



Vereinigung

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Editorial

Wer (wenn auch nur sehr leise) gehofft hatte, Zanu-PF würde nach dem Wahlsieg vom letzten Sommer endlich die dringend nötigen Reformen einleiten, sah sich getäuscht. Statt dessen predigen die Machthabenden Wasser und trinken selber Wein: Nach Präsident Mugabe soll jede Familie nur eine Farm besitzen, seine Familie besitzt aber 12 oder 14. Alle wettern gegen Korruption, bedienen sich aber selber, sobald sich die Möglichkeit bietet oder decken FreundInnen, die sich bedient haben. Angesichts der weit verbreiteten Korruption werden erstaunlich wenig Strafverfahren durchgeführt.

Der Staat ist praktisch Pleite. Bis jetzt sind in schwierigen finanziellen Situationen Südafrika oder China mit Krediten eingesprungen. Was passiert, wenn diese Länder nicht mehr helfen? China hat vorerst abgelehnt und auch der IWF wird wegen nicht bedienter Schulden keinen Kredit sprechen.

Das Leben ist für die Bevölkerung hart. Mit viel Engagement und Ideenreichtum versucht sie, über die Runden zu kommen. Und die Organisationen der Zivilgesellschaft pochen trotz Repression immer wieder auf ihre Rechte und versuchen, diese durchzusetzen. Für uns sind sie die HeldInnen Zimbabwes.

In diesem Rundbrief finden Sie wieder einen ausführlichen Bericht von Ruth Weiss über die Ereignisse der letzten Monate und von Dewa Mavhinga über die wirtschaftlichen Probleme. Berichte über Aktionen der

Zivilgesellschaft zeigen, dass sich die Bevölkerung nicht unterkriegen lässt.

Gertrud Baud, Mitglied des Vorstandes

Verarmung eines reichen Landes: Zimbabwe unter Zanu-PF

Ruth Weiss

Es ist bedrückend, dass in Zimbabwe 176 Unternehmen im April de-registriert wurden mit der Warnung, dies könne weiteren 634 bevorstehen. Die wirtschaftliche Lage verschlechterte sich sichtlich seit dem überwältigenden Wahlsieg von Zanu-PF und Präsidenten Robert Mugabe im Juli 2013. Enthüllungen über Korruptionsskandale erschüttern die Regierungspartei.

Mugabe, ein müder 90-Jähriger, ernannte andere müde alte Männer in sein Team. Resultat: Der fast bankrotten Regierung fehlen Finanzen, neue Ideen, den Wahlversprechen Substanz, der Bevölkerung Jobs. 60% der Bevölkerung ist verarmt. Ein Kind von fünf ist unterernährt. Die Arbeitslosigkeit beträgt etwa 80%. Die Lebenserwartung ist eine der niedrigsten global gesehen. Die Korruption ist eine der höchsten. Die Mutter-Kind Sterblichkeit ist höher als in anderen Ländern der Region. Im April erklärte die Welthungerhilfe, 2,2 Mio. Menschen benötigen Hungerhilfe.

Politik

Seit der brutalen Landbesetzung ab 2000 veränderte sich Zimbabwe total. Die Grossfarmer sind verschwunden. Das Land gehört nun dem Staat, Gross- und KleinbäuerInnen sind lediglich BenutzerInnen. Dr. Brian Rofopologous sagte in einem im April in Bonn durchgeführten Seminar, die Wirtschaft sei nun die eines typischen Drittweltlandes und basiere auf Mineralienexporten, Subsistenzlandwirtschaft und einem grossen informellen Sektor.

Laut der Weltbank arbeitet 46% der Bevölkerung im informellen Sektor, der damit zweitgrösster Arbeitgeber ist, verglichen mit 17% in Südafrika und 13% in Malawi. Eine Formalisierung und Registrierung der 2,8 Mio. Miniunternehmen und mittelgrossen Unternehmen, die 5,7 Mio. Jobs generieren, würde Steuern erzeugen. Finanzminister Patrick Chinamasa sagte, er umarme die neue Strassenwirtschaft. Diese ist überall sichtbar. Kleine Kiosks an Stelle von grossen Ladenketten verkaufen alles, von elektronischen Geräten zu Lippenstift. Als ein grosser Autohändler seine Türen schloss, gab es sofort Dutzende von kleineren Geschäften. Die Strassen Harares sind ein einziger informeller Markt.

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Zanu-PF

Egal, ob die Wahl von 2013 gefälscht war oder ob die WählerInnen aus Angst oder Überzeugung Zanu-PF wählten: Zanu-PF regiert im Alleingang. Das wird sich auch 2018 kaum ändern. Die Landverteilung verschaffte Zanu-PF eine wichtige Wählerbasis. Die Partei sicherte sich auch die Unterstützung kleiner, informeller Bergwerkerarbeiter und vieler StadtbewohnerInnen durch die oft illegale - Landvergabe für Hausbau. Dadurch veränderte sich die soziale Basis der WählerInnen mit einer grossen Anzahl ländlicher und städtischer Armen.

Die Transformation fordert neue Regierungs- und Versorgungsstrukturen, die Zanu-PF bis jetzt nicht aufbauen konnte oder wollte. Denn die Regierung zeigt sonst wenig Interesse an der Bevölkerung. So hielt es Mugabe nicht für Nötig, nach dem Zusammensturz einer Mauer des Tokwe-Mukosi Damm im Februar 2014 die 3000 Opfer der Flut zu besuchen. Ohne Entschädigung hausen diese in einem Lager.

Der Machtkampf um die Nachfolge Mugabes tobt offen. Seit Beginn des Jahres werfen sich die Fraktionen der Vize-Präsidentin Joice Mujuru und jene um Justizminister Emerson Mnangagwa öffentlich gegenseitig vor, korrupt zu sein. Mugabe distanziert sich. Angeblich intrigiert Grace Mugabe, um den ehemaligen Zentralbankchef Gideon Gono im State House zu installieren und sucht sich Verbündete. Das Joint Military Command besitzt eine grosse, versteckte Macht und hat sich in Institutionen ein Vetorecht verschafft. Es spielt eine wichtige Rolle in der Wirtschaft und verfügt über lukrative Verträge, Minenkonzessionen und Ländereien. Seit 2010 besitzt eine Firma des Militärs 40% von Anjin Diamanten und verdiente US\$ 40 Mio. an Management Honorar.

Trotz allem: 2014 ist Mugabes Jahr: Er wurde 90, die Opposition ist in Bedrängnis, er wird beim SADC-Gipfeltreffen den Vorsitz übernehmen, hat bereits einen hohen Posten bei der AU und bei Mandelas Gedenkfeier wurde ihm im Stadium applaudiert.

Korruption: Wasser predigen und Wein trinken

Mugabe denunziert die Korruption und fordert eine Farm pro Person, doch er selbst häufte immensen Reichtum an. Seine Frau riss riesige Landflächen an sich, zerstörte dabei eine profitable Zitrusfrucht-Plantage in Mazoe und vertrieb Hunderte KleinbäuerInnen. Die Familie Mugabe soll 12 oder 14 Farmen besitzen.

Eine Zeitlang gab es täglich neue Skandale. So kritisierte der stellvertretenden Aussenminister Christopher Mutsvangwa seinen Chef Simbarashe Mumbengegwe. Er behauptete, der Geheimdienst habe eine chinesische Anleihe von US\$ 70 Mio. verschwendet und Chefs und Aufsichtsräte der Staatsfirmen hätten seit 2009 enorm hohe Gehälter und Zulagen erhalten. 3000 Chefs und Aufsichtsräte der 78 quasi-staatlichen Unternehmen sowie 92 Lokalverwaltungen hätten ab 2009 US\$ 600 Mio. an Gehälter und Zulagen erhalten, allein im Jahr 2013 seien es US\$ 133 Mio. gewesen und sie profitierten von Deals mit korrupten Lieferanten. Viele staatliche Firmen sind bankrott, Angestellte harren monatelang ohne Gehalt aus.

Cuthbert Dube, Chef der bankrotten staatlichen Premier Service Medical Aid Society, soll monatlich US\$ 230 000 erhalten haben, wobei die Organisation Ende 2013 US\$ 38 Mio. für medizinische Dienste nicht zahlen konnte. Andere Grossverdiener sollen der Chef von NetOne sein, mit US \$ 43'693 monatlich, Hapison Muचेchete, Chef der Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC), mit US\$ 37'050 monatlich, während ZBC Angestellte über sechs Monate ohne Gehalt blieben. Muचेchete muss sich wegen eines Radiowagens verantworten, für den er US\$ 1 Mio. in Rechnung stellte, anstatt der effektiv bezahlten US\$ 100'000. Mugabes Pressesprecher George Charamba soll für etliche Fehlentscheide von ZBC verantwortlich sein.

Im März entschied Finanzminister Chinamasa, die Gehälter dürfen nur US\$ 6000 betragen, doch es ist fraglich, ob er das durchsetzen kann. Staatsangestellte mit zu hohen Gehältern werden nicht angeklagt. Sie hätten kein Verbrechen begangen, erklärte Staatsanwalt Johannes Tomana.

Temba Mliswa, ein hoher Zanu-PF Funktionär, erklärte, Mnangagwa habe vor 15 Jahren im Kongokrieg mit den Milliardären John Bredenkamp und Billy Rautenbach zusammen gearbeitet und die zimbabwischen Soldaten benutzt, um sich an Diamanten zu bereichern. Ein Bericht von 2012 über Mliswa wurde im April erneut in den Medien aufgegriffen. Es ging um eine Forderung von Mliswa von US\$ 165 Mio. an Rautenbach, für die Einführung bei wichtigen Personen wie Didymus Mutasa, wodurch mehrere Milliardenengeschäfte möglich wurden. Rautenbach investierte im umstrittenen Ethanolprojekt Green Fuel Arda Chisumbanje, das Dorfbewohner ohne Entschädigung von ihrem seit langen Jahren bebauten Land vertrieb. Mliswa vermittelte Rautenbach auch eine Platin-Konzession, die dieser an Anglo American Platinum und Hwange Colliery mit grossem Gewinn verkaufte.

Der Unternehmer Nicholas van Hoogstraten, dem 30% von Hwange Colliery gehört, erklärte im April, diese hätte seit 2009 durch Korruption und Betrug US\$ 500 Mio. Verluste erlitten.

MDC

Die Opposition erholte sich bis jetzt nicht von der massiven Wahlniederlage. MDC und ihr Führer Morgan Tsvangirai verloren ihre Attraktion für WählerInnen, die ihnen 2008 zum Sieg verhalfen. Die MDC-Fraktionen enttäuschten: Die meisten ihrer Funktionäre waren genauso korrupt wie jene der Zanu-PF und eine klare Politik fehlte. Die De-Industrialisierung führte zum Machtverlust der Gewerkschaften, auf die sich die MDC zuvor stützte.

Im April kam es zu einem dramatischen Zerwürfnis zwischen den Führern. Rebellen um Generalsekretär Tendai Biti „suspendierten“ Präsident Morgan Tsvangirai, der sofort mit der „Suspendierung“ der Gruppe antwortete. Tsvangirai wird u.a. Personalisierung, fehlende Vision und Verstoss gegen demokratische Prinzipien vorgeworfen, doch Tausende demonstrierten gegen Biti. MDC-T, das im Oktober einen Kongress abhalten wird, zerfleischt sich und wird sich wohl spalten.

Eventuell entsteht an einem für Mai oder Juni geplanten Treffen von diversen Organisationen und Parteien eine neue Partei.

