

PRIME MINISTER

THE NEWSLETTER FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER

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All eyes on SADC

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) will again be the focus of attention this week when it meets to discuss the Zimbabwean crisis including the implementation of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) and the election roadmap.

Tensions between the parties that signed the GPA have continued to rise fuelled mostly by breaches to the Agreement and Zanu PF's culture of impunity.

"I do not think that it helps for anyone to attack the person of President Zuma. It does not help because SADC has appointed South Africa to be the Facilitator in the dispute here. One would respect SADC and its Organs and that Facilitator did not appoint himself"

The return of Zanu PF bases manned by militia and blamed for the increasing violence has also hyped tempers while the selective application of the law by a compromised police force led by a Zanu PF apologist, Commissioner General Augustine Chihuri, has complicated the situation.

Chihuri is known for his partisan attitude and for his refusal to arrest Zanu PF members accused of murdering and maiming MDC activists over the last few years. Chihuri has also refused to act on corrupt Zanu PF stalwarts such as Ignatious Chombo who have milked the Zimbabwean economy with impunity.

SADC convenes at a time "the situation has worsened", Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said in an interview with the Newsletter.

"The situation has worsened over the last six months with the election talk. Firstly, various spokespersons on behalf of Zanu PF insisting that elections must be held this year and yet we all know that if it was going to be process driven to arrive at legitimate elections then certain issues had to be dealt with before a date is announced. Issues such as the constitution making process, the cleaning up of the voters' roll, the delimitation process and electoral reforms must be dealt with before we rush into an election," Prime Minister Tsvangirai said.

After being criticised for failing to meet its obligations and for promoting violence at a meeting of the Organ Troika of Politics, Security and Defence, in Livingstone Zambia last month, Zanu PF went into an overdrive attacking the SADC facilitator, South African President Jacob Zuma.

The party's failed chief propagandist, Jonathan Moyo launched a scathing and insulting attack on the character of President Zuma. Zanu PF also attempted to discredit President Zuma's facilitation team.

Prime Minister Tsvangirai condemned this uncivilised and undiplomatic behaviour.

"I do not think that it helps for anyone to attack the person of President Zuma. It does not help because SADC has appointed South Africa to be the Facilitator in the dispute here. One would respect SADC and its Organs and that Facilitator did not appoint himself," said Prime Minister Tsvangirai.

Zanu PF, which lost the March 2008 elections to the MDC, has been concentrating its efforts on whitewashing the events on the ground instead

of implementing their side of the bargain in the Agreement.

On the other hand, the MDC, believes that the primary function of the GPA is to create conditions for a free and fair election and thus to end the Zimbabwe crisis once and for all.

Thus, the MDC refuses to entertain the notion of elections until the necessary conditions are in place for legitimate and credible elections that reflect the will of the people and whose results will be respected by all stakeholders. Key amongst these reforms is the opening of the broadcast environment, a new electoral act, a new voters

roll and constituency delimitation process, an impartial Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and security sector reform. Evidence of the last two years has shown that, despite attempts to block progress by Zanu PF, the more time passes, the more reforms are achieved.

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Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai on Friday committed to push for the Government to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted by the United Nations general assembly in 2006. PM Tsvangirai was speaking at the handover ceremony for blankets, paint and an assortment of goods to the disabled, to people living with HIV and AIDS, children's and old people's homes at Mashambanzou Trust Centre in Waterfalls. See full story on Page 2

Security sector re-alignment imminent

The army must embrace a new culture that promotes loyalty to the Constitution and the respect for human rights, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has said.

Zimbabwe's security sector has, in the last 30 years, been turned into virtually a military wing of President Robert Mugabe's Zanu PF. Senior military and police personnel have in the past bragged about their allegiance to the former ruling party, in clear breach of the security sector work ethics.

Statements by some of the delusional securocrats declaring that Zanu PF and Mugabe must rule forever have confirmed the need for security sector re-alignment.

The security personnel have outbid each other in their bid to impress Mugabe, breaching security sector policies they signed to.

Police and army chiefs have vowed that the pen cannot bring change to Zimbabwe which they claim was wrestled from minority whites through the barrel of the gun. This is the clearest evidence for the need to re-align the security sector, Prime Minister Tsvangirai said in an interview this week.

