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*Region: Southern Africa*

**BUSINESS AND POLITICS IN THE MUSLIM WORLD**

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## Summary of Report

### Economy & Energy

#### ***EU gives Zimbabwe \$10.6 mln for school textbooks***

The European Union (EU) on Wednesday gave \$10.6 million to Zimbabwe to buy textbooks for primary schools, promoting revival of an education sector which a cabinet minister said was in a dire state.

### Environmental Issues

#### ***World Water Day 2010: Clean water for a healthy world***

On the World water day 2010, UNDP published a report in which it is expressed that at Global level the world is on track to reduce by half the number of people without access to a safe supply of drinking water by 2015, a key human development target laid out by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are eight development targets agreed upon by the world's leaders in order to halve extreme poverty by 2015. But significant gaps remain in many countries everywhere, while the sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania regions as a whole are not on track to meet the water MDG by 2015. Nonetheless, several countries in sub-Saharan Africa are making rapid progress, in spite of historically low rates of access to clean water, and rapidly growing populations.

#### ***MOZAMBIQUE: After the floods***

The worst of the floods are behind them, but now the communities along Mozambique's major rivers face other serious challenges: thousands are displaced and access to food and clean water is limited.

### Food Security & Health Issues

#### ***MOZAMBIQUE: Drought and floods bring food shortages***

Extensive flooding along the rivers of central and southern Mozambique during March, in tandem with persistent drought in other parts of the same areas, have left 465,000 people in need of food assistance, but aid agencies warn that they do not have the resources to help.

## **Human Rights & Social Issues**

### ***Launch of inter-university development journal in Mozambique***

The journal on economic, policy and development studies is published by eight Mozambican universities and is produced with UNDP support. It contains information produced in Mozambique, about Mozambique and for Mozambicans.

### ***Celebrating local successes against gender violence***

Communities across Southern Africa are fighting an uphill battle against gender violence, but it's clear that making a difference is more than possible when individuals, communities, and governments put their heads and hands together. Though challenges like economic inequalities, cultural attitudes, and media stereotypes hamper turning the tide, looking at the approximately 200 participants from ten countries who took part in the first Southern Africa Local Government and Gender Justice Summit and Awards held in Johannesburg 22-24 there is hope for change.

### ***South Africa: Evidence needed to assess human trafficking during World Cup***

The threat of human trafficking during the 2010 World Cup presents the need to back claims with statistics. There is no evidence nationally or internationally to support the claim that legalising sex work makes trafficking worse. But in South Africa it can be argued that alarmist voices are being heard because of ineffective law enforcement to combat human trafficking.

### ***SOUTH AFRICA: Ready To Tackle Human Trafficking?***

The expected arrival of 350,000 football fans in South Africa for the World Cup in June has provoked fears of increased levels of human trafficking. A new study suggests that one major obstacle to preventing this is the lack of accurate information about the extent of the problem.

### ***EDUCATION-AFRICA: "Change the System to Fit the Child"***

Teachers in Africa need to be trained to teach pupils from multiple grades simultaneously because although this is a common form of instruction on the continent, many teachers are not educated to do this.

## **Politics**

### ***Zimbabwe sanctions on Mugabe allies should go – Zuma***

Travel restrictions slapped on Zimbabwean officials from President Robert Mugabe's Zanu-PF party should be lifted to help the unity government function effectively, South African President Jacob Zuma said.

### ***Mugabe defiant on ending power-sharing dispute***

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe said Friday he would only implement terms of an agreement he signed in 2008 with rival Morgan Tsvangirai if the West removed sanctions on his allies.

### ***British Lawmakers Say Zimbabwe Aid Should be Increased***

British lawmakers say conditions in Zimbabwe have improved in the past year, but the fragile political situation means that could be reversed at any time. So Zimbabwe's aid should be increased.

### ***Zimbabwe's Political Party Negotiators Meet in Advance of Deadline***

Negotiators for Zimbabwe's three political parties are meeting to agree on timelines for the full implementation of the agreement that brought about the unity government. Other political reforms may also be considered.

### ***Zimbabwe should move fast on media reforms***

Zimbabwe, whose main daily newspaper is state owned and biggest private papers are weeklies, should speed up registration of newspapers to boost democratic reforms, a senior cabinet minister said on Saturday.

## **Pan Africa**

### ***Mugabe defiant on ending power-sharing dispute***

Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe said on Friday he would only implement terms of an agreement he signed in 2008 with rival Morgan Tsvangirai if the West removed sanctions on his allies.

## **Detailed Report**

### **Economy & Energy**

#### ***EU gives Zimbabwe \$10.6 mln for school textbooks***

(Alert Net)

24 Mar 2010

HARARE, March 24 (Reuters) - The European Union (EU) on Wednesday gave \$10.6 million to Zimbabwe to buy textbooks for primary schools, promoting revival of an education sector which a cabinet minister said was in a dire state.

Government schools closed at the height of the country's economic and political crisis in 2008 re-opened last year after formation of a power-sharing administration between rivals President Robert Mugabe and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai.

But pupils remain without books while classrooms in most rural schools are dilapidated and teachers threaten to boycott classes to press for higher pay.

"The situation in schools remains dire. The physical fabric is in a shocking state and the basic necessities are missing," Education Minister David Coltart said at a ceremony to receive the EU donation to a fund for revival of schools.

The education trust fund was set up last September to raise \$50 million to buy books for government primary schools.

Zimbabwe's education sector had, since independence in 1980, been hailed as the best on the African continent, but its quality has been compromised by a decade of economic collapse.

In 1980 the government spent up to \$6 every month per pupil, a figure which fell to \$0.70 in 2009.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) head in Zimbabwe Peter Salama said half of the 3.2 million primary school pupils in the country dropped out before secondary education.

He said UNICEF would next month start distributing exercise books and learning materials to more than 5,000 primary schools around the country and will sign contracts this week with local publishers to print 13 million textbooks.

"This means that we will surpass our goal of getting a textbook to every two Zimbabwean children. Now every Zimbabwean child will receive a full set of textbooks," Salama said.