Wirtschaft

Die laufenden Ausgaben verzehrten im Februar 96% des Budgets, 4% war für Infrastruktur übrig. Die sozialen Dienstleistungen liegen darnieder. Die neue Regierungsstrategie Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimAsset) würde US\$ 27 Milliarden benötigen.

Die Auszahlung der Gehälter verzögert sich oft um Monate, der Zahltag der Beamten wurde verschoben und Schulden werden verspätet (wenn überhaupt) gezahlt. Beispielsweise schulden Regierung und Farmer der Zimbabwe National Water Authority fast US\$ 140 Mio. Wegen niedrigem Verdienst kümmern sich Polizisten weniger um Sicherheit und Ordnung, und mehr um illegalen Geldverdienst. Obwohl sich die Beamtengehälter erhöhten, fehlen dafür die Mittel. Kapitalflucht, regelmässiger Energieausfall und Wasserknappheit sind an der Tagesordnung, die Wirtschaft stagniert. Erneut verlassen ZimbabweInnen die Heimat in Richtung Südafrika und Botswana.

Zum Teil ist Mugabes Indigenisierungspolitik schuld an der Misere. Diese fordert von ausländischen Firmen einen Anteil von 51% für die Regierung oder zimbabweische Staatsangehörige, was Investoren abschreckt. In einem Bericht von 2014 über Favoriten für Bergwerkinvestoren steht Zimbabwe auf Platz 91 von 95. Im April ruderte Mugabe zurück: Nur Unternehmen, die lokale Rohstoffe benutzen, müssen 51% abgeben. Mit anderen Firmen wird flexibler umgegangen. Da Mugabe im April den EU-Afrika Gipfel boykottierte, verpasste Zimbabwe mögliche Treffen mit Investoren und verstärkte den Ruf als unbequemer Partner.

IWF und Weltbank verweigern Anleihen. Chinas erhoffte Unterstützung blieb aus, da auch China feste Rückzahlungsabkommen forderte. China ist Zimbabwes stärkster Wirtschaftspartner und dominant im Diamantengeschäft. China zieht mehr aus dem Land als umgekehrt, schenkte jedoch im April den Sicherheitsorganen US\$ 4,8 Mio. Chinesische Textilware beherrscht den Markt; Investitionen sind lukrativ.

Das Land leidet an:

1. Einer Liquiditätskrise, De-industrialisierung, Deflation.
2. Einem niedrigen Bruttonationalprodukt. Das Wachstum betrug 2013 nur über 3%, verglichen mit 10,5% 2012. Die Wachstumsprognose der Weltbank für 2014 beträgt 3%.
3. Einem Handelsbilanzdefizit, das von US\$ 3,6 Milliarden im Jahr 2012 auf US\$ 4,19 Milliarden im 2013 stieg. Die Importe betragen US\$ 7,70 Milliarden, verglichen mit Exporten von US\$ 3,51 Milliarden.

4. Einem Budgetdefizit im Februar von US\$ 17 Mio., bei einem Einkommen von US\$ 248 Mio. und Ausgaben von US\$ 265 Mio.
5. Niedrigen Devisenreserven: 2013 produzierte Zimbabwe 13 Tonnen Gold im Wert von US\$ 622 Mio., doch die Zentralbank besass im März 2014 nur Goldmünzen im Wert von US\$ 501'390.
6. US\$ 10 Milliarden Auslandsschulden.
7. Fehlender Zentralbankkontrolle wegen des Multi-Währungs-Systems und florierendem Schwarzhandel.
8. Hohen Ausgaben für Beamtengehälter, einschliesslich Gehälter für 75'000 „ghostworker“, die 70% des Einkommens schlucken. Nach Chinamasa ist eine Änderung unmöglich.



9. Milliardenraub aus dem Diamantengewinn, der in private Taschen fliesst. Etwa US\$ 7 Milliarden wurden innerhalb von acht Jahren abgesaugt. Laut dem Ökonomen Eddie Cross wurden über 100 Mio. Karat im Wert von US\$ 12 Milliarden produziert. Die Regierung plant, die Produktion auf eine bis zwei Gesellschaften zu beschränken.
10. Fehlenden Lokalprodukten. Importe überschwemmen die Supermärkte. Im letzten Jahrzehnt schlossen 70% der Exportfirmen.
11. Niedriger Konsumnachfrage.
12. Wilderei.

Landwirtschaft

Brasilien bewies, dass sicherer Landbesitz und private Investitionen Farmern ermöglicht, global konkurrenzfähig zu sein. Eigentlich ein Vorbild, das aber nicht nachgeahmt wird. Viele der 1 Mio. KleinbäuerInnen sind erfolgreich, doch die einstigen Grossfarmen, die die Elite an sich gerissen hat, liegen brach. Trotzdem erwartet die Weltbank ein Wachstum von 7,3% – dank besserem Wetter und Anpflanzung grösserer Flächen verglichen mit 2013.

Die Zerstörung von etwa 30'000 Hektaren Wald in Chimanimani durch illegale Ansiedlungen durch Zanu-PF Politiker während der Wahlkampagne 2013 bewies, dass der Partei Politik wichtiger ist als Entwicklung.

Der Import von Agrarprodukten wie Milch, Früchte und Gemüse wurde im April verboten, um den lokalen Produkten den Markt zu sichern. Derartige südafrikanische Importe betragen etwa US\$ 1 Mio. monatlich. Höhere Preise und Knappheit werden die Folge sein, denn die Landwirtschaft kann den Markt nicht befriedigen.

Die Agricultural Development Bank machte 2012 einen Verlust von US\$ 9 Mio. wegen fehlenden Rückzahlungen.

Industrie

Die De-Industrialisierung geht voran, nur China investiert. Die staatliche chinesische Sinosteel, die Zimasco übernahm, entliess im März Management und Arbeiter,

da neue Maschinen versagten. China Africa Sunlight Energy plant in den nächsten fünf Jahren eine Investition von US\$ 2,1 Milliarden für ein Kohlebergwerk und ein 300-Megawatt-Kraftwerk bis zum Jahr 2016 in Gwayi, Matabeland Nord. 4'500 neuen Jobs sollen geschaffen werden.

Die Unzufriedenheit der Bevölkerung wird sich kaum offen zeigen, das Militär würde sofort eingreifen. Am 3. Mai, dem Medienfreiheitstag, verbot die Polizei eine Demonstration von Journalisten. Die Wirtschaft kann sich nur mit massiven Investitionen, neuer Technologie und einem Ende der Korruption erholen, damit die ganze Bevölkerung und nicht nur Einzelpersonen von den Bodenschätzen profitieren kann.

(5. Mai 2014. Ruth Weiss lebte lange Jahre im südlichen Afrika und arbeitete als Wirtschaftsjournalistin u.a. für den Guardian und die Financial Times.)

Zimbabwe's Economy an Enduring Challenge for Mugabe

Dewa Mavhinga

A major challenge that must be occupying the mind of Zimbabwe's only leader from the time of independence from British colonial rule in 1980, ninety-year old president Robert Mugabe, is how to fix the country's ailing economy. Ahead of the July 2013 elections his political party – Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF)'s manifesto carried a litany of promises to Zimbabweans including reviving the economy and creating 2,2 million jobs arguing that the coalition government with the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) between 2009 and 2013 had been unworkable and had hampered economic progress. The performance of the Zanu-PF government to date, however, does not appear to have measured up to its promises.

ZimAsset

In October 2013, Mugabe's government announced that it had formulated a new economic plan known as the Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (ZimAsset) for the five-year period from October 2013 to December 2018. Government explained that, *'ZimAsset was crafted to achieve sustainable development and social equity anchored on indigenization, empowerment and employment creation which will be largely propelled by the judicious exploitation of the country's abundant human and natural resources.'* To fully implement ZimAsset, government needed at least US\$ 27 billion, which was expected to come from external sources, particularly from China.

In addition to anticipated foreign investment injections into the economy, most Zimbabweans expected that president Mugabe would lead the country in a different economic direction in order to ensure sustainable economic growth and development. For someone who led Zimbabwe for the past 34 years, and who turned 90 years last February, it made sense to think that, as part of his legacy before walking into the sunset of politics, Mugabe would work towards a strong economy and then step aside for a younger leader.

Vices that had plagued the Zimbabwe economy particularly in the last 2 decades included endemic corruption

and looting of state resources, particularly diamond revenue from Marange in the east of the country, by those with strong political connections, bad and inconsistent economic policies, and a failure to observe the rule of law – particularly in respect of private property rights. Some of Zanu-PF's bad economic policies it had adopted in the past included the controversial and chaotic land reform programme from 2000 which was implemented outside the framework of the rule of law and respect for private property rights. Perhaps the most economically damaging Zanu-PF policy was the indigenization policy requiring all foreign-owned companies to cede at least 51% ownership to indigenous Zimbabweans. In addition, Zimbabwe currently has an external debt way above US\$ 10 billion, a huge dent to the country's creditworthiness in the eyes of international lenders.

Blaming the West for the "Economic Sanctions"

Instead of confronting these economic challenges head-on, Zanu-PF leaders had adopted a cheap method of deflecting responsibility for a collapsed economy, blaming western governments, especially the UK, the EU and the US for the imposition of "economic sanctions". Often, they exaggerated the impact of the so-called "economic sanctions" which in reality were largely asset freezes and travel restrictions targeting Mugabe and members of his inner circle directly blamed for gross human rights abuses in the country. For instance, the ZimAsset executive summary begins as follows: *"Zimbabwe experienced a deteriorating economic and social environment since 2000 caused by illegal economic sanctions imposed by the Western countries. This resulted in a deep economic and social crisis characterised by a hyperinflationary environment and low industrial capacity utilization, leading to the overall decline in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 50% in 2008."* The obsession with political sloganeering about sanctions against Zimbabwe then clouded an honest self-introspection to examine the real underlying causes for Zimbabwe's comatose economy.

Corruption

Contrary to its election campaigns promises, Mugabe's government did not change its approach to the economy and did not seek to genuinely re-engage the international community for support. One of the first acts of the new Zanu-PF government after the July 2013 elections was to disband a cabinet committee for international re-engagement that had been set up under the coalition government. In May 2014, the governor of Zimbabwe's central bank, John Mangudya indicated that economic challenges persist, he said: *"The past three years have been challenging for the Zimbabwe economy and difficult for many Zimbabweans. People cannot find jobs, companies cannot pay each other as well as servicing their loans with banks, tax revenues are going down and the tax base is narrowing. The economy is weaker and the financial system is depressed."*

Instead of decisively dealing with the scourge of endemic corruption which continued to undermine the confidence of international organizations and countries who feared that if they give money to Zimbabwe the money will not be put to its intended use, Zanu-PF merely paid lip-service to an anti-corruption drive. Although both privately owned and state media went into overdrive in the first quota of 2014 to expose massive corruption in state companies and calling for action, government largely took no action to investigate and hold accountable those implicated in the corruption scandals. Against the background of a country with an economy in intensive care, media broke several stories of managers of government-owned companies with monthly salaries in excess of a mind-boggling US\$ 200'000.00.

