

Report # 121

**BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD**

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## **Summary of Report**

### **Elections & Governance**

#### **Zimbabwe's Tsvangirai says elections to go ahead**

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai said on Thursday Zimbabwe elections will go ahead next year, despite infighting that continues to hamper the government's power-sharing agreement.

#### **South Africa faces more protests ahead of the World Cup**

The ruling ANC party dismissed threats of a national strike during the World Cup, but a fresh stoppage loomed after a miner's union said 3,000 workers would down tools at diamond producer De Beers.

#### **Zimbabwe licenses new private newspapers**

Zimbabwe Wednesday licensed four private daily newspapers, including the banned Daily News, a sign the new unity government is following through on promises to open up the media to non-state run publications.

#### **World Press Freedom Debated at International Conference**

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists is meeting in Cadiz, Spain to discuss press freedom around the world. And tensions between some African governments and the media were addressed.

#### **Zambia Vote Rigging Allegation Dismissed**

Zambia's information minister has dismissed accusations that a former president and the electoral commission will rig next year's general elections to keep the ruling party in power.

#### **Comoros election talks fail, claims of foul play**

Negotiations between Comoros' leader and opposition parties on a date for presidential elections have stalled with President Mohamed Abdallah Sambi's rivals accusing him of illegally clinging on to power.

## **Politics**

### **S. African President Asked to Intercede on Behalf of Malawi Gay Couple**

South African President Jacob Zuma is being called on to intercede on behalf of a Malawi gay couple recently sentenced to 14 years in prison for their homosexual relationship.

### **Zimbabwe Reconciliation Meeting Results in Chaos**

In Zimbabwe, a meeting aimed at launching a process of national reconciliation has been aborted after chaos erupted over delegate accreditation.

### **ANALYSIS-South Africa's troubled Zuma faces new battles**

The not-so-private life of President Jacob Zuma, a war in South Africa's ruling party and policy vagueness are raising questions over his leadership a year into office and stirring a barely hidden succession battle.

### **Madagascar leader shuffles cabinet, general stays PM**

Madagascar's leader Andry Rajoelina named 10 new ministers, including five military officials, in a cabinet reshuffle the opposition said fell way short of creating a neutral government.

## **Economy & Energy**

### **South Africa's Transnet says signs pay deal with union**

South Africa's state-owned logistics group Transnet said on Thursday it had signed a wage deal with a transport union, ending a three-week rail and ports strike.

### **Zimbabwe growth may slow without reforms –IMF**

The IMF on Tuesday urged Zimbabwe to take corrective measures to repair its economy, warning that without them economic growth could slow significantly this year and undermine progress made so far.

## **Human Rights, Social Issues & Developments**

### **Malawi leader meets Ban Ki-moon and pardons gay couple**

Malawi President Bingu wa Mutharika on Saturday pardoned a gay couple sentenced to 14 years in jail after he held a meeting with U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon.

### **South Africa transport strike to end after new deal**

South African logistics group Transnet reached a deal with striking workers on Thursday to end a long-running dispute, but a labor federation threatened fresh industrial action during the soccer World Cup.

### **South Africa's Zuma condemns arrest of gays in Malawi**

South Africa's leader, in a rare rebuke of a fellow African nation, Thursday condemned Malawi's sentencing of a gay couple to 14 years in jail but said he would not press the country to change its laws.

### **MADAGASCAR: "May you have seven sons and seven daughters"**

In Ankazoabo, a coastal village in the southeast of the island, Avivelo, 34, encourages her 17-year-old daughter, who already has two children, to have as many as possible. "I gave birth to eight children and now it is her turn to do the same, but it is difficult." "Its part of the culture," she said, referring to the traditional Malagasy wedding blessing, "May you have seven sons and seven daughters". According to government figures, 70 percent of 16-year-old girls in some parts of Madagascar have given birth to their first child, but the fact that early pregnancy is common on the huge Indian Ocean Island does not make it less dangerous. The 2009 national Demographic and Health Survey noted that every day eight women die as a result of complications during pregnancy or delivery, often at a very young age.

### **SOUTH AFRICA: Undertone of xenophobia to soccer world cup**

South Africa is hosting the continent's first soccer World Cup but the mounting anticipation is not drowning out a vicious whispering campaign calling for the expulsion of foreign nationals within hours of the curtain going down on football's biggest jamboree.

### **ZIMBABWE: Life is just not getting any better**

The death of Zimbabwe's secretary for agriculture, Renson Gasela, and two other senior officials from the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in a car accident recently

has highlighted the country's inability to respond to accidents, emergencies or disasters. It took more than eight hours for the men to receive assistance after the accident because police in the nearby southeastern mining town of Zvishavane had no transport, and fire brigade units had no fuel to make the 25km journey. Emergency services only arrived after the MDC secretary general, Welshman Ncube, provided fuel.

### **South Africa Links HIV Awareness Campaign to World Cup**

As the World Cup prepares to kick off, fears are growing activities surrounding the event could further spread the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa. A national HIV/AIDS effort is being mounted to raise awareness of the risks.

### **Zimbabwe Gay Activists Freed on Bail**

A Zimbabwean court has freed two gay activists on bail after they were arrested on allegations of possessing indecent material and writings seen as insulting to President Robert Mugabe.

### **Zambia court awards damages in HIV screening test case**

Two ex-officers in Zambia's air force have been awarded damages following claims they were tested and treated for HIV without their knowledge.

### **Can the World Cup bridge South Africa's sporting divide?**

While South Africa is witnessing a surge in national pride as it prepares to host the football World Cup, sport in the country is still heavily divided along racial lines.

### **Porn ban on net and mobiles mulled by South Africa**

A South African government official is proposing a complete ban on digitally distributed pornography.

### **In Malawi, Ban welcomes pardoning of gay couple**

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon lauded the “courageous” decision announced today by the leader of Malawi to pardon a gay couple recently sentenced to 14 years in prison, voicing hope that the African nation will update its laws to reflect international standards.

### **Football World Cup in South Africa underlines ‘African renaissance’ – UN envoy**

This year's football World Cup, which kicks off in South Africa in two weeks, presents the country and the rest of the continent with an opportunity to harness the power of the

international event to project Africa's potential for peace and development, a United Nations envoy said today.

### **South Africa: Africa Day - Remembering commitment to never again**

On 25 May Africans celebrated Africa Day and marked the diversity and richness of African culture. As South Africa prepares to "welcome the world" for the World Cup some are concerned about the possibility of post-event xenophobia.

### **A poor man's view on Freedom Day**

"There is no reason to say that you are free when you know that you are not. We as the poor have to support each other and give courage to each other so that we can strengthen the freedom that is in us all. We have to face up to the need for a second struggle," the author says.

## **Food Security & Health Issues**

### **Millions of Children at Risk of Measles in Zimbabwe**

U.N. agencies report some five million children in Zimbabwe are at risk of getting measles. They say hundreds of children already have died from this preventable disease.

### **Malawi moves to adopt WHO guidelines**

Developing countries like Malawi are calculating the cost of adhering to new World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines that recommend starting HIV-positive people on antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) sooner.

## **Refugees/IDPs & Migration**

### **South African govt must protect migrants—Amnesty**

South Africa's government must do more to protect African migrants from persistent xenophobic violence, Amnesty International said on Thursday as the nation prepares to host the soccer World Cup.

## **Peace keeping conflict resolution and security analysis**

### **SOUTH AFRICA: Troops reinforcing a porous and dangerous border**

South African Special Forces troops have begun a six-month deployment along the troubled border with Zimbabwe, where rape, robbery and other crimes are commonplace, and the flow of desperate migrants continues unabated.

## **Detailed Report**

### **Elections & Governance**

#### **Zimbabwe's Tsvangirai says elections to go ahead**

(Reuters)

May 27, 2010

Zimbabwe's unity pact between President Robert Mugabe and long-time rival Tsvangirai has helped stem the economy's decade-long tumble, but squabbling within the coalition has held back progress and stood in the way of elections.

"When we emerge from the constitutional reform program an agreed timeframe for elections will be outlined," Tsvangirai told a news conference in South Africa, during a trip to meet with supporters.

Tsvangirai is scheduled to meet with Mugabe for the first time in more than a month on Friday, and the two are due to discuss problems with the power-sharing agreement.

A date for the elections will be set after a referendum is held, Tsvangirai said.

Tsvangirai said his Movement for Democratic Change party was "in a marriage of convenience" with Mugabe's ZANU-PF, but the experience had allowed them the opportunity to halt "Zimbabwe's plunge toward a failed state."

He also dismissed allegations of divisions within his own party, saying it was trying to adapt to being in government and running a party at the same time.

"The struggle for a democratic end is still in place," he said. "The ideal arrangement is to respect, conduct an election with a clear winner."

#### **South Africa faces more protests ahead of the World Cup**

(Reuters)

May 28, 2010

The African National Congress' Secretary General Gwede Mantashe said the party did not expect any strikes during the world's premier sporting event.

Labor federation COSATU, a powerful ally of the ruling African National Congress with nearly 2 million members, has said it may strike during the World Cup over sharp power price hikes if authorities fail to lower the tariffs.

Any strike could disrupt services and embarrass President Jacob Zuma's government which is hosting the first World Cup ever held on the continent.

"We take that in good faith that there will not be any strikes during (the) World Cup," Mantashe told a news briefing in London.

A fresh strike loomed after the National Union of Mineworkers -- the country's biggest union -- said 3,000 workers at De Beers, in which Anglo American Plc has a stake, would strike over pay from Sunday.

De Beers, the world's largest diamond producer, said the wage talks were still ongoing and the union's call for a strike was premature.

A three week transport strike over wages at South African logistics group Transnet, which ended on Thursday, caused a huge backlog of cargo at ports, which the company said would take up to two months to clear after workers returned to work on Friday.

The strike disrupted railways and ports in Africa's largest economy, denting exports of metals, coal, cars, fruit and wine to Europe and Asia as well as imports of vehicle parts, fuel and equipment meant for the World Cup two weeks to the event.

The work stoppage also took a toll on the mining, transport and manufacturing industries and hurt fresh produce exporters.

Analysts said South Africa could lose some contracts to other markets and job cuts were likely to follow.

Economists have criticized unions for using the World Cup to squeeze pay hikes far above inflation of 5.1 percent, and said the transport strike may have cost South Africa 7 billion rand (\$914.3 million) in lost production and sales.

Earlier this week, the NUM called off a strike at Eskom after the state-owned firm obtained a last-minute court order declaring the planned industrial action illegal.

Transnet said its operations at the ports were running as normal on Friday, but it would take weeks and in some cases months to get its units to pre-strike operational levels.

"To get our rail systems operating at the tempo that we did before the strike, it would take us two to three months because of the imbalances in our fleet," said Pradeep Maharaj, Transnet's HR Executive.

The coal industry relies heavily on Transnet for bringing coal to the port and the industry said it was unlikely exports this year would reach a planned 65 million metric tons.

Global miners with operations in South Africa, including Anglo American Plc, Xstrata and the world's top steelmaker ArcelorMittal have yet to cancel a force majeure on the supply of iron ore, ferrochrome, coal and steel which resulted from the strike.

## **Zimbabwe licenses new private newspapers**

(Reuters)

May 26, 2010

Media is currently dominated by state-run institutions and foreign journalists are legally barred from long-term employment.

This year the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) was set up to carry out reforms in the sector.

Commission chairman Godfrey Majonga said the media body had received four applications for daily papers, including from the Daily News, which was banned in 2003 and was critical of President Robert Mugabe.

NewsDay, which is owned by local media entrepreneur Trevor Ncube, has also been licensed and the weekly Financial Gazette will also launch a daily.

"The ZMC has accepted to grant all the above registration certificates," Majonga told reporters. "We are here to allow Zimbabweans access to media."

Zimbabwe currently has one national daily paper, the state-run Herald, and the new licenses would see the country having its first private daily paper in seven years.

The southern African country, which had been in the grips of a decade long political and economic crisis until the formation of a unity government last year in February, has no private radio or television station.

But the fragile coalition, which brought together Mugabe and long time rival Morgan Tsvangirai, now prime minister, has been marred by policy differences between the two, has set a program to repeal and amend tough security and media laws by year-end.

The newly licensed newspapers are expected to start publishing next month.

Majonga said foreign newspapers, like South Africa's Sunday Times which publishes a Zimbabwe edition, should approach the media commission for a license.

"All foreign publications, with typically Zimbabwean content and targeted at the Zimbabwean readership, should be registered with the commission," said Majonga.

## **World Press Freedom Debated at International Conference**

(Voice of America)

28 May 2010

The World Congress of the International Federation of Journalists is meeting in Cadiz, Spain to discuss press freedom around the world. And tensions between some African governments and the media were addressed.

Delegates heard from Pansy Tlakula, Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Access to Information of the African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights. She says many individuals and organizations have told her there is "increasing animosity" between journalists and African governments.

