

Overview

- 1. Election Environment: - ZANU PF Threatens to Dissolve Parliament - MDC-T Calls for Reforms
 - MDC-T Wants Diaspora Vote – ZANU PF Opposes Pointing to Travel Bans
 - 2. Reconstruction: - Think tank Believes Zimbabwe would Benefit from EU Trade Agreement
 - 3. Natural Resources: - ZDEC Criticises Export of Rough Diamonds & Calls for Local Processing
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1. Election Environment:

- **Justice and Legal Affairs Minister Patrick Chinamasa (ZANU PF)** reportedly stated this week that **President Mugabe could be forced to dissolve Parliament in order to call for elections**: “It is very possible for the President to call for elections and there is no provision that prevents him from doing that, but it is our desire as Zanu PF to see the constitution-making process concluded, so that we hold elections under a new constitution.” Mr. Chinamasa also claimed that the **MDC-T was trying to delay elections** by stalling the constitutional reform process: “The MDC is always insisting on reforms before the elections but it’s not clear who should reform what? We cannot be held at ransom by the MDC-T which is employing every dirty delaying tactic in the book to avoid elections.” **Tendai Biti (MDC-T)** reportedly **commented that his party would not participate in new elections without certain benchmarks being fulfilled**: “Our members are going to go for elections after the completion of the constitution-making process, the referendum, drafting of a new voters’ roll, media reforms, completion of legislative reform, the conclusion of outstanding issues at the dialogue table on security sector realignment and staffing of ZEC.” Mr. Biti added that Zimbabwe also needed to be in compliance with the Southern African Development Community (**SADC Electoral Guidelines on Free and Fair Elections**).

http://www.sundaynews.co.zw/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=25621:2012-election-debate-hots-up&catid=37:top-stories&Itemid=130
<http://www.newzimbabwe.com/news-6755-Zanu+PF+theatens+to+dissolve+parliament/news.aspx>

- During its **National Council Meeting** this weekend, the **MDC-T** called for the **inclusion of provisions on dual or multiple citizenship and the right of the diaspora to vote in the new Constitution**. **Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa (ZANU PF)** reportedly commented that

the **government was not deliberately refusing diasporians the right to vote**: "There is a **travel ban against the Zanu PF leadership** from the president down to the lowest Zanu PF cadre to travel to the European Union, the United States, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. **How would Zanu PF be able to canvass support from Zimbabweans in the Diaspora** when its political leadership suffers from a travel ban in those countries?"

<http://www.zimguardian.com/?p=20497>

2. Reconstruction:

- In its **latest report**, the **intergovernmental policy think tank South Centre** argues that **Zimbabwe is set to benefit highly by signing Economic Partnership Agreements (EPA)** with the European Union (EU). The Centre believes that **Zimbabwe would lose US\$15,4 million in tariff revenue but would gain US\$39,2 million in duties** under the EU General Systems and Preferences (GSPs). Under GSP, exporters from developing countries pay lower duties on some or all of what they sell to the EU. According to the South Centre, Zimbabwe is only one of six non-Least Developed Countries that would benefit from signing EPAs.

<http://www.thestandard.co.zw/business/33063-zim-set-to-benefit-from-eu-trade-agreement-report.html>

3. Natural Resources:

- **Zimbabwe Diamond Education College (ZDEC) Director Steven Muchenje** reportedly stated this week that the **country is loosing out in substantial revenue inflows and employment creation opportunities by not investing in beneficiation of diamonds mined in the country**: "Failure to invest in diamond research and manpower development is the country's major setback. Government needs to take the initiative to invest in diamond education institutions as this will ultimately benefit the country." Mr. Muchenje **criticised Zimbabwe's plan to continue exporting rough diamonds without processing them locally** since this was depriving thousands of Zimbabweans employment opportunities: "For instance, 30.000 Belgians are employed in the diamond industry yet that country doesn't have a single diamond mine. That country earns up to US\$39 billion turnover per annum from this industry while Zimbabwe is said to have potential to earn only US\$2 billion from the same."

<http://www.zimguardian.com/?p=20603>