## Environmental Issues

### ***World Water Day 2010: Clean water for a healthy world***

(UNDP)

22 March 2010

Today, on World Water Day, we are reminded of how the availability of clean water and safe sanitation shapes human lives in many ways. It impacts human health and the survival of young children; it influences school enrolment and learning, especially for girls; it affects the burden of securing water for daily living, especially for women; and it changes livelihood opportunities and the health of ecosystems that sustain life. Access to safe water and sanitation is a key driver of human development.

Globally, the world is on track to reduce by half the number of people without access to a safe supply of drinking water by 2015, a key human development target laid out by the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The MDGs are eight development targets agreed upon by the world's leaders in order to halve extreme poverty by 2015. But significant gaps remain in many countries everywhere, while the sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania regions as a whole are not on track to meet the water MDG by 2015. Nonetheless, several countries in sub-Saharan Africa are making rapid progress, in spite of historically low rates of access to clean water, and rapidly growing populations.

The sanitation situation, however, remains daunting. Globally, 2.6 billion people are still without improved sanitation today. Unless the pace of progress increases rapidly, it will be 2.7 billion in 2015. The world is quickly losing ground in reaching the MDG target for sanitation, which calls for reducing by half the number of people without access to adequate sanitation.

Shortcomings in water governance -- how decisions are made about the use of water and provision of water and sanitation services -- remain an underlying constraint on better progress towards the MDG water target. Support for governance reform and improving participation, transparency and accountability is the focus of UNDP's assistance to countries to scale up equitable access to water and sanitation. UNDP supports water and sanitation activities in more than 60 countries. UNDP's capacity building network called Cap-Net, and its Water Governance Facility, provide access to policy advice, best practices and tools to decision-makers and practitioners to plan and implement sound water management and provision of services.

Responding to the urgent need for assistance in countries that are farthest behind, UNDP's GoAL WaSH initiative supports Governance, Advocacy and Leadership for Water, Sanitation and Hygiene. GoAL WaSH implements strategically targeted interventions that strengthen governance of the water and sanitation sectors in challenged and 'fragile' states, where the water and sanitation challenges are greatest.

At the local level, UNDP partners with civil society, local government and the private sector are supporting integrated approaches to service provision and sustainability of water supplies. For instance through its Community Water Initiative and the Every Drop Matters partnership with The Coca-Cola Company, UNDP's Community Water Initiative has trained villagers in Ghana to establish and maintain wells for safe drinking water. As a result, rates of public health and school attendance have improved. In Kazakhstan, in partnership with Coca-Cola, UNDP EDM repaired and extended an aging water supply system in Kok-Ozek village.

In Tanzania, CWI supported local communities to use renewable energy to power irrigation and water supply systems, increasing agricultural production and radically decreasing the incidence of water borne diseases. In Sri Lanka, a community initiative supported by UNDP purified contaminated wells by planting trees whose roots remove the contaminants from the water in wells.

UNDP's experience in communities around the world demonstrates the tremendous benefits of access to water and adequate sanitation to people's lives, both in economic and human terms. Failure to achieve the sanitation and water MDG targets will jeopardize the achievement of all the MDGs in many countries. Accelerated progress on the water and sanitation MDGs, on the other hand, could trigger the next leap forward in poverty reduction and human development.

### ***MOZAMBIQUE: After the floods***

(IRIN)

24 March 2010

JOHANNESBURG, 24 March 2010 (IRIN) - The worst of the floods are behind them, but now the communities along Mozambique's major rivers face other serious challenges: thousands are displaced and access to food and clean water is limited.

Rivers throughout central and northern Mozambique were swollen to Red Alert level - one notch below declaring a disaster - after weeks of torrential rain locally and in neighbouring Zambia and Zimbabwe.

On 23 March a hydrological bulletin by the National Water Directorate announced that "In the next 24 hours" the Zambezi and Pungue river basins in central Mozambique, and the Messalo River Basin, in the north, "will continue to register lower water levels". The Mozambican Council of Ministers brought the alert level down to orange.

Although the flood response would be phased out, Leila Pakkala, the Representative of the UN Children's Agency (UNICEF) responsible for coordination in the Humanitarian Country Team, pointed out that "Many of the [affected] areas were already chronically food insecure [and] the government and partner organizations continue to be preoccupied with food security needs."

The latest UN Country Team (UNCT) Flood Preparedness and Response report, released on 23 March, said "the government had sent an official request for food assistance for 100,000 people in the four most affected districts: Mutarara [and] Mopeia [near the Zambezi River], Morrumbala [on the floodplain] and Chinde [in the Zambezi Delta] ... Food assistance will need to be given in the form of food-for-work, to rebuild."

Pakkala noted that some areas not affected by floods also needed assistance due to months of poor rainfall. Preliminary estimates by the Technical Secretariat for Food Security and Nutrition in Mozambique indicated that some 475,000 households in seven of Mozambique's 10 provinces were suffering the effects of the drought.

She said access to clean drinking water was priority; continued support would be provided to rehabilitate water points, and water committees and maintenance groups in affected areas would be revived.

"Sanitation and hygiene activities ... have been prioritized", the UNCT report said. The distribution of emergency water, sanitation and hygiene supplies was ongoing, and chlorine, soap, certeza - a disinfectant solution for purifying water - jerrycans and buckets were being sent to families in affected areas.

"Around 25,000 people have been reached by messages on promotion of good hygiene practices and malaria prevention as a result of training. Community and provincial radios are disseminating daily messages ... in coordination with District Directorates of Health, with a capacity to reach up to 800,000 people in Zambezia, Sofala and Tete provinces," the report said.

### **It could have been worse**

In a country as poor and vulnerable as Mozambique, extreme climatic events can push entire communities beyond their ability to cope or recover from the multiple impacts of floods, cyclones and drought, and they often descend into a spiral of poverty.

The country is more frequently and severely affected by natural disasters than almost any other in Africa: flooding occurs nearly every year - in the past three decades alone, Mozambique has been hit by 35 hydro-meteorological disasters, affecting nearly 16 million people.