Look-East Policy

One of the pillars of Zanu-PF's economic policy blueprint was the so-called Look-East policy, which basically meant cultivating close ties with China with the hope of getting new financing from it. When Zimbabwe's finance minister Patrick Chinamasa went to China seeking US\$ 27 billion to fund ZimAsset and revive the economy he returned home empty-handed. China refused to give any support, citing policy inconsistencies and uncertainties that made investment in Zimbabwe risky. In a move that further indicates that relations between China and Zimbabwe are not that close, Chinese Prime Minister Li Keqiang, on his first visit to Africa in early May 2014, decided not to visit Zimbabwe, instead visiting Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria and Angola. It appears Zimbabwe is not high on China's priorities in Africa and it seems unlikely that China will step in to provide financial support to desperate Zimbabwe.

In May 2014, finance minister Chinamasa conceded that the country was failing to access lines of credit from foreign government on account of Zimbabwe's huge external debt and arrears in servicing it. He told a business conference, *"No one wants to lend Zimbabwe money anymore because we have defaulted in the past. Whether we go to Zambia or to Malawi, it's the same thing because we are indebted to these countries. We are on our own and we have to be more innovative."* But it appears there is neither the capacity

nor the political will on the part of the Zanu-PF government to strike in a new direction in terms of economic governance and policies. In the 2014 national budget, Chinamasa allocated about 73% of the budget to employment costs, despite recommendations by international financial institutions to substantially reduce the government wage bill.

The controversial policy of indigenization, which lacks clarity on the protection of private property rights and discourages foreign investment, remains a government policy despite repeated feedback from business that it needs to be reviewed and made clear and attractive enough for Zimbabwe to attract foreign investment. Government leaders continue to use the lame excuse that Zimbabwe is under economic sanctions and fails to address real and pressing economic challenges including corruption, lack of accountability and policy inconsistencies that dispel foreign investment. As a result, several companies are closing down while the few that remain open mostly operate at less than 30% capacity.

Re-Introduction of Zimbabwe Dollar?

Efforts to stabilize the economy at the beginning of 2009 included terminating the use of the hyper-inflationary local currency, the Zimbabwe dollar, replacing it with a multi-currency regime dominated by the use of the US dollar as legal tender. The use of US dollar as legal tender in Zimbabwe removed currency risk associated with the hyper-inflationary Zimbabwe dollar and spurred economic growth for the next five years to 2013. However, it appears there are serious discussions in government to abandon the US dollar and return to the Zimbabwe dollar. If government goes ahead to implement this plan it may trigger a sudden plunge of the economy as ordinary Zimbabweans have absolutely no faith in the Zimbabwe dollar. Rumours of an imminent return to the Zimbabwe dollar were so strong as to trigger panic withdrawals of cash by members of the public from the banks at the beginning of May 2014.

Change only in Post-Mugabe-Era

A number of political analysts are convinced that Mugabe and Zanu-PF are not capable of changing their ways and that, perhaps, the only way there can be fresh economic policies capable of turning around the economy leading to sustainable economic growth and development is if there is a complete change of government first. And given that Mugabe is ninety, succession may be imminent, but in an interview to mark his ninetyth birthday, Mugabe dismissed talks of succession saying he would leave it until closer to the next national elections slated for 2018.

The issue of Mugabe's successor is another key challenge for Mugabe, alongside the sluggish economy. Publicly Mugabe says he has not yet identified a successor although both state and private media repeatedly point to two front-runners to succeed him, that is his deputy in government, Mrs Joyce Mujuru and former minister of Defence Emmerson Mnangagwa.

Zanu-PF party hierarchy favours Mrs Mujuru to take over from Mugabe, she is also deputy president for Zimbabwe and constitutionally, if Mugabe resigns or becomes incapacitated, the deputy president becomes

acting president for ninety days before fresh elections to choose successor. However, it is former defence minister and former Mugabe aide, Mnangagwa who appears to have an upper hand in the succession race as he has significant financial muscle as well as control of Zimbabwe's partisan and highly politicized security forces.

A lasting resolution of the economy leading to sustained growth and development is likely to emerge only in the post-Mugabe era in Zimbabwe. At present, Zanu-PF's has adopted a 'business-as-usual' approach while adopting rhetoric that otherwise suggests commitment

Going Back

Sally Roschnik

KLM Amsterdam to Harare. Late at night the airport road into Harare is not the safest place it seems. 'Don't stop at the traffic lights'. Electricity and water are off at my host's house.

The sun comes up on a new day and there before me are the wide open spaces, the flowering spathodias and the jacarandas that have grown so hugely. The flowers and the birds. We are really here. Back in Zimbabwe. Smiling faces and greetings. It has been so great. We have met so many different people with varying views, it is difficult to get it all straight in one's head.

Above all, the wonderful people, so friendly, open and smiley. The long tall pinkish, rust coloured grass waving in the breeze – it has been an excellent rainy season this year – the glorious msasa trees and the great granite rocks we all love so much. This is where we grew up, our nostalgia.

However, in Harare, high walls and metal gates enclose each man's property, his own personal prison. Not so in the country. The huts are much the same as they always were. More built from brick. The yards are kept well swept and the security fence is absent. In fact cows and donkeys wander freely on and off the roads. The main tarred roads are fine but off on the dirt roads and after this rainy season your little hired car won't go far.

We saw so many old friends, old houses and favourite places. Everywhere the cry was 'Things can only get better', '93% unemployment', 'We have lost all our industries', 'The government has made so many stupid mistakes', 'We need people to invest in Zimbabwe', 'We need tourists'.

There has been so much corruption, so much creaming off of the country's assets for the profit of the individual. People at the top lining their own pockets. How much land / how many farms does one man need? There seems to be little land security for both black and white. So many stories we have heard. Oppose the government and you will be in trouble. Zimbabwe doesn't have a good name as a tourist destination and yet it has so much to offer. Great hotels standing unvisited. How long can people keep going? Investment needs to be encouraged – and not only Chinese. So many people love this country dearly and are working for the future but they need sensible government.

Who may follow on in government? Who will set the example for the future? Will all these farms that have

to progressive economic policies which is not supported by evidence on the ground. Little has changed under current Zanu-PF government to warrant an affirmative answer to the often asked question: Is now the right time to invest in Zimbabwe?

(Harare, 8 May 2014. Dewa Mavhinga, human rights researcher and chairperson of Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, the leading democracy and good governance civil society coalition in Zimbabwe.)

been taken be handed on to privileged descendants? Will they use the land or does the whole land redistribution have to start all over again? What a huge gap there is between the fat cat houses at Borrowdale Brooke and those scraping a living and a bit of water to grow some maize in the rural areas. Is the diaspora keeping this aged government in power by sending back money to buy up property?

In Zimbabwe, education is just so important. Everyone pays school fees, both for government or private schooling, on top of that there is the uniform to buy and often the books and pencils. There is so much unemployment and yet the country is full of people paying school fees and uniforms to give their child a chance to be well trained in the new Zimbabwe. What pride, responsibility and enthusiasm you see in all these children longing to learn. An example to us all.

I wonder how children can study for their O and A levels when the sun goes down at 6 pm and you only have a candle to see by. When can you read? Solar lamps please. Reliable electricity. There is such a need for pencils, paper, paint, books. At the same time these youngsters are dancing and singing and aiming at becoming lawyers and neurosurgeons.

School starts early but first you must fetch water and walk kilometres to school. Will you have something to eat or drink at midday before you start the long walk back in the afternoon?. I am always wondering how people can afford boarding, books, uniform etc with this incredibly high rate of unemployment. So many people are selling magnificent tomatoes on the side of the road. How many days will these tomatoes last in the sun if they are not sold? How do you keep the monkeys and baboons from stealing your harvest – do you stay there all day and throw stones or do you pay someone else to do it?

There seems to be lots of empty land around and lots of trees and forests. The wood has not all been cut for firewood as in Malawi. But how do you water your plants in the 10 month dry season? Fine if you are near a stream and can dig into it to find water but what if you can't afford to sink a borehole and keep the machinery going?

In my 3 weeks return to Zimbabwe I visited my old haunts – Rusape, Inyanga and then was also at Sethule near the Matopos where they support AIDS orphans in the local schools. We also paid a quick visit to the

wonderful Great Zimbabwe, 1'000 year old stone city. I just love it.

The memory stays of the avenues of orange flowering spathodia trees, the cosmos flowers all along the road side, the jacarandas that have grown so huge, the spreading msasa trees but above all the schoolchildren doing their utmost to get an education towards their future in their country.

Kartoffeln aus der City

Genial, fleißig und von allgemeiner Arbeitslosigkeit bedroht, bauen Simbawes Frauen Kartoffeln im Hinterhof ihrer städtischen Häuser und Wohnungen an. Über 16'000 Kartoffelbäuerinnen gibt es bereits, die 8% des nationalen Bedarfs decken, zur Ernährungssicherheit beitragen, und durch den Erlös ihren Kindern den Besuch von guten Schulen und Universitäten ermöglichen. Der Anbau ist äußerst einfach. Die Knollen werden in mit

What they need most is a new spirit in high places. Honest, practical, responsible, well organised members of government working for the good of the country and not for themselves would be a fine start.

(April 2014)

guter Erde gefüllten Säcken gezogen. Manche Frauen ernten drei Mal im Jahr je 1'200 kg. Um leichter an Fördermittel zu kommen, haben sich viele in Vereinen organisiert. Sie haben das Wohlwollen des Landwirtschaftsministers, doch die unberechenbare lokale Behörde hat die „städtische Landwirtschaft“ noch nicht gebilligt.

(Bonn, 2. Mai 2014, Netzwerk Afrika Deutschland NAD)

„Rutendo“ – Aufblühen nach Zangengeburt

Mary und Hansruedi Erdin-Tichazorwa

Es waren freundschaftliche Beziehungen mit afrikanischen Schwestern der Kongregation SJI (Sisters of Jesus the Infant), die zum Entschluss führten, zusammen ein Heim für Kinder, insbesondere Waisen, aufzu-

Zustände und Nöte der Menschen und halfen mit ihren beschränkten Mittel Manchen zu überleben. Die Schwestern selber sind mehrheitlich Selbstversorgerinnen. In ihrem Garten wachsen Mais, Gemüse und

Kräuter, die teilweise zu Salben verarbeitet und auch verkauft werden.

In Gesprächen mit uns und mit Mitgliedern von "Kuzivana" (einer kleinen NGO aus Hinterkappelen (BE) um Daniela Kohler) reifte der Plan, ein Heim für Waisen und Kinder in Not zu gründen, um denen, die in Gefahr sind, auf der Strasse leben zu müssen, eine sichere Unterkunft und eine liebevolle Umgebung zu verschaffen.

Die Schwestern erhielten von der Stadtverwaltung ein grosses Stück Land am Rand der Township Mkoba zugesprochen. Sr. Patricia Rubaya, die damalige Generalvikarin der Kongregation, widmete sich mit ihrem ganzen Können und ihrer grossen Erfahrung dem Projekt. Aus Hinterkappelen und Dornach begannen Spendengelder zu fliessen, die

den Bau des Heimes ermöglichten, mit allem Nötigen, wie dem Anschluss ans Elektrizitätswerk, der Wasserversorgung und der Kanalisation.

Im September 2011 konnte das Heim mit einem grossen Fest unter Anteilnahme vieler Menschen aus der Umgebung und besonders auch vieler Kinder eingeweiht werden. – Und dann begann zu unserer Enttäuschung eine enervierende, lange Wartezeit: Verschiedenste Leute und Gremien begutachteten Gebäude und Umgebung. Eingaben an die Lokal- und Provinzbehörden, ja sogar auch an Stellen in Harare



bauen. Diese Schwestern, um die 260 an der Zahl, leben und arbeiten in gegen 60 Kommunitäten in den Diözesen Gweru und Masvingo. Eine dieser kleineren Gruppen bewohnt ein Häuschen in Mkoba, der grössten Township von Gweru.