"Maybe animosity is too strong, but each side is not happy with another," she says. Tlakula adds, "The journalists feel that there is undue restrictions on freedom of expression and that they've been targeted and intimidated, harassed. Governments, on the other hand, feel that the media reports very irresponsible way without due regard to the privacy of the people they're reporting on. And that's what led to the statement that I made."

### **Does each side have a point?**

"I think it depends on the context," she says, "If you look at what happens in some parts of the continent, you still have criminal defamation laws that are used to prosecute journalists that report negatively on the authorities."

On the other hand, she says, "I think there is a need for the journalist community to pay particular attention on issues of professional ethics, on values of fairness (and) accurate reporting. And by saying this I do not for once suggest that if a journalist acts in an irresponsible manner that in itself justifies the restriction of freedom of expression."

### **A free press**

"Free press, in particular, and freedom of expression, in general (are) very important not only on the African continent, but everywhere else in the world because without free press you cannot have democracy. You cannot have good governance. You cannot have the rule of law. You know, the media act as a watch dog against those who are in power," she says.

Many rights groups have accused some countries in Africa of muzzling and harassing the media, such as Eritrea, Somalia and Zimbabwe, among others. Tlakula says those issues can be addressed. She in the past, in Eritrea, the commission "adjudicated on a complaint that involved journalists, who were incarcerated in Eritrea."

Many journalists remain in jail there and Tlakula says it may be time to attempt another mission there.

"We have reached the point where I think we need constructive dialogue with the government of this country, where maybe my office, together with media practitioners and media organizations and governments, can sit around a table and try and find each other," she says.

This week, the Zimbabwean government announced it would allow the licensing of four newspapers, after years of being criticized by rights groups for its media policies.

“Zimbabwe has come a long way. And I think the fact that four newspapers were registered is a step in the right direction. And we have to encourage the government of Zimbabwe to continue with media reforms to open up spaces for journalists to operate freely,” she says.

The IFJ says it represents 600,000 journalists in 125 countries.

## **Zambia Vote Rigging Allegation Dismissed**

(Voice of America)

26 May 2010

Zambia’s information minister has dismissed accusations that a former president and the electoral commission will rig next year’s general elections to keep the ruling party in power.

Ronnie Shikapwasha told VOA the electoral commission is an independent body mandated to organize transparent elections.

“First of all, it must be dismissed with the contempt that it deserves. There is no way (former) President (Fredrick) Chiluba has nothing to do with the electoral commission, has nothing to do with the government and, therefore, he cannot be considered in any situation to do anything...the electoral commission is a high integrity organization that Mr. Lubinda is telling lies upon,” he said.

Given Lubinda, spokesman for the main opposition Patriotic Front, said Zambians will not allow former President Fredrick Chiluba, the government, and the electoral body to rig the 2011 general elections.

Lubinda has often accused former President Chiluba of rigging previous election results in favor of the ruling Movement for Multiparty Democracy (MMD).

But, information minister Shikapwasha said the accusations are preposterous.

“If he has a complaint, he should have gone ahead and tabled this complaint in order for the electoral commission and, indeed, the courts of law to deal with it in Zambia,” Shikapwasha said.

Local media quoted opposition figure Lubinda as saying, “the PF supporters have since advised their Leader, Mr. (Michael) Sata, to go on a self-imposed exile so that his supporters are left to directly deal with the ECZ (electoral commission) if they attempt to engineer the 2011 elections.”

He also warned there would be anarchy if the government allows former President Chiluba to rig next year’s election.

But, Shikapwasha said the opposition party is to blame for previous election irregularities.

“The PF party (members) are very good at rigging the elections themselves. In the 2006 elections, we discovered that certain polling stations were receiving votes from other people from other polling stations. Specifically, what he is trying to do is to turn away the attention of the people from the PF themselves to other people that are totally innocent,” Shikapwasha said.

## **Comoros election talks fail, claims of foul play**

(Alert Net)

28 May 2010

MORONI, May 28 (Reuters) - Negotiations between Comoros' leader and opposition parties on a date for presidential elections have stalled with President Mohamed Abdallah Sambi's rivals accusing him of illegally clinging on to power.

Sambi's mandate expired on May 26 after the Indian Ocean archipelago's Constitutional Court this month annulled a law extending his term. The court's decision followed weeks of heightened political tension on the coup-prone islands. [ID:nLDE64806N]

The African Union (AU) appeared to have brokered a deal two days ago to hold elections in November but a special envoy for the pan-African body, Franceso Madeira, said talks had been suspended late on Thursday.

"I don't understand Sambi's last minute U-turn. We believe he has just carried out a putsch and we do not recognise his legitimacy," Hamada Madi Bolero, who leads an opposition delegation from the island of Moheli, told Reuters.

The AU's Madeira said informal talks would continue between the sparring parties. Under the constitution, the presidency rotates among the three islands of Grande Comore, Anjouan and Moheli. Many on the opposition-stronghold of Moheli, which is next to take over the presidency, feel Sambi's manoeuvrings are an attempt to rob them of the top political post.

Fermenting anger on Moheli prior to the May 26 expiry of Sambi's office saw the government deploy extra security forces to snuff out bouts of unrest and a ban on public rallies.

In a televised address to the nation, Sambi said on Wednesday evening the talks had failed and formed an interim government made up of his old administration and a handful of representatives allied to the governor of Anjouan.

Sambi's allies say the impasse is not about political skullduggery but the practicalities of finding funding and logistics.

"We need time to get the finances together and organise these elections," said Mohamed Larif Oukacha, secretary general of the president's office.

Sandwiched between Mozambique and Madagascar, the politically volatile islands have been rocked by some 20 coups and attempted coups since independence from France in 1975.

## Politics

### **S. African President Asked to Intercede on Behalf of Malawi Gay Couple**

(Voice of America)

26 May 2010

South African President Jacob Zuma is being called on to intercede on behalf of a Malawi gay couple recently sentenced to 14 years in prison for their homosexual relationship.

The Anglican Church of Southern Africa is calling for the "immediate release" of Stephen Monjeza and Tiwonge Chimalanga, who were sentenced to hard labor last week for "unnatural acts and gross indecency." They were arrested in December after announcing their engagement.

VOA reporter Delia Robertson in Johannesburg says the church believes "the sentence that has been handed down is a gross violation of human rights and that they condemn such sentences."

South African President Jacob Zuma is being called on to intercede on behalf of a Malawi gay couple recently sentenced to 14 years in prison for their homosexual relationship.

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## **Zimbabwe Reconciliation Meeting Results in Chaos**

(Voice of America)

24 May 2010

In Zimbabwe, a meeting aimed at launching a process of national reconciliation has been aborted after chaos erupted over delegate accreditation.

Organizers of the opening meeting of Zimbabwe's Organ for National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration decided to postpone the gathering indefinitely because of disruption by several-hundred uninvited delegates.

Each of the three political parties in Zimbabwe's power-sharing government reportedly were to send 60 delegates to the meeting. They were to discuss the reconciliation process and return to their home districts to inform their constituents of the procedures.

The power-sharing agreement that led to the creation of Zimbabwe's unity government last year calls for reconciliation as part of a series of steps leading to a new constitution and national elections.

The accord followed months of negotiations after controversial and sometimes violent elections two years ago.

Under the accord, leaders of the two factions of the former opposition Movement for Democratic Change, Morgan Tsvangirai and Arthur Mutambara, became prime minister and deputy-prime minister in the government of President Robert Mugabe.

The government-owned Sunday Mail newspaper reported nearly 500 supporters of Mr. Mugabe's ZANU-PF party entered the hall and began singing revolutionary songs when asked to leave.

The spokesman for Mutambara's group, Edwin Mushoriwa, blamed ZANU-PF for the disruption.

"This was a well-planned, well-orchestrated program of action," he said. "And in the eyes or the interests of ZANU-PF they decided that probably it was to their best interests to disrupt the proceedings."

A delegate from Mr. Tsvangirai's party, Ellen Manyere, also blamed ZANU-PF.

"ZANU-PF is not sincere and is not candid in this national healing process," she said. "And this will take a mammoth task for some of us and ZANU-PF to actually sit down in new forums and come up with something amicable for the benefit of the Zimbabwean nation."

The chairman of the meeting, Vice President John Nkomo of ZANU-PF, tried to calm the disruptive participants, but eventually adjourned the meeting indefinitely.

Last year the first attempt to launch a conference on the new Zimbabwean constitution was disrupted in similar fashion. It only convened after intervention by the leaders of the three parties.

## **ANALYSIS-South Africa's troubled Zuma faces new battles**

(Alert Net)

26 May 2010

JOHANNESBURG, May 26 (Reuters) - The not-so-private life of President Jacob Zuma, a war in South Africa's ruling party and policy vagueness are raising questions over his leadership a year into office and stirring a barely hidden succession battle.

While the World Cup may prove a welcome distraction next month, politicking could undermine economic policy stability and make it even harder to address the growing grievances of restive black townships 16 years after the end of apartheid.

There is no suggestion yet that Zuma will not serve out his full term until 2013, but his chances of a second have certainly diminished just over two years away from the leadership contest in the ruling African National Congress (ANC).

The battle within the ruling alliance involves the Communist Party and labour federation COSATU, which supported Zuma for the presidency but are disappointed at his failure to change economic policies to give greater benefit to the poor.

Although Zuma has appointed left-wingers to cabinet, overall policy is little different from under his pro-business predecessor, Thabo Mbeki -- a fact not lost on markets.

The rand <ZAR=D3> weakened after Zuma became ANC leader in 2007, with investors fearing a radical policy shift, but the currency strengthened after he took office until the eurozone crisis drove money from riskier assets globally.

Although there was no big policy change, investors are still unsure how Zuma can meet promises of better lives for the poor given very modest growth since South Africa emerged from its first recession in 17 years in the third quarter of last year.

"Investors would rather see a much deeper reform of the expenditure and reprioritising, combined with greater competitiveness reform, but a path of tax hikes and greater spending may well be the least worst option," said Peter Attard Montalto, emerging market economist at Nomura International.

## **PRIVATE LIFE**

It is the affable Zuma's private life, however, that has most shaken those nearest the president.

In January, he defended his fifth marriage as normal for a practicing Zulu polygamist but then had to deal with revelations he had a 20th child out of wedlock with a friend's daughter.

Zuma's camp was caught unawares as South Africans of all races criticised his actions. It also undermined the government's safe sex campaign to tackle one of the world's highest HIV/AIDS rates.

"He is not good for the ANC's image. Many in the party realise that they have backed the wrong horse," said one senior ANC official, a former ardent supporter who said he was now becoming frustrated with the president's lack of direction.

The party that liberated South Africa from decades of white minority rule elects a new leader in 2012, and Communist Party chief Blade Nzimande -- now higher education minister -- and COSATU head Zwelinzima Vavi appear to be lining up for a bid.

Other candidates for the ANC leadership -- and by implication the next South African president -- could include Tokyo Sexwale, a billionaire businessman who is now housing minister in Zuma's cabinet.

With the most money, Sexwale is in the best position to put up a formidable campaign but he lacks the crucial support from the ANC's left leaning allies.

### **CONCESSIONS POSSIBLE**

"Zuma is likely to try and fight for another term and may well be forced to give up more in terms of policy to the left in order to do so," Attard Montalto said.

Zuma can no longer count on the unconditional support of ANC Youth League leader Julius Malema, recently critical of Zuma and fined by the party this month after inflammatory and racially tinged comments. He leads a bloc of 600,000 card carrying members who are often seen as kingmakers in party elections.

But despite having a bad year, political analysts said Zuma's support base among the millions of poor and the ANC's top brass should not be underestimated.

"He will go through for a second term," said Mohau Pheko of consulting company Four Rivers. "The party is so divided now that he has become the only uniting force. Backing another candidate could only further destabilise the ANC."

Whatever the outcome of the tussle for control, it can only divert attention from the economic policy challenges.

A quarter of South Africans are unemployed, the gap between rich and poor is one of the world's widest. Last year, over one million jobs were lost in mining and manufacturing. More job cuts are forecast for 2010.

The month-long World Cup, which starts on June 11, will provide only a limited boost. Visitor estimates have been cut from 450,000 to 300,000, due to the global financial crisis.

Projections are for an immediate 13 billion rand (\$1.65 billion) cash injection into the local economy, and much larger long-term gains from improved infrastructure, but many South Africans wonder whether the 40 billion rand cost was worth it.

Almost daily demonstrations in shanty towns to demand better homes, schools and clinics highlight the disaffection.

"When I look at the new stadiums, it makes me angry," said Buhle Ndima, 28, an unemployed mother-of-two from Soweto, a Johannesburg township. "Why couldn't the government build houses for us instead of fancy stadiums for foreigners?"

### **Madagascar leader shuffles cabinet, general stays PM**

(Alert Net)

24 May 2010

ANTANANARIVO, May 24 (Reuters) - Madagascar's leader Andry Rajoelina named 10 new ministers, including five military officials, in a cabinet reshuffle the opposition said fell way short of creating a neutral government.

Rajoelina, at the centre of a leadership battle since he seized power in March last year, said this month he would form the neutral government after power-sharing talks failed.