In response, the Mozambican government, mainly through its disaster management agency, INGC, and its international aid and development partners, have invested heavily in preparedness and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) measures.

All that paid off this year. "The response was well organized. DRR and preparedness [programmes] are starting to show results. The response was much better than previous years," Pakkala said.

She noted that lessons had been learnt from previous emergencies: capacity was built in disaster management agencies, partnerships were stronger, stocks were prepositioned,

and annual emergency simulation exercises had resulted in an "adequate, appropriate and timely response".

## **Food Security & Health Issues**

### ***MOZAMBIQUE: Drought and floods bring food shortages***

(IRIN)

29 March 2010

JOHANNESBURG, 29 March 2010 (IRIN) - Extensive flooding along the rivers of central and southern Mozambique during March, in tandem with persistent drought in other parts of the same areas, have left 465,000 people in need of food assistance, but aid agencies warn that they do not have the resources to help.

"We have a very big problem now," said Lola Castro, Country Director of the UN World Food Programme (WFP), who told IRIN that her organization could assist only around 175,000 and that by "the end of April the [WFP] pipeline will have dried up".

In contrast, the latest food security outlook for Mozambique, released by the Famine Early Warning Systems Network on 26 March, noted that "456,000 people will need food assistance from April 2010 to March 2011".

In February the Ministry of Agriculture estimated that in the centre and south of the country 605,000 hectares of planted land were lost to drought - equivalent to 30 percent of the total land planted in the affected areas - representing a national loss of 13 percent of maize and 11 percent of cereal production.

Castro said around 100,000 Mozambicans had suffered a "double shock": they had moved away from drought-affected areas into the lower lying floodplains of the Zambezi, Búzi, Púngoe, Licungo and Save river basins, but then floods swept the country in early March. "That means they lost their seeds twice," she said.

#### **Worse every year**

"The population is really suffering from changing weather patterns - communities say that in the last 10 years the rains have not been the same," Castro said. In some areas there has been drought for three years now.

"It is clear that this is urgent," Chris McIvor, Advocacy and Programmes Director of the Save the Children Alliance in Mozambique, told IRIN. "This is not something that happened only this year - the people we met [in Gaza Province] complained of several consecutive bad years."

Communities are usually completely dependent on their harvests for food and income. McIvor said families were already resorting to negative coping strategies like selling off assets and keeping children out of school as a source of labour. Any little cash they had was being spent on food, and there was nothing left for school or healthcare.

The first harvest season - the main crop - has been lost; McIvor warned that the second planting season, in May, would help, but would certainly "not solve the problem".

In the short term food aid would be crucial and the government had already requested WFP for immediate food assistance for 100,000 people in the four most affected districts: Mutarara, Mopeia, Morrumbala, and Chinde.

WFP's Castro said her organisation had appealed to donors for international assistance, and while "some have replied positively ... we are really hoping for more". Austria, the United States and Japan have provided assistance, as has the UN Central Emergency Response Fund.

### **Feeding is not enough**

Castro said WFP would "try to buy locally" in their immediate response, which would have the added benefit of sourcing food from productive areas in the north of Mozambique, "where they have had quite good harvest", and stimulating local production and markets.

Food would be distributed via food-for-work projects, because providing food in exchange for work would create investment in essential rural infrastructure like irrigation and sanitation, while ensuring food security.

In the long term it was essential that the government - with the assistance of WFP and partners such as the UN Food and Agriculture Organization - focused on introducing alternative seeds and plants "more resistant to drought, like sorghum, millet and cassava". "It is clear that these communities need to change," Castro commented.

McIvor noted that depending on rain-fed agriculture would not be feasible, particularly in the south, and interventions would have to include irrigation and water management schemes, drought-resistant crop varieties, and diversifying into alternative livelihoods, like fishing. Given the chronic nature of the problem, long-term solutions would have to be found "if we want to move away from a dependency on aid".

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

### ***Launch of inter-university development journal in Mozambique***

(UNDP)

23 March 2010

The journal on economic, policy and development studies is published by eight Mozambican universities and is produced with UNDP support. It contains information produced in Mozambique, about Mozambique and for Mozambicans.

“This publication will foster a country-wide debate on developmental matters, bringing together academia, the business community and society at large. Universities can contribute towards social problems and challenges”, says Professor Eduardo J. Siteo, the Executive Director of the journal.

The first of the three annual issues of “Economia, Política e Desenvolvimento” includes five articles covering the topics of: participation in the democratic processes; challenges of monitoring governmental actions; analysis on socio-professional mobility among civil servants in Maputo; mobility, poverty and witchcraft among the rural populations of Mozambique; and the implications of forest research on sustainable development.

Among the goals of this initiative are to contribute to methodological pluralism in Mozambique, promote diversity of scientific ideas, and accumulate knowledge among students and researchers.

“From an academic point of view, the journal means a new reference point for excellence and a platform to facilitate scientific research by national and international researchers. The quality of the first articles, can fairly reach the one of similar European journals”, professor Siteo estimates.

According to Ndolamb Ngokwey, the Resident Representative of UNDP in Mozambique, the journal is an innovative and multifaceted initiative that UNDP is proud to support. “This cooperation combines scientific knowledge management and partnerships with civil society institutions (universities) in a way that can stimulate debate on development issues and innovations, not only among academics but also among politicians, private sector and civil society”, he said.

The journal is managed and hosted by the Eduardo Mondlane University through its Center for Policy Analysis. The other Mozambican universities involved are the Pedagogical University (UP), the Polytechnic University (ISPU), the Higher Institute of Science and Technology (ISCTEM), the Higher Institute of Public Administration (ISAP), the Higher Institute of International Relations (ISRI), the São Tomás University of Mozambique (USTM), and the Technical University (UDM). UNDP is represented on the scientific board of the journal.

The journal, issued in Portuguese, will be provided free of charge to universities across the country and the goal is that each university library will have copies of the journal, to ensure that academic views and experiences are shared among students and academics alike.