Von dort aus haben sich die Schwestern, zusammen mit einer kirchlichen Frauenorganisation, seit Jahren vor allem den Ärmsten in ihrer Umgebung gewidmet. Bei regelmässigen Besuchen machten sie sich ein Bild der von der Not am stärksten Betroffenen, vor allem auch der Waisenkinder. Sie führten Buch über die

mussten getätigt werden und blieben lange ohne Antwort, vielleicht auch deshalb, weil die Schwestern nicht bereit waren, mit irgendwelchen finanziellen Anreizen ihre Anliegen zu fördern. Diese Verzögerungen führten bei uns in der Schweiz zu schwierigen Situationen unsern Spendern gegenüber. Nur Sr. Patricia schien mit der Lage besser umgehen zu können und behielt ihren Optimismus.

Die Befreiung war gross, als uns im Dezember 2013, zwei Jahre nach der Einweihung, die Nachricht erreichte: Nathan, ein vierjähriger, schwer misshandelter Bub, fand als erster Unterschlupf im Heim. Bald folgten weitere Kinder, Buben und Mädchen im Alter zwischen 2 und 15 Jahren. Eben wurde auch ein anderthalbjähriger Knabe aufgenommen. Die Kinder werden von zwei Heimmüttern, zwei Frauen aus der Umgebung, die von den Schwestern sorgfältig ausgewählt wurden, betreut. Alle besuchen, mit Ausnahme des Jüngsten, die Schule, den Kindergarten oder eine Spielgruppe. Eine Schwester, die nahe in Mkoba lebt, besucht das Heim täglich. Sie ist Sozialarbeiterin. Die Finanzen und der Einkauf liegen in der Verantwortung der Schwestern. Ein Garten liefert Mais und Gemüse und wird wohl noch vergrössert werden. Fruchtbäume sind gepflanzt, brauchen aber noch Zeit, bis sie Erträge abliefern. Ein kräftiger Zaun, gestiftet von einem Bergwerk, hält unliebsame Besucher ab.

Das Heim wächst, damit auch die Auslagen, besonders durch die Löhne der Heimmütter. Da die Schwesternkongregation finanziell nicht auf Rosen gebettet ist, bleibt „Rutendo“, das übrige BeBa (Bern/Basel) getauft worden ist, bis auf weiteres auf Unterstützung von aussen angewiesen. Wir haben vor allem noch von unserer Tätigkeit in Dornach viele treue Spenderinnen und Spender, sodass wir für die nähere Zukunft sorgen können. Ob allerdings der Plan oder Traum von Sr. Patricia, auf dem Terrain einmal ein ganzes Dörfchen anzusiedeln, je realisiert werden kann, steht in den Sternen.

Was uns Hoffnung gibt für das Projekt, ist die lokale Trägerschaft durch die Schwesterkongregation SJI: Sie haben sich als äusserst engagiert, zuverlässig und verantwortungsvoll erwiesen, mit Abrechnungen bis ins kleinste Detail. Etwas, das im heutigen Zimbabwe alles andere als selbstverständlich ist. Wir sind ihnen und allen SpenderInnen dankbar, dass wir einigen Kindern mit "Rutendo zu einem hoffnungsvolleren Leben verhelfen können.

(Grellingen, April 2014. Mary und Hansruedi Erdin-Tichazorwa sind Gründungsmitglieder der Vereinigung Schweiz-Zimbabwe und waren lange Jahre im Vorstand tätig.)

The Youth and Elderly Together Can and Are Making a Difference

Patricia Walsh

Our daily reading in the newspapers, watching TV, talking with people is almost an endless list of tragedy as far as the youth and elderly in particular are concerned. Some of the headlines/topics of conversation are:

“Elderly Destitute”

“Elderly battle as Government promises help but cannot pay”

“Flood victims face starvation”

“Zimbabweans now Among the Poorest People in Africa”

“Poverty drives teenagers into Prostitution”

“Thousands of HIV-Positive teens dying unnecessarily”

“In one week, 17 border jumpers (mostly youth) found dead in Limpopo River – most killed/eaten by crocodiles as they try to get into South Africa for work as illegal immigrants”

“Elderly and young: increased numbers committing suicide”

And so the list goes on. One can get very discouraged at times and wonder if there is any point in trying to do that little bit to make life a bit more humane for at least a few people. So what a joy it was to have had the privilege of spending some time recently in the rural areas where most of our youth projects are.

We hear so much about the “Rural/Urban” debate in Zimbabwe and to be quite honest I felt that the people in the urban areas still managed to survive better than in the rural areas (despite all the unemployment, and all that goes with it). However, I now look at it differently –

no, not through “tinted glasses” but from practical experience. I must add however, that this particular part of rural Zimbabwe is lucky enough to have some good Mission Hospitals in the area and in most cases the health needs of the local population are catered for (this is not the case in all rural areas – or for that matter in much of the urban areas).

The youth projects that we are supporting for some years I have already written about, they were started in response to requests from the youth themselves and perhaps this is why they are now experiencing great “success” –it was not a “top down” approach.

There are various projects underway which are generating income for the youth and helping them to provide for their families, but I will just comment on the experience of the gardens and bun making.

From the seven gardening projects, the youth in four of them have opened up space for the elderly to join them and use the space to produce vegetables for themselves and in many cases their grandchildren. It means that the youth do most of the heavy work, carrying the water, ploughing, fencing etc and they encourage the elderly to take advantage of this. It is such a joy to see them working so well together – “the old and the young” two very vulnerable groups here in Zimbabwe. The most encouraging part is that this was not part of their training nor did it fall within the parameters of the assistance that they received to start the projects – it came from the goodness and generosity of their own hearts. Most of the elderly that were invited to join in the projects are grandparents of orphaned children.

Both groups are now providing fresh vegetables for their immediate families and selling their extra produce to local schools and other families – they have such a sense of pride and satisfaction out of what they do. In the meantime three other groups of youth and elderly have approached us for starting capital to start the same type of gardening projects!

For many years now we have spent a considerable amount of time trying to ask donors to help us with school fees for orphaned children, in particular for the children who were looked after by destitute widows and Grandparents – some of whom were HIV positive themselves. Well here too we are seeing a glimmer of hope in ways and means of assisting these vulnerable groups becoming a bit more self-reliant.

In our outreach programmes when widows and grandparents came asking for financial assistance for the children they were asked in as a gentle way as possible could they think of any way that they could become less dependent on “hand-outs” and look at some ways of generating some income for themselves and their

dependents. Gradually they started coming up with some ideas and to date the most successful project for them is “baking buns” and selling them at local business centres, schools and other work places. From every US\$ 1 they spend on ingredients, travel to shop etc. they make a profit of 40 cents – by the end of the month this amounts up to a small sum of money which is a big help in buying food, paying school fees and other basics. Again, a great sense of achievement and self-respect. In some cases they even “donate” some buns to the children in the hospitals and to other orphaned children. Some of the group members have also purchased goats and are well on the way to making a living out of breeding goats for sale.

As one of the youth leaders recently remarked, “Please extend our sincere thanks to all the generous people who have assisted us in becoming “Victors” and not “Victims” as we were in the past!”

(Harare, 18 April 2014. Patricia Walsh is a Dominican Sister living in Harare.)

Positive Initiatives

Sally Roschnik

We met several white Zimbabweans making their living, ballet teacher, piano teacher, dairy farmer, film maker, jam makers, university lecturers. Life has not been easy but they were very cheerful and optimistic.

At Inyanga we found the WUZA weavers who must be left over from Nyafaru. Five ladies and four huge, unused looms – no money for cotton or wool. Very few sales. They were going to Harare to try and sell their small woolen floor rugs. There are only two sheep farmers (sources of wool) now. The ladies were so delighted when we bought some crocheted mats and gave some money for more cotton which they could buy in Inyanga.

We met Douglas Funk of the Solon Foundation based in Luzern. They have developed a method of teaching English to help teachers and pupils in primary schools in southern Africa and Eastern Europe. It is called THRASS (Teaching handwriting reading and spelling skills). Doug was filled with admiration for the enthusiasm of Zimbabwean teachers and the progress the children were making using their methods. Impressive.

We visited Molly Tsitsi's (Chiwandamira family) private boarding school. She has built it all herself. As she says it is her passion. However it is built on land belonging to Nyabadza. They had a friendly agreement. Now that it is built he would like almost \$2 million please. There are so many land ownership problems in Zimbabwe. We were very impressed by the spotless and oh so tidy dormitories, the piles of exercise books, the enthusiastic teachers and the almost over-disciplined children. The very smart uniforms too of course.

In Harare we met a couple who live half the year in France and half in Zimbabwe. They encourage and promote recycling and recuperation, send containers to sell in Europe. Wonderful stuff for gardens. Site: www.terresauvage.org. Anyone who comes to their

door with old bits of metal, bottle tops, plastic or metal turned into ducks, birds, cows, lampshades is welcomed and paid. They encourage people to expand, diversify, makes more. They also do ‘trash fashion parades’ in schools where pupils prepare their own outfits. Marvellous ideas. (I have since discovered that there is someone around here who brings their stuff to the annual brocante in our village, Cully. How about that?)

Finally I had ten days with Sethule Orphans' Trust in Matabeleland (the Matopos). Sethule helps support AIDS orphans in the area by getting birth certificates for them (a time and money consuming business), finding a grandmother and supporting the child and the adoptive parent with food, clothes, school fees, uniforms, etc. This is done by sponsorship of an individual child. There is no orphanage building as such and Sethule prides themselves in the fact that you don't know who is an orphan. I met our sponsored child and that of a friend and I asked the headmaster how many orphans there were in his secondary school. He said 67% of the children were orphaned (that is one or two parents deceased).

Sethule supports the local schools. This time they had 10 students from Leysin American school who, with their teachers, painted lots of classrooms. I wondered what I could do as an over 70-year-old grandmother. I did loads of preparation beforehand and 21 ladies turned up on two days for sewing. We had 5 hand-operated sewing machines and with much concentration and enthusiasm we produced lots of little school bags, aprons for school and also for adults, shopping bags with potato printing and some little girls' dresses. Busy and great fun.

Next day I did potato printing and some basic embroidery with primary school children, destined to be wall

hangings. I had taken skipping ropes and tennis balls and luckily ended up at the end of the school day with my stuff and we had a wonderful time with all the children using them before starting on their trek home. I was thrilled to have had that moment.

Back in Harare I saw the printed materials of Ros Byrne. Wonderful colours and patterns. Made at Ruwa, Kudhinda fabrics. www.rosbyrne.co.zw

I wonder about the possibility of reviving the cotton and wool small industries.

It would be so good to have more tourists in Zimbabwe as there is so much to offer. The Victoria Falls does very well, so much so, that people, on their all inclusive package tour from South Africa or Botswana, sometimes don't realise that they are even in Zimbabwe.