Andre Haja Resampa, secretary general of the Office of the President, told reporters General Camille Vital would remain prime minister. There are now seven senior military officials in the cabinet of 32 ministers.

"Once again this is a unilateral move and as such it can not obtain international recognition," Fetison Andrianirina, head of ousted President Marc Ravalomanana's political movement, told Reuters.

Foreign donors and international mediators have for months urged the Indian Ocean island's political rivals to form a consensus government tasked with holding new elections.

After negotiations collapsed late last month in South Africa, Rajoelina vowed to forge ahead with a new interim government that would oversee a referendum on constitutional reform and a presidential vote in November.

Rajoelina gave no details about what he saw as a neutral government when he made the announcement on May 3, but there was speculation it could include technocrats, politicians, the army and civil society.

The inclusion of five technocrats with no political affiliation was likely designed to give a sense of such neutrality and concession-making, but analysts were unconvinced.

"There is no big change in this government," Guy Rarimoarivony, a director at the Centre for Diplomatic and Strategic Studies in the capital Antananarivo told Reuters.

The near 18-month political crisis has hit economic growth in the world's biggest vanilla producer, harming foreign investment and hammering the tourism sector.

In an interview with Reuters this weekend, ousted President Marc Ravalomanana said he remained committed to negotiations on a unity government and denied backing a thwarted mutiny attempt within the military police.

## **Economy & Energy**

### **South Africa's Transnet says signs pay deal with union**

(Reuters)

May 27, 2010

"Yes, they have signed," Transnet spokesman Mboniso Sigonyela told Reuters.

The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu), which represents 39 percent of Transnet's 54,000 workers, said its members would resume work on Friday.

### **Zimbabwe growth may slow without reforms –IMF**

(Alert Net)

25 May 2010

WASHINGTON, May 25 (Reuters) - The IMF on Tuesday urged Zimbabwe to take corrective measures to repair its economy, warning that without them economic growth could slow significantly this year and undermine progress made so far.

In its annual review of Zimbabwe's economy, the International Monetary Fund said there were signs economic and humanitarian conditions were improving after a decade of steep economic decline and hyperinflation.

The IMF projected growth is likely to slow to 2.2 percent this year from about 4.0 percent last year, following a contraction of 14.5 percent in 2008.

The IMF 2010 estimate is much lower than Zimbabwe's Finance Minister Tendai Biti's growth forecast. He told Reuters in an interview on Tuesday growth could reach 7 percent this year. See story: [nLDE64O2CK]

"To solidify these gains, as well as to reduce the significant external and financial vulnerabilities, it will be critical that the authorities undertake decisive policy measures," the IMF said in a statement.

It said a track record of good policies will help restore donor funding to Zimbabwe and could eventually lead to the cancellation of the country's foreign debts, which the IMF estimated at about \$7.1 billion, or 162 percent of gross domestic product, by end 2009.

Zimbabwe's economy has stabilized since a unity government formed by rivals President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai last year adopted the use of multiple foreign currencies to replace a worthless local dollar.

The IMF said the multi-currency system "would serve Zimbabwe well in the the coming years."

It said the Zimbabwe dollar could be reintroduced once the government had established a track record of sound policies and adopted a framework focused on price stability.

The IMF report cautioned that the outlook for 2010 was "highly uncertain" and urged the authorities to reduce the wage bill and non-essential spending to preserve gains made so far.

It also expressed concern about increasing vulnerabilities in Zimbabwe's banking system amid stronger credit growth.

The Fund said the wage bill was crowding out growth-orientated expenditures, while private capital inflows have declined over worries about a government scheme to force foreign-owned firms to sell majority stakes to local people.

Mugabe's chaotic land reform program, which forced many farmers off their land and destroyed Zimbabwe's once vibrant agricultural sector, is still fresh in investors' mind.

The IMF said maintaining the rule of law, enforcing property rights and ensuring security of land tenure were important to improving the business climate.

"Sound policies and good governance will be critical to pave the way for eventual debt relief and access to donor financing," the IMF said.

The Fund said some IMF directors believed that a track record on good policies should be built with the help of an IMF-monitored staff program, which does not entail funding.

Other IMF directors, however, said the authorities should demonstrate clear progress in economic policies and data collection before an IMF-monitored program is considered.

## Human Rights, Social Issues & Developments

### Malawi leader meets Ban Ki-moon and pardons gay couple

(REUTERS)

May 29, 2010

"These boys committed a crime against our culture, our religion and our laws, however, as the head of state I hereby pardon them and therefore ask for their immediate release with no conditions," wa Mutharika said after a meeting with Ban Ki-moon at State House.

"I have done this on humanitarian grounds but this does not mean that I support this," he added.

Ban, who was due to address the National Assembly later, is expected to ask the legislators to change the laws on homosexuality. Steven Monjeza, 26, and 20-year-old Tiwonge Chimbalanga, were arrested after celebrating their engagement in a traditional ceremony in late December.

They were tried and found guilty of sodomy and indecency earlier this month in a trial viewed as a test case for gay rights in the southern African country.

### South Africa transport strike to end after new deal

(Reuters)

May 27, 2010

The transport strike, in its third week, disrupted railways and ports in Africa's largest economy and affected coal exports in one of the world's main suppliers of the power station feedstock to Europe and Asia. It may threaten the country's coal export target of 65 million tonnes this year.

The stoppage also dented exports of metals, cars, fruit and wine to Europe, as well as imports of vehicle parts and fuel, costing the economy at least 7 billion rand (\$890 million) in lost production and sales.

The South African Transport and Allied Workers Union (Satawu) said a majority of its members had voted for Transnet's new offer, which included a one-off 1 percent payment on top of an 11 percent wage increase.

"The offer has been accepted ... and the understanding is that the workers will start going back to work tomorrow," Robert Mashego, Deputy President at Satawu, told Reuters.

The ruling African National Congress (ANC) had demanded a quick solution to the standoff, warning the dispute could hurt the soccer World Cup, which runs for a month from June 11.

Satawu, which represents some 21,000 workers out of Transnet's 54,000 staff, had called for sympathy stoppages at other transport firms, including at the national airline and the coal export terminal.

While the Transnet action looks to have been resolved, Labour federation COSATU, which has nearly 2 million members and is a powerful ally of the ANC, demanded a greater say in economic policy and hinted at withdrawing from a formal alliance with the ruling party.

The labor federation also threatened a strike during the World Cup over sharp power price increases by utility Eskom if a mediation meeting planned for June 14 fails.

COSATU also said it may call a national strike from October 7 if labor brokers, who provide contract workers to companies, are not banned.

## **STOPPAGES**

Recent strikes have drawn criticism from economists and the central bank, which say unions are trying to hold the government and state enterprises to ransom by staging strikes close to the World Cup, to squeeze pay hikes above inflation of 5.1 percent.

"We are seeing continued upside pressures on wages in both the public and private sectors," said Peter Attard Montalto, emerging market economist at Nomura International.

"Wage settlements are still unanchored from inflation and will cause a range of second-round inflation effects through the second half of the year ... leading ultimately to rate hikes."

Late on Tuesday, the National Union of Mineworkers called off a strike at Eskom due to start on Wednesday after the state-owned firm obtained a last-minute court order declaring the planned industrial action illegal.

## **BILLION LOSSES**

With a backlog that will take at least a month to clear, the strike has taken its toll on the country's mining, transport and manufacturing industries and hurt producers of perishable goods.

Transnet said that with 65 percent of its workers back on the job after the company's bigger union accepted a previous wage offer, the logistics group had managed to move a backlog of crucial shipments, including World Cup cargo and jet fuel.

Shipping companies are asking clients to pay a surcharge to partly recover their losses. Fruit producers began using costly air freight to export their produce and car manufacturers have opted to fly in some parts to be able to keep production going.

All automotive plants were limping along due to the backlog at ports, an industry body said.

Fuel imports through South Africa to landlocked Botswana have fallen by half, but supplies within South Africa itself have been unaffected.

Analysts said the strike is likely to have long-lasting consequences on the country's exports, with South Africa losing some contracts to other markets such as India or Brazil. Job cuts may also be looming, they said.

Global miners with operations in South Africa, including Anglo American Plc, Xstrata and the world's top steelmaker ArcelorMittal have declared force majeure on the supply of iron ore, ferrochrome and steel.

### **South Africa's Zuma condemns arrest of gays in Malawi**

(Reuters)

May 27, 2010

The statement from South African President Jacob Zuma, a Zulu traditionalist, was believed to be the strongest from an African head of state against the anti-gay clampdown in Malawi.

A Malawi court last week sentenced a gay couple to 14 years each in jail for sodomy and indecency charges, a decision that human rights groups condemned and the United States called "unconscionable."

The case has highlighted discrimination against homosexuals in Africa, the world's poorest continent. Kenyan police in February halted a gay wedding and arrested several suspected homosexuals.

"We have condemned the action taken to arrest people in terms of our constitution," Zuma said about the arrests in Malawi, in response to questions in parliament.

While homosexuality is illegal in most of Africa's 53 nations, including Malawi and Kenya, South Africa in 2006 passed laws recognizing same-sex marriage.

"We need to persuade, we need to make people understand, we need to move with them. We have never adopted a confrontational stance on matters," said Zuma, a polygamist with five wives and 19 children, some with women other than his wives.

Homosexuality in Africa has become a contentious issue in recent months, with the arrest in Malawi, the raid in Kenya and after an Ugandan lawmaker proposed a bill including the death penalty for some offences.

## **MADAGASCAR: "May you have seven sons and seven daughters"**

(IRIN)

28 May 2010

ANKILIBORY, 28 May 2010 (IRIN) - In a tiny shack in Ankilibory village, southern Madagascar, Herintsoa, just 16 years old, recently gave birth to her second child, but it was easy compared to the first one, which she had when she was 14. "That was a lot more painful. I did it at home myself - my husband cut the [umbilical] cord."

Unfazed, she said, "We want 10 children."

According to government figures, 70 percent of 16-year-old girls in some parts of Madagascar have given birth to their first child, but the fact that early pregnancy is common on the huge Indian Ocean Island does not make it less dangerous.

The 2009 national Demographic and Health Survey noted that every day eight women die as a result of complications during pregnancy or delivery, often at a very young age.

Jocelyne Rasoanirina, head of the UN Population Fund (UNFPA) in southern Madagascar, pointed out that besides the immediate risks there were also longer-term implications.

Large families are an important contributor to household poverty - the average Malagasy family has five children but the number rises dramatically in rural areas, where it is not uncommon for women to have 10 children by their mid-thirties.

### **Too far**

Rasoanirina said the biggest obstacle to reducing maternal and neonatal mortality was access to quality healthcare. "People live very far from health centres and don't have any transport options."

Herintsoa has never seen a hospital, a doctor or a nurse - the nearest health centre is 30km from her village, and the only way to get there is an expensive ride in a "chariot" - an ox-drawn cart - or walking through the desert-like terrain. "The death rate is high for mother and child," said Aro Rajoelina, Regional Medical Inspector of Ampanihy district, where Herintsoa's village is located.

Although some 70 percent of pregnant women in the south of the island have access to prenatal services, only about 10 percent of births are attended by skilled health personnel. Government figures put maternal mortality at 469 deaths per 100,000 live births.

"We try to ensure that a health centre can cover several villages, and that the maximum distance to travel is 80 kilometres, but it is still difficult for people to cover such distances," Rajoelina told IRIN.

### **Too late**

Women and girls often seek medical attention very late in the pregnancy, and sometimes only when the situation has reached a critical stage. "It's the culture to stay at home and see a traditional doctor or midwife, but they are not qualified to [handle complications]. When that does not work, they might go to the clinic but it's often too late," Rajoelina said.

The poorest Malagasy get free treatment at the health centres, but traditionally the entire family goes along when one of them needs medical attention, making the trip too expensive. "They have to pay for food and accommodation for everyone; it's a financial problem," Rajoelina commented.

Sambetire, 16, has come to the Health Centre in Amphany, a town in southwestern Madagascar, because she is four months pregnant but has started bleeding vaginally. Luckily her family owns a chariot and the six of them could all come with her on the 20km journey to the centre.

"This is my third child, and I already lost one," she said from her bed. The midwife at the centre, Henriette Baofeno, said there was a real risk that Sambetire could lose the baby.

"I get sad when I see cases like that," she said. In her 23 years as a midwife at centre there has been "no big change - I still see young girls like this very often."

### **Too small**

Postpartum haemorrhage, or bleeding after delivery, in girls giving birth at home in their communities, far from qualified help, is a major contributor to the maternal death rate.

Another serious cause of maternal death – the second most common in Madagascar, according to the demographic survey – is obstetric fistula, or a hole in the birth canal caused by prolonged and obstructed labour.

Rajoelina said he had seen girls as young as 10 give birth, and "taking out the baby can damage the organs [of the mother]. They are too small and not developed yet."

Obstetric fistula is often the result of early childbirth, when the birth canal is too narrow and there are no qualified medical personnel to perform a caesarean operation.

The condition often leaves young women incontinent, causing their husbands, families and communities to shun them. "In those cases you need surgical intervention, but that is impossible here," Rajoelina said.