"There must be one culture in the army, and that is, an army that is loyal to the Constitution and to the people of Zimbabwe and that it shall defend the integrity of this country. This is contrary to the behaviour exhibited by some of our military personnel. We need to re-align this critical sector," said the Premier.

The re-alignment of the security sector has been on the cards since the signing of the Global Political Agreement (GPA) in 2008. Prime Minister Tsvangirai and Mugabe agreed to re-align the sector following years of arm-twisting of the sector by Mugabe's Zanu PF.

Contrary to reports in the public media that the demand for the re-alignment of the security sector is a new request by Prime Minister Tsvangirai's MDC, the issue was agreed to at the signing of the GPA.

"In the GPA there's specific reference to the organs of state and that includes the reform of national institutions such as the judiciary, electoral bodies, the media and the security sector. What we agreed to in the GPA is that they must be professional, non-partisan and that they must be organs of the State and not organs of a political party," said Prime Minister Tsvangirai.

He added: "Recently we have had to make a demand for the implementation of that part of the Agreement. We want this re-alignment of the security sector because we are not personalising these institutions. We do not hate anyone."

"We want them to re-adjust themselves so that they behave as expected in a multi-party democratic environment and not in a one-party state because that is the background of some of the security personnel. They came from the liberation struggle, they have never changed in their behaviour as far as supporting Zanu PF is concerned. There's need for a fundamental paradigm shift in their thinking because these are institutions that will outlive political parties. In hundred years there will always be a police force and an army."

The discredited security chiefs have continued to behave like militia without work ethics to respect.

"In the National Security Council, the President has said that the policy in the security sector is that they must be apolitical. But what the President is saying and what happens on the ground are two different things. You wonder how a junior officer would come up with a statement which is fundamentally different from policy and from operations. That is why for us in the MDC, this matter cannot be buried under the carpet," said the Premier.

But their actions will not go unchecked for long, according to the Prime Minister. "It is an important institution of the State and therefore if it becomes a destabilising matter it must be dealt with. We are discussing these issues in the National Security Council and even in SADC," said Prime Minister Tsvangirai.

'We are all equal'

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has criticized the previous regime for neglecting the plight of people living with disabilities.

The Disability Ambassador for SADC also condemned violence perpetrated on people living with disabilities as society's moral fibre becomes eroded by political squabbling.

In a keynote address at the handover ceremony for blankets, paint and an assortment of goods to the disabled, to people living with HIV and AIDS, children's and old people's homes at Mashambanzou Trust Centre in Waterfalls last week, Prime Minister Tsvangirai castigated the previous administration for turning a blind eye on the disadvantaged in society.

People living with disabilities, constituting 10 percent of the population were neglected by President Robert Mugabe's previous government as evidenced by the failure to implement the Disabled Persons Act.

"As Disability Ambassador, I will push for the Government to ratify the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities adopted by the United Nations general assembly in 2006. We want the Disabled Persons Act to be implemented in full for the benefit of our brothers and sisters," said Prime Minister Tsvangirai.

He said the previous government relegated the rights and needs of the people living with disabilities to Non-Governmental Organisations as they focused on maintaining a grip on power.

"The neglect has brought condemnation on our people with the moral fibre being eroded to an extent where there has been unprecedented political violence even against disabled persons. We condemn this violence against defenseless, innocent citizens in the strongest of terms," the Premier said. Tsvangirai urged society to embrace a spirit of tolerance, to change attitudes and to view the disadvantaged as equal persons. "This change can be seen, for instance when we begin to make public buildings and amenities accessible to people with disabilities," he said.



Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai flanked by Sister Ivy at the handover ceremony for an assortment of goods to the disabled in Waterfalls, last Friday

"These changes must be made possible by a significant budgetary allocation to this critical sector of society. It can also be seen when we begin to respect the rights of the disabled by creating easy access to polling stations during elections as most of their membership was failing to exercise their democratic right vote," the Premier added.

He said authorities should also change their attitude towards the disabled as this could affect anyone in society regardless of the stature. The Prime Minister, who has been at the forefront of championing the rights of the disadvantaged in society donated several goodies to the many groups represented at the function.

Peace ambassadors to fight violence

A Panel of Elders that is aimed at working towards preventing violence in Zimbabwe has been launched.

The Panel of Elders, launched by Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai last month, is composed of "ambassadors of peace; brave men and women from across the social spectrum who have decided to work towards promoting a peaceful Zimbabwe".

