FEBRUARY

Fri 3

Headline – Dramatic fall in Zimbabwe HIV infections – says a comparison of research projects, between 1998 and 2003 in the eastern province of Manicaland, shows that the prevalence of HIV infection has dropped steeply.

Writing in the US journal Science the research team, led by S Gregson from Imperial College London, show that the Aids virus does not show up as widespread as in some other sub Saharan young people.

Blood tests were taken 9, 454 people from 12 communities in the province. Findings – an overall fall, from 23% - 5% HIV infection. Men aged 17 – 54 19.5% to 18. 2%. Women 15 – 54 25/9% to 22. 3%. On questioning those aged 17 – 19 years about sexual activity both male and female dropped 21 – 9%. Even the act of casual sex was reduced. For the male by 49% and the female by 22%.

The United Nations Global Fund that is fighting the HIV infection in Sub Saharan Africa has released figures that show that in 2003 the numbers of Adults and Children infected in a number of African countries. In Zimbabwe, the figure's reveal, that there are 1.6m adults and 120, 000 children infected by the Aids virus. – GDN page 27 C1 –

Headline – Millionaires without the price of a loaf - with the introduction of a new high value denomination of Z\$50, 000 – worth US\$ 50c/28p wads of these notes will be needed to purchase essential items.

With inflation now hitting more than 580% an average family in Zimbabwe now

needs Z\$16. 6m (\$US 166) per month to survive. Inflation is expected to rise to 800% by 3/06. ditto C 5 -

Sat 4

Headline – The editors letter on white supremacy – months after the declaration of the Unilateral Declaration of Independence [UDI] by Ian Smith in the British colony of Rhodesia the editor of the Guardian newspaper endeavoured to plead with the Conservative MP Lloyd not to travel to the rebel regime.

The letter, written on 4. 2. 66, pleads that the forthcoming visit will not benefit the black majority, who outnumber the whites by 15:1. – GDN page 34, C1 –

Tues 21

Headline - Africa needs more courage – is the African continents solution to the problems it has, because of the links to its colonial past, so says Mugabe. “What one notices is a lack of courage A kind of surrender to European authority. I suppose it’s because of poverty.”

During the 90 minuet television broadcast, on the occasion of his 82nd birthday, his main targets were Britain and the International Monetary Fund, whom he called a ‘political monster’, and of trying to unseat the government. This at the time when the government had printed Z\$21 trillion to settle its debt with this body.

Inflation – 613%. – GDN page 19 C 5 –

Mon 27

Headline – Bad luck continues to stalk Zambia’s white farmers, hounded from Zimbabwe – only this time it is the consequence of their, and the countries economic success that are causing problems.

To take just one example, Brent Greatorex a second generation Zimbabwe white who left after being thrown off his farmland in 1/03, relocated to Chongwe 25 miles north of Lusaka to take over a 1,300 hectares abandoned dairy farm.

Through use of \$! m loans from the bank and the American Universal Leaf Tobacco company they were prepared to produce not insignificant harvests of maize, wheat and tobacco a year. All was well for just two seasons until the Zambian currency, the kwacha, became the currency to hold. Price comparisons between the two countries for the hire of labour and other services, cost of equipment all hit the profits. A farm labourer’s day wage in Zimbabwe was \$0. 20, whilst in Chongwe \$2. 30.

As to the locations of other white farm owners, who were forced off their land? Mozambique is host to almost 100. They are mostly settled in Manica, Barue and Sussanundenga – all provinces along the border with Zimbabwe. They do not own the land; all is leased from Maputo. In all the farms employ 4, 000 labourers. Malawi is the home to ‘dozens’ despite the claim that “There is no land in Malawi” as claimed in an editorial in the Daily Times. Nigeria is host to 12+ who represent, according to the president, “what is good for Africa taken away.” – GDN page 25 C1 -

Mon 20

Headline - ***MDC leader vows to turn up heat on Mugabe*** - Pressure will be stepped up on the government of Robert Mugabe and his government, Morgan Tsvangarira said yesterday.