Erste überregionale afrikanische Koalition kämpft für mehr Unternehmensverantwortung in Afrika

Am 27. November 2013 kamen 45 zivilgesellschaftliche Organisationen aus ganz Afrika - darunter auch Partnerorganisationen der KASA - in Accra zusammen, um in einer gemeinsamen Erklärung ihre Zielvorstellungen für mehr Verantwortung von Unternehmen im afrikanischen Kontext zu verkünden. Um Menschen und Gemeinschaften in Afrika vor dem skrupellosen Vorgehen internationaler und regionaler Unternehmen zu schützen, haben sie sich dazu verpflichtet, die spezifischen Herausforderungen anzugehen, die in Afrika die Umsetzung der UN-Leitprinzipien für Wirtschaft und Menschenrechte untergraben. Dazu gehören nicht nur

Zivilgesellschaft

Woza 1: Woza calls on Zimbabweans to beat the drum of peace and development to break the silence on violence

Woza joins the rest of the world's activists in campaigning for an end to gender-based violence in the year 2013. To mark the 16 days of activism against gender-based violence, the organisation chose to look beyond the sphere of physical violence to consider the position of women in a society which perpetrates systemic violence and socio-economic disadvantage. Violence against women includes the range of abuses committed against women that stem from gender inequality and women's subordinate status in society relative to men.

Woza, an organisation of human rights defenders campaign against violence in all its forms all year long, but chose to march on women human rights defenders day 29 November 2013 to raise the profile of this special day. On this day over a hundred members were beaten and arrested, broken limbs of adults and a baby the brunt of police baton sticks.

To mobilise for this special day, Woza conducted a survey amongst a total of 7'180 of its members, with 6'428 being women, to investigate their perceptions of women's position in their communities. Special attention was paid on whether women's economic status was

We stayed at the Inn at Rugarira at Inyanga and Norma Jeanne's near Great Zimbabwe. European prices, I agree, but very special and peaceful places.

It seems that people may blame sanctions for Zimbabwe's woes but the only sanctions are travel restrictions against certain government leaders at the very top.

I wonder where the diamond money has gone.

On leaving, waiting at Harare airport, I talked to a lady who had come to Zimbabwe from York (UK) in 1978. She has a dairy farm which she has run for years on her own but now her son is working with her. She says, "Things can only get better, and they WILL."

(April 2014)

schwache oder nicht-existente gesetzliche Rahmenbedingungen, sondern auch geheime Absprachen zwischen Staaten und Unternehmen, denen nun mit Hilfe einer gemeinsamen Strategie besser entgegengewirkt werden soll. Es handelt sich bei dieser Koalition um die erste Bündelung von Stimmen aus der afrikanischen Zivilgesellschaft. Ihre Erklärung wurde im Dezember beim Zweiten UN-Forum für Wirtschaft und Menschenrechte in Genf vorgetragen.

(Heidelberg, 3. April 2014, KASA (Kirchliche Arbeitsstelle Südliches Afrika). Der volle Wortlaut der Deklaration der African Coalition for Corporate Accountability (ACCA) findet sich bei www.kasa.woek.de.)

improving or deteriorating. Members were asked to comment on a series of statements arrived at as a result of the discussion around the Zanu PF Elections theme, the "Zimbabwe Agenda for Sustainable Socio-Economic Transformation (Zim Asset) and the continuing engendered analysis of development on how women were fulfilling their role in their homes and in society. Since the universal 16 Days of activism campaign calls for more substantial responses on the part of governments to act with due diligence in protecting and preventing gender-based violence, members were also required to give comments regarding benefits from government development programmes.

The results were clear. 81% of Woza Harare and Bulawayo members do not believe that women are respected and do not believe that violence against them has ceased. 89% of member do not believe that they will be able to benefit from the Zanu PF's indigenization policies, and 68,2% expressed that the police harassment and criminalization of women and informal traders must stop for socio economic growth but many called for job creation as an alternative. All believed that women were working very hard to create food security for their families, but many noted that this was done against all odds. The vast majority believe the development situation in their communities had deteriorated. They do not believe that Zanu PF will implement the new constitution

effectively. The responses show great disillusionment with and distrust of government and a keen sense of the disadvantages felt by women in spite of their hard work to provide for their families. The scars that women bear today are not just a result of physical violence but are deep rooted in years of poor governance by the state, emotional and psychological manipulation in the home, community and workplace as well as deliberate marginalization of women in all spheres of life. It does not need to be physical violence for women to bear the scars of abuse.

In a list of demands contained in the report, Woza members demand Free primary education was promised, but children are still chased away from school due to non-payment of fees; A programme and funding plan for the better roads promised by the president in his inauguration speech and an initial position was taken against the proposed urban toll gate project. Members also demand land, inputs and to be shared equally among men and women and in a non partisan framework. Moreover, women and youth are waiting for the re-opening of industries to create employment and the detailed plan as to how these firms will create 2 million jobs with a living wage as promised during campaigns.

The same group of citizens demand income generating projects for women and these projects should be distributed in a non partisan system. The vulnerable and the disadvantaged in communities, such as the elderly, the orphans, disabled and widowed are still suffering and being made to complete food aid forms to no avail.

Woza 2: Harare members love tokens rebuffed by police beatings

About 980 Harare members took part in the Women of Zimbabwe Arise (WOZA) Valentine's Day protest to Parliament in Kwame Nkrumah Street. Marching peacefully in two formations, members were undisturbed and reached parliament to find over 30 Anti Riot Police blocking the entrance to Parliament, singing songs to deliver a message for respect and activation of the constitution.

Members then gathered close and 10 speeches were made outlining the demands on parliament and the situation of women and children in Zimbabwe. WOZA National coordinator and Celina Madukani then went into the august house reception to deliver the petition and roses. However they were informed that the clerk of parliament, and the speaker were in a meeting together and could not be disturbed. The activists realising that this was another delaying tactic decided to leave the petition on the reception table.

These misgivings had proven correct as the anti riot

Woza members demand home ownership; city council should build homes for people and there should be transparency in the distribution of stands. Residents are tired of being lodgers and paying high rentals. Last but not least, they demand the ZimAsset programme to urgently provide affordable and nutritious home grown



food and to put women first in all the ZimAsset implementation programmes.

Woza made additionally recommendations on a number of premises that include devolution, activation of the constitution, working public institutions, community involvement, civic education, as well as justice and fairness.

(Bulawayo 5 December 2013, wozazimbabwe)

police had begun to disperse and beat the peacefully signing women outside. Over 10 members reported being beaten from behind as they disperse and all had visible swelling and bruising on their upper arms. The beatings were carried out by anti riot officers in black uniforms and it is unclear why their uniform differs from the normal blue uniform.

As part of the protest WOZA members handed our red roses and summary constitution pocket books to bystanders. Unfortunately WOZA did not have many copies and people hung around asking for these and many followed the procession trying to lay their hands on the constitution. The desperation for information was evident to all those who were distributing information. WOZA wish to call on parliament and civic society at large to make greater effort to fill this knowledge and information vacuum. Zimbabweans have always shown a hunger for information but they seem to be intentionally disempowered. Zimbabwe seems to have a parliament that neglects awareness raising on the Constitution, a year later no such program has been started. Members of Parliament also seem to ignore the need for such a program during house sessions.

WOZA leaders Jenni Williams and Magodonga Mahlangu were followed through the city centre by obviously high ranked suit wearing intelligence officers until

Woza 3: Huge amount of Police deployed fail to stop Woza members march for love

Anti riot Police deployed here, there and everywhere at street corners, attempt to disturb the Bulawayo Valentine's Day protest. The police officers actively chased women away from each other as they tried to gather. A further two landrover vehicles with over 10 officers also drove helter skelter jumping from their truck to scatter groups of women. A 8 tonne truck was also stationed in Herbert Chitepo Street with a contingent of officers jumping in and out of the vehicle to scatter women.

Woza leaders Jenni Williams and Magodonga Mahlangu, on foot to participate in the protest were followed by a double cab with 6 officers from the law and order department. These officers took countless pictures and video footage of the 2 leaders as they awaited the 1115am start time at one of the start point. They then followed the protest taking footage of the whole activity.

As Williams and Mahlangu started the protest the 8 tonne truck made a show of trying to bump the activists attempting to open the banner. The drive also kept hooting to try to disturb them. Eventually a sufficient number of members drew close enough so that the protest march could move towards the government complex Mhlahlandlela. Once the protest started, many police officers were looking down at their shoes, embarrassed at their previous behaviour. The big truck drove away leaving the peaceful protest. Two other protests, one near the High Court and another in Joshua Nkomo Street managed to start and proceed without disturbance. All three protest groups with over 1250 members finally arrived at the government complex.

Deutsche Zivilgesellschaft fordert Ende der Sanktionen für Simbabwe

Rund 50 Einzelpersonen und VertreterInnen von entwicklungspolitischen Organisationen sprachen sich am Ende einer zweitägigen Konferenz, auf der die aktuelle Situation in Simbabwe neun Monate nach dem Sieg der ZANU-PF behandelt wurde, mehrheitlich für das Ende aller Sanktionen gegen Simbabwe sowie für eine Wiederaufnahme der Gespräche zwischen der EU und Simbabwe für bilaterale Zusammenarbeit aus.

Obwohl Wahlverlauf und Wahlergebnis in Simbabwe im Juli 2013 umstritten waren, hat die EU den Empfehlungen der SADC zugestimmt und den Wahlsieg der ZANU-PF anerkannt. Daraufhin wurden einige Einreiseverbote und Kontensperrungen aufgehoben – als eine Ausnahme bleiben die Massnahmen gegenüber Robert Mugabe und seinen engsten Vertrauten bestehen.

Die völlige Aufhebung der Sanktionen würde die Ernsthaftigkeit der EU in Bezug auf die Wiederaufnahme bilateraler Beziehungen und Verhandlungen untermauern. Die simbabwische und europäische Zivilgesellschaft hätte mit der Wiederaufnahme des Engagements

they managed to outsmart them and leave the city centre.

(Harare 14 February 2014, wozazimbabwe)

A police cordon at the entrance of the Mhlahlandlela Government complex blocked the activists from delivering the petition to the Resident minister Eunice Moyo. The protest programme continued. Four leaders, including Williams and Mahlangu, made pavement speeches citing the reasons for the protest and made demands for free primary school education delivered by 30 December 2013. As the speeches were about to come to an end, two over 80 year old grandmothers, took the floor to tell the police that 'they did not want to be herded like cattle as they dispersed'.

After the closing slogan – umkhonto wo thando – Zhii (the love spear rules), Williams and Mahlangu led the crowd in dispersing, toward the nearby bus terminus to catch their commuter buses home. A small delay in the crowd dispersal occurred when two police trucks blocked the road near Ross Camp, the provincial headquarters of the police. This caused the members to have to walk around the trucks to get to commuter ranks.

Woza leaders decry the waste of resources used to deploy over 150 police officers from early morning, to monitor and disturb peaceful women from handing out roses and constitution pocket books to Bulawayo residents. "There is a severe shortage of police officers to do the work of arresting criminals and investigating looters of public funds. However police officers are never in short supply when there are peaceful women exercising their democratic rights by marching to ask for love or demanding that constitution be activated", said Woza National coordinator Jenni Williams.

(Bulawayo, 14 February 2014, wozazimbabwe)

der EU in Simbabwe die Möglichkeit, diesen Verhandlungsprozess zu begleiten und auf Transparenz und Rechenschaftspflicht von Seiten des simbabwischen Staates zu drängen.

