

## JANUARY 2012

### Tues 3

Headline – *Workers claim abuse as China adds Zimbabwe to its scramble for Africa* as work begins on the construction of a new military college outside Harare. Many of the workers note the harsh working conditions imposed by Anhui Foreign Economic Construction Company and the harsh beating metered out for mistakes made.

Workers estimate that there are approximately 600 national and 300 foreign workers on site and fifty of the Chinese are in management positions. A carpenter, with a wife and three children, works from 7am – 9pm. For this he receives £2.50 /\$4 per day.

The firm is also active, according to its web site in Ivory Coast, Mozambique and Zambia and praises its efforts to raise \$4, 570 for the son of a carpenter who needed treatment for leukaemia. – **GDN page 17 C 1 -**

### Tues 10

Headline – *Zimbabwe bans sale of used underwear* – under statute 150/2011. The import of such items, from wherever sourced, local flea market or overseas was stopped on 30/12. Announced, by MDC MP Tendai Biti after he noted that for a woman having to purchase used knickers a husband can rightly believe 'you have failed her.'

Brought to the attention of the written media; NewsDay, the new policy was deemed “one of the best laws that our country has put in place is the importation of second hand under ware.” The paper also noted that such a move would benefit the health of the nation and protect the countries own cotton industry. - **GDN page 16 C 5 -**

Headline – *Zanu – PF claims rights to gold rush finds* – as the party has done to the diamonds mined from the Marange district in eastern Zimbabwe. The precious metal has been panned from the waters of Kweke, a town mid way between the capital and Bulawayo.

First discovered in 2008, in an area known as the Sherwood Block, in the town's Amaveni suburb, the illegal prospectors were driven away by police and the army with their large dogs.

According the political parties regional secretary 'Mudha' Ncube the gold deposits found here “belong to his party.” - **ditto page 18 C 5 -**

## FEBRUARY

### Thurs 2

Headline - *Zimbabwe footballers in fix row* as eighty three players have been

suspended after events in 2007 and 2009 in a betting scandal deemed Asiagate by the countries press. The sports ruling body, the Zimbabwe Football Association has set up an independent inquiry. - **GDN page 17 C 1** -

### **Mon 20**

Headline – *Mugabe vows to hold general election in 2012* – despite the oppositions claim that constitutional changes must come first. The president was speaking, on the eve of his 88th birthday to the loyalist Sunday Mail newspaper.

Of those who noted that 2013 would be a more appropriate he said that they were 'cowards'. - **GDN page 15 C 4** -

## **MAY**

### **Sun 27**

Headline *Detained Radio 3 presenter suffers injuries at Zimbabwe police station* – The classical music DJ Petroc Trelawny was in the city of Bulawayo at the invitation at the invitation of B McDonald the administrator of the countries Academy of Music to act as a judge.

At the end of the competition, in front of a capacity audience of 1, 000 people; including 500 children he was approached by a member of the immigration service. There was no violent altercation however there was a slip which aggravated a previous shoulder injury. A Trip to hospital then ensued.

Government spokesman D Coultart, education, sport, arts and culture minister of the MDC questioned why this breach of the law, *authors note* no work permit: now remuneration sought [22. 00 news 26/5] should be treated this way. - **OBS page 25 C 1** -

### **Wed 30**

Headline – *The travel envoy who can 't go anywhere – Mugabe is UN 's new 'leader for tourism* – after his appointment by the World Tourism Organisation. His 'letters patent' were handed over at the Victoria Falls Hotel on the border with Zambia where that countries president M Sata.

Naturally there was world wide condemnation, as the 85 year old president is subject to European Union travel sanctions, one such; K Hoey, chair of the all party Zimbabwe group called the award an absolute scandal and an affront to the people of Zimbabwe.

From inside the country MDC spokesman, K Muchemwa, said “I can 't see any justification for the man being an ambassador. An ambassador for what. The man has blood on his hands. Do they want tourists to see those bloody hands?”

Grateful for this international offer Zanu PF deemed their presidents honour a recognition that the press and outside world had overstated the countries problems. Spokesman R Gumbo said “ .... accept the reality on the ground. We can theorise about sanctions but the reality is that the UN is in control of the situation. If you can 't defeat them, join them; that is what we are witnessing.

Explaining the thinking behind the appointment N Pillay, high commissioner for human rights, urged the West to lift its sanctions as they were hurting the poor of the country. The UN official also called on the Harare administration to pass reforms before the next election. - **GDN page 3 C 1** -

## JUNE

### Tues 5

British born residents in Harare; members of the British Residents Association applied for a police license; with more than 10 persons attending it was following the law, to hold a street party to honour the 60 year reign of Queen Elizabeth the Second.

Back came the reply; a refusal as there would be more than 10 people present which in the eyes of the law is a political meeting.

Despite a recent statement, concerning the appointment of president Mugabe 's appointment as an ambassador for tourism (qv /5) from the UN World Tourism Organisation there are plans to hold its world gathering of 2013 in Zimbabwe.