Speaking as leader of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, at its convention in the capital in Harare, Mr Tsvngaria said that the split - caused by some members questioning the worth of fighting the 11/05 upper house elections, as a "temporary diversion" and was now healed.

The MDC in all 12 of Zimbabwe's provinces, plus the party youth and women's wings endorsed a new term for him at the end of the two day congress. **GDN page 22 C 5 -**

Thurs 23

Headline - *Coca - Cola dries up in Zimbabwe* - officially there was no reason given for the end of a 40 year association between the US drinks company and the country. Those in the know will speculate that the deterioration of the economic climate is the real cause.

For those desperate to sample the fizzy drink a Harare based sports club was selling cans of the imported drink for Z\$100, 000 [83p] double the price of the locally bottled version.

Inflation for 2/06 was put at 780%. - **GDN page 19 C 4 -**

Thurs 30

Headline - *Zimbabwe low on contraceptive pill* - the state owned Herald newspaper has quoted a pharmacist, working in the capital Harare as saying that there is a shortage of supplies of the daily birth control pill He is unsure of his next delivery.

This is another worry for the Mugabe government as it faces rising inflation and a shortage of foreign currency. - **Independent page 26 -**

APRIL

Sat 22

Headline - *Mugabe invites whites to lease back land* - after years of disposing a minority community of the means of production there has had to be climbdown by the authorities in Harare.

As of this date the Commercial Farmers Union indicate that at least 200 white farmers have applied for 99 year leases, which will go some way towards hopefully lessening the dependence of the international community feeding many of the Zimbabwean people. As a consequence of the 4 years of widespread food shortages the economy has contracted by 40% and inflation has soured to 913%. - GDN page 19 C 5 -

Mon 24

Headline - *Behind a facade of normality Zimbabwe is falling apart* - Harare, as a capital city, seems to function - the shops are open, there are no ox driven ambulances on the streets and government functions. So well does this happen that a brand of securocrats now appear to run the country.

20 minuets is the frequency that a child dies of Aids and another is orphaned, according to Unicef. It also estimates that 1.6m children, almost 1:3 are orphans.

4.3m is the number of people receiving food aid after a number of poor harvests, drought and chaotic land reform policies.

34 years is the average life expectancy for women - the lowest in the world. For men

it is 37, according to the WHO.

3.5m is the number of Zimbabweans said to have emigrated, mostly to South Africa, Botswana and Britain. GDN page 25 C1 -

Tues 25

Headline - *As Zimbabwe's economy collapses, a tiny few make profits* - through the Harare based stock exchange. With a semblance normality stocks are traded in 75 companies among which are Barclays, British American tobacco and the insurance company First Mutual.

Much of this inward investment comes from Chinese and Indian firms who can see potential profits after the Mugabe regime has ended. This is not to say that members of the ruling Zanu - PF are not able to take advantage of a situation that they themselves have not had some benefit from. Some of the largest farm estates - Kondozi where the white farmers have been evicted from - are now in the hands of three cabinet ministers.

Other speculative profits have been made on property. Anticipating a rise in house prices, in the fullness of time, a top of the range home with four bedrooms, swimming pool and tennis court now costs \$160, 000, whereas a few years ago the same property sold for \$100, 000.- GDN page 21 C1 -

JUNE

Sat 3

Headline - *UN warn of new wave of evictions and demolition* - there was concerns that Operation Marumbatsvini - initiated in 2005 (qv 25/5) - is about to be reintroduced again.