„Was nutzt es, vermeintliche Druckmittel aufrecht zu erhalten, die längst ihre Wirkung verloren haben“ plädiert Prof. Brian Raftopoulos vom Solidarity Peace Trust für die Aufhebung der Sanktionen. „Wir plädieren für einen transparenten Dialog der EU mit Simbabwe, damit Abkommen wie das Interimsabkommen zu den EPAs nicht ohne Beteiligung und ohne Wissen der Zivilgesellschaft verhandelt und unterzeichnet werden können“ erläutert Simone Knapp von der KASA, einer der veranstaltenden Organisationen. Die geplanten EPAs (Economic Partnership Agreements) lassen befürchten, dass die Armut in den Entwicklungsländern eher vertieft als beseitigt wird. Und Timothy Kondo, ein Aktivist aus Simbabwe, betont, dass „ein neues Engagement der EU mit Simbabwe ein Prozess des Verhandelns“ darstellt, in dem es auch um die Rechenschaftspflicht des simbabwischen Staates gehen müsse. Dessen unbenommen müssen die Menschenrechtsverletzungen des simbabwischen Staates und seiner Organe benannt und bearbeitet werden. Darauf pocht insbesondere

Arthur Gwagwa vom Simbabwe Menschenrechtsforum, der eine Zusammenarbeit mit Menschenrechtsverletzern wie der ZANU-PF Regierung äusserst kritisch sieht und nur unter strikt kontrollierten Bedingungen akzeptieren kann.

Nach den Aussagen simbabwischer Beobachter hat sich die politische Kultur seit der Wahl nachteilig verändert. Gewalt und Intoleranz gegenüber anderen Positionen habe zugenommen. Jetzt ist es wichtig, dass ausländische Organisationen mit ihren Programmen zur Förderung einer weiteren Demokratisierung tätig werden können, das betont der Mitveranstalter Heiner Naumann von der Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung. Offensichtlich stellt die politische Opposition, in erster Linie die

ZCTU: Deeply Concerned with Retrenchments at Harare City

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) is deeply concerned with reports that the Harare City Council intends to retrench 2 000 workers, leaving thousands of households destitute. According to news reports, 720 workers have already been retrenched. What is disheartening is that the chairperson of human resources committee, Wellington Chikombo, seems to be getting pleasure from the move and is quoted in the press as saying he was happy with the progress, oblivious to the fact that he is jeopardising lives of many people, including school children, who depend on their parents for a living. It is most disturbing that, when council debts were illegally cancelled by Local Government Minister Ignatious Chombo, some people cel-

ZLHR: Solidarity Statement on Workers Day

Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) stands side by side with Zimbabwean workers as they join the rest of the world in commemorating International Workers' Day on 1 May 2014. In other parts of the world, International Workers' Day is an opportunity to recognise and celebrate the economic and social achievements of workers. In Zimbabwe, however, it is disheartening to note that setbacks and challenges continue to outweigh the victories and progress that workers have achieved in the 34 years of Zimbabwe's independence as the government and employers in private enterprise have turned their backs on the working people. It is dismaying that in recent months thousands of Zimbabwean workers have been left without jobs as a result of forced retrenchments occasioned by company closures due to the difficult economic operating environment.

Workers in the private and public sector continue to earn slave wages that do not allow them and their families to live above the poverty datum line, while unemployment and inequality is increasing at a shocking pace. Those in control of the levers of state power pledged to create 2 million jobs. These remain hollow and shallow platitudes as we witness the stark reality of a multitude of commercial enterprises downsizing operations and employment levels, while other companies have completely shut down. In some instances workers in both the public and private sector have had to endure slashed salaries while corporate greed is running unchecked at the expense of the suffering workers. It is

MDC-T, keine Alternative zur Regierungspartei ZANU-PF dar, da sie nicht nur zerstritten ist, sondern auch das gemeinsame Bündnis von Wirtschaft, Gewerkschaften, Zivilgesellschaft und traditionellen Führern in der Form wie 2008 nicht mehr existiert. Heidi Hesse vom Zimbabwe Netzwerk betont, dass Engagement auf allen Ebenen, staatlich wie nichtstaatlich, auf Augenhöhe stattfinden muss. Simbabwische Kompetenz in Politik und Wirtschaft muss als solche von der EU aufgegriffen werden. Im vorgelegten EPA-Abkommen ist dies noch nicht geschehen.“

(Heidelberg, Bielefeld, Berlin, 7. April, Pressemitteilung KASA (Kirchliche Arbeitsstelle Südliches Afrika)

ebred. Now it is the poor worker who is being sacrificed and called upon to bear the brunt of political blunders and mismanagement.

Employment protection is strongly entrenched in both the Labour Act as well as the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The blatant abuse and humiliation of the affected workers by the Harare City Council raises both constitutional issues as well as fundamental human rights deficiencies that are challengeable at the Constitutional Court. There are also questions raised on the retrenchment procedure that the council took, and brings the process into disrepute.

(Harare, 23 April 2014, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), Japhet Moyo, Secretary General, Press Release)

unacceptable that no concerted action has been taken to bring an end to the impunity for corrupt activities by big bosses who continue to feast while their workers go for months without decent pay and sub-standard working conditions. Some discouraged work seekers have lost hope of securing any form of employment and are increasingly turning to informal trading, which itself is under threat from government-enforced demolitions of structures, evictions from trading places and threats to forcibly tax this informal workforce.

This year's International Workers' Day is being marked after an important achievement of a new Constitution of Zimbabwe, which includes protection of labour rights, freedom to demonstrate and petition and the right to collective job action and collective bargaining. This is an encouraging starting point for the advancement of the decent work agenda in Zimbabwe as spearheaded by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions. More still needs to be done, however, with several drawbacks in the governance charter, and a lack of political will to implement the positive protective provisions relating to the rights of workers.

ZLHR commits itself to the comradely struggle to press the government to further refine and protect fundamental workers' rights, ensure effective implementation of rights already guaranteed, and in this regard to immediately align all labour laws with the new Constitution. We further call on the executive and legislative arms of government to fast-track legislation that will effectively deal with the scourge of corruption, including corporate greed, particularly in the public sector. It is imperative

that the government of Zimbabwe does more to ensure that workers' rights are protected and realised. ZLHR hopes that this year's commemoration of the International Workers' Day will give strength to Zimbabwean

workers to continue the struggle for a better Zimbabwe and world.

(Harare, 30 April 2014, Zimbabwe Lawyers for human Rights (ZLHR))

Wirtschaft

China Emerges Consistent Top Investor since 2010

Zimbabwe's relations with China continue to strengthen. The country embarked on the Look East policy after the West frowned upon far-reaching agrarian reforms. Zimbabwe-China co-operation has seen the implementation of massive projects. China has emerged as a consistent top investor in Zimbabwe since 2010, with its investments contributing 72 percent, or US\$ 670 million, of the total US\$ 930 million worth of projects approved last year, reflecting the dividends of the country's deliberate Look East policy embarked on more than a

mining industry last year. Agriculture accounted for US\$ 18,6 million of Chinese investment, manufacturing US\$ 35,5 million, while US\$ 23 million was sunk into the services industry. Approvals for the Asian country in construction reached US\$ 7,4 million. It channelled only US\$ 300'000 for tourism.

Zia head of operations Mr Sichoni Takoleza said the Chinese were bringing in both large and medium sized projects in many industries. "Some observations on Chinese interest in Zimbabwe (are that) they have appetite

across all sectors of the economy, whilst other countries are cherry picking," Mr Takoleza told a regional conference on China-Africa Cooperation in Victoria Falls last week. Chinese capital has been crucial to Zimbabwe in an era blighted by illegal Western economic and trade sanctions that have affected FDI inflows from traditional source markets. Although Chinese investments into Zimbabwe might seem insignificant when compared with its US\$ 2 billion one-time investment into the Angolan oil industry, they, however, remain very important to the country's economic recovery efforts. Mr Takoleza singled out the extractive industry as the biggest destination for Chinese capital due to an abundance of under-exploited minerals such as platinum, gold and coalbed methane. Interest in this sector, which raked in US\$ 790 million in export revenue last year, will continue to grow. "The

rich resource profile means there shall continue to be heavy resource seeking FDI into Zimbabwe from China and other investor sources," he predicted.

Zimbabwe has premised its future growth on the exploitation of mineral resources, where it expects to unlock up to US\$ 5 billion over the next five years. Zimbabwe is the fourth largest producer of chrome worldwide, fifth largest gold producer in Africa and is geared towards producing a quarter of all world diamonds. However, there still exists several factors curtailing FDI growth. Issues such as unnecessary delays in accessing permits, corruption, bad partnerships, poor infrastructure and unreliable utilities did not augur well for attracting foreign capital, said Mr Takoleza. "For untenable partnerships, some joint ventures are breaking down due to weak legal structures hence we recommend they use legal services to develop tight shareholder agreements. This is true for Zimbabwe and Chinese investors," he said.

decade ago. The Zimbabwe Investment Authority (Zia) announced last week that by the end of October it had approved Chinese investments worth US\$ 347,8 million, concentrated mainly in the energy and mining sectors. Russia came in a distant second, with approvals worth US\$ 40,1 million, underlining the increased influence of some of the Brics (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) countries. Investments from South Africa and the UK were measured at US\$ 39 million and US\$ 34 million respectively. Mauritius completed the top five foreign direct investment (FDI) sources with approvals worth US\$ 25 million.

Chinese capital into Zimbabwe is looking for opportunities mainly in mining, where the country offers a diversity of over 40 tradable minerals. Of its cumulative investments in 2012, China ploughed US\$ 583 million into the extraction of minerals such as diamonds, gold and chrome. This represented 62 percent of the total US\$ 688 million FDI approvals for the entire Zimbabwean



To ease some of these challenges, Zia is now pushing for serious business reforms, including the simplification of permit processes across institutions, utilisation of joint venture database at the investment authority by prospective investors, as well as strengthening the One Stop Shop concept by end of next year.

Chinese investments into Africa, including FDI, development aid and export credits, are believed to be in the region of US\$ 30 billion per year over the past five years. In 2011, the China-Africa Development Fund – the primary vehicle for investing into Africa – poured US\$ 14 billion of FDI across the continent. In terms of trade, China is now Africa's biggest partner with the volume of trade climbing to nearly US\$ 200 billion per year in

Simbabwische Einmaligkeit: Das „Multiwährungssystem“ weitet sich aus

2009 hatte Simbabwe seine eigene Währung, den simbabwischen Dollar, aufgrund einer Inflation, die nicht mehr kontrolliert werden konnte, aufgegeben. Seitdem gelten sowohl der US-Dollar, der südafrikanische Rand, der botswanische Pula, das britische Pfund als auch der Euro als legale Zahlungsmittel, auch wenn sich in letzter Zeit ein Misstrauen gegenüber dem von Instabilität geprägten südafrikanischen Rand entwickelt hat.

Seit Mittwoch, den 29. Januar 2014, sind auf Entscheidung der Zentralbank von Simbabwe vier weitere Währungen offiziell zugelassen worden: Der japanische Yen, der chinesische Yuan, die indische Rupie und der aus-

Government abandons land-grab beneficiaries

Government has all but abandoned beneficiaries of its controversial land grab exercise, telling them to approach the banks as it will not fund this year's winter crop season. Reports this week said agriculture minister Joseph Made revealed to the Senate that the A2 farmers should not look forward to any assistance from the government this year. According to The Source online newspaper Made said: 'The financial resources are limited. There will be no support for A2 farmers. Go and kneel down in front of your banks.' Made added that the government is currently paying back companies it owed for inputs, particularly fertilizer companies to whom it owes millions of dollars.