More pictures of the journal launch may be seen on the website of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences of the Eduardo Mondlane University <http://www.flcs.uem.mz/>.

The first ever interdisciplinary and inter-university Mozambican journal on development issues was launched in Maputo last month.

### ***Celebrating local successes against gender violence***

(Africa Files)

26 March 2010

Taking place on the eve of Human Rights Day in South Africa and Namibia's 20th anniversary of independence, the event showcased over 100 best practices led by local councillors and community activists for empowering women and ending gender violence. The range of approaches - supporting survivors, local responses, prevention campaigns, and institutional and individual innovation – shows that creativity and commitment can weave changes in our social fabric.

For Mary Chipango Chainda of Mongu Municipal Council in Zambia, more information and awareness is needed for women and men, to help them make better and more informed decisions. "Sensitising and educating young people on the dangers and effects of gender based violence (GBV) on individuals, families and communities must be ongoing," she said. According to Chainda, there are rampant cases of property grabbing in her area, which often leaves women desolate. Having realised this, she took the decision to take a stand to empower women. Chainda says that through increased awareness about GBV, more women formed associations and became more willing to report incidents of GBV.

Noelene Blekkenhorst of the Family and Marriage Society of South Africa (FAMSA) in Cape Town, says that men can also play a role in the fight against GBV. She adds that perpetrators of violence also need some form of psycho-educational treatment programme. FAMSA works to provide support and protection for survivors of domestic violence and their children, whilst also providing treatment programmes, including working with men. "This treatment programme intervenes by equipping perpetrators with the necessary skills to overcome their violence and abusive behaviour, providing them with more appropriate, alternative behaviour patterns when faced with high risk abusive or violent situations," she said. She adds that FAMSA deals with issues such as socialisation, low frustration tolerance, substance abuse, environmental stress, and gender stereotypes.

According to Blekkenhorst, FAMSA recognises that domestic violence is a pandemic, which not only affects households but also communities. “By working with these men, FAMSA is able to work towards equipping men with the tools to build an equality based relationship that is violence free. Therefore it is fair to say that not only do the men attending the group benefit from this intervention, but the partners and children as well,” she said. She said this programme has proved to be effective, helping perpetrators change behaviour. She emphasised the importance of helping both victims and perpetrators of GBV to end the cycle of violence and the intergenerational transfer of violence to children through early exposure, which normalises violence.

One of the categories of best practices included in the Summit and Awards is “Individual Innovation.” Just as the category suggests, sometimes a single person can make a difference. “Individual innovation in the fight against GBV calls for citizens to take the fight single handed, without considering what others have done. The greatest efforts in the fights lies with the individual,” said Councillor Tasila Hara of Zambia. Hara also emphasised the empowerment of women for sustainable development as one of the key aspects of reducing GBV. This echoes other indications that women’s economic dependence on their male partners can make them vulnerable to gender violence, as well as have health related consequences, especially in terms of HIV/ AIDS and reproductive health.

For example, in Swaziland, media stories often cite the so-called catalysts for domestic violence as being financially related – such as when there is contention in the home when wives request money for such things as school fees and household goods. Violence also occurs when women initiate sex, refuse to have sex, or ask their men where they have been. Worse, many do not even feel they have any power in such situations, because they lack financial muscle to help themselves should things go wrong. Women in many situations have to ask their husbands for everything, even when they need menstrual pads, panties, water tanks, sewing machines and other things.

A World Vision Swaziland project is showing that Accumulative Savings and Credit Associations (ASCA) can have a huge impact on women’s lives. According to Thuli Chapa, World Vision programmes manager, this initiative has been implemented in different communities to help support basic risk protection and consumption needs of the most vulnerable groups. “It is a community managed micro-finance programme where a group of not more than 20 people save an agreed amount of money and loan it amongst the group members at agreed periods,” said Chapa. She says this is one strategy that can be used by other countries to help empower women economically to avoid dependency. Chapa said through the savings and credit programme, the women become able to buy household needs and contribute towards the welfare of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children (OVC) During their meetings, the women also share life skills and receive training on different issues affecting society, such as that of GBV and its relation to HIV and AIDS.

Whether tackling the need for information and awareness, challenging social stereotypes and expectations, working with men, or empowering women economically, it’s clear that there is action happening the ground that needs celebrating. Though the challenge

remains steep, perhaps the key now is how do we support, and scale up, the many good initiatives that are often quietly gaining ground in the fight against gender violence.

## ***South Africa: Evidence needed to assess human trafficking during World Cup***

(Africa Files)

23 March 2010

Several anti-trafficking campaigns have been initiated in South Africa ahead of the 2010 Fifa World Cup. These campaigns intend to prevent individuals from being trafficked by raising awareness about this exploitative practice and providing information about the danger it presents. Anti-trafficking initiatives are important, but it is equally important that the information presented in these campaigns is accurate and based on evidence, rather than merely aiming to instill fear and outrage.

**According to the United Nations definition of trafficking, three conditions have to be met before a case of trafficking can be established:<sup>1</sup>**

1. The person must be moved or transferred, harboured, or received;
2. There must have been some form of coercion or deception involved; and
3. The actions should be for the purposes of exploitation.

If all three conditions are not met, the case is not one of trafficking. The “*Stop 2010 Human Trafficking*” campaign recently released a web-based video clip<sup>2</sup> aimed at raising awareness about trafficking in the run-up to the 2010 Soccer World Cup. In the clip, popular South African soap opera stars and musicians make exaggerated and inaccurate claims about trafficking and sex work in South Africa. Amongst other things, the video states the following as fact:

- Legalisation of sex work makes trafficking worse
- Germany and Australia regret legalising sex work
- 100 000 people will fall victim to trafficking in South Africa before the World Cup; and
- Sex work and trafficking are the same thing

Experiences in Germany during the 2006 World Cup are informative to assess the risk of trafficking during this event in South Africa. Before the 2006 World Cup in Germany, media reports convinced the public that 40 000 women and children would be trafficked into Germany to meet the demand of an estimated 3 million soccer spectators. However researchers only find evidence of five cases of trafficking.<sup>3</sup> While the research may not have identified all incidents that occurred during the 2006 World Cup, it highlights the substantial gulf that exists between reality and the fears that exist in relation to human trafficking.