According to M Kothari, the UN special rapporteur in Geneva "we have information that another round of evictions is imminent." In recent weeks the government has rounded up 10, 000 homeless people in Harare and announced they will be sent to rural areas. As to the condition of the 70, 000 who lost their homes, in Phase 1, their plight is described as 'alarming.' - GDN page 19 C 5 -

Fri 9

Headline - *Tycoon flees Zimbabwe after falling foul of Mugabe* - in what could be seen as the presidents fall out with one of only two moneyed white financial backers J Bredenkamp - as opposed to Nicholas van Hoogstraten who retains his large ranching estate, and allegedly recently lent Mugabe \$10m, - has fled the country.

The self imposed exile, in this hurried manor, comes at a time when National Economic Conduct Inspectorate are investigating alleged economic crimes allegedly carried out by his group of companies. The man's interests cover arms, aircraft tobacco, mining, petroleum and hotels all to a value of between £400 - 700m.

Critics say that the real fall out between Mugabe and Bredenkamp is based on his backing of the political ambitions of Emmersom Mnangagwa who was at one time the presidential 'heir apparent.' The Zanu - PF's MP's undoing was to be eager for the president to retire early. - GDN page 20 C 1 -

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JULY

Wed 5

Headline - *Mob attack Zimbabwe MP* - a group of members of the opposition Movement for Democratic Change, including one of the co founders - Trudy Stevenson, have been attacked as they travelled through Mabvuku township in the Harare North constituency.

There is some speculation that the attack was carried out by factions within the MDC who are not happy with seemingly inability of the Opposition to mount an effective counter leadership of Mugabe. Speaking after the attack, in which machete wielding thugs dragged their victims from their vehicle, Mr Tsvangaria blamed the attack on members of the Mugabe regime. - GDN page 15 C 1 -

Wed 12

Headline - *Is it any surprise that the people who live here in the world* - a lifestyle measure, produced by the New Economics Foundation and Friends of the Earth, have produced a guide to where is the best place to live.

Their Happy Planet Index, based on life expectancy, life satisfaction and ecological footprint, has grades 178 countries in the order that their nationals feel is the best place to live. Not unexpectedly the Zimbabwean people have given a very negative response to the questioners. In fact Mugabe’s domain came bottom off the list. Britain did not do much better, coming in the 108th spot. The most contented nationals lived on the Pacific Island of Vanuatu. - GDN page 23 C 1 -

AUGUST

Wed 2

Headline - *in praise of ... Thomas Mapfumo* the word Chimurenga - struggle - is a word well known to this internationally well known Zimbabwean musician. So much of his song writing is enmeshed in the ideas of this that first he was jailed by Ian Smith, the Rhodesian leader, in 1970's, and now forced to flee the country by Mugabe. His crime calling on Zimbabweans to oppose the social and economic conditions through his rule.

Using his latest recording, **Rise UP**, released in 6/06, has been banned from the countries radio stations. This is in addition to the 1989 album **Corruption** that at first praised the new Mugabe regime, then records its decline.

Internationally Mapfumo's treatment has not been much better. At first, from his new home in the American state of Oregon his performances on the worlds stage were limited he was invited to open one leg of the Live8 in 2005. As appearing at a concert in Reading recently the British refused him a visa. “

... a shabby way to treat a man who deserves respect for both his music and his political bravery.” - GDN page 30 C1 -

Thurs 3

Headline - *Tribunal lifts blanket ban on deportation of Zimbabwean* - following on from the judicial review ordered in 2005 (qv 5/8). As of this time the number of Zimbabweans affected by the decision is 7, 000.

However there are restrictions as to the nature of people that can be sent back to face the harshness if the Mugabe regime. It is the wish of this tribunal that, in the words of Mr Justice Hodge, 'claimants with links with the Zimbabwean opposition parties or with military or criminal records might be at greater danger of serious mistreating during interrogation' should not be sent back.

