

## **Zimbabwe negotiations update: 15 August 2008**

There is no agreement to date. It is believed a major stumbling block is the role and power of the President and the proposed new post of Prime Minister.

The Southern African Development Community (SADC) summit takes place this weekend in Johannesburg. (16th and 17th August). It is understood that Mugabe has been invited (as Head of State). Botswana has stated he should not be there and they will not attend if he does. The Congress of South Africa Trade Unions (COSATU) supported by the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) and many other organisations is holding a march to the SADC summit calling for democracy in Zimbabwe and Swaziland. It is widely expected that discussions/negotiations will take place during the SADC summit. There has been speculation that Zanu PF and the smaller MDC-Mutambara group which won 10 seats in the assembly elections and holds the balance of power have come to an agreement. This has been denied by leading figures in the Mutambara Group. Zanu PF have also stated they have been in contact with elected members of the MDC Tsvangirai to get them to support Zanu PF if and when parliament is finally convened.

The speculation is that Mugabe and Zanu PF want the President to be Mugabe and that he will be both Head of State and Head of Government. MDC Tsvangirai want Tsvangirai to be the Prime Minister and Head of Government with executive power.

It is being reported that agreement has been reached so far on the following 13 issues:

1. To lift all sanctions against Zimbabwe,
2. to resist undue external interference,
3. to condemn any attempts by foreign powers to effect regime change,
4. for the UK to accept primary responsibility to pay compensation for expropriated land,
5. for a holistic audit of land ownership to be carried out,
6. for multiple farm ownership and farm productivity to be dealt with by parliament,
7. to end all violence,
8. to disband the youth militia,
9. for the restoration of civil liberties including freedom of expression and communication,
10. to call on foreign governments to desist from hosting and funding radio stations,
11. to reform state institutions,
12. to facilitate unfettered access for aid groups and
13. to promote national healing and cohesion.