### **Too many**

In Ankazoabo, a coastal village in the southeast of the island, Avivelo, 34, encourages her 17-year-old daughter, who already has two children, to have as many as possible. "I gave birth to eight children and now it is her turn to do the same, but it is difficult."

Southern Madagascar, where aid agencies struggle to feed thousands, is a hostile place even in a good year, and the past four have been particularly harsh, but more mouths to feed has not been a deterrent.

The 10 children huddled around Avivelo are a poster for malnutrition in the region: swollen bellies, visible emaciation, and their mouths stained by red raketa - a local cactus fruit used only in desperate times that Rajoelina said was "unfit for human consumption".

"Having many children is a blessing for people here, and that's why family planning programmes are so important ... but it's very difficult to change the way people think," UNFPA's Rasoanirina commented.

"It's part of the culture," she said, referring to the traditional Malagasy wedding blessing, "May you have seven sons and seven daughters".

## **SOUTH AFRICA: Undertone of xenophobia to soccer world cup**

(IRIN)

27 May 2010

JOHANNESBURG, 27 May 2010 (IRIN) - South Africa is hosting the continent's first soccer World Cup but the mounting anticipation is not drowning out a vicious whispering campaign calling for the expulsion of foreign nationals within hours of the curtain going down on football's biggest jamboree.

The local media has been awash with anecdotal stories of conspiracies brewing at taxi ranks, shebeens and markets to bring a pogrom against foreign African nationals, who are blamed for taking jobs and diverting government services, while NGOs concerned with the plight of refugees and migrants are becoming more worried as 12 July - the day after the final game - draws near.

Jacob Dlamini, a columnist for Business Day, a local newspaper, recounted an incident in Katlehong, the Johannesburg township where he grew-up, in a 27 May article. "I overheard three local women taunting a Mozambican man: 'Make sure you are packed and ready to go by July 12', they said. 'But you know some of your sisters will starve if I am expelled from here', he answered. 'We don't care', said the women."

Xenophobia, a constant companion of post-apartheid South Africa, found its most deadly expression in May 2008 after an incident in the Johannesburg township of Alexandra ignited violence against foreigners across the country, resulting in scores of deaths and the displacement of more than 100,000 people.

Afterwards, early warning systems were set up to ensure a quick response to xenophobic violence, but Jacques Kamanda, general secretary of the Coordinating Body of Refugee Communities, told IRIN these were not functioning.

Since 2008, "no-one has been convicted for the attacks", he said, and a city councillor from the ruling African National Congress, on trial in the port city of Durban for allegedly leading a mob that forced two men - one from Zimbabwe and the other from Tanzania - to jump to their deaths from a block of flats, "is still a free man". A third man survived the fall.

Kamanda, originally from the war torn Democratic Republic of Congo, said the government should take a stand against xenophobia. "We need the [South African] government to stand up and say who we are and why we are here, but they say nothing."

There were widespread "reports by foreign nationals around the country that they are being threatened with violence after the World Cup", the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (CORMSA) said in a statement issued on 11 May to commemorate the second anniversary of the 2008 xenophobic attacks.

"These threats are coming from many different people: neighbours, colleagues, taxi-drivers, passers-by on the street, but also from nurses, social workers and police officers. Worrying, too, is that some of those making the threats believe that they have the support of senior political leaders," the statement said.

### **A wide band of xenophobia**

Duncan Breen, an advocacy officer for CORMSA, told IRIN that on the one hand speculation of an outbreak of xenophobia risked becoming a self-fulfilling prophecy, while on the other it was "irresponsible not to alert people to the possibility, so no one can say they did not see it coming".

However, he said South Africa had a history of conspiracies that had not led to action, like the one that when former President Nelson Mandela left office, "whites would die like flies".

A recent survey of 6,636 participants on the quality of life in Gauteng, the country's richest province, by the Gauteng City Region Observatory (GCRO), a provincial government think-tank, in partnership with two of Johannesburg's universities, found that the xenophobic streak running through South African society was not confined to poor and marginalised communities.

Prof David Everatt, the GCRO's executive director, told local media that 73 percent of the participants with tertiary education thought "foreigners are taking benefits meant for South Africans", while three-quarters of those without tertiary education believed this was an accurate assessment. Everatt commented: "If the attitudes of xenophobia remain ... we have a problem."

## **ZIMBABWE: Life is just not getting any better**

(IRIN)

25 May 2010

HARARE, 25 May 2010 (IRIN) - The death of Zimbabwe's secretary for agriculture, Renson Gasela, and two other senior officials from the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) in a car accident recently has highlighted the country's inability to respond to accidents, emergencies or disasters.

It took more than eight hours for the men to receive assistance after the accident because police in the nearby southeastern mining town of Zvishavane had no transport, and fire brigade units had no fuel to make the 25km journey. Emergency services only arrived after the MDC secretary general, Welshman Ncube, provided fuel.

"That incident alone is a small representation of how the coalition government has dismally failed the people of Zimbabwe," political analyst John Makumbe told IRIN, because the response time probably would have been quicker if senior officials from ZANU-PF - the other party in Zimbabwe's unity government - had been involved in an accident.

"The truth of the matter is that the inclusive government is failing to deliver, or to improve the lives of Zimbabweans. When schools opened recently, a majority of students were turned away because their parents or guardians could not afford to pay school fees; supermarket shelves are full of goods and food, but a visit to many households will reveal that people are starving in their homes."

The unity government - a fragile coalition between President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's MDC, and an MDC breakaway faction led by Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara - has failed to inspire since its formation in February 2009.

### **Collapsing services**

National Railways of Zimbabwe, the country's train service, is on the verge of collapse, as is the Zimbabwe United Passenger Company, the public bus service; domestic refuse has begun piling up in urban areas as municipalities fail to collect it; Health and Child Welfare minister Henry Madzorera revealed that 78 percent of midwife positions are vacant.

The intermittent supply of electricity is expected to get worse because Zimbabwe will be exporting 300 megawatts of electricity to South Africa during the FIFA World Cup competition beginning in June.

Barbra Mawara, a junior manager at a manufacturing company in the capital, Harare, told IRIN that she had decided against leaving the country after the formation of the unity government, but was once again toying with the idea.

"Over the last few months it has dawned on me that we are certainly going nowhere in terms of the improvement of our lives - life has become even more expensive. The present and the future are bleak; there is fatigue and lack of will among Zimbabweans. The politicians have certainly let Zimbabweans down while fighting over jobs among themselves," she said.

The exasperation over any real progress is also affecting politicians. "The MDC has been taken over by greedy people with self-serving interests. We have started campaigning among the people in preparation for elections [expected to take place in 2011 or 2012]," said Job Sikhala, a former senior official in Mutambara's party who has broken away to form the MDC 99 party. [The MDC was formed in 1999].

He said the coalition government had made little progress in improving people's lives, as Mugabe continued to control the national agenda. "In the inclusive government Mugabe remains the driver of the bus, with Tsvangirai as the bus conductor, while Mutambara is the baggage loader, and that will not result in any meaningful changes."

The latest example of Mugabe's apparent disregard for his coalition partners and the Global Political Agreement, which paved the way for the unity government, has been the appointment of George Chiweshe to head the High Court.

Chiweshe was head of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission in 2008, which the MDC claim saw large-scale rigging to ensure that Tsvangirai did not win an outright victory in the presidential poll and the election result was delayed for month.

### **A band aid**

"The inclusive government only managed to stop the bleeding but did not cure the wound. Some stability was attained, but there has been no progress," political commentator Luke Tamborinyoka told IRIN.

"There is no progress on the land audit, the constitution-making process, and the opening of media space; there is high unemployment and poverty, and although supermarket shelves are full, few can afford the commodities," he said.

Human rights activist and political commentator Rejoice Ngwenya told IRIN: "Politicians argue that because of the inclusive government there is little political violence and that supermarket shelves have goods, but that can hardly be an acceptable excuse because violence and the poor economic environment was brought by politicians."

Ngwenya commented: "In any case, violence is on the increase while many people can not afford to buy the food, which is expensive. Because of failure to secure credit lines to improve the performance of the inclusive government, the coalition has weakened over the months since its formation."

## South Africa Links HIV Awareness Campaign to World Cup

(Voice of America)

29 May 2010

As the World Cup prepares to kick off, fears are growing activities surrounding the event could further spread the HIV/AIDS epidemic in South Africa. A national HIV/AIDS effort is being mounted to raise awareness of the risks.

As the countdown to the game winds down, South Africa is gripped by World Cup fever.

**Chizama :** "I am very, very, very, very excited ... World Cup."

**Lisa :** Is this what everybody is going to do during the World Cup?"

**Chizama :** "Yes ... The World Cup is going to be a great event ... and, and, and, for the first time in Africa. And, I hope everybody will be happy about Africa and South Africa."

Excitement over the upcoming event is palpable. But, the enthusiasm is tempered by concerns that reckless behavior might lead to further spread of HIV.

**Ake :** "Naturally, one would be concerned because with the likes of prostitutes that will be coming over, so people are bound to be more exposed to such activities such as prostitution and human trafficking."

**Kamisa:** "I am worried about HIV and crime. Everything Ma'am, everything, I am worried."

**Woman :** "We must keep our bodies safe every time. And, and the condoms, they are the best priority in our country. We must keep doing that campaign."

The government launched a huge campaign in late April to test 15-million people for HIV by June 2011. Each person who is tested is to receive counseling and 100 condoms. The World Cup will kick off a program to distribute an additional one-billion condoms over the following six months. The government and Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria will share the cost of these campaigns.

Yogan Pillay is acting director of the National Department of Health that oversees the HIV/AIDS and TB epidemics in South Africa. He says people who are HIV-positive often are stigmatized and this drives the disease underground.

"Now the HIV counseling and testing campaign that the president launched on the 25th of April, is designed to do multiple things," Pillay said. "One is that it is designed to show people that there is no reason to stigmatize people who are HIV positive. There is no reason for people to fear being HIV positive."

South Africa has less than one percent of the world's population. Yet it accounts for 17 percent of the global HIV/AIDS burden. About 5.7-million South Africans are HIV-positive. This high prevalence rate has fueled a tuberculosis epidemic.

Multiple sexual partners and the low use of condoms are blamed for most of the HIV infections.

The South African Football Players Union is actively involved in the anti-HIV/AIDS campaign. Former player and Deputy General-Secretary of the Union, Thulaganyo Gao Shubelwe, says footballers can play a positive role in conveying the safe-sex message because of the aura surrounding them.

"We do not want poster boys," Shubelwe said. "We do not want people looking at posters and see them saying HIV kills and so forth ... But, we want to use their glamour, you know, to go out there and talk about HIV."

A group of current and former football players are staging a pantomime before a rapt audience in the Mapune Mall in Soweto. Nearby, people are patiently queuing up in front of a tent waiting to be tested for HIV. These are part of the so-called "Show Me Your Number" program, which uses football players to create awareness of HIV/AIDS.

Many of the footballers, like Ronny Zondi, have lost family or friends to AIDS and are committed to saving others from this fate.

"Part of the legacy of the World Cup should be HIV and AIDS as per the national strategic plan, ambitious goal to halve infections by 50 percent," Zondi said. "So, we believe that the World Cup would give us an opportunity to reach as many people as we can."

Mega sporting events such as the Olympics and World Cup attract thousands of foreign visitors. They also attract unscrupulous people who engage in nefarious activities, including child labor, human trafficking and abuse of commercial sex workers.

Communication Advocacy and Campaigns Manager for the South African National AIDS Council, Junaid Seedat says the judicial and police systems are monitoring these activities.

"We also have the woman's sector and the children's sector who keep a very strong eye on what is going on in that regard," Seedat said. "For example, the woman's sector have put through a recommendation to cabinet around the idea of putting a moratorium on arrests of commercial sex workers during the course of the World Cup."

The World Cup is meant to be fun. And, the government is giving its all to make sure visitors are not disappointed, that these Games are spectacular. The government also is giving its all to make sure people know how to protect themselves from getting HIV/AIDS. It considers this to be a winning combination.

## **Zimbabwe Gay Activists Freed on Bail**

(Voice of America)

27 May 2010

A Zimbabwean court has freed two gay activists on bail after they were arrested on allegations of possessing indecent material and writings seen as insulting to President Robert Mugabe.

A judge released Ellen Chademana and Ignatius Muhambi Thursday on \$200 bail. The two are employees of the country's gay rights group Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe.

President Mugabe has been an outspoken critic of homosexuality. He was once quoted as saying gay people are "worse than dogs and pigs."

Homosexuality is illegal in Zimbabwe, as in many African countries. Gay rights have become a controversial issue in several African countries this year.

Earlier this month, a judge in Malawi sentenced a gay couple to 14 years in prison after convicting them of unnatural acts and "gross indecency."

In February, police in Kenya stopped a gay wedding and arrested several suspected homosexuals.

And earlier this year, Uganda drew international criticism for proposing a law to make some homosexual acts punishable by death.