Comments from the home office indicate that for every 10 who claim asylum only one application is genuine. Also 755 applications - with 595 decisions already made - to stay were made in 1 - 3/06. Of these only 55 had been granted.
- GDN page 7 C 5 -

Thurs 17

Headline - *When a basketfull of groceries costs a bucketfull of cash* - the date will be 21/8. That is the day, due to the countries appalling economic crisis, the government will issue new bank notes with three zeros removed. For example a Z\$20, 000 note will be replaced by Z\$20 note. And thus ever downwards - Z\$100, 000 will become Z\$100.

This cosmetic massaging of the economy - 'From zero to hero - as the governor of Zimbabwe's central bank G Gono, calls it will do nothing for the rapidly rising inflation rate.

From the stated date the use of old style currency will not be allowed, hence the rush to the banks to deposit, in some cases substantial savings. However to be found in possession of as little as Z\$100m/£88 is a criminal offence which is likely to be seized by the police. To date police have confiscated Z\$700bn from 3, 200 nationals.

Exchange rates, Official \$US 1: 250, 000 Z\$. Black market \$US 1: 600, 000 Z\$. According to tales told, to take a bus ride costs Z\$600, 000. School fees of Z\$300m are difficult to pay when to caught travelling with more than Z\$100m is illegal. -

Sun 20

Headline - *Shopping spree as Zimbabwe currency loses three zeroes* Currency changing regulations, for the business community are just as stringent as those for the private individual (qv 18/8) and have their limitations also.

The allowance, from old to new, mean that - as of 1/8 - Z\$5b a week can be exchanged per week, prior to Changeover Day. The business is only allowed a maximum of exchanging Old Z\$100m. For any further cash transfers proof of ownership, to the satisfaction of banking officials will be needed. - **IOS page 38, C3 -**

Thurs 31

Obituary, Michael Hartnack 17. 10. 45 - 2. 8. 06 a chronicler of events as the then Rhodesia passed through the majority struggle for independence, the Zimbabwe Rhodesia period through to a fully independent Zimbabwe and events beyond 1980.

Born in what is now Zambia, within a family of journalists, he went to England in 1956 and attended Hastings grammar in Sussex. At the age of 18 worked at Cambridge Evening News . 1966, on his return to Rhodesia, he took up a position a court and municipal reporting on the Rhodesian Herald.

During his time there he battled, through his association with the Rhodesian Guild of Journalists, he battled with management - without success - to gain the same pay for black reporters as their white colleges received. In his position, as president of the journalists union between 1976 and 1980, he was able to produce reliable reports of the growing economic difficulties the country was facing during the dying days of the Smith regime.

In 2003, in recognition of his writings for many other publications in the region he was awarded a doctorate from South Africa's Rhodes University.

September

Sat 9

Headline - *Mugabe slated as 700, 000 stay homeless* - says the human rights organisation Amnesty International. The report states that the Harare authorities have only 3, 300 homes for those that lost their homes during the 2005 Operation Marumbatsvini in the capital Harare (qv).

This condemnation of the presidents promises, to rebuild the destroyed homes in Harare as well as Bulawayo, was also criticised by the outspoken Roman Catholic bishop of Zimbabwe's second city. The report, from the solidarity Peace Trust, headed by P Ncube, indicated that a large segment of the population of the already severely disadvantaged had lost their possessions and their health during these times. - **GDN page 28 C 5 -**

Mon 18

Headline - *Zimbabwean union chiefs tell of police beatings* - as they gather at a planned march to protest at the countries deteriorating economic system becomes more apparent.

At least 12, if not more, union leaders - officials of the Zimbabwean Trade Union

Congress - were hospitalised after the attention of police as they gathered in central Harare.

Among those injured, many with broken bones and bandaged heads were W Chibebe the ZTUC secretary general, who was beaten so badly that he remained unconscious from the afternoon of the attack - 13/9 - until 14/9 am. Despite his added injuries of fractures to his arm and his fingers he was not taken for medical treatment until 15/9.

Of those who appeared in court, which was inside the Harare hospital ward, were ZTUC officials were L Matombo president along with the union vice president L Matibenga. As to ongoing policy of detentions and torture of those opposed to the current regime the Human Rights Forum say that 69 cases of this type have been noted by them just for 7/06.