It comprises people of diverse backgrounds who include university professors, church leaders, businessmen and women, academics, chiefs, retired judges and retired senior military personnel.

The terms of reference for the Panel of Elders include "coming up with strategies that enhance a peaceful environment by intervening to stop violence at every level and spearheading

a public campaign against politically motivated violence".

"I am glad that your policy document considers free and fair elections as the best way out of the current political, economic and social challenges in the country," said Prime Minister Tsvangirai.

He added: "We all want a new era in this country; where knives, machetes, knobkerries, guns and booted feet as instruments of violence and repression are no longer fashionable. As a country, we have been forced to walk the painful road of violence and hatred and we are not prepared to walk it forever more."

"We have lost relatives. Our homes and property have been destroyed. We have seen State agents actively engaged in shameful acts of violence and the unbridled violation of the people's rights and freedoms," he said.

Adding: "But we have all refused to be cowed and to be distracted from the urgent national assignment of fighting for democratic change in Zimbabwe."

Prime Minister Tsvangirai has personally experienced this violence and vividly understands the pain of brutality and indignity. The Premier and leaders of the civic society on 11 March 2007, organised prayer marches in Highfield under the banner of Save Zimbabwe but the event was violently broken up by police and armed soldiers.

PM Tsvangirai was viciously attacked by security agents at Machipisa Shopping Centre before he was thrown into custody.

Among those savagely assaulted on that fateful day were Finance Minister, Tendai Biti, NCA Chairperson, Lovemore Madhuku, National Healing and Reconciliation Minister, Sekai Holland, Grace Kwinjeh and other influential civic society leaders.

"Zimbabwe cannot afford to slide back if it is to reclaim its rightful place among the civilized family of nations. Across the political, tribal, religious or racial divide, we all want to live in peace and harmony; in a tranquil environment

where our rights and basic freedoms of assembly, speech, movement and association are respected and protected," said Prime Minister Tsvangirai.

Zimbabwe's situation, according to Tsvangirai, is being compounded by the war psychosis-the constant reference to *chimurenga* and the war language associated with it. It puts the country into an unnecessary war mode because any war environment necessitates the suspension of the Constitution and the undermining of the civilian authority. The civilian authority becomes substituted by partisan organs of the State and the whole country is thrown into fear and insecurity.

"We cannot have peace unless all these issues have been dealt with. Statements by service chiefs that they will not respect the expression of the people's will, as well as statements in the press today in which a senior army officer is trying to determine the date of the election, only serve to confirm the uniqueness of our situation and the importance of vaccinating State organs from acting like political entities," the Premier said.

He added: "Unnecessary election talk leads to dysfunctionality and polarity in the country. It polarizes Cabinet, Parliament and the security sector and leads to unilateral actions and selective application of the law. We must all understand that peace is a major ingredient in the creation of a conducive environment for investment, economic growth and development. Peace is a precondition in any endeavor to promote and improve people's lives."

"Peace must be everyone's clarion call and I urge you to leave no stone unturned in rallying everyone to support the creation of a peaceful nation," he said.

The launch of The Panel of Elders was attended by the secretary-general of the SADC council of NGOs, Boichoko Dithlake, senior Government officials and traditional leaders among others.

Some of the members of the Panel include, Gordon Chavhunduka, Justice Cheda, the executive chairman of the Centre for Peace Initiatives Africa, Leonard Kapungu, church leaders among others.

All eyes on SADC

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Hence that party's desire to hold elections before further reforms can undermine its ability to undemocratically influence the election result.

"We believe that the summit must consolidate the SADC Troika position as communicated in Livingstone. It must also discuss the progress from the negotiators," said MDC spokesperson Douglas Mwonzora

"The true test of this Summit is not which political party claims victory but what new freedoms and progress are tangible to the people of Zimbabwe.

The MDC position is that the summit must take into account that once a new constitution is in place there needs to be some lag period within which the constitution must be implemented. For example, the constitution may call for creation of certain bodies or institutions, which must be in place, operating and effective prior to the election.

Prime Minister Tsvangirai praised SADC for its continued work on resolving the Zimbabwe issue.

"We are heartened by the brave stance of our colleagues in the region and by the facilitator, President Jacob Zuma.