Fifa estimates that 450 000 international spectators will visit South Africa - that is six times fewer visitors than to the 2006 Germany World Cup. It is therefore highly unlikely that 100 000 people would be trafficked into South Africa. Indeed, were that to be the case there would be just less than one trafficked victim for every four spectators.

There is no evidence nationally or internationally to support the claim that legalising sex work makes trafficking worse. Proponents of legalisation and decriminalisation models of sex work in fact hold that by decriminalising sex work an otherwise murky industry will be opened to scrutiny. This, it is argued would assist police in locating traffic victims and prostituted children. A 5-year review of the effects decriminalising sex work in New Zealand found that cooperation between sex workers, police and other agencies provided useful information about criminal activity.<sup>4</sup> There is also no evidence to support the claim that Germany and Australia regret the decision to legalise sex work.

The systematic research conducted by the ISS/SWEAT resulted in a recommendation to decriminalise sex work in South Africa. This was motivated by the fact that for as long as sex work is criminalised it is very difficult for sex workers to report incidents of abuse, of trafficking or of child prostitution to the police as well as to access social, health and legal services. Sex workers, particularly those who work on the street, are the most likely witnesses of cases of child prostitution and other types of crime. They are more likely to report such cases if they didn't fear the police and ran the real risk of being harmed or arrested in the process.

The ISS/SWEAT study found that 47% of street-based sex workers had been threatened with violence by the police, 63% had been sworn at by a police officer, 12% had been raped by a police officer and nearly a third had been asked for sex in exchange for being released from custody. While brothel-based sex workers did not experience this level of abuse at the hands of the police, 70% said that they did not trust the police or did not know if they could trust the police. For as long as sex workers mistrust and are fearful of the police it is unlikely that they will report cases of trafficking or other crime to the police.

The research found that most sex workers in Cape Town had chosen to take up sex work for financial reasons. The study showed that sex workers were able to earn more than they would, doing other jobs commensurate with their skills. While clearly there are severe constraints on the choices that women can make in relation to the work they do, labelling all women who choose to sell sex as "victims" or "sex slaves" is to ignore their rational choices. Victims of trafficking on the other hand have been forced or duped into a situation of exploitation. In this way they differ from sex workers who have chosen to engage in sex work (albeit a choice made from limited options).

Conflating sex work and trafficking is detrimental to sex workers as it implies that they are sexual slaves without agency or choice. At the same time overestimating and sensationalising trafficking numbers diverts important resources away from services that could benefit more people.<sup>5</sup> A number of countries have moved away from total criminalisation of sex work.

However only one - New Zealand - has explicitly decriminalised sex work, choosing instead to adopt a human rights and public health framework. The New Zealand Prostitution Reform Act was passed in 2003, after a campaign driven by sex workers, the public health community, women's groups and human rights organisations. It was promoted on various grounds – gender justice, pragmatic law, and the preference of the people most damaged by criminalisation – the sex workers themselves. The effects of the legislative change were measured five years later. Contrary to public fears, no increase was found in the number of people entering sex work during this period.<sup>6</sup> Sex workers reported improved working conditions and wellbeing, feeling safer under the new legal framework, and being able to negotiate safer sex and report abuse to police.<sup>7</sup>

Human trafficking is a heinous crime. However, our policies and actions must be guided by sound research and empirical evidence if this problem is to be effectively and efficiently addressed.

### Notes:

1. United Nations. Protocol to prevent, suppress and punish Trafficking in persons, especially Women and Children - supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational organized crime; 2000.
2. See [http://www.2010humantraffic.org/STOP.htm?utm\\_source=STOP+2010+Human+Traffic&utm\\_campaign=4496e51b3f-2010\\_Human\\_Traffic2\\_9\\_2010&utm\\_medium=email](http://www.2010humantraffic.org/STOP.htm?utm_source=STOP+2010+Human+Traffic&utm_campaign=4496e51b3f-2010_Human_Traffic2_9_2010&utm_medium=email)
3. The German Delegation to Multidisciplinary Group on Organised Crime / Article 36 Committee. Experience Report on Human Trafficking for the Purpose of Sexual Exploitation and Forced Prostitution in Connection with the 2006 Football World Cup in Germany. Council of the European Union, Brussels, 5006/1/07; REV 1; CRIMORG 1; MIGR 1; 19 January 2007.
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## ***SOUTH AFRICA: Ready To Tackle Human Trafficking?***

(IPS)

24 March, 2010

JOHANNESBURG, Mar 24 (IPS) - The expected arrival of 350,000 football fans in South Africa for the World Cup in June has provoked fears of increased levels of human trafficking. A new study suggests that one major obstacle to preventing this is the lack of accurate information about the extent of the problem.

South Africa is believed to be a hotspot for human trafficking in Africa and the country's National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) commissioned the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC) to conduct a study of the problem as part of its programme to combat trafficking, known as Tsireladzani.

Professor Carol Allais, who led the HSRC team, told IPS that the team's work was made difficult by the paucity of data on human trafficking as well as a lack of cooperation by government departments with the research team. Some departments, she said, refused the team access to information even after the NPA had written letters supporting researchers' requests.

A similar study published in 2007 by the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) also found reliable data on human trafficking in SA was sketchy because there were no official statistics.

Police records subsume data on human trafficking on a range of crimes, including abduction, kidnapping, rape, and assault.

The NPA study comes in the context of pressure from the U.S. government as well as non-governmental organisations on South Africa to implement measures to deal with trafficking. South Africa is a signatory to the Palermo Protocol, which requires it to investigate and prosecute trafficking as well as train enforcement officers and assist and protect victims.

From 2005 and 2008, the U.S. State Department cited South Africa for failure to comply fully with the minimum international standards for eliminating human trafficking - including inadequate data collection. The U.S. may withhold non-humanitarian and non-trade related aid to countries that consistently fail to comply with international protocols.