## **Zambia court awards damages in HIV screening test case**

(BBC News)

27 May 2010

Two ex-officers in Zambia's air force have been awarded damages following claims they were tested and treated for HIV without their knowledge.

The men had claimed they were fired for being HIV-positive, but the court decided not to reinstate them.

Mandatory HIV screening is not legal in the military, and the government had denied the two men were tested.

Some think forced screening is an invasion of privacy - others say it is needed to fight the virus.

Stanley Kingaibe and Charles Chookole were each awarded 10m kwacha (\$2,000, £1,400) for mental and emotional anguish by a court in Livingstone.

The decision upholds the individual's right to privacy and has re-opened the debate about mandatory HIV screening.

### **Ignorant drug-taking'**

Compulsory HIV tests are a contentious issue in Zambia.

Lloyd Bwalya from the Network of Zambian People Living with HIV/Aids told the BBC News website that the case will be a "signal to the rest of the country" that there should be "informed consent" before people are tested for HIV.

But Zambia's health minister and some doctors are in favour of mandatory testing, arguing that not enough people are volunteering to be tested in a country where 15% of adults are thought to be HIV positive.

Mr Kingaipe and Mr Chookole were given medical tests in 2001 that they believed were routine check-ups, after which they were put on medication.

Much later, both men volunteered to be tested for HIV. It was only then they were told the drugs they had been taking were anti-retrovirals - which are used to treat HIV.

The men claimed in court that they were not given counselling or told about the importance of the drugs they had been given.

However, the Zambian government argued the ex-officers were discharged because Mr Kingaipe had cancer while Mr Chookole had developed tuberculosis.

### **Can the World Cup bridge South Africa's sporting divide?**

(BBC News)

26 May 2010

While South Africa is witnessing a surge in national pride as it prepares to host the football World Cup, sport in the country is still heavily divided along racial lines.

White South Africans were once keen followers of football, but this changed when racial segregation in the game ended in the 1980s.

"It's quite ironic that white people abandoned football after integration, when a single multi-racial league was formed," says the Johannesburg-based political analyst Aubrey Matshiqi.

"Whites saw themselves as Europeans, not Africans."

Leading South African football commentator Mark Gleeson says the situation has changed since then.

### **Township kick-about**

"Over the last 10 years, more whites have been going to matches but the number is still insignificant," he says.

"It's nothing like when whites had the security of apartheid, and blacks were kept away from them," Mr Gleeson says.

He adds that fewer white people are playing football now than ever before, with only defender Matthew Booth in the national squad.

"Previously, there were strong amateur leagues among whites. Now they have been amalgamated with weaker ones from [black] townships.

"A parent with little Johnny won't want him to go there [townships] on a Saturday morning," Mr Gleeson says.

With the World Cup approaching, white South Africans are, however, rallying behind the national team, Bafana Bafana.

But Mr Matshiqi cautions against romanticising the political impact of the tournament.

"It [the World Cup] will create an emotional bond among South Africans, but it will not end the divisions caused by more than three centuries of apartheid and colonialism," he says.

"Reconciliation is like building a house, and the World Cup is just one brick."

### **Springbok Mandela**

Mr Matshiqi points out that South Africa also witnessed a burst in national pride when it first hosted the rugby World Cup in 1995, just a year after the collapse of apartheid.

And when the national team, then still seen as a symbol of Afrikaner nationalism, won the tournament, South Africa's first black President Nelson Mandela donned the Springbok jersey and embraced the Afrikaner rugby captain Francois Pienaar in a powerful gesture of reconciliation.

"But the unity turned out to be false. After the World Cup, the rugby world retreated again into the Afrikaner laager, and alienated new-found black supporters," Mr Matshiqi says.

Tensions boiled over when rugby administrators resisted moves to make the game more racially inclusive.

Mr Mandela retaliated by appointing a commission of inquiry to push through change, but rugby chiefs took him to court to block the inquiry.

The government won the legal battle but, as Mr Matshiqi points out, "it was a low point. It showed that what happens afterwards is more important than what happens during the event".

Mr Gleeson explains that the political dynamics in rugby have changed dramatically since that fiasco and self-enforced quotas have been introduced requiring the inclusion of black players in teams.

"We've had a black captain [of the national team] and we are seeing more black players," he says.

### **'Bastion of apartheid**

Last weekend, rugby authorities took another step towards popularising rugby among the black population, with a top Afrikaner-dominated team, the Bulls, playing a match in Soweto for the first time.

Mr Gleeson says that "buppies", or young, upwardly mobile blacks, are increasingly following rugby, attracted by its exclusive image as a game for the privileged.

"Middle-class blacks feel they are conquering what once seemed unconquerable - rugby, a bastion of apartheid," he says.

But ultimately will the World Cup change South Africa's racial dynamics?

"Events like these bond individuals to a country. They don't bring individuals in a country together. People will still have separate lives and separate identities," Mr Gleeson thinks.

But for now South Africans are determined to simply enjoy the football extravaganza - although no-one expects the under-performing Bafana Bafana to raise the trophy.

"If we support them because of their performance, we'll all be in depression," Mr Matshiqi says.

### **Porn ban on net and mobiles mulled by South Africa**

(BBC News)

28 May 2010

A South African government official is proposing a complete ban on digitally distributed pornography.

Deputy Minister of Home Affairs Malusi Gigaba has approached the country's Law Reform Commission to ask whether a change in the law is possible.

He has also had talks with the Justice Alliance for South Africa (JASA), a respected group which has written its own draft bill on the issue.

Internet security experts have dismissed the idea as "madness".

"Cars are already provided with brakes and seatbelts... There is no reason why the internet should be provided without the necessary restrictive mechanisms built into it," said Mr Gigaba.

### **'Wild west'**

JASA proposes that the ban, covering TV but also mobile phones and the web, could be implemented in the form of filters set by internet service providers.

Countries such as Australia and China have already developed filters to block access to certain websites.

Graham Cluley of security firm Sophos said previous attempts by other nations to ban pornography had not been successful.

"One wonders how on earth a democracy like South Africa would be able to introduce such a system, as it's not as though the state has 100% control over telecommunications," he told BBC News.

"Although their intentions may be honourable, it's barking mad to think you will be able to completely outlaw pornography from the web which, is after all, the modern equivalent of the wild west."

Pornography is a subject of ongoing debate in South Africa. A terrestrial television channel called ETV caused a storm of controversy when it began broadcasting adult material after midnight in 2002.

In 2010 a proposal by satellite broadcaster Multichoice to offer a 24 hour pornography channel was abandoned after a deluge of complaints.

### **In Malawi, Ban welcomes pardoning of gay couple**

(UN News Service)

29 May 2010

29 May 2010 – Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon lauded the “courageous” decision announced today by the leader of Malawi to pardon a gay couple recently sentenced to 14 years in prison, voicing hope that the African nation will update its laws to reflect international standards.

We cannot “stay quiet when people are denied fundamental rights – whatever their race or faith or age or gender or sexual orientation,” Mr. Ban said in an address to Malawi's Parliament.

“It is unfortunate that laws that criminalize people on the basis of their sexual orientation exist in some countries. They should be reformed,” he underlined.

Steven Monjeza and Tiwonge Chimbalanga were convicted earlier this month of “indecent practices between males” and “unnatural offences,” sparking the alarm of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay, who called the sentencing “blatantly discriminatory.”

Welcoming President Bingu wa Mutarika's announcement today, the Secretary-General voiced confidence that Malawian Parliament “will take appropriate steps to update laws discriminating based on sexual orientation in line with international standards.”

For his part, Michel Sidibé, Executive Director of the Joint UN Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) welcomed Mr. Mutarika's announcement, calling it a “victory for the voiceless and for people on the margins of society.”

Mr. Ban's address in Malawi today also laid out his four key elements for Africa's success in promoting development and in reaching the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), eight anti-poverty targets with a 2015 deadline.

Firstly, the developed world's pledges must be implemented, he said. “There are far too many promises, too often not fully delivered.”

Another crucial ingredient, the Secretary-General said, is the unleashing of African's potential – both its human and material wealth.

“Africa's people need neither pity nor charity,” he said. “They need only the tools to create jobs and generate incomes.”

A level playing field for the continent in global trade, coupled with targeted development assistance, will “go a long way towards bringing a new dawn to the continent,” Mr. Ban underlined.

Thirdly, he appealed for a new approach to development, where all of the MDGs are addressed in a coordinated manner instead of selecting targets to reach.

“We should focus on empowering countries to scale up investments in agriculture, education, health and infrastructure,” the Secretary-General said, calling for a “true partnership” between Africa and donors.

He noted that at the high-level gathering on MDGs that he is convening in September, he will ask governments to formulate a results-oriented action plan with concrete steps and timelines.

Lastly, development initiatives can only be successful if there is good governance, Mr. Ban said.

“We cannot allow the will of the people to be thwarted by electoral fraud. We cannot accept unconstitutional changes of government. We cannot countenance manipulations of the law to preserve the privileges of those in power.”

Tomorrow, the Secretary-General is scheduled to visit Mwandama, a so-called Millennium Village, where UN agencies work with governments, aid organizations and civil society groups to try to lift residents out of extreme poverty and attain the MDGs.

He will then travel to Uganda's capital, Kampala, to convene the first review conference of the International Criminal Court (ICC), set up as a permanent tribunal to try people accused of the worst war crimes.

This is the first of Mr. Ban's three visits to Africa in the coming months. His next trip will take him to South Africa, where his visit will coincide with the opening of the World Cup soccer championships, which has called “a fabulous tribute to Africa's prowess and potential.”

Later he will travel to Burundi, Cameroon, Nigeria, Benin and Sierra Leone for talks with national leaders, UN staff and civil society groups, much of it focused on the MDGs.

The Secretary-General's third visit to Africa will be to Gabon and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), where a UN peacekeeping mission – known as MONUC – has been in operation for 11 years.

This week, the Security Council agreed to transform the operation into a stabilization mission in the coming weeks, authorizing the withdrawal of up to 2,000 UN military personnel by 30 June this year from areas where security has improved enough to allow their removal.

As of 1 July, the mission will be known as the UN Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC, or MONUSCO.

## **Football World Cup in South Africa underlines ‘African renaissance’ – UN envoy**

(UN News Service)

26 May 2010

26 May 2010 – This year's football World Cup, which kicks off in South Africa in two weeks, presents the country and the rest of the continent with an opportunity to harness

the power of the international event to project Africa's potential for peace and development, a United Nations envoy said today.

"The World Cup in South Africa is a unique occasion to transform the African people's pride and enthusiasm into a positive dynamic of solidarity, tolerance, and development," said Wilfried Lemke, the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Sport for Development and Peace.

The event "underlines African renaissance," Mr. Lemke told a news conference in New York. "Mega-sports events create legacies such as infrastructure and tourism. This World Cup when successful will also contribute to the confidence and pride of many persons and States in Africa," he added. "This is extremely important for the African future."

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon will attend the opening ceremony of the first soccer World Cup on the African continent in Johannesburg on 11 June at the personal invitation of South Africa's President Jacob Zuma.

"The fact that the World Cup is being hosted by South Africa is a tribute to the prowess and potential of the entire continent," Mr. Ban's spokesperson, Martin Nesirky, said. "Africa is a top priority for the Secretary-General as we seek to ramp up progress towards achieving the eight Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015," he added.

The MDGs are eight international development goals that all UN Member States have agreed to make efforts to achieve by 2015. They include reducing extreme poverty, reducing child mortality rates, fighting disease epidemics such as HIV/AIDS, and developing a global partnership for development.

Several UN funds, programmes, and specialized agencies are using the World Cup for outreach and collaboration with South Africa, and Africa at large, to address and promote issues ranging from economic development and children's rights to peacebuilding.

Last October, the General Assembly adopted a resolution urging the international community to harness the World Cup for the development of the whole African continent.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) has been supporting the South African Government in its efforts to prevent and reduce the possible abuse, exploitation and trafficking that some children might be subjected to during the World Cup, said Liza Barrie, UNICEF's Chief of Civil Society Partnerships.

Stéphane Dujarric, Director of Communications for the UN Development Programme (UNDP), said that as a truly global event, the World Cup is a unique opportunity to raise awareness and advocate for the pursuit of the MDGs, not only in South Africa, but also to audiences around the world.

“In the effort to achieve the MDGs, there are no spectators. Everyone is needed on the pitch to score the goals,” he said.

The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) is working with the South African Government and the local World Cup organizing committee to ensure that the event is held under conditions that will cause minimum ecological consequences for future generations.

“UNEP has long been collaborating with host cities and organizers of mega-sports events. Event greening has steadily gained momentum in the past decade. The 2010 World Cup is no exception,” said Munyaradzi Chenje, UNEP’s head of policy coordination and inter-agency affairs.

### **South Africa: Africa Day - Remembering commitment to never again**

(Africa Files)

28 May 2010

On 25 May, the continent, along with Africans all over the world, celebrate Africa Day. In most corners, it is an opportunity to celebrate the diversity and richness of African culture. In South Africa, Africa Day is taking on special significance as the nation prepares to “welcome the world” for the FIFA World Cup.