Such is the world s 's concern as such occurrences that the decision could be referred to the World Committee on Tourism Ethics. Would Mugabe dare to provide a character reference - **Diary GDN page 27 C 5** -

### Fri 8

News item, the The BBC 6 Radio DJ Petroc Trelawny, detained in Bulawayo (qv 27/5) somewhat down plaid his six day detention when a part interview was rebroadcast.

According to the dis jockey it was not the fact that it appeared he was engaged in paid work, without the appropriate permit, it was the fact that he was a BBC employee. To much of the country, although their journalists are now welcome back into Zimbabwe, there is still scepticism as to their purpose. - **Radio 2 Showbiz Cuts Steve Wright 16. 05** -

## JULY

### Wed 4

Headline – *Mugabe flies to Singapore amid rumours over health* says state radio. This is despite loyal party/media followers indicating that the 88 year old is fit. Wife Grace says longevity runs in the family – **GDN page 19 C 2** -

## Fri 6

Headline – *Grace Mugabe: from first lady to ice cream queen* – with milk from one of the farms that was 'liquidated from its previous white owners in 2010 (qv 1/12). Her big chance came when the president's second wife fell out with the Nestle company who stopped dealing with her.

Under the brand name Alpha Omega the milk, and milk products, from the Gushungo dairy estate end up on the shelves of the country's largest supermarket chain; OK. Speaking to Zimbabwe's Sunday Mail Mrs Mugabe said that the 2,000 head of cattle on the estate were probably milked in the second largest milking parlour; able to milk 64 bovine's at the same time, in southern Africa. - **GDN page 23 C 1** -

## Sun 15

Headline – *Hain urges wider Zimbabwe sanctions as blood diamonds bolster Mugabe regime* – in the run up to the next presidential election; rumoured to be due in 2013.

During a House of Commons debate, in the London parliament, the scourge of the apartheid regime in South Africa pre 1994 and at one time government foreign office minister, is to urge limits on an increased number of Zimbabwe residents as the EU sanctions against the country are due for renewal imminently.

Of special concern is the activities of Chinese national Sam Pa who is secretly funding, through legally sending monies, from the sale of 'blood diamonds' mined in the country.

The above, brought to world attention by the charity Global Witness in their report Financing a Parallel Government are other underhand activities. It is now known that Anjun Investments is a jointly owned company between Pa and the security branch; the CIO. Profits are then syphoned off, with no tax paid to the government, into the coffers of Zanu PF. Thus helping the financing the re election campaign of the party leader.

Recently the country's finance minister, Tendai Biti, a member of the Movement for Democratic Change, noted that such losses to Zimbabwe could be put at £385m, which would go some way to financing the country's health and education of Zimbabwe's children.- **OBS page 11 C 1** -

## Tues 24

Headline – *EU lifts aid restrictions but keeps up Mugabe pressure* – and, with any luck the removal of sanctions. With immediate effect, on the say so of the Union's foreign ministers, direct aid to the Harare government will be resumed. On the lifting of sanctions the ministers indicated decision would wait until the result of a constitutional referendum being "peaceful and credible.

As things stand, re sanctions, 112 people and 11 organisations face finance and travel penalties. - **GDN page 18 C 3** -

## **Thurs 26**

Headline - *Atlas of Olympic success* – during the whole era of the modern Olympic Games, from 1896, it can be said that Zimbabwe has won eight medals 3 of which were Gold. - *graphic* **GDN page 20** -

Headline – *Mugabe 'ready to give up power'* – if he were to loose power at the expected elections in 2013. So says the leader of the Movement for Democratic Change. The comment was made as Morgan Tsvangaria was in New Zealand. The countries prime minister was on an international tour to try and gain support for a call to ending limited sanctions against the Harare government. - **YEP page 8 C 1** -

## **SEPTEMBER**

### **Mon 24**

Headline – *Bulawayo households rally to flush call* – as the region continues to suffer the effects of prolonged drought. Council officials asked resident, on 23/9 at 19. 30, who have flush toilets rather than a septic tank to pull the chain of their toilet simultaneously. Such a move, they hoped, would force enough water through the system as to clear toilet waste through the sewerage system at one go.

Zimbabwe's second city, like much of the country only receives piped water 72 hours per week due to the drought which is expected to end when the rainy season begins in 11/12. A successful flushing campaign will see the manoeuvre repeated every three days until then. - **GDN page 20 C 3** -

## **NOVEMBER**

### **Tues 13**

Headline – *Mugabe regime accused of \$2bn diamond theft* – according to a Canadian report. Entitled Reap What You Sow; Greed and Corruption in Zimbabwe's Marange Diamond Fields was authored by Partnership Africa Canada.

Since the opening of the field, firstly illegally by opportunist diggers in 2008 and thereafter by the state and friends of the Zanu PF leader PAC indicate that much of the lost revenue went directly to party members. There was no benefit to the state coffers. - **GDN page 22 C 3** -

## **DECEMBER**

### **Tues 11**

Headline – *'He chose me,' says Zimbabwe's first lady in Mugabe love story* an affair which began while Grace was married to her first husband and she was the presidents secretary. Although very young when they married 'DisGrace', as her enemies dub her, finds that the president was very supportive of her. - **GDN page 19 C 4** -