The region has given us reason to believe that SADC and the AU are ready to prevent the circus of 2008 that began in Kenya, was perfected in Zimbabwe but backfired with disastrous consequences in the Ivory Coast," Prime Minister Tsvangirai said.

"This is the circus where losers of national elections are accommodated through power sharing arrangements," the Premier added.

"We applaud the position of SADC in ensuring that the process towards a free and fair election in Zimbabwe is fully supported, enhanced and consolidated," he said. The Prime Minister added that the AU and SADC, as the guarantors to the GPA, have shown that they are ready to nurse this process and to ensure that a credible government is put in place through a free and fair election.

"Thus the next months are going to be important in ensuring that we put in place the necessary mechanisms and building blocks to guarantee and protect the people's vote and the people's will."

He also pledged his party's commitment to abide by the GPA and to continue to be the voice and conscience of the people by standing for what is right and just.

PM fights harassment

Harassment of political opponents and civil society activists has continued in Zimbabwe as the security sector, loyal to President Robert Mugabe continue to breach human rights in blatantly violation of the law.

Civil society organizations have reported an increase in violence and harassment against their members. The organizations have reported indiscriminate abductions, arrests and detention, alleged torture and brutality of detainees in police custody, and denial of their fundamental and constitutionally-protected rights (such as access to a lawyer of choice, family, food and urgent medical attention) have been documented since the time of the initial outbreak of violence in the country.

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As civil society real from the pressure, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai’s MDC has virtually been placed under siege by partisan police chiefs and rogue elements in the military.

The MDC has not been granted access to the population through draconian pieces of legislation and in most cases through illegal actions by the police. The police have in some cases violently put down MDC meetings

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) noted in its April report that politically motivated human

rights violations continued to be recorded during the month of April.

The talk of elections by Zanu PF stalwarts has heightened tensions among communities, ZPP noted.

“Political intolerance reared its ugly face to the country’s political scene in the month of April when the country’s main political parties were commemorating Independence Day together for the third time since the establishment of the inclusive government. Despite calls from the political leaders to shun violence, politically motivated human rights violations continued to be witnessed throughout the country,” ZPP noted.

It said that cases of harassment, intimidation and assaults have remained high in the Midlands, Manicaland, Masvingo, Mashonaland East and Mashonaland Central provinces.

“Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) has observed that most of the violations that were recorded in April were concentrated on the days leading to the April 18, Independence Day celebrations when victims were harassed on the basis of failing to contribute money for the celebrations and putting on political party or civil society regalia,” according to ZPP.

ZPP said: “For the first time in three years, the heightened talks for an election roadmap for Zimbabwe by the Southern Africa Development Committee (SADC) are now underway paving way for negotiations to end the country’s fragile inclusive government. The SADC resolutions and methodology have however not been welcomed by Zanu PF, who are now calling for elections this year with or without a new constitution as espoused in the Global Political Agreement (GPA) while the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) formations are clamouring for a clear outline and enabling environment for the holding of the elections.”

“As has been with past elections, communities around Zimbabwe are now readying themselves for a violent electoral campaign period. It is very worrying that more than two years following the formation of the inclusive government politically motivated violations continue to be recorded throughout the country,” ZPP noted.

Hardliners within Zanu PF have maintained that the country will go for an election this year sending conflicting sentiments within the party as other have openly said the environment was not yet enabling, according to ZPP.

“PM Tsvangirai’s two drivers, Clifford Sanyika and Joshua Mhuriyengwe, were arrested on their way back from South Africa in February and were accused of installing sirens and other security features on the vehicles”

Another civil society organization, the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights noted that human rights violations continued. The ZLHR urged:

- The ZRP to ensure full compliance with the law including respect for the constitutional rights of accused persons.
- The ZRP and the Attorney General’s office to quickly and impartially investigate and prosecute respectively – and be seen to investigate and prosecute - all cases of grave human rights violations, including previous extra-judicial executions across the political divide, without fear or favour in order to reassure the public that one human life is not more important than another and to rebuild confidence in the police and prosecutorial authority as protecting and respecting the rights of all people equally.
- The state-controlled print and electronic media to desist from its partisan, inflammatory and inciting reportage and to ensure that all its media practitioners adhere to ethical and fair reporting standards so that the power of the media is not abused to perpetuate misconceptions and conjecture not based on solid evidence, and cause or contribute to further violations.
- The leadership of all political parties in the country, state institutions, and the civil society to denounce violence as a means of

resolving disputes and to cooperate fully in and with the peace committees established by the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) in efforts to deliver our nation from this continuing senseless violence and impunity.