Yet, reports in the United Kingdom’s *The Guardian* and another in the *South African Mail and Guardian* about the possibility of post-event xenophobia in the country should remind us that just two years ago the nation came together with a rallying commitment to say “never again.”

On Africa Day in 2008, South Africa was still struggling to cope with the aftermath of xenophobic clashes that left sixty-two people dead, including twenty-one South Africans, and resulted in mass displacement of men, women, and children. The country marched, held vigils, collected food and blankets for the displaced, spoke out against the violence, and lamented about how this could possibly happen in a country so proudly deemed the rainbow nation.

The *Guardian* report says that dozens of Zimbabwean women interviewed in Hillbrow in downtown Johannesburg say they face daily intimidation and threats by their landlords and groups of men gathering outside their homes at night. Organisations such as the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants and the Forced Migration Studies Programme at Wits University corroborate their fears, saying this is not the first hints of possible violence.

Meanwhile, other organisations all over Southern Africa have stepped up efforts against the potential of human trafficking, especially trafficking into the sex industry to feed the perceived increased demand for sex services that comes with mega-events such as the World Cup. Women and girls from poorer countries are especially vulnerable to human

trafficking, since promises of opportunities and a chance to earn a living are hard to pass up.

Southern Africa has long been a region of porous borders, with people seeking better lives on the other side – migrating from South Africa to countries like Mozambique and Zimbabwe during the apartheid years, and more recently into countries like South Africa and Botswana where stronger economies mean more jobs.

Traditionally this migrant movement has been mostly male, but times have changed. Economically, women across the continent are at a disadvantage. Social stereotypes and cultural practices reduce opportunities for education, work, and entrepreneurship for women. Yet at the same time, there are increasing numbers of female-headed households, especially resulting from HIV/AIDS, and more women responsible for the family's daily bread.

Families often now expect their daughters, almost as much as their sons, to help provide for the family. And with limited opportunities in many Southern African countries, migration becomes the not so-easy solution. And it seems that migration is becoming even riskier business than ever before.

Celebrated since 1963, Africa Day is a commemoration of African unity. In celebrating the continent's diversity and achievements, there is also a need to keep stressing that unity is the only way to continue developing and progress further, and this includes unity against all forms of xenophobic or gender violence. Perhaps it is fitting that much of this year's celebrations are taking on a football theme – after all, the only way to win is if all members of a team pull together.

Zimbabwe has even themed this Africa Day “Promoting Peace Through Sports.” In South Africa, President Jacob Zuma will address to the nation, followed by a music concert featuring a range of artists from the famed "6-Pack" (the African nations that have qualified for the World Cup tournament) at Ekurhuleni's Dries Niemandt Park on 29 May.

The celebrations even go as far away as Taiwan, where African students are organising a soccer tournament, and Ireland, where groups of Africans are mounting sporting and cultural activities.

There are Africans all over the world, on every continent and in every country. Patterns of migration may change, but the movement of people never will. Unfortunately, except when there is a shocking event – xenophobic riots or a particularly horrific media report of human trafficking - making migration and migrants safe just does not seem to be a priority for most governments.

Two years ago, many expressed outrage at lack of action despite signs and warnings, while for others the violence came as a complete surprise. However, nobody can ever

again say that they did not see it coming. Everyone knows that xenophobia is a problem, and for all the promises made two years ago, how much has changed?

So, as we celebrate this Africa Day and enjoy the afrobeat from Nigeria and soukos from Congo, dance Mozambican passada, and sample Ghanaian fufu or Moroccan couscous, remember that unity is more than celebrating.

Few migrate by choice, and there is a need to make migration safer, taking into account the particular vulnerabilities of women and girls. Whether it is saying no to human trafficking or raising our voices loudly to say “never again” against xenophobic violence, 67 years after the idea of African unity was first introduced, it’s high time.

## **A poor man’s view on Freedom Day**

(Africa Files)

25 May 2010

Mostly South Africans celebrate freedom day. Some they feel free but some do not feel free. Some are told that they are free and get excited because they trust those who tell them that they are free. They still have hope that one day the politicians will recognise them. As hard as it is we all have to face up to the reality that this is a false hope. We have to face up to the need for a second struggle.

### **There are two kinds of freedom**

One kind of freedom is the freedom that every person in the world has inside of themselves. This is the freedom to decide how to respond to the circumstance in which they find themselves. Even under apartheid we all had this freedom. Some people chose the path of courage. Some chose the path of cowardice. But Freedom Day is not about this kind of freedom that comes from inside of people. Freedom Day is about the kind of freedom that comes from society. One part of that freedom is the freedom that comes from real democracy, the freedom of all people to discuss matters and to make decisions for themselves. In South Africa this freedom has been taken from the poor. It has mostly been taken by the councillors and their committees. But they are supported up to a very high level.

Another part of the freedom that comes from society is about having what you need to be safe in the world and to be able to move through the world doing what you need to do. To enjoy this kind of freedom you must be free from all kinds of discrimination. But this kind of freedom is also dependent on having money or it is dependent on a state or community that can provide the things that people need – things like safe houses, transport, electricity, health care, education, lights on the streets and so on. But when it comes to this kind of freedom the reality is that only the rich, including those in government, are free. So the minority is really free in this way whereas the majority is still under the dark clouds.

On the 27th of April every year you see really very many buses transporting the people to full the stadiums. Some they sleep under the bridges, some they are begging in the city

streets, and some they stay in the shacks. If you go to the stadiums to watch you see those in government dancing in front of the poor people. Some of those poor people arrive at the stadium hungry. There is nothing to eat at the stadium if you have no money. When they go to bed that night there will still be nothing to eat. If you can ask how the government can get these buses you will be very surprised. If you can also ask who is going to pay, and how much, you will find that the money for those buses could pay for at least ten houses for people who are houseless. We have to ask ourselves why the politicians would rather pay for buses to transport houseless people to the stadiums than to pay for houses to house those people.

When you are watching these leaders dancing in front of the poor people you will see the watches on their arms – watches that can house two people who are houseless. And I'm not even talking about their fancy suits, shoes, ties or their also fancy cars. It is incredible how they can waste money on all these pretty things for themselves when the people don't even have what is basic to life.

Those who are left behind now are the descendants of those who decided to fight for their country. They were not willing to leave the land of their ancestors to those who came to confiscate it. Those who accepted colonialism were those who were incorporated in to it. Their descendants are the rich today. Those who resisted were those who were defeated. Because they were not cowards, because they were prepared to die for their land, their descendants are sleeping in the bushes now. Their descendants are left behind now. We are not poor because we are dirty and stupid and lazy. We are poor because our ancestors were defeated. We do not need education from NGOs or the government on how to develop ourselves. We do not need savings groups or training on how to wash our hands. What we need is justice. It is not for nothing that our shirts are red.

Some of those who are left behind go to the stadiums and sing freedom songs with the hope that one day they will be free. The pain and fear that they are feeling is making them to run like headless chickens. This is a very sad situation. You can run to the stadium in hope that the politicians will recognise your suffering but when they drive off you take the bus back to life in the shade – sleeping under bridges, burning in the shack fires, harassed by the land invasions unit and the police, cleaning and securing the homes of the rich, toiling on the farms for peanuts.

When those who are left behind ask “Where is this freedom that we have been jointly fighting for?” the answer is always: “Be patient comrades. You all know how the white minority government damaged this country. We are trying to solve these problems now but it will take time. We need you to be patient and to be loyal, to root out the trouble makers so that we can continue with development.” But really, if you can count how much money has been wasted on the arms deal, travelgate and the World Cup it will soon become clear to you that this government is not interested in what the people on the ground need. The lives of the poor people are still the same if not becoming worse. Yet we are told that we are free.

On 27 April 2010 the Poor People's Alliance in KwaZulu-Natal organised our own UnFreedom Day in a place called Babanangu. I was so shocked to see the people in one place living with wild animals. I asked myself "Is this the freedom that we fought for? For people to made to live with wild animals?" Maybe some will think that I am lying but anyone who doubts me can go and see for themselves. There is no clean water there, there are no roads, no schools, no clinic and the people are complaining about the number of cows that they are allowed to store. The crisis of our country is in the cities too. Some in the shacks they lose their land and homes because of shack fires. But come Freedom Day they go to the stadiums and for those moments as they are singing together there they feel free. But then they must go home.

What I can say is that what is being called freedom in South Africa is a big corruption. I don't only mean that there is corruption everywhere. I also mean that the idea of what freedom really is has been corrupted. Just look at the fact that there is never any money to develop poor communities but there is all this money for the 2010 World Cup. The government says that we must "feel it, it is here". All that the poor can feel is what we feel in our real lives - leaking shacks, shack fires, long queues for water, the dangers of life without toilets, evictions, disconnections, bosses that do not respect our humanity, unemployment, lying and corrupt councillors, a lack of safety for women and crime.

All that I can see is that the money for the poor has been wasted on the World Cup. If this was a government that cared about the poor they would have said to FIFA "Come to our country. We will welcome you. But you must live where our people live, eat where our people eat and play and watch soccer where our people play and watch soccer". Instead they are attacking the poor, driving us out of the cities, and creating a new and segregated homeland for the rich in which they will hold the World Cup.

How different our country would have been if the government took all the money that it spent on the World Cup and spent it on the poor. How different our country would have been if the government decided to seriously emancipate the people from poverty and from criminals. By criminals I don't only mean those men that attack women in the bushes where they are forced to seek privacy in the night because they don't have toilets. I don't only mean those who wait for us to get paid at the end of the month and then rob us. I also mean those who are committing huge corruption. We should remember that there are degrees in criminology.

I wonder if God can say that all those who died for our freedom can rise again. If they could rise again would they go to the stadiums to watch the politicians dancing in front of the poor? Or would they hide their eyes in disappointment and shame? All I can say is that the people of this country must force the politicians to stop fighting about tenders. We need what is ours. The land and the wealth of this country must be shared. The politicians must be forced to become the servants of the people. The politicians must stop making excuses about how the white minority government damaged this country.

We know that that is true. But we fought for a new government to change this country. We want an end to corruption right now. We want an end to a government that only

wants to be the new partners of the old oppressors. We want a country where everybody can be happy and enjoy the fruits of his or her toil. We want a country where everybody can be safe. We want real freedom.

I was in Brazil for a few weeks last year. In Brazil I noticed that they have the same system that we have here. Even the new BRT buses that we are getting here are the same as those that they have in Brazil. Last year I was reading a paper where it said that some of those people who will lose their jobs for the BRT they are going to be trained as security guards, some are going to be trained to fix the cars and the buses. I was so disappointed to see that some are going to be security guards because I am a security guard. We are so exploited as guards. We are exploited physically, emotionally and financially. This was something laughable when I heard about it. I remembered when one politician laughed at another one saying that his only qualification was to be a security guard. He was undermining all the security guards yet all around him there were guards.

I wonder why they decided to nominate April of all months as Freedom Day. The only thing I know about this month is the first day of it and when the people fill the stadiums I feel like the politicians are fooling the people. There is no reason to say that you are free when you know that you are not. We as the poor, whether we are in South Africa, Zimbabwe, Brazil or Italy, we have to support each other and give courage to each other so that we can strengthen the freedom that is in us all. We need to strengthen this freedom so that we can use it to struggle for a free society. To those who feel bad about how we criticise the politicians I can say that if they do good then I will praise that.

## **Food Security & Health Issues**

### **Millions of Children at Risk of Measles in Zimbabwe**

(Voice of America)

28 May 2010

U.N. agencies report some five million children in Zimbabwe are at risk of getting measles. They say hundreds of children already have died from this preventable disease.

The World Health Organization, U.N. Children's Fund and other agencies are in the midst of a huge campaign to immunize about five million children, aged six months to 14 years, against measles.

This comes in response to current measles outbreaks that have affected 55 out of Zimbabwe's 62 districts since September.

A spokeswoman for the U.N. Children's Fund, Christiane Berthiaume, tells VOA that, since September, nearly 400 children have died from measles and around 7,000 cases have been reported.

"Measles is really a preventable disease," said Christiane Berthiaume. "Normally, kids do not die of measles. But, in Zimbabwe where before kids were immunized against measles, I mean 80 percent of the children were immunized against that disease 10 years ago. But, this coverage has dropped to less than 50 percent."

This is why the World Health Organization, or WHO, recommends routine immunizations be strengthened after the measles campaign.

Aid agencies are hoping the immunization campaign, which runs through June 2, will stop the spread of the killer disease.

Zimbabwe is also beset by other health problems, including water and sanitation issues and the loss of health personnel who are lured abroad by higher-paying jobs.

The World Health Organization reports that cholera, once again, has broken out in Zimbabwe. But, so far, it says the outbreak is not too serious. It notes 15 out of the 62 districts in the country have been affected since early February, compared to 54 districts last year at the same time.

WHO says Zimbabwe's Ministry of Health and Child Welfare reports that by May 9, there were 477 suspected cholera cases and 15 deaths. However, at the same time last year, more than 4,000 deaths and nearly 98,000 cases of cholera were reported.

