

Political Climate



Clouds of uncertainty continue to hover over the Zimbabwean polity. Continued farm invasions, logjam over the appointment of governors, Permanent secretaries, and ambassadors are clear pressure points for democratic reversal in Zimbabwe. Further, the continued incarceration of Ghandi Mudzingwa and other abductees shows a serious sincerity deficit on the part of former ruling party, ZANU PF.

The constitutional reform debate continues to find itself at the core of political debate in the country at the moment. Of concern to the civil society and the people in general, MDC supporters included, is the process articulated in Article 6 of the CPA and the vacillation of the inclusive government as reflected in the conflicting multiple pronouncements by senior government authorities.

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai returned home on Tuesday 24 March 2009 from South Africa where he was on compassionate leave following the passing on of his wife, Susan Tsvangirai. He subsequently recommenced work the following day.

In conclusion, Zimbabwe continues to navigate in treacherous political waters albeit tokenistic reforms.

Clever Bere
ZINASU President

Economic Climate

Redefining the economic models

...The urgency of yesterday!

Zimbabwe's macro-economic environment is at a defining moment than ever before, this is specifically prevailing with the collective engagement of the two ruling parties namely Zanu PF and Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) which emerges with the populace underpinning a wave of hope that they will work with the urgency of yesterday to come up with economic policies that will effect an overhaul which is much needed to stabilize Zimbabwe's economy.

The emphasis of the urgency of yesterday is coming for the glaring statics which compound Zimbabwe's economy. A cursory analysis shows that Zimbabwe's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is still in the red at -3.6% as of 2008 according to the International Monetary Fund estimations, which is almost a decade in recession. In the year 2007 the IMF estimated the figure at -5.7%.

In July 2008, the central statistics office pegged Zimbabwe's inflation rate at 231,000,000%, which virtually rendered the local currency redundant. The July 2008 projections of the monthly-annualized inflation became an imperative for the CSO to stop making projections, inflation figures had gone past the measurable scale as the country had reached a stagflation zone where the laws of demand and supply were no longer triggering equilibrium in the pricing regime.

The international debt as of December 2008 had gone to a record high USD \$4.69 billion compared to USD \$1.3 billion in December 2002. This clearly indicates that Zimbabwe is failing to service its international obligations on the country's credit lines.

Foreign direct investment has drastically dwindled from US \$400 million in 1998 to US \$30 million in 2007, marginally losing US \$370 million in 9 years. This has been mainly influenced by the government of Zimbabwe, and then led by Zanu PF's failure to protect property rights.

Recommendations

There is an imperative need to transform the state institutions and other arms of government to effectively address the raging economic crisis. Top on the list is the need to transform the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) into a genuine central bank with a narrow cast mandate of monetary policy rather than encroaching into quasi-fiscal activities which are inflationary.

There is a compelling need to reduce government expenditure, which in this case is a paradox given the size of the government. Reduction in government consumption will increase the disposal revenue of the state which will be channeled to social service delivery such as education, health and the humanitarian supplies among others.



In the spirit of the same there is need for the political parties to create a common ground so that they can start working toward fixing the limping economy rather than political slogans.

Tabani Moyo
Advocacy Officer
MISA Zimbabwe

Social Climate

Farm workers on the receiving end of farm invasions

by Tapiwa Zivira- GAPWUZ Information Officer

The General Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union of Zimbabwe (GAPWUZ) notes with concern the rising incidents of farm disturbances across the country.

The disturbances, which have seen many farm workers being kicked out of their homes, are a complete disregard of the farm workers rights to continue living at a farm when new employers take over.

More so, these incidents, in which farm workers and their families face unjustified harassment, are also an infringement of the basic human rights as enshrined in the Zimbabwean Constitution and the United Nations Charter.

GAPWUZ can record that over 1 500 families have been affected by the current disturbances with many of them being evicted from their homes and others losing employment at the farms, which is their source of income.

The evictions have had a snowball effect on the livelihood of these families many of which have no other home except the farm villages.

The children of the affected families are failing to go to school, the sick cannot access medical help and a considerable number has lost their hard earned property.

We therefore call upon the government to quickly put measures that will ensure the discontinuation of these chaotic farm takeovers and possibly pave way for a smooth transition between farmers.

A smooth transition will, with no doubt, ensure respect for the farm workers rights.

We also urge the government through the Labour and Land Ministries to quickly formulate a worker friendly policy that will guide outgoing and incoming farmers during the process of changing hands.

Let us all remember that for Zimbabwe to be the breadbasket of Africa; it all comes from the hard work of the farm labourer, who with his bare hands can provide for the nation. So, harassing the labourer will surely not augur well for our economy.

Mash-west (Chegutu District)

Name of Farm	Invader	No of workers
New March	War vet Chigwada	100
Twoford	Jamaya	200
Etheredge	E. Madzongwe	400
Windram	C.I.O	40
Mazowe Citrus	MP Zinyemba ,Mr Kusaka	400
K.B Estate	War vet	300
Doolhill	War Vet	200
T. I Beatrice	Masiwa RBZ employee	200
Downs	Chasauka ZPF	60
Mashyng		
Quarter Per/ta Swart Fontein	Mijor Mudavanhu	12 served with an eviction order
Bolland	Governor Chivewe	20

In extreme cases, some employers are resorting to corporal punishment to discipline farm workers who are accused of allegations ranging from theft, sexual harassment, absenteeism and late arrival at work.

Gross human violation.

The following officers and workers are among others who have been beaten threatened, intimidated during the course of their duties.

Gertrude Hambira, Juliet Sithole, Shunga Mateesauwa, Joyce Muwoni, Mavis Satiya, Rixon Qoma, Edward Dzeka, Samson Sithole, Luck Ringoziva, David Mutambirwa, Denzel Zharare, James Nyowani, Simon Gubha, Tajwa Zivira, Camaan Mutambe