South Africa avoided this "Tier 2" classification in 2009 based on improved efforts and commitment to make further progress in 2010 in line with its commitment to the Palermo Protocol.

NGOs have raised fears of escalated trafficking during the FIFA World Cup in June.

The lack of data on human trafficking meant that the researchers could not estimate the number of victims of trafficking, though they still attempted to highlight the major characteristics of the phenomenon.

The study, which also included Lesotho, Swaziland and Zimbabwe contained few surprises: it said that victims of trafficking were mostly women, girls and boys who were trafficked for a variety of purposes, including prostitution, pornography, as domestic servants, forced labour, and for criminal activity.

In the end, Allais said, the research team drew on the database of the International Organization for Migration (IOM) whose information is limited to the cases that the inter-governmental body has dealt with. The quality of the data from NGOs was questionable because some of these organisations inflated their numbers as part of their fundraising strategies, Allais said.

The research team recommends that South Africa embark on a major awareness and educational campaign, which will include training of people in the justice system to improve their understanding of human trafficking.

"There's a great deal of ignorance across the board," Allais said.

Other recommendations include improved patrolling of the borders; better training for labour inspectors; improved intelligence gathering; and changed visa policy for at-risk groups.

In an interview with South Africa's public broadcaster, Malebo Kotu-Rammopo, the coordinator of the Sexual Offences and Community Affairs unit of the NPA, said that a data base of human trafficking cases will only be set up after the passing of the Prevention and Combating of Trafficking in Persons legislation, which was submitted to parliament last week.

Kotu-Rammopo said the report will assist government sharpen its policy on human trafficking, including the design of specific mechanisms to help protect those that are most vulnerable to trafficking.

### ***EDUCATION-AFRICA: "Change the System to Fit the Child"***

(IPS)

23 March, 2010

PAARL, South Africa, Mar 23 (IPS) - Teachers in Africa need to be trained to teach pupils from multiple grades simultaneously because although this is a common form of instruction on the continent, many teachers are not educated to do this.

Multi-grade education – a method where a teacher instructs pupils of different ages in one classroom – is a reality in most African countries. But the quality of education has been poor because teachers' vocational training is only focused on single grade instruction.

An Africa-wide initiative that encourages governments to make multi-grade education national policy, backed by sufficient educational budgets, adjusted curricula and teacher training, now wants to change this.

"In Africa, multi-grade education is not a new idea ... but an economic choice based on social circumstances," Virgilio Juvane, coordinator of the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) working group on the teaching profession, told more than a hundred teachers and education department representatives at the Southern African Multi-Grade Education Conference in Paarl, in South Africa's Western Cape province, on Mar. 22.

In South Africa, for example, 30 percent of primary school children, or three million pupils, attend rural schools where more than one grade is taught by a single teacher at the same time, according to researchers at the Centre for Multi-grade Education (CMGE).

"In remote areas in Zambia, Uganda, Lesotho or Namibia, without such schools, basic education would be virtually impossible," Juvane said, because a large percentage of children live in remote areas and would have to travel far distances to the nearest mono-grade school.

"Remoteness and poverty remain the main reasons for a high school dropout rate in African countries," he added.

Juvane and his colleagues hope multi-grade education will soon become national policy in many African countries. "There is a policy gap because many governments are still largely unaware of the benefits multi-grade education," he said. "There is a perception that multi-grade teaching is an inferior and temporary stop-gap measure, to be replaced by 'normal' teaching as soon as possible."

As a result, national education policies solely focus on mono-grade teaching, with teacher training and teaching resources, including curricula and textbooks, developed only for single-grade class structures. This leaves teachers who are faced with the reality of multi-grade classes at a loss.

To fill this gap, ADEA has been running numerous training workshops on multi-grade teaching since 2005 in 18 African countries. The workshops are inspired by a best practice model developed by the Escuela Nueva Foundation in Colombia, where multi-grade education has been integrated in the country's national education policy. "Like in African countries, Columbia used to make progress in giving children better access to education, but the quality of education remained poor and dropout rates high," explained the foundation's CEO Vicky Colbert de Arboleda.

With the countrywide introduction of a multi-grade education system, which moved away from the traditional, frontal learning system towards a child-centred learning process, all this changed, she says.

Properly implemented, multi-grade learning means that one or two teachers work with small groups of pupils and thereby promote active, participative and collaborative learning. "The results are happy, motivated and confident children with improved academic and social skills," said Colbert de Arboleda.

The Colombian example proves that it is possible to improve the quality of education in low-income settings, the Colbert de Arboleda claimed: "In some instances, we have found rural, multi-grade schools performing better than urban schools."

If done right, multi-grade education might offer countries a real chance to reach Millennium Development Goal (MDG) 2, which aims for access to universal primary education by 2015.

In 2009, 32 million children of primary school-going age did not attend school in sub-Saharan Africa, according to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (Unesco). Most of these children are girls who come from poor rural and urban areas, were either nomadic or disabled or belonged to post-conflict groups.

At the same time, 1.14 million new teachers need to be employed throughout sub-Saharan Africa if countries want to reach MDG 2.

"This need is daunting and poses enormous challenges to governments' fiscal capacity," said Juvane, "especially because it's not only about providing education for all, but also about providing the best quality the country can afford."

Multi-grade education could offer a solution, he says, because it allows for more small schools to operate in rural areas, which means that more children will be able to attend school, while less teachers need to be employed, as one teacher can instruct multiple grades at once.

In most African countries the gap between mono-grade education policies and multi-grade teaching remains a frustrating reality.

In sparsely populated Namibia, for example, 40 percent of schools do multi-grade teaching, because the country's rural schools have few teachers and few material resources, Namibia's curriculum is designed for mono-grade schools, confirmed Gisela Siririka, education officer at the National Institute for Educational Development.

This has severely reduced the quality of education in rural schools. "Namibia's education policy doesn't allow flexibility to adapt the curriculum, while our teachers don't have the skills to produce their own materials. There is a missing link between policy and day-to-day education in schools," said Siririka.