As harassment and cases of violence continue, the Office of the Prime Minister has not been spared.

Two of his drivers are currently in court over flimsy charges of driving vehicles smuggled into the country although the vehicles have duty-free certificates.

The two cars in contention whose engine numbers are IGR5652858 and IGR565327, had been ordered by government from Aqua IT Southern Africa, based in South Africa and were exempted of import duty.

“The vehicles are supplied for the exclusive use of government in terms of non-duty paid contract and any duty leviable (sic) would be borne by government,” Secretary in the Ministry of Finance, Willard Manungo said in letter to the Commissioner-General of the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (Zimra) informing him about the cars.

PM Tsvangirai’s two drivers, Clifford Sanyika and Joshua Mhuriyengwe, were arrested on their way back from South Africa in February and were accused of installing sirens and other security features on the vehicles.

Police said the beacon lights and sirens were for police or military escort vehicles. The case is still pending.

This is not the first time that Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai has been investigated over the importation of cars from South Africa.

In the run-up to the controversial June 27 2008 presidential run-off election, the Premier’s armoured BMW X5 vehicle was impounded by the police in Lupane on accusations that he had violated customs regulations.

Police have still not released this vehicle.

Mangoma applies for discharge

Energy and Power Development Minister, Elton Mangoma, has compelled the court for discharge citing lack of incriminating evidence against him.

Through his lawyers, Beatrice Mtetwa and Selby Hwacha, Mangoma wants the court to throw out the State’s case claiming that he is innocent.

“We have made submissions for discharge and the State is responding tomorrow (Wednesday),” Mangoma’s lawyer, Mtetwa told the Newsletter.

Minister Mangoma is facing false charges of abusing public office after he averted a national crisis by assisting in the sourcing of five million litres of fuel last December.



PM mourns Tekere

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai joins the rest of the nation in mourning a true national hero of the liberation struggle, Edgar Tekere.

Tekere had a value system that was largely democratic. He will always be remembered for speaking strongly and frankly against corruption and the excesses of those in leadership.

He believed in multi-party democracy and unity in diversity.

“Personally, I have lost a friend. He was a true revolutionary and the country has lost a true hero and a gallant son of the soil,” the Premier said

The PM joins the Tekere family and the nation in mourning this great icon of our time.

May his soul rest in eternal peace.

Abridged COMMUNIQUÉ of the

SUMMIT OF THE ORGAN TROIKA ON POLITICS, DEFENCE AND SECURITY COOPERATION

31 MARCH, 2011

LIVINGSTONE, REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

On Zimbabwe, Summit received the report on the political and security situation in the country as presented by the SADC Facilitator H.E. Jacob Zuma, the President of the Republic of South Africa.

14. Summit appreciated the frankness with which the report was presented by the SADC Facilitator and commended him for the work that he has been doing on behalf of SADC.

15. Summit recalled past SADC decisions on the implementation of the GPA and noted with disappointment insufficient progress thereof and expressed its impatience in the delay of the implementation of the GPA.

16. Summit noted with grave concern the polarization of the political environment as characterized by, inter alia, resurgence of violence, arrests and intimidation in Zimbabwe.

17. In view of the above, Summit resolved that:

a. there must be an immediate end of violence, intimidation, hate speech, harassment, and any other form of action that contradicts the letter and spirit of GPA;

b. all stakeholders to the GPA should implement all the provisions of the GPA and create a conducive

environment for peace, security, and free political activity;

c. the Inclusive Government in Zimbabwe should complete all the steps necessary for the holding of the election including the finalisation of the constitutional amendment and the referendum;

d. SADC should assist Zimbabwe to formulate guidelines that will assist in holding an election that will be peaceful, free and fair, in accordance with the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections;

e. the Troika of the Organ shall appoint a team of officials to join the Facilitation Team and work with the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC) to ensure monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the GPA. The Troika shall develop the Terms of Reference, time frames and provide regular progress report, the first, to be presented during the next SADC Extraordinary Summit. Summit will review progress on the implementation of GPA and take appropriate action.