Inflation, latest, 1, 200%. - GDN page 14 C1 -

OCTOBER

Fri 13

Headline - *Zimbabwe's hairdressers join HIV fight* - via a grant through the NGO Population Services International, from the British government. With this cash injection the PSI will be able to increase its sale of condoms from 160m to 250m

The chief selling point for these condoms, of both male and female type, will be through the 1,000 hairdressing salons where employees have been trained to be HIV aware.

PSI operatives feel that this chosen venue is ideal for such health awareness talks. In fact in 2005 more than 50% of all distributed female condoms were channelled through 700 beauty salons in low income areas.

Zimbabwe has one of the world's highest HIV rates, with 1:5 estimated to be infected. Of these 80% are unaware of their status. This PSI campaign aims to provide testing and counselling for 800, 000 people The demand for the female condom has risen by 240% since 2001. - GDN page 29 C1 -

NOVEMBER

Sat 4

Headline - *The savannah comes to Beijing as China hosts its new empire* - with the comment "we have nothing to lose but our imperialist chains" president Mugabe has along with many other African leaders, travelled - once again [see page 330] - as the guest of the president Hu Jianto.

On offer, from a country that is emerging as a contender on world markets, are opportunities for continental Africa to find a ready market for its goods, and for China there are able to find ready markets for their cheaply produced goods. - GDN page 24 C 1 -

Mon 6

Headline *African summit signs £1bn deals with more on the way* - as one of the 48 leaders on the African continent who travelled to Beijing (qv 4/11) president Mugabe is sure to be in line for a substantial amount of the benefits that China is to bestow on

the continent in the coming years

It is the intention of the regime in Beijing, over the next 2 years, to aid the African continent in its trade and development to the tune of £1.9bn/\$1bn. By the year 2020 it is hoped that trade between China and the 48 countries on the continent will reach \$100bn. - **GDN page 19 C3** -

Sat 11

News report - seven days after the national airline, Air Zimbabwe, raised its prices by 500%, flights to London have been suspended. It has been said that this is due to a real fear that planes will be seized in lieu of unpaid debts. - **Radio 2, 17. 00** -

Tues 14

Headline - *UN agency cuts food aid because of a cash shortage* - the United Nations food agency said yesterday it had scaled food distribution in Zimbabwe, where more than a million people are in critical need, because of a shortage of donor funds. It said further reductions across southern Africa might also be needed.

The World Food Programme said poor donor response followed repeated assurances by the Zimbabwean government that the country would be able to feed itself head of the next harvest in 3/07.

In its operations across southern Africa the agency said faced a £32m/\$60m funding shortfall.

DECEMBER

Sun 17

Headline - *Desperate Mugabe allows white farmers to come back* to the tune - as of 11/06 - 19. This is seen as a acknowledgement by the president that the year 2000 policy of expelling almost 4, 500 farmers was wrong. According to the land minister, F Buka, there are at least 200 other white farmers ready to return to the land.

In an announced move 'as a cost saving measure' the presidential elections, due in 2008, have been postponed till 2010, after a vote at the annual congress of Zanu - PF. In effect this will ensure that Mugabe becomes president for life. - **IOS page 50 C 1-**

Fri 29

Headline - *Gold and gems recovered in raids on illegal miners* - Police in Zimbabwe have arrested 16, 290 illegal miners in a series of raids across the country that began over a month ago it emerged yesterday. More than 3kg [6.6lb] of gold and 500 tons of gold ore, 4,876 diamonds and 20 emeralds were recovered, police spokesman Oliver Mandipaker told The Herald, a government newspaper.

Troops were recently called in to seal off Marange district to stop a 'diamond rush' after earth tremors and dry weather exposed a seam of diamonds. Under Zimbabwean law, precious metals are sold through a state controlled

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