"We need to change the system to fit the child instead of expecting the child to fit the system," she demanded.

Teachers in Botswana find themselves in a similar quandary, even though the National Commission on Education recommended the introduction of multi-grade education in 1993 to improve quality of and access to primary education.

"Government has not made available the necessary budget to transform the country's education system accordingly," said Billie Morongwa, senior education planner at the University of Exeter in Gaborone.

Despite the fact that a quarter of the country's children do not attend school, government's commitment to multi-grade education has been lip service so far, he told conference participants: "We need political commitment to truly increase educational quality."

## **Politics**

### ***Zimbabwe sanctions on Mugabe allies should go – Zuma***

(REUTERS)

Mar 27, 2010

Zuma, who is mediating in a dispute between Zanu-PF and Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's MDC party, noted that one side in the power-sharing government was subject to international sanctions while the other was not.

"What's happening is that one part of unity government, the MDC, can travel all they want, around the world and do what they want while the other part, the ZANU-PF, cannot," he told a reporters on Friday at the end of a visit to Uganda.

"That's impeding the functioning of the unity government and so the international community that supported the power-sharing agreement must also lift the sanctions to allow the unity government to function to its full capacity."

Zuma has previously urged western powers to lift sanctions imposed before the two rival sides agreed on the unity government in 2008. The government is riven by conflict and Mugabe said on Friday he would implement terms of the agreement with Tsvangirai only if the West removed sanctions on his allies.

Zuma and his host Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni also discussed the situation in Democratic Republic of Congo. In a statement they said they had agreed that while security there was improving, the United Nation's peacekeeping mission, MONUC, was still needed to provide stability.

Zuma, who traveled with a business delegation, said Uganda offered investment opportunities for South African companies. A Ugandan official told Reuters that some South African investors were keen to participate in Uganda's budding petroleum sector.

The east African country discovered oil in 2006 and exploration companies currently estimate reserves at about 2 billion barrels.

"The mining, oil and refining of petroleum sector with the discovery of oil in the Lake Albert region provides new areas of business," Zuma said at a business forum in Kampala on Friday.

Museveni said he had not discussed any detailed plans for South African investment in Uganda with his counterpart.

"We didn't discuss anything specific on oil but we have two areas where South Africa can help us and those will be discussed when our minister for minerals meets with his South African counterpart," Museveni said.

### ***Mugabe defiant on ending power-sharing dispute***

(REUTERS)

Mar 26, 2010

Mugabe and Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader Tsvangirai, now prime minister, formed a coalition government last year but the fragile marriage has been rocked by disputes about how to share executive power.

South African President Jacob Zuma, who is mediating in Zimbabwe, held talks with the two rivals last week and said Mugabe's ZANU-PF and Tsvangirai's MDC had agreed a package of measures to rescue the unity government.

But Friday Mugabe said there was no such package and his party would only make concessions if sanctions imposed on ZANU-PF members and a freeze on financial aid on Zimbabwe were scrapped by the West.

The MDC wants its treasurer-general Roy Bennett sworn-in as deputy agriculture minister, appointment of five of its senior officials to positions of provincial governors and for Mugabe to sack the attorney general and central bank governor.

"It's nonsensical for anyone to expect us to move on these issues when we are burdened with sanctions, not only as persons but as a country, that the MDC has asked for," Mugabe told hundreds of party members attending a ZANU-PF central committee meeting in Harare Friday.

"The sanctions must go, must go. If they don't go there will be no concession that we will make, none whatsoever," Mugabe said to cheers from the ZANU-PF members.

#### DAMPENING TALKS

His comments put a dampener on talks between ZANU-PF and MDC negotiators to deal with "outstanding matters." The talks, which began Thursday and were continuing Friday are expected to end Monday.

The negotiators would then report to Zuma on March 31, after which Southern Africa Development Community troika chairman Mozambican President Armando Guebuza may call a meeting to discuss the deal.

Guebuza leads the SADC political organ that also involves Swaziland's King Mswati III and Zambian President Rupiah Banda

Mugabe said his allies, central bank governor Gideon Gono and attorney general Johannes Tomana, would not be sacked.

"They are not going at all. Tomana and Gono will remain with us," Mugabe said.

The 86-year-old argues the MDC should lobby its allies in the West to remove sanctions and stop what ZANU-PF calls "pirate radio stations."

The veteran leader is largely blamed for running down a once prosperous economy through policies such as the seizure of white-owned commercial farms to resettle blacks and lately plans to force foreign-owned firms to cede majority control to locals.

Mugabe accuses former colonial power Britain of mobilizing its Western allies to impose sanctions on Zimbabwe as punishment for the land seizures.

Friday he criticized British Prime Minister Gordon Brown for rebuffing a call by Zuma this month to end targeted sanctions on Mugabe and ZANU-PF.

"Mr Brown must know that there will be no movement if sanctions don't go. The movement must come from him and who is he anyway to talk about that situation," said Mugabe.

### ***British Lawmakers Say Zimbabwe Aid Should be Increased***

(Voice of America)

26 March 2010

British lawmakers say conditions in Zimbabwe have improved in the past year, but the fragile political situation means that could be reversed at any time. The report from the

House of Commons' International Development Committee said violence and intimidation, bad governance, and a lack of basic services remain major problems.

Chair of the British committee, Malcolm Bruce, says the economic situation in Zimbabwe has improved in the past year and living conditions seem to be improving.

"Within that space the donor agencies and aid agencies were able to function in delivering some pretty impressive services in the form of education and health, infrastructure, livelihoods - but that was on the basis of a huge reduction in activity in previous years. So there is a massive backlog and they are by no means turning the situation around," he said.

He said Britain will continue its aid to Zimbabwe, which was almost \$100 million in 2009.

And he said more aid will be channeled into educating Zimbabwe's children.

The committee welcomed a power-sharing deal between President Robert Mugabe and his ZANU-PF party and the MDC party. MDC leader Morgan Tsvangirai became prime minister in February 2009.