18. Summit endorsed the report of the SADC Facilitation on Zimbabwe.

We need a road map to a free poll - PM

The transitional Government in Zimbabwe has been stuttering amidst a plethora of problems. Some of the problems have spilled over to SADC, the guarantors of the Global Political Agreement (GPA). SADC is convening in South Africa on Saturday to discuss, among other things, Zimbabwe. In this interview, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai comments on these and other issues.

Q: Prime Minister Tsvangirai, kindly give us your assessment of the transitional Government since its formation?

PM: The formation of the transitional Government was received positively across the political divide. I think it has proven over the first one and half years that it is the only avenue to address various problems the country was facing. Over the first one and half years, we saw the improvement in the health and education sectors. In the general stabilisation of the economy we have also seen some minimum reforms in some areas as outlined in the Global Political Agreement (GPA).

Unfortunately the full implementation of the GPA continued to evade us as our colleagues in Zanu PF became reluctant to go all the way to implement those agreed positions, for instance, the appointment of governors, hate speech in the public media and other toxic issues such as the security sector re-alignment. There has been some reluctance or even refusal to undertake those reforms for whatever reason they have but it is a breach of the GPA that has been noticed by the Joint Monitoring and Implementation Committee (JOMIC).

The situation has worsened over the last six months with the election talk. Firstly, various spokespersons on behalf of Zanu PF are insisting that elections must be held this year and yet we all know that if it was going to be process driven to arrive at legitimate elections, then certain issues have to be dealt with before a date is announced. Issues such as the constitution making process, the cleaning up of the voters' roll, the delimitation process and electoral reforms. Zanu PF knew that they were participating in constitutional reform process, we have to go to Parliament with a draft and after that we will go for a referendum. They know that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission must put some things in place such as a credible and impartial secretariat as well as addressing the financing for those elections. All these issues can not be concluded in one month. When you add up all this, there's no way you can have an election in 2011, possibly in 2012.

But we hope we will be able to hold these elections once everything that ensures a legitimate election has been put in place, because in the absence of credible and legitimate elections, the Zimbabwe crisis will continue. It is not healthy for the country to continue with the crisis.

Q: May you kindly comment on the operations of Cabinet since its formation?

PM: Government has largely operated on the basis of a Government Work Programme (GWP) which has been adopted by Cabinet. In other words, there are ministerial targets that each ministry has outlined and these were compiled into a GWP adopted by Cabinet. To a large extent, Cabinet has been operating just like any other Cabinet, however we have seen a distinct division between the two parties where certain ministries are no longer accountable to the collective. They are only accountable to the President. So you can see that there is growing discord and fissures within the Government

and this is causing the Government to be dysfunctional. This is against the GPA and the law. The Constitution says specifically that all ministers are supposed to be supervised by the Prime Minister but that is in theory. In practice people have maintained their separate ways. They have remained answerable to their separate leadership.

For instance, the Ministry of Media, Information and Publicity, in spite of repeated calls to the President to intervene in this ministry, nothing has happened. Again in spite of repeated calls for President Mugabe to reign in on some of the rogue elements in the military who have been pronouncing statements which are unconstitutional, he has not done so. It appears that people are either in defiance or are being encouraged to make those statements in order to sow

seeds of discord to the only institution which has helped rescue this country, which is the transitional Government. I think these are matters that should concern every right thinking Zimbabwean that without the transitional Government this country will be plunged into chaos, and no one will benefit.

Q: Prime Minister, there's a clear rift, like you said, among the partners in the transitional Government, what are some of the major differences among the partners?

PM: There are some who believe they can claim continued hold onto the State. There are some who believe that there's need for change and that there's need to take the country into another direction because what we have seen in the last 30 years is failure. Therefore there's need to arrest that failure of governance and direct the country to being more productive.

Now, we are a coalition and in any coalition there has to be a minimum programme. Hence the GWP is a minimum programme that we are all committed to and that is why it should be our guiding principle as to what are the deliverables to the people, stabilisation of the economy, creating the confidence in the economy, making sure that the decline in the social sector, health and education sectors is arrested. It also involves making political and media reforms and undertaking national healing. These are the critical issues that the transitional Government in its capacity should be dealing with.

Now the moment you talk of elections, the spirit of competition comes in. It is that spirit of competition not collaboration that characterised the first one and half years of this transitional Government. That has undermined the cohesion in this Government. It is not healthy at all for decisions of Government to be usurped in broad daylight.