Because of the country's poor water supply, WHO says hundreds of people have become sick with typhoid and at least eight deaths have been reported.

## **Malawi moves to adopt WHO guidelines**

(Alert Net)

27 May 2010

JOHANNESBURG, 27 May 2010 (IRIN) - Developing countries like Malawi are calculating the cost of adhering to new World Health Organization (WHO) guidelines that recommend starting HIV-positive people on antiretroviral drugs (ARVs) sooner.

Malawi is one of three African countries that have conducted WHO-supported feasibility studies to assess what adopting the new guidelines would mean, and has announced plans to roll out the new WHO guidelines by mid-2011, said Dr Frank Chimbwandira, head of the HIV and AIDS department in the Ministry of Health.

According to the feasibility study, the number of people on treatment would rise by about 50 percent, which could double the cost of the national ARV programme in terms of additional personnel and equipment, and would probably also mean waiting lists at many clinics.

Implementing the WHO guidelines would mean major changes to national treatment protocols: HIV-positive people would start taking ARVs at a much higher CD4 count of

350, regular CD4 count and viral load monitoring would be conducted, and potentially more expensive treatment regimens would be adopted – including phasing out the ARV Stavudine, which has been associated with increased side-effects.

Malawi, with a HIV prevalence rate of about 12 percent, last revised its treatment regimen in 2008 and the current first-line course is a combination of Stavudine, Lamivudine and Nevirapine.

Like other countries in the region, it has begun treating HIV-positive pregnant women at the WHO-recommended CD4 count of 350, but the standard CD4 count threshold for initiating ARV treatment remains 250.

In 2009, Malawi had just 47 operational CD4 count machines, and less than half the HIV-positive patients had access to such tests, the feasibility study noted.

Tanzania, Nigeria and Ivory Coast have undertaken similar studies. "The findings of these feasibility exercises are important for all of us - the national governments and partners, such as WHO - to understand the real bottlenecks and costs of scaling up our collective action against HIV," Dr Marco Antônio de Ávila Vitória, a medical officer in the WHO HIV/AIDS Department, told IRIN/PlusNews.

### **Finding the funding**

Ultimately, each country would decide when and how to implement the recommendations, which would involve a careful balancing act between saving lives and managing costs to ensure sustainable and stronger health systems.

Bridget Chibwana, acting executive director of the Malawi National AIDS Commission, said finance was among the major hurdles to adopting the guidelines, as well as infrastructure, supply-chain management, and health worker shortages.

She said the country planned to participate in the Global Fund's 20 May call for Round 10 funding applications, and was seriously considering redistributing existing funds in its Global Fund portfolio.

Tatjana Peterson, the Global Fund Portfolio Manager for Malawi, said the country was in the process of conducting more detailed studies of the costs associated with scaling up treatment, and the results were expected by the end of May.

## Refugees/IDPs & Migration

### South African govt must protect migrants—Amnesty

(Alert Net)

27 May 2010

JOHANNESBURG, May 27 (Reuters) - South Africa's government must do more to protect African migrants from persistent xenophobic violence, Amnesty International said on Thursday as the nation prepares to host the soccer World Cup.

The human rights group said it had documented more attacks against African migrants, two years after a wave of anti-foreigner violence left 62 people dead and nearly 100,000 displaced.

"There's still documented, on a regular basis, violence among communities often targeted against foreigners," Erwin van der Borgh, Africa programme director at Amnesty International, told Talk Radio 702.

"(The attacks are) often related to protests against lack of basic services and competing against scarce resource and (these) result in loss of life and destruction of property," he added.

Liberal immigration and refugee policies make South Africa an attractive destination for Africans lured by work in mines, farms and homes.

Earlier this month, the Consortium for Refugees and Migrants in South Africa (Cormsa), a group of human rights and migrant organisations including Amnesty International, said African migrants feared a flare-up of xenophobic violence after the month-long World Cup, which starts on June 11.

Amnesty said President Jacob Zuma's government had to ensure security forces could protect other Africans living in South Africa.

"We're also, with the upcoming World Cup, appealing to the South African government to not only obviously protect the situation around the World Cup but also make sure there are resources available to continue to be able to provide protection and security for people living in these communities," Van Der Borgh said.

Another outbreak of unrest could harm investor sentiment and embarrass Zuma's government, after the country became the first in Africa to host the World Cup.

There are no precise figures on the total number of African immigrants in South Africa. The South African Institute of Race Relations estimates the figure at five million -- equivalent to the country's white population.

About three million Zimbabweans alone have fled economic collapse in that country to South Africa, the continent's biggest economy, in the past decade.

The influx of other Africans have led to competition for jobs, housing and resources. A quarter of the South African workforce is unemployed and 16 years after apartheid ended, millions of poor blacks are yet to receive housing, water, electricity and the improved education they had expected would come with a black government.

This has led to violent countrywide protests in shack settlements and poor townships where residents are furious at the government's inability to deliver basic services.

In 2008, the attacks were brought under control through massive intervention by the police and military.

## **Peace keeping conflict resolution and security analysis**

### **SOUTH AFRICA: Troops reinforcing a porous and dangerous border**

(IRIN)

26 May 2010

MUSINA, 26 May 2010 (IRIN) - South African Special Forces troops have begun a six-month deployment along the troubled border with Zimbabwe, where rape, robbery and other crimes are commonplace, and the flow of desperate migrants continues unabated.

"This is a battle to stop people coming across the border illegally - it is not a war. The soldiers know they [migrants] are just trying to survive. It's very different from what they are trained to do, and it is very difficult," Colonel Gert Faul, the South African National Defence Force commander in Limpopo Province, told IRIN.

Two companies of Parabats - elite South African paratroopers deployed in recent years to Sudan, DRC and Burundi as peacekeepers - have arrived at a highly porous border in the first phase of a deployment that will see soldiers from various units return to all South Africa's land borders in the next few years.

The triple fence of razor-wire and an electric fence that marks the territorial limit is punctured at regular intervals by worn and rutted tracks weaving through it, a testimony to the heavy human traffic.

Former President Thabo Mbeki's administration removed border security from the army and handed it to the police in 2003, just as the effects of the Zimbabwe crisis began to gather momentum, spilling economic migrants in search of employment into the neighbouring states.

The army is re-establishing the border's decommissioned radio network, insisting on the resumption of malarial spraying programmes by the health department, and imposing a "24/7" approach to border security, rather than the "shift-work" of the police. Even so, Faul concedes, the number of troops falls far short of what is required to staunch the flow of border-jumpers.

A survey in 2005 by army trackers, who compared human tracks through the fence to those apprehended by the police, found that about 15 percent of undocumented migrants were caught.

The border fence, inherited from the apartheid era, is set a few hundred metres south of the international border, which runs down the centre of the Limpopo River. It has three lines of razor wire with an electric fence between, and the voltage can be calibrated from deadly to the uncomfortable electric tingle used for game fencing.

At 10km intervals along the roughly 250km frontier there are Echo stations - brick and mortar buildings with sleeping quarters for 10 men, and dated but functional computer facilities that monitor and control the electricity range when the fence is switched on - which provide the precise location of any contacts or attempts to tamper with it.

The undulating bush terrain between Echo stations is where the troops have begun to engage with the marauding border gangs that are blamed for the sexual violence and robbery against migrants.

### **Cat and mouse games**

In the few short weeks that the troops have been on the border, this has turned into a game of cat and mouse. L/Cpl John Molefe told IRIN at a temporary reconnaissance post with sweeping views across the river, that their job was "intelligence driven".

Their opponents, the guma-guma (a local name for the border gangs) held an advantage as they knew the border backwards, and it was "pretty much a family business" developed over the past 40 years of smuggling contraband - from people, cooking oil and Viagra to abalone poached in South African waters - between the countries in both directions.

Molefe is part of a "stick", a detachment of seven soldiers, who spend 14 days constantly on the move in the bush before being rotated to an Echo station. Their work begins at dusk, when they set up listening posts to find smuggling routes and apprehend people crossing illegally.

Private Donovan Smith told IRIN the guma-guma had quickly adapted to the presence of the troops and were sending out their own scouts to track the soldiers' movements.

"Yesterday we caught a woman and eight children, among them babies," Smith said, but the guma-guma were difficult opponents, as they blended in with the migrants, and the

four that had been caught were found to be carrying both South African and Zimbabwean passports. The guma-guma, any contraband seized, and people crossing illegally were immediately handed over to the police.

David Maynier, the shadow Minister of Defence and Military Veterans in the opposition Democratic Alliance, told IRIN that during the period when soldiers were absent from the border, the police had "raised the white flag" on their attempt to impose border security.

At the main point of entry between the Zimbabwean town of Beitbridge and the South African town of Musina, illegal migrants enter the country using the bridge over the Limpopo River and then drop down onto the bank a few metres from a South African police station, avoiding immigration controls.

The police sit drinking tea and smoking cigarettes, oblivious to migrant families crawling under the broken fences with their bundles of belongings. Police minister Nathi Mthethwa told parliament recently that the police spent R123.8 million (US\$16.4 million) securing South Africa's land and sea borders in 2009, of which Zimbabwe border accounted for about R25 million (\$3.4 million).

"By law there is a way to come into the country," Director Modiri Matthews of South Africa's Inspectorate of the Department of Home Affairs told IRIN, but could not comment on the behaviour of other units responsible for border security.

Tara Polzer, a senior researcher at the Forced Migration Studies Programme (FMSP) at the University of the Witwatersrand, in Johannesburg, told IRIN that, strange as it might seem, the police approach was "correct".

"People should be able to just walk across the bridge; legally, that should happen," she said. "The crazy thing is that there is no way to control that border."

In 2009 a proposed special permit for Zimbabweans was put on hold, but a moratorium on deportations was adopted, as well as a 90-day visa for nationals of countries belonging to the Southern African Development Community, provided it was accompanied by a valid travel document.

The vast majority of Zimbabwean economic migrants coming to South Africa apply for an asylum seekers permit, which allows them to work, but also clogs up the system and prejudices those with valid reasons seeking sanctuary from persecution.

### **Rape on the rise**

Some estimates have put the number of Zimbabweans residing in South Africa at 4 million, although Polzer said her unit's estimate was that there were about 1.2 million or at most 1.5 million Zimbabweans in the country.

She said people opted to run the gauntlet of the border because they were ignorant of the regulations, and that was providing border gangs with a constant supply of rape and robbery victims.

Giuseppe de Mola, project coordinator in Musina of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF), the international medical charity, told IRIN the South African government was keeping up appearances by saying the border was "not open", when in reality it was.

It is estimated that nearly a third of people residing in Musina - which is said to have witnessed an annual growth rate of 50 percent - are from Zimbabwe, and at least 300 people a day arrive in South Africa. Among them are victims of rape and assault.

"I crossed the river with a group of four people. We were met by a gang of seven guma-guma on the South African side, who were armed with knives and guns. They forced me to have sex with the women in my group and I refused. Then one of the guma-guma forced his penis into my anus and ejaculated inside," according to testimony given to MSF.

From the beginning of 2010 to early May, MSF treated 103 survivors of sexual violence, of which 71 cases had occurred since 1 March. De Mola said these were reported rapes, as well as cases from questionnaires completed by rape victims.

Rape victims had also witnessed other, unreported, rapes while crossing the border, pushing up the number for March 2010 to more than 100. In March 2010 only four rapes were reported to Musina police.

MSF provides rape victims with post-exposure prophylactics if they seek assistance within 72 hours of the rape, counselling services, and HIV testing. De Mola said people might discover they were HIV-positive, not always as a consequence of rape, and experience a double shock.

"Sometimes it might be someone's first HIV test, and they find out they are HIV positive and then you have to counsel for both the rape and the HIV."

## Summary of Article for week 119

South Africa has made a lot of progress and improvement since its first democratic elections in 1994 which elected Nelson Mandela as the president. Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka makes clear that in the first decade of democracy, 1994 to 2004, we stabilized the economy but growth was slow. Nevertheless, great social and economic challenges remained. The ANC went to electorate in 2004 on a platform of “working together to create jobs and fight poverty”. We committed ourselves to halve unemployment to less than 15 percent and ensure that less than one sixth of South Africans will be living in poverty by 2014, a year ahead of the Millennium Development Goals timetable. For this purpose we have developed a program that is called “Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative, or ASIGSA. From 2010, as ASGISA reforms kick in, we expect to raise over growth rate from 4.5 to about 6 percent. We believe that our performance so far makes this a credible and eminently achievable target. We have grown at around 4.5 percent per year for three years. In past five years GNI per capita has risen from under \$ 3,000 to over \$ 5,000. During the same period inflation is reduced to 3-5 percent and poverty is also reduced through a system of social grants which now reaches 11 million beneficiaries. And for past two years we have also created over 500,000 additional jobs in the economy.