But, he said, power-sharing between the two leaders is imbalanced and the political situation is poor. "The political situation is extremely fraught -- there is a total lack of trust and there is still the threat and violence and intimidation and worse to prevent progress," said Bruce.

The committee also said European Union sanctions on Mr. Mugabe and his inner circle could not be lifted. "The British ambassador and other international leaders have made it clear that if progress is made towards the agreements that were signed for the inclusive government, then sanctions could be lifted," said Bruce.

Alex Vines is from the London-based research group Chatham House. He says it's no surprise that the committee maintained their support for sanctions. But he said he thinks it's important for a framework to be put in place so that headway can be made towards getting the sanctions lifted.

"I would like to see some indications of what type of benchmarks if they were achieved would open the way for gradual lifting of some of the sanctions in return for progress at the Global Political Agreement," said Vines.

Vines says despite problems with the Global Political Agreement it's important to Zimbabwe that Britain maintains its aid contribution. "The reality is that there is no alternative to the Global Political Agreement - the GPA - on Zimbabwe at the moment and countries like the UK need to consider how they can support the poor in Zimbabwe as well as encouraging political progress in that country," he said,

The report from the International Development Committee was drawn up by 11 lawmakers who recently spent four days in Zimbabwe.

## ***Zimbabwe's Political Party Negotiators Meet in Advance of Deadline***

(Voice of America)

25 March 2010

Negotiators for Zimbabwe's three political parties are meeting to agree on timelines for the full implementation of the agreement that brought about the unity government. Other political reforms may also be considered. President Jacob Zuma last week told party leaders to produce the timelines by March 31.

Sources close to South African President Jacob Zuma's talks in Harare last week say he told the leaders they had to agree a series of timetables to implement the so-called Global Political Agreement of September 2008 and other reforms by his deadline. The goal is for the reforms to lead to free and fair elections.

With warnings that Zimbabwe's banks are increasingly fragile, and political talks bogged down, the deadline is being seen as critical.

Some business owners have told VOA of a dramatic slump in domestic demand and job losses in the formal sector and say these declines can be directly attributed to the political paralysis in the government.

In addition, the International Monetary Fund warns that the country's commercial banking sector is dangerously shaky. These problems, as well as others, puts new pressure on the country's leaders to move quickly on political reform.

Mr. Zuma met last week in Harare with President Robert Mugabe, Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai and Deputy Prime Minister Arthur Mutambara.

There are other issues on the table, including the selection of a new attorney general, and the repeal of laws that give police enormous powers to arrest people for holding meetings. In addition, there is the question of the appointment of MDC provincial governors. Mr. Mugabe appointed only governors from his ZANU-PF party, even though Mr. Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) won a narrow parliamentary victory in the 2008 elections.

The reform timetable, sources say, must include legislation for setting up the Human Rights Commission. Mr. Mugabe has approved its members, but there are no laws for it to begin work. Human rights organizations report ongoing selective arrests and prosecution of scores of MDC supporters.

Also, the negotiators are expected to discuss the recently appointed independent electoral commission. Despite the new commission, Mr. Mugabe has handed power over the elections to his close political ally, ZANU-PF Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa.

If the negotiators can set a timetable, the Southern African Development Community will then try to bind the unity government partners to deliver on it.

But, the unity government already is far behind on the goal of holding a referendum on a new constitution and on elections next year - a target spelled out in the September 2008 agreement.

Western governments have withheld aid for rebuilding Zimbabwe's collapsing infrastructure, until progress is made on the reforms.

In addition, the European Union and United States will not lift travel and financial restrictions against ZANU-PF leaders until substantial reforms are in effect.

### ***Zimbabwe should move fast on media reforms***

(Alert Net)

27 Mar 2010

HARARE, March 27 (Reuters) - Zimbabwe, whose main daily newspaper is state owned and biggest private papers are weeklies, should speed up registration of newspapers to boost democratic reforms, a senior cabinet minister said on Saturday.

Finance Minister Tendai Biti told a pan-African journalists' conference that Zimbabwe lagged other countries in establishing a legal and political environment conducive for a free press.

But he said the southern African state -- whose media is dominated by the government and whose laws bar foreign journalists from working long-term in the country -- would correct this through a new constitution being drafted and the recently formed Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC).

"I hope the ZMC will begin to do their work in earnest, begin to move fast in registering (new) newspapers," he said, adding that Zimbabwe should also end the state's monopoly in television and radio broadcasting.

"The media is the guardian angel of democracy. It keeps in check those holding political power," he said.

Biti -- secretary-general of Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai's Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) which formed a power-sharing government with veteran President Robert Mugabe's ZANU-PF a year ago -- said the current media environment reflected the slow pace of reforms all round.

"But the good news is that we have begun to take decisive steps to extricate ourselves," he said.

A UNESCO representative at the conference said the organisation was prepared to help the ZMC in its work to improve the media environment, including training journalists.

"UNESCO stands ready to assist. Bad journalism should never be used as an excuse to denying freedom of expression," said Mogens Schmidt, a deputy assistant director in the UN agency.

The ZMC said last week it would soon start licensing private newspapers as part of reforms agreed by the power-sharing government.

Under Mugabe's ZANU-PF administration, in power since independence from Britain in 1980, a state-appointed body used stringent media laws to police the newspaper industry, forcing several titles to close.

Critics say the new media commission is moving slowly in its work at the behest of ZANU-PF, a charge the organisation denies.

## **Pan Africa**

### ***Mugabe defiant on ending power-sharing dispute***

(Alert Net)

26 Mar 2010

HARARE, March 26 (Reuters) - Zimbabwean President Robert Mugabe said on Friday he would only implement terms of an agreement he signed in 2008 with rival Morgan Tsvangirai if the West removed sanctions on his allies.

Mugabe and Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) leader Tsvangirai, now prime minister, formed a coalition government last year but the fragile marriage has been rocked by disputes about how to share executive power.

South African President Jacob Zuma, who is mediating in Zimbabwe, held talks with the two rivals last week and said Mugabe's ZANU-PF and Tsvangirai's MDC had agreed a package of measures to rescue the unity government.

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