This must have come as a blow to the A2 farmers who the government has been supporting with inputs and equipment for about a decade. The A2 farmers are large scale farmers who were awarded the land seized from white commercial farmers under the controversial government exercise. Economic analyst Masimba Kuchera said the development was symptomatic of the broader financial problems faced by the government. Kuchera said the government 'clearly does not have money.' He added: 'It is a systemic problem cutting across the sectors. If there is no money to pay teachers then what it means is that there is no money to finance agriculture.' Kuchera said the farmers will find it difficult to obtain money from the bank because the banks view the A2 farmer as 'risky business.'

2012 from a few millions 25 years ago. In 2010, trade between the two parties was worth US\$ 114 billion, and in 2011 it was gauged at US\$ 166 billion. China-Africa trade has grown by 26 percent since 1995.

Africa exports to China minerals, base metals, precious stones and textiles. African imports include transport equipment, clothing, value-added manufacturing products, machinery, footwear and plastic products. Sadc was the biggest trading bloc with China in Africa last year, with trade worth US\$ 83 billion.

(Harare, 24 November 2013, Enacy Mapakame, Sunday Mail)

tralische Dollar. Experten bezweifeln, dass diese Massnahme das Liquiditätsproblem löst, unter dem die simbabwische Wirtschaft akut leidet. Zumindest signalisiert die Zentralbank damit, dass an ausländischen Währungen festgehalten und auf eine Wiedereinführung des simbabwischen Dollars zunächst verzichtet wird.

Mit der Absicht, den simbabwischen Dollar wieder zu beleben, die die Regierungspartei im Wahlkampf äusserte, ging die Angst einher, dass die prekäre simbabwische Wirtschaft wieder kollabieren könnte, wenn die Zentralbank die Möglichkeit bekäme, für die Bedürfnisse der Regierung beliebig Geld drucken lassen zu können.

(Heidelberg, 31. Januar 2014, KASA (Kirchliche Arbeitsstelle Südliches Afrika))

When the government seized the land from its original owners, the white farmers still retained the title deed, the legal document that gave them ownership of the farm. The government then just handed out bits of land to various people and there has been no land audit, so no one knows who legally owns what. It has been reported that the ZANU PF government has handed out some 99 year leases to A2 farmers in the belief that they will then be able to source loans from the banks. But these leases show that the land officially belongs to the state and so banks will not lend money to an individual who has no collateral to back up the loan.

It was reported last December that a ZANU PF report, made available to the party's conference in Chinhoyi, said the farmers will have to wait before they use the land as security for borrowing loans. According to reports ZANU PF fears that if it converts the 99-year leases into 'tradable security' that would make it easy for the white commercial farmers to regain their seized land. Last month Bankers Association of Zimbabwe president George Guvamatanga told legislators at a post budget seminar that money held by the banks belonged to depositors and it would be wrong to lend it to farmers based on a 99 year lease which he said exposes banks in the event of defaults on repayment.

(21 February 2014, SW Radio Africa, Mthulisi Mathuthu)

Zimbabwe debt undermines growth

Zimbabwe's foreign and domestic debt will continue to undermine the country's creditworthiness and compromise its ability to secure new funding, analysts have warned. Much of the borrowing has been for consumption rather than production, implying the debt is not being used to grow the economy, they said. Economists said while debt remained crucial to development, it was the manner in which it was used that was of concern. The appetite for debt has been increasing in Zimbabwe due to lack of balance of payment support from bilateral and multilateral institutions as well as dwindling tax revenues due to company closure and high unemployment.

Economist David Mupamhadzi said: "Without debt, the country cannot go anywhere but it is how we use the money we borrow that would determine our economic revival and debt levels in future." He said much of the country's debt was going towards consumption, with little going towards projects that would result in employment creation such as power generation, road construction and other development projects.

Zimbabwe's foreign debt is currently at US\$ 6 billion. It will result in higher taxes if the country's major sectors of the economy do not start performing, analysts warned. Economist Brains Muchemwa said it was important to consider the ability of government to generate future revenue to offset the current debt stock. "The ability of the Zimbabwean government to service its debt is a function of the vibrancy of its revenue model, implying therefore that the economy must keep growing, broadening the tax base whilst a rational civil service reform needs to be implemented to conserve cash and improve the debt servicing," Muchemwa said. He said disposal and commercialisation of loss-making parastatals needs to be prioritised, and equally, the tightly regulated industries such as telecommunications needed to be further liberalised so that government generates more revenue from taxation. Zimbabwe was divided over former finance minister Tendai Biti's proposal to put Zimbabwe in the Highly Indebted Poor Countries (HIPC) category.

Biti had said Zimbabwe had four debt and arrears clearance options which included mortgaging mineral resources to clear the growing debt, servicing through internal revenue inflows, Paris Club debt-rescheduling and the HIPC option for consideration by cabinet. Biti had proposed that Zimbabwe should adopt HIPC status because it had advantages which could reduce the country's debt burden by 90 percent after full delivery of debt relief. Some analysts said in theory, the initiative provided an opportunity for a country like Zimbabwe to re-channel the funds initially earmarked for debt repayment into capacity enhancing investments that serve as poverty-reduction programmes. However, the reality of the HIPC initiative was said to be more of a Faustian bargain, in which future debt relief comes at a price of complying with several years of International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank programmes with a patchy record of success in Africa.

While diligently pursuing World Bank and IMF-led reforms, African countries have often seen an increase in the poverty gap and the weakening of social services.

Opponents highlight African countries in more desperate circumstances for the middle and lower classes despite such initiatives. Interest payments on foreign and domestic debt has for years remained over 50 percent of the total debt, a situation bank economists said was evident that government was broke and had no other source of income other than the domestic market.

This suggests that the solvency of government was already seriously compromised with the current interest rates, and technically government finances will not be better with even a one percent rise in interest rates. Analysts said the debt stock was likely to rise further on increased borrowing by government to finance the import of wheat and maize this year. Government was also likely to borrow more funds to finance other recurrent expenditure like civil service salaries. Government has been forced to rely on domestic borrowings since its tax revenue base has dwindled because of company closures which have led to retrenchments. This means that government in real terms is collecting less money through corporate and income tax. The fact that Zimbabwe has no access to international capital has only made the situation worse.

Zimbabwe's external debt has continued to grow mainly as a consequence of new payment arrears and interest and penalty charges on existing payment arrears. While critics agreed that Zimbabwe required substantial financial support to turn its ailing economy around, civic society groups suggested the decision to seek HIPC status could be costly to the country in the long-term. Zimbabwe's debt levels were unsustainable, they said, but getting on the HIPC path could make it worse. The HIPC process is said to be arduous and involves a range of sometimes controversial policy demands by international creditors. With the aim of stimulating economic growth, governments in the face of tight financial and monetary constraints, resort to various fundraising measures, including the issuing of local/foreign currency-denominated bonds, and loans from multilateral institution, other countries and from private financial institutions.

The global trend toward financial liberalisation has led to diversified financing measures for developing countries. However, the redemption and interest repayments have not always taken place on schedule. As a result of endogenous problems such as the vulnerable tax base, or exogenous shocks such as falling prices for foreign-currency earning products, natural disasters and currency and financial crisis, which the governments cannot control by themselves, countries often face solvency problems and go into default or debt crisis.

(27 February 2014, the Financial Gazette, Paul Nyakazeya, in zimbabwesituation)

Misleading Statements on Job Creation

The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) is deeply concerned by reports in *The Herald* of Friday, 4 April 2014, attributed to Minister of Small and Medium Enterprises and Cooperative Development, Sithembiso Nyoni, that 5.7 million jobs have been created from 2.8 million small businesses. She also claimed that 800 000 small businesses have employed 2.9 million people.

The ZCTU doubts if indeed there are such number of small business in the country. We believe that such figures are misleading and politicking and would like to challenge the Minister to show us where these jobs have been created. If indeed there are such jobs, why are millions of our children in the streets looking for jobs? While we agree with the Minister that there is need to formalise the informal sector, such reckless statements portray a picture of Zimbabwe doing

Zim fails to pay IMF debt

Zimbabwe has no capacity to clear debt arrears with international financiers due to the poor state of the economy, Finance minister Patrick Chinamasa has said. Chinamasa told journalists at a press briefing in Bulawayo last week that government was engaging the institutions to find ways of servicing the debt. "Currently, I have got no capacity to pay the arrears or the principal debt which by the way now stands at \$6,4 billion. "This is excluding the Reserve Bank debt which comes to \$1,35 billion. We are more or less \$7 or \$8 billion in arrears if we take all the debts into account," he said. The Finance minister said as the situation stands, engaging creditors was the only way towards a sustainable debt relief. Chinamasa indicated that it has been made clear to him that Zimbabwe does not qualify for debt relief or other credit lines as long as the arrears remained unpaid.

"We are a member of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and all the Bretton-Woods institutions. There are benefits we accrue by virtue of being a member but the Bretton-Woods institutions are saying you cannot borrow any money, you cannot enjoy any benefits until you clear your arrears," he said. Chinamasa added IMF officials questioned him on how Zimbabwe was going to find its way out of the deep debt burden and what was government's policy on it. "We told them that the mining sector has a potential to generate revenues cash flows to be able to service the debt," he said adding that the government will be soon making amendments to the Mines and Minerals Act to create the necessary policy templates on positive investment in the sector. As part of the plan, the minister also assured IMF that the Zimbabwean government will

well in terms of employment creation yet according to the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) figures they provided in their 2014 annual report, the country had a working population of 1'332'228 in 2012 and 1'208'402 in 2013, meaning 123'825 disappeared somehow.

In any case, how come these small businesses are not remitting their statutory obligations to both NSSA and the treasury if they are genuine businesses? And as a Minister responsible for them, why has she left the situation like that? We urge Ministers not to play to the gallery and politicking when discussing issues of national importance.

(Harare, 7 April 2014, Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), Japhet Moyo, Secretary General, Press Release)

reform the banking sector as well as increase transparency and greater accountability in the diamond mining sector. To ensure the laid out plan is achieved, the IMF has created a staff monitored programme on Zimbabwe.

Chinamasa noted that each time he visits the United States, he will be trying to find ways to clear the huge debt, but said government had no capacity to do so due to the poor state of the economy. "I have noted that there is a misconception about the relationship with IMF



to the extent that each time I return from Washington, the media asks what I have brought back from IMF. "I think that statement comes from a gross misconception of our current relationship with the IMF," Chinamasa said.

Flanked by Information and Broadcasting Services minister Jonathan Moyo and his deputy Samuel Undenge, Chinamasa said the current relations with the IMF were that of creditor and a debtor. "The Bretton-Woods institutions which include the World Bank, ADB, IMF IFC,

working in unison take their cue from IMF. There is nothing you can do with these unless it has been sanctioned by the IMF," Chinamasa said. He said he had made it clear to IMF that the huge debt arose after the country implemented the agrarian reform which many Western countries opposed over the manner in which it was carried out. "Because of sanctions that is when we started failing to pay our arrears. We started failing to honour our international obligations. As far as

Chinese stove accounts for 80pc of burns

Officials at Harare Group of Hospitals (HGH) have called for a probe into the safety of the Chinese-made Panda paraffin stove that has triggered a sharp increase in burns in the country. HGH head of surgery Alfred Mukosi said the burns were further straining limited financial resources at the institution. He called for the stove to go for redesigning or be banned. "With our already-limited resources, we are worried with certain paraffin stoves that have flooded our market from a friendly country," Mukosi said, declining to name the country. "There are real safety issues around these stoves. We feel there is a need for an investigation. We can call victims to bring the stoves. We need it (stove) banned or redesigned."

