

## JANUARY 2014

### Mon 27

Headline – *Inflow of .... nationals play key role in Britain's health care ...* - according to the Health and Social Care Information Centre the country 's National Health Service employs 4, 473 Zimbabwe nationals. Of these 3, 182 are employed as doctors, those qualified in the nursing and midwifery sections. - **GDN page 7 graphic** -

## FEBRUARY

### Thurs 20

Headline '*Much as I detest the bugger, he's done some remarkable things*' – Zimbabwe's leader could have been a Mandela, so why did he go so wrong? The writer breaks down the differences and the similarities of both Robert Mugabe; the liberation leader who, jointly with Joshua Nkomo led his country out of colonial Africa to the 'bread basket of Africa' then into the economic chaos of recent times.

On the other hand the life of Nelson Mandela became the life of a demi god who knew when to give up the leadership of his country after defeating the apartheid system. **D Smith; GDN page 24 C 1**

Headline - *\$1m party for Africa 's oldest head of state* – that is Robert Mugabe 's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday and its expected cost. This sum, although promised by event organiser the chairman of the Youth league of the ruling Zanu party Absalom Sikhonsa, to come from donations a former finance minister Tendal Biti MP believes it will come from the public purse.

This is a bad time, economically, to be celebrating such an occasion as it seems the bad times are returning to a country that seemed to be working with its coalition partners, the Movement for Democratic Change, to bring the good life back to the country. However at the 2013 Morgan Tsvangaria 's influence diminished as many of their MP 's lost their parliamentary seats. - **GDN page 25 C 4** -

### Fri 21

News item, even at the time of presidents Mugabe's birthday and him being in Singapore recovering from a cataract operation, discussion with an exiled academic as to whether Britain 's prime minister, David Cameron, should meet with his opposite number when they have the opportunity to do so at an international gathering taking place in Europe in the foreseeable future.

The exiled academic thought the time was right as Mugabe 's arguments, that soured relations with the British , was his personal dislike of a previous government's policy; the Labour regime of Tony Blair. - **Today; 6.53am approximately** -

### Mon 24

Headline – *Mugabe marks 90<sup>th</sup> birthday with balloons and rhetoric* – as he flies in from Singapore after his recent cataract eye operation. Once inside the Marondera Stadium outside Harare. In his speech, which lasted in excess of one hour, those gathered were told that his, and Zapu 's recent elections had confounded those in the west, Plaudits of support, from the Chinese and Russian ambassadors were given during the ceremony. - **GDN page 16 C 5** -

## MARCH

### Sat 29

Headline – *EU – Africa summit to be boycotted by Mugabe* – in a show of support for his wife who has been denied a visa to enter Belgium when heads of government meet in Brussels for two days of meetings beginning on 1.4 – GDN page 22 C 5 -

## JULY

### Fri 11

Headline – *Conjoined twins successfully separated* – after living two months joined from the chest to the upper abdomen. The only organ that had to be split was the liver. The 8 hour procedure was carried out with a team of 50 persons, led by Bothwell Mbuwayesango, at state hospital in Harare.

Such was the operation lauded, despite the acknowledged lack of modern facilities that would be expected for this type of operation, President Mugabe made visit to mother and child and noted that poor health facilities throughout the country are balm on the international sanctions placed on Zimbabwe by the international community. - GDN page 20 C 4 -

## AUGUST

### Wed 27

Headline – *Mugabe in China to build on trade 'cooperation' ties* – on his 13<sup>th</sup> journey to the country whose businesses are already heavily involved in the country that its president has fallen out with western governments.

Well documented within these pages is the involvement of China's largest conglomerates; Jinan Mining, heavily involved in the Maraga diamond fields in the east of the country. Also with an interest in this same field is the finance company Anjan Investments. Other, non financial, investments, by China based companies for 2013 was said to be \$602m according to the Xinhua official news agency. GDN page 18 C1 -

Headline – *Lessing's gift: 3, 000 books from authors collection go to Zimbabwe* – the country the Nobel Prize winner called home despite being made declared a prohibited migrant in 1956 after making disparaging remarks about the white minority population. And returning in 1982 to 1988 thence returning to London.