## On course for accelerated and shared growth

Source: Foreign Affairs; Jan/Feb2007, Vol. 86 Issue 1, following p56-56, 1p

### **Abstract:**

The article focuses on South Africa's steady growth rate of 4.5% for the past three years. The article discusses the country's first democratic elections in 1994, which elected Nelson Mandela. Several developing sectors of the South African economy are discussed, such as the business and commodities sectors, and measures aimed at improving those sectors are presented. Details of the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative are discussed, as well as key constraints to utilizing the one-third of the country's population marginalized from the economic benefit the country has experienced.

### **Article:**

South Africa has come a long way since its first democratic elections in 1994. President Nelson Mandela and his successor Thabo Mbeki will leave a legacy for South Africa and its continent that few outsiders would have dared predict a decade ago. Though great challenges still remain, South Africans continue to find solutions. As Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka makes clear, the spirit that led to the "miracle" election of 1994 burns on in South Africa's determination to see that the promises of freedom are fully realized.

South Africa has entered an age of hope. Not vain hope, but hope based on firm foundations. We have grown at around 4.5 percent per year for three years. In the past five years GNI per capita has risen from under \$3,000 to over \$5,000. During the same period we cut taxes several times; reduced the budget deficit to virtually zero; reduced government debt to one of the lowest levels in the world; reduced inflation to 3-5 percent; and reduced poverty through a system of social grants which now reaches 11 million beneficiaries. For two years in succession we have created over 500,000 additional jobs in the economy.

In the first decade of democracy, 1994 to 2004, we stabilized the economy, sometimes at great cost. Interest rates were high in the late 1990's, government spending fell back, and growth was slow. But GDP growth averaged about 3 percent, with about 2 million more people employed.

Nevertheless, great social and economic challenges remain. The African National Congress went to the electorate in 2004 on a platform of "working together to create jobs and fight poverty". We committed ourselves to halve unemployment to less than 15 percent and ensure that less than one-sixth of South Africans live in poverty by 2014, a year ahead of the Millennium Development Goals timetable.

After engaging our political party and its alliance partners, we discussed the plans with a range of domestic stakeholders. We did this through the President's 'working group' system -- the President, Deputy President, and cabinet ministers meet at least twice a year with several business groups, organized labor, religious leaders, youth leaders, and leaders of organizations representing women. Possibly the most decisive meeting was with President Mbeki's International Investment Council. Twice a year the council brings the working group together with business leaders such as Jürgen Schrempp, Niall Fitzgerald, Ratan Tata, and Percy Barnevik. The council advocated a very public program with numerical targets and effective mobilization of key public and private players.

After approving a broad strategy paper prepared under the leadership of the Minister of Finance, the President asked me and a small team of cabinet ministers and provincial premiers to develop a program. We called it the Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative, or AsgiSA. To organize our ideas and strategy we borrowed the concept of "binding constraints" from a school of development economists based at Harvard University. These are constraints which, if removed, would undoubtedly have a significant effect on a county's growth trajectory.

Overall we had a commodity sector that was reasonably strong and a non-tradable sector -- retail, services, construction and so on -- that was steaming ahead as employment and disposable incomes rose. Yet how could we use this period of strong demand for our natural resources (including gold, platinum, coal, iron and steel) to build foundations for more sustainable growth? How could we bring the one-third of the population who were marginalized from economic benefit into the mainstream to reduce inequalities? Both equity and sustainability of growth require eradication of the divide between first and second economies.

The key constraints were: the relative volatility of the currency; the cost, efficiency, and capacity of the national logistics system; shortages of suitably skilled labor; limited competition and new investment opportunities; the regulatory environment and the burden on small and medium businesses; deficiencies in state organization, capacity, and leadership. For each constraint we compiled a set of actions. We now had a new system of priorities and a new set of mechanisms to enforce decisions at presidential, cabinet, and constituency level.

So far things are going well, with gross fixed investment having risen from 14 percent of GDP to 18.5 percent, and growing at an annual rate of over 11 percent. We are injecting major new funding into skills development institutions and are investing a great deal in the performance of government institutions, performing surgery on the more serious cases. New investment opportunities in promising sectors such as tourism, business process outsourcing and off-shoring, and bio-fuels are being developed. From 2010, as the AsgiSA reforms kick in, we expect to raise our growth rate from 4.5 to about 6 percent. We believe that our performance so far makes this a credible and eminently achievable target.

## Summary of Article for week 120

As an aftermath of apartheid, South Africa has laid the foundations of a better life for its entire people. It has defied expectation and solved problems that have left less fortunate societies in ashes. Some attribute South Africa's much-heralded miracle to the statesmanship of former President Nelson Mandela, but as Independent News and Media group newspaper publisher Sir Anthony O'Reilly puts it, Mandela is "the quintessential South African" and his qualities are very much those of his nation. One of the most important of those qualities is a principled and imaginative pragmatism that favors lasting, consensus-based solutions over ideological abstraction or quick fixes. "We have a tendency to look around the world, find best practice and then ask how do we make it work for us?" says Yvonne Johnston, CEO of the International Marketing Council.

Key to South Africa's economic transformation since 1994 have been its bold moves to open its markets to global competition and in the process make its own previously protected and isolated industries more dynamic and competitive. Says Xavier Carim, Chief Director of Trade and Policy Negotiations at the Department of Trade and Industry, "What we have seen in South Africa post-1994 follow WTO rules, adhere to multilateral trade agreements, liberalize the economy, and in that way initiate a process of structural reform in the economy." Export competitiveness has also been enhanced through strategic partnerships with the European Union, with emerging powerhouses like China and India and the promising new markets of Africa itself.

The country also has a legitimate ambition to become a global leader in science and technology. South Africa is a contender not just because of its location but because, with its world-class universities and research and engineering base, it has the talent. Dr. Phil Mjwara, Director General of the Republic's Department of Science and Technology, says that country's different projects mesh closely with the government's Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative (ASGISA), aimed at putting the economy on a 6 percent annual growth path by 2010.

IDC's former Chief Operating Officer, Ms Raisibe Morathi says: "I think South Africa's political success has already been quite phenomenal, and it is very important to bring economic success up to the same level," she says.

Since the end of apartheid-era isolation, South Africa's young democracy has moved decisively to forge close ties with its continent. President Mbeki has been a driving force behind South Africa's bid to become master of its own economic destiny via NEPAD (the New Partnership for African development). As a result, the IDC's mandate has expanded to cover the continent as a whole. "The IDC continues to search for business opportunities and partnerships on the African continent, taking our role as partner for development on the continent very seriously," says Qhena. "We currently have 37 projects at various stages of development in 14 African countries, with overall exposure predominately concentrated in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries."

## **Principled Pragmatists and Innovators Build a New South Africa.**

Source: Foreign Affairs; Jan/Feb2007, Vol. 86 Issue 1, following p56-56, 2p

### **Abstract:**

The article describes how South Africa's principled and imaginative pragmatism has been driving the country's economic transformation since 1994. The article discusses aspects of the country's infrastructure that have made it a hotbed for innovation. First among these is South Africa's world-class universities and research/engineering base, supplying the country with the talent-rich workforce necessary for programs in science and technology. The article also discusses the South African government's Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative, the goal of which is to increase the annual growth of the country to 6% from its current rate of 4.5%.

### **Article:**

South Africa is alive with possibility as it addresses the stubborn aftermath of apartheid and lays the foundations of a better life for all of its people. This is a country that has defied expectation and solved problems that have left less fortunate societies in ashes. Some attribute South Africa's much-heralded miracle to the statesmanship of former President Nelson Mandela, but as Independent News and Media group newspaper publisher Sir Anthony O'Reilly puts it, Mandela is "the quintessential South African" and his qualities are very much those of his nation.

One of the most important of those qualities is a principled and imaginative pragmatism that favors lasting, consensus-based solutions over ideological abstraction or quick fixes. "We have a tendency to look around the world, find best practice and then ask how do we make it work for us?" says Yvonne Johnston, CEO of the International Marketing Council. To illustrate this point she cites, among other examples, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which was adapted from models pioneered in Latin America. The pay-off? "We now have macroeconomic stability, our interest rates are at an all-time low, our GDP is at an all-time high, and there's a lot of investment coming in. People do not make investments to be kind, but because it makes good business sense."

Key to South Africa's economic transformation since 1994 have been its bold moves to open its markets to global competition and in the process make its own previously protected and isolated industries more dynamic and competitive. There has also been a successful focus on diversifying the country's hitherto heavily resource-dependent export base to include a growing proportion of manufactured goods, including high quality cars. One result is that South African exports to the US have more than doubled over the past

ten years, going from \$2.3 billion in 1996 to \$5.9 billion last year. Says Xavier Carim, Chief Director of Trade and Policy Negotiations at the Department of Trade and Industry, "What we have seen is South Africa post-1994 follow WTO rules, adhere to multilateral trade agreements, liberalize the economy, and in that way initiate a process of structural reform in the economy." Export competitiveness has also been enhanced through strategic partnerships with the European Union, with emerging powerhouses like China and India and the promising new markets of Africa itself.

### **Age of Innovation**

South Africa's "we fix it" approach extends far beyond politics and economics. The country also harbors a legitimate aspiration to become a global leader in science and technology. In 2005 President Thabo Mbeki inaugurated the Southern Africa Large Telescope, the largest optical telescope in the southern hemisphere and a resource for astronomers around the world. The country is a finalist in its bid to host the giant assembly of sensors that will comprise the Square Kilometer Array (SKA) in the Northern Cape's remote Karoo. SKA, the world's largest radio telescope ever planned, promises to revolutionize our understanding of the cosmos' origins. South Africa is a contender not just because of its location but because, with its world-class universities and research and engineering base, it has the talent.

"The main reasons why you come and invest in a country are a huge market on one hand, and people with high level skills, researchers, and engineers on the other," says Dr. Phil Mjwara, Director General of the Republic's Department of Science and Technology. "We have thus been able to attract the International Center for Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology to South Africa because of our biodiversity. Likewise, we have considerable capacities in aerospace, so we have set up the Aerospace Industry Support Initiative (AISI) to enable private companies in the area to become globally competitive." The Department is also funding the South African AIDS Vaccine Initiative (SAAVI) in conjunction with the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research. Dr. Mjwara notes that such projects involve homegrown technologies, and build on a human capital development plan to provide an environment in which large numbers of Masters and PhD students can make the most of their skills. The projects, he adds, mesh closely with the government's Accelerated and Shared Growth Initiative (ASGISA), aimed at putting the economy on a 6 percent annual growth path by 2010.

### **Driving Development**

ASGISA is driven by the conviction that growth without higher living standards and improved opportunities for all is not sustainable. A key player in realizing the ASGISA vision is the country's state-owned development finance institution, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC). By creating investment opportunities and increasing business confidence, IDC is changing risk perceptions that have kept capital from flowing to many areas long starved of jobs and opportunity.

Geoffrey Qhena, IDC's CEO, believes that by addressing areas of market failure and opportunity, significant potential can be unlocked in various sectors. "The anticipated extent of project activity associated with the combined efforts of ASGISA, the Joint Initiative for Priority Skills Acquisition (JIPSA), and various customized sector programs creates an environment ripe with opportunities for IDC involvement," says Qhena. "This should effectively translate into financing approvals leading to enterprise development, sustainable job creation, poverty reduction, and overall economic growth."

IDC investments run the gamut from small-scale agricultural enterprise to airport construction and other large-scale infrastructure projects. The institution also supports South Africa's growing music and motion picture industry. Both three-time Oscar-nominated *Hotel Rwanda* and the 2006 Best Foreign Movie Oscar winner *Tsotsi* were IDC-funded projects. Concurrently, the organization is actively involved in the regeneration of South Africa's textile industry, as it retools to take on global competitors such as China in the challenging post-Multifiber Agreement environment.

IDC's former Chief Operating Officer, Ms Raisibe Morathi, is now Economic Adviser to Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka, who oversees ASGISA. "I think South Africa's political success has already been quite phenomenal, and it is very important to bring economic success up to the same level," she says. If South Africa is to reach its full potential, it cannot afford to leave any of its citizens behind on the margins of the country's dynamic economy. "The people who are less involved in the economy are the black people in rural areas. Against their choice they have found themselves below the threshold of participation, and therefore part of the second economy."

Since the end of apartheid-era isolation, South Africa's young democracy has moved decisively to forge close ties with its continent. President Mbeki has been a driving force behind Africa's bid to become master of its own economic destiny via NEPAD (the New Partnership for African development). As a result, the IDC's mandate has expanded to cover the continent as a whole. "The IDC continues to search for business opportunities and partnerships on the African continent, taking our role as partner for development on the continent very seriously," says Qhena. "We currently have 37 projects at various stages of development in 14 African countries, with overall exposure predominately concentrated in Southern African Development Community (SADC) countries."

## **Summary of Book Review for week 121**

Lodge, a well-regarded longtime observer of South African politics, has written a splendid biography of South Africa's first democratic president, Nelson Mandela. Instead of trying to disclose new details, Lodge focuses on Mandela's roots and education in order to explain his subsequent approach to politics as leader of the African National Congress. He shows how a combination of self-conscious charisma, graceful manners, and a deeply ingrained sense of political tolerance proved key to his effectiveness as a leader of the transition.