Q: As the fissures in Government continue to grow, we have seen increasing violence around the country and over the weekend, a petrol bomb was thrown at Finance Minister Tendai Biti's house. Are these incidences isolated or they are part of a grand strategy to intimidate and eliminate opponents?

PM: It is obvious this is cowardly behaviour. These are militias engaging in such barbaric behaviour. It should be condemned. It is a matter we are taking seriously and we will not let it pass just like that. How can a minister of Government feel unsafe in a state? If ministers are not safe in the country then who is safe?

We have a situation here where one half of Government is blatantly abusing and



harassing the other half. We have had our meetings being banned, blatantly, and against the law and then the police embark on an aggressive strategy to intimidate the people through the use of police water canons, and riot police deployed in the suburbs.

The other thing that is very gruesome is a situation where the Prime Minister of the country is told what to say and what not to say by a police officer who should be answerable to the same Premier.

Q: SADC is convening in South Africa at the weekend, what do you want SADC to do?

PM: SADC is convening its extra-ordinary summit to discuss among other things, Zimbabwe. Our negotiators have agreed on a roadmap and we hope that that conclusion represents a step forward for SADC to adopt that roadmap. What is important is to agree on what should be done before an election is conducted and that is what SADC should endorse. But we Zimbabweans, together with SADC must talk amongst ourselves and SADC, as the guarantors, will help us unlock areas where we disagree.

Q: South African President Jacob Zuma, the SADC appointed Facilitator, has been attacked by certain Zanu PF delusional analysts in the public media, is there any formal position to dump President Zuma as the Facilitator?

PM: I do not think that it helps for anyone to attack the person of President Zuma. It does not help because SADC has appointed South Africa to be the Facilitator in the dispute here. One would respect SADC and its Organs and that Facilitator did not appoint himself. It is unfortunate that when Zanu PF disagrees with a certain Head of State they go in public and make derogatory statements.

This is an attempt by Zanu PF to damage the name and image of President Zuma in an attempt to distract him from the work at hand. It is irresponsible and should be condemned. It is also not diplomatic to attack President Zuma in public because you know that he will not respond in public.

Q: Prime Minister, what guarantee do Zimbabweans have that the roadmap that has been agreed to will be implemented in full given that Zanu PF has reneged on many agreements signed in the past?

PM: Elections will be held at the end of the roadmap and if conditions have not been changed, there will be questions to the legitimacy of those elections. Certain conditions are fundamental to the running of a credible election so that the outcome is

not contestable. If those things have not been done then the outcome will be contested by those who feel short-changed. And we will be back to square one and yet what we want is to put paid to the issue of legitimacy.

Q: Aside from the elections, what is the position with regards to civil servants salaries?

PM: Contrary to certain press reports that Finance Minister Biti was pressurised by the President and by the security chiefs, that is not true. Minister Biti is a Minister of Government and he cannot individually decide on salaries. But as the Minister who has been given the mandate to run the finances of the Government he has every right to raise concerns about the implications of any increase, the magnitude of it, the impact on inflation and other monetary and fiscal problems that he faces. He has competently advised the whole executive on these issues. We have met as Principals and there are avenues we are looking at to raise money. Before we can embark on any increase there is new money that is required in order to meet the expectations of an increase in salaries. There are some people who want to politicise with this important issue. It is not a Biti issue, it is not a Tsvangirai issue nor is it a Mugabe issue. It is a collective Government issue, as to how do we raise funds to fund the salary increase.

These are some of the areas we are looking at to raise money:

- Cleaning the civil service based on the findings of the civil service audit.
- Any possible sale of diamonds.
- The mineral sector at large, and we are looking at many other avenues which we think can help raise funds.

We need to raise more than US\$240 million to fund the pay rise and the 13th cheque between now and December.

Now there have been these threats against Biti coming from people who do not understand. There is no way one minister can determine what will happen to the collective, that is why his budget goes through Cabinet.

Q: Kindly comment on the civil servants audit which you have just mentioned?

PM: The audit established that there are thousands of people who are not supposed to be on the Government payroll. We are now reaching a stage where we will not pay those people. We are concerned that we cannot have a situation where people employ Government workers as if they are engaging their housemaids.