Mukosi was speaking during a tour of the hospital by award-winning musician Oliver Mtukudzi yesterday. "There was a stove that was made locally but it just disappeared," Mukosi said. "It helped, we never used to deal with all these issues." Harare Hospital acting chief executive officer George Vera described that brand of stoves as a "killer." "This brand is injuring and killing our people," he said. "It is killing both adults and children. Now it is your role as media to tell the public."

Zim to continue Dubai diamond sales: Minister

Mines minister Walter Chidhakwa yesterday said Zimbabwe would continue to sell its diamonds in Dubai despite the country failing to redeem \$ 30 million from Global Diamond Tenders, a month after the auction. "Dubai isn't the issue but the facilitators. We have been selling our diamonds there since 2007 and we have never had problems before. It's a lucrative market and we still have an opportunity to sell in that market," he said.

Zimbabwe exported nearly 400'000 diamond carats in March to the Dubai Diamond Exchange (DDE) under a market-testing exercise. In the process government secured a facilitator, Global Diamond Tenders, to link them with buyers. The diamonds were then sold at an average price of \$ 76 per carat, marking a 5,4 percent improvement from the second Antwerp sale which attracted \$ 72 per carat. Of the \$ 30 million realised, \$ 4,39 million was destined for Treasury while the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (Zimra) and Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ) were also entitled to a percentage. The remainder was to be shared between the Zimbabwe Mining Development Corporation (ZMDC) and the mining firms. In addition, the facilitator was entitled to four percent of total proceeds. Although the money is yet to be transferred,

the IMF is concerned, they say it is because of poor policies but we dispute that because the land reform has come at a heavy cost," he said. Chinamasa whose national budget received criticism from economic analysts, said government had no capacity to clear its IMF arrears.

(Bulawayo, 27 April 2014, Jeffrey Muvundusi, Daily News)

A total of 53 people suffered paraffin burns last year. At least 42 of those were injuries caused by burst paraffin stoves, of which seven were fatal. Patients who spoke on condition of anonymity described the stoves as "Panda," a brand available in different sizes and colours, mainly green and maroon. Mukosi said historically, burns used to be more prevalent in winter. "But nowadays they are no longer seasonal; burns are coming all the time," he said. A punishing load-shedding schedule has forced the public to resort to wood, gas, generators and paraffin stoves for heating or as alternative sources of energy.

Mukosi said they were sometimes admitting in several members of a single family injured from a single explosion by the stove. "We have whole families living in single quarters with that stove by the corner, meaning when the stove bursts, it injures many people," he said. Last year, the hospital admitted a total of 1'218 children and 159 adults with burns. At least 80 children died from the burns. Among adult burns, open fires accounted for 40 cases, hot water 38, hot oil 20 and 10 electrical injuries.

(Harare, 2 May 2014, Wendy Muperi, Daily News)

industry experts say under normal circumstances transactions should not take more than three days.

Finance minister Patrick Chinamasa this week blamed the Dubai Diamond Exchange for the delay and said the exchange had "failed the test". "Obviously, the delay is affecting us. We could have used that money to fund some of the projects awaiting completion. Naturally, the delay is crippling the mining companies that need the money to run operations," Chinamasa was quoted as saying. "I am not sure of the reason why it has taken this long for us to receive our money. I haven't found the time to talk to Minister Chidhakwa to find out what is really happening, but I am eager to engage him so that I know what is happening. "Naturally, they (Dubai Diamond Exchange) have failed the test. Remember, when we went there we were testing the market. Why would we continue selling our diamonds in Dubai under such conditions?"

However, Chidhakwa noted that diamond companies, Diamond Mining Company, Kusena, and DTZ-OZ Geo were paid while Anjin was partly paid. "There were some logistical problems with Marange Resources, Mbada Diamonds and Jinan. I understand the facilitator was forced to open a new bank account to facilitate the transfer of funds. That has been done and anytime now, they will be transferring the money to the various companies," he said. The mines minister noted that although the facilitator had failed to meet expectations,

it was a learning curve for Zimbabwe. "Our team was also in Dubai and they will do a review on the whole process and this will help us in choosing our next facilitator," said Chidhakwa. The delay in payment has

severely affected government and exporting mining firms which had earmarked the proceeds for key projects and operations.

(Harare, 6 May 2014, John Kachembere, Daily News)

Parteien und Personen

Makoni backs Tsvangirai

MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai, who has expelled his rebellious allies who plotted to topple him, has received backing from opposition Mavambo Kusile Dawn (MDK) leader Simba Makoni. Makoni, a former Cabinet minister in President Robert Mugabe's government, joined forces with Tsvangirai ahead of the July 31 election and has rallied behind the MDC leader in the latest turmoil. There have been overtures by expelled MDC secretary-general Tendai Biti to court Makoni, but he told journalists at his party headquarters in Harare yesterday that unlike the smaller MDC faction leader Welshman Ncube, he believes in an all-inclusive coalition that includes Tsvangirai. While Ncube has said he was open to a coalition with Biti, he has ruled out joining hands with Tsvangirai again. "The grand coalition should include everyone," Makoni said. "I do not buy the Welsh perspective. If Welsh is saying exclude Tsvangirai and Tsvangirai is saying (the coalition) is for all, then I back that perspective. I am about uniting, not dividing. I want Welsh to be in, along with Tsvangirai."

Following the latest split in the MDC that has seen Biti break away from the main MDC formation to lead the so-called renewal faction, Makoni says he has engaged both leaders to try and heal the rift but to no avail. "I have met both (Tendai) Biti and Tsvangirai and I have expressed the view that it is not in the interest of the democratic forces," Makoni said. "But we are caught up in the blame game." The former Zanu PF politburo member said Zimbabwe is suffering from the "big man syndrome" where most of the leaders believe in their

individual invincibility. "In the MDC, we should try to reconcile and reconnect, it is not in the interests of our parties to split," he said.

Asked if he had been invited by the renewal team to the looming all-stakeholders convention, Makoni warned against rushing into such indabas before consulting the people. "I am working to persuade all of us to work together," he said. "I however, have not been invited to the All-People's Convention. I caution compatriots against the urge to rush." Revealing progress in his overtures to the country's leadership including those in Zanu PF to form a grand coalition, Makoni, who ruled out ever rejoining the party, said there were so many bigwigs in the ruling party who were keen on joining the grand coalition but were crippled by fear. "There is an agreement that we need to work together but I have confronted this animal called fear because many are afraid to come out in the open," Makoni said. "They say if we are seen with Simba, we would be in trouble."

Describing Mugabe as "a prisoner of the past", Makoni said the 90-year-old leader's role in rescuing the country from the clutches of the crippling economic woes lay in freeing his comrades from the prison of fear. "I have not been approached by anyone to rejoin Zanu PF and I have no intention of rejoining Zanu," he said. "Like the president, Zanu PF as an entity has no capacity of creating a working Zimbabwe, but there are people in Zanu PF who have the capacity to get Zimbabwe working again."

(Harare, 8 May 2014, Fungi Kwaramba, Daily News)

Mugabe Won't Go

Fungi Kwaramba

Despite his advanced age and the mounting economic woes the country is grappling with, President Robert Mugabe is not leaving office yet, with his closest ally in Zanu PF Didymus Mutasa yesterday declaring that the 90-year-old veteran leader is here to stay. Mutasa told the *Daily News on Sunday* in a brief interview yesterday that they wanted to entrench Mugabe's grip on power such that they are considering coming up with laws that criminalise the discussion of Mugabe's succession publicly and in the media. He also warned journalists against publishing stories on Mugabe's health saying the regime will deal ruthlessly with such scribes. Mutasa told the *Daily News on Sunday* that journalists and people who fuel speculation on Mugabe's health should be punished severely. "Such news (discussing Mugabe's succession) will lead us to arrest journalists, vanhu vanonyepa ngavabatwe vachiendeswa kumajeri, (People who lie must be jailed) working on the stories," said Mutasa, whose party commands a two thirds majority in Parliament and can therefore pass such draconian legislations.

Critics say discussing Mugabe's succession or his retirement — even though he is showing signs of strain — is now taboo not only in the ruling party but across the country because Zanu PF cannot fathom a future without him. Mutasa, a close confidante of Mugabe, has in the past made it clear that people are wasting time eyeing the aged leader's post saying the Zanu PF hierarchy and constitution explain that vice president Joice Mujuru will take over in the event of the president's incapacitation. He insists that for now Mugabe will not go anywhere and said no discussion around the veteran leader's succession would be entertained at the party's congress in December. But commentators were quick to dismiss Mutasa yesterday. Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition chairperson Dewa Mavhinga said Mutasa was living in the past. "Zanu PF should stop threatening and intimidating journalists who have constitutionally-enshrined media freedoms. No amount of harassment or intimidation will make Zanu PF's big problem of succession go away. Instead of deflecting attention, Zanu PF should be busy working hard towards an orderly resolution of the succession problem," said Mavhinga, a critic of the ruling party ...

(Harare, 11 May 2014, Daily News on Sunday)

Jahresbeitrag 2014 *

Wir danken den Mitgliedern der Vereinigung Schweiz-Zimbabwe, die ihren Jahresbeitrag bereits bezahlt haben. Wir bitten jene, die noch keine Möglichkeit dazu gehabt haben, vom beiliegenden Einzahlungsschein Gebrauch zu machen. Besten Dank im Voraus.

- 30 Fr. für Einzelpersonen
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Mit ihrem Beitrag ermöglichen sie es der Vereinigung, ihre Aktivitäten weiterzuführen und den Kontakt und Austausch zwischen SchweizerInnen und ZimbabweerInnen zu fördern.

* All jene, die den Jahresbeitrag schon einbezahlt haben, können diese Aufforderung ignorieren.
If you have paid your annual fee, please ignore this request.

Annual Membership Fee 2014 *

We thank the members of the Swiss-Zimbabwean Friendship Association who have paid their annual membership fee. We kindly ask those who have not yet had an opportunity to do so to make use of the enclosed paying-in slip.

- 30 Swiss francs for individuals
- 50 Swiss francs for families
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With your contribution you enable the Association to continue with its activities and to enhance contacts and exchange between Swiss and Zimbabwean nationals.

Buchbesprechungen

Begegnungen im Busch

Helena Käser-Heeb

Die Autorin, Mitglied der Vereinigung Schweiz-Zimbabwe, lebte vor über zwanzig Jahren mit ihrer Familie während zwei Jahren in Zimbabwe, wo ihr Mann als Arzt in einem Spital auf dem Land arbeitete. Sie führte Tagebuch und hat nun ihre Begegnungen, Erlebnisse und Beobachtungen im Buch verarbeitet. Trotz der dazwischen liegenden Zeit sind die erzählten Geschichten immer noch sehr eindrücklich und interessant.

(novum publishing gmbh 2014. Das Buch kann direkt bei der Autorin bezogen werden: Helena Käser-Heeb, Pestalozzistr. 41, 3400 Burgdorf.)

Erinnern und Bezeugen

Die Frühgeschichte der Missionsgesellschaft Bethlehem in Rhodesien (Simbabwe) 1938–1947

Josef Elsener

Der Autor, Mitglied der Vereinigung Schweiz-Zimbabwe, lebte lange Jahre als Missionar im damaligen Rhodesien. Akribisch und detailreich werden die Anfänge der Missionsgesellschaft Bethlehem im damaligen Rhodesien dargestellt und gleichzeitig Einblick in das Leben der Bevölkerung gewährt. Ein interessantes Geschichtsbuch.

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