The books will be donated to Zimbabwe's leading library in Harare. Those gifted include biographies, histories, reference, poetry and fiction books. Despite being a people who were born to read. The mayor of Harare, Bernard Manyenyeni noted that the donation was a “magnificent gesture which has taken her love for this country beyond her death.” - ditto C 3 -

## SEPTEMBER

### Sun 7

Headline – *From typing pool to politics: why Grace Mugabe is seen as next .... leader* – as she herself has recently stated “the time has come to show people what I am made of ; words spoken at

a Zanu PF rally in the town of Mazowe in recent times following her nomination for the lead position on the parties national executive. With this honour, assured by the executive vote in 12/'14 will stand her in good stead to challenge for the presidency of a country that the western international community seems to have given up on.

Long may it have be the intention of Africa's longest serving leader to create a dynastic rule, the countries president had lain with Grace, from the typing pool even before the death of Mugabe's first wife. There are others who may challenge for the leadership at an election in the future. One such is the present vice president Joice Mujuru who herself needs to outflank justice minister Emmerson Mnangagwa for the top post in the country.

Most of the people 'in the know' about future of the country doubt that the wife of Robert Mugabe will have much effect on the future of the country once he is no longer alive. Pushing of Grace forward is seen as only a vain attempt to keep the ideals and the economic wealth of the Mugabe dynasty alive long after his demise. - **Observer page 20 C 1**

## OCTOBER

### Mon 6

Headline – *authors own Nobel Prize awards* – according to figures released by the Nobel Foundation only one Zimbabwean national had been named a Nobel laureate. In comparison 93 persons in the United Kingdom have had the same honour bestowed on them. *graphic*; **GDN page 12 -**

## DECEMBER

### Sat 6

Headline – *The women tipped to rule Zimbabwe who may ring a bell- meet Mrs Robert Mugabe* – and those who dare to speak out; tell of how unfitting this 'woman from the typing pool' is for such a position. Labelled as “crude and rough” by the former finance minister Simba Makoni. Another critic, the vice president for the last ten years, Joice Mujuru, has faced personal attacks on her time in office. The one who placed her in that position now calls her “simplistic” and his wife, relating to her recognised time spent in the guerilla army that brought Mugabe to power, now notes that were the vice president to be killed”dogs and fleas would not disturb her carcass.” - **GDN page 3 C 1 -**

### Tues 9

News report, claims, from president Mugabe that his vice president Joyce Mujuru was intent on assassinating him has led the former guerilla leader to remove her from her position. Also forced out of office were seven other cabinet ministers indicated in the plot. - **Radio 4 22. 00 -**

### Wed 10

Headline – *Mugabe sacks deputy and ministers over plot* – as cabinet secretary, Mishec Sibanda, explains that the reason Joyce Majuru lost her position was as a result as her conflict of interests and conduct “inconsistent with the expected standard.” The minister of state, and a long time supporter of the president, Didymus Mutasa was one of the seven ministers linked with the 'overthrow the president' plot said to have been inspired by the former guerilla fighter with the nickname Spill Blood. - **GDN page 22 C 2 -**

## **Thurs 11**

Headline – *The 'Crocodile' lined up as Mugabe 's successor* – and as a long time minister of justice it was a fitting position for Emmerson Mnangagwa to shoe horned into. The 80 year old president made his announcement at the end of the annual meeting of the Zanu PF central committee meeting. - **GDN page 30 C 4** -

## **Fri 12**

Headline *Mugabe claims assassins tried to poison new deputy* – the 'Crocodile,' while the presidents second vice president, Phrlekezela Mphoko remains unscathed. According to the Herald newspaper persons unknown broke into the office of the former justice minister overnight. Before leaving they had spread poison dust about the office.

When the days work began, it was the secretary Catherine Magaya who was first to enter the office. The very act of of this action created an upward draught of air which caused the secretary to breath in some of the scattered dust. She is now in hospital in a critical condition. - **GDN page 35 C 5** -

## **Tues 16**

Headline – *Paddington Bear extends paw of British friendship to Zimbabwe* – as the recently opened movie, of the same name, gets it continental premier in Harare. On an idea though out up by the newly installed London ambassador Catriona Laig in 10/14 presented her credentials to the Zimbabwe president.

Despite an early good relationship with the former colonial power mutual understandings between the two countries deteriorated as the Harare administration became more and more dictatorial in nature. Such a feeling was expressed by the president noted “I am not British .... a colonial product because I am a complete Zimbabwean.”

In an effort to stamp out this feeling the ambassador noted that “Zimbabwe and Britain have a long shared history, strong ties characterised by a common language and culture that includes and adores childhood characters like Paddington Bear. - **GDN page 19 C 1** -