

## INTERNATIONAL

## Zimbabwe opposition party rallies

KUWADZANA, Zimbabwe (AP) — Opposition supporters should keep a low profile and even pretend to support the ruling party if necessary to guarantee their safety, the leader of Zimbabwe's main opposition party told a rally Monday.

"When they come and harass you, you can hide your MDC insignia, you can go to their meetings, sing their songs, as long as on voting day your X is for the MDC," Movement for Democratic Change leader Morgan Tsvangirai told more than 1,000 people in Kuwadzana, just outside the capital Harare.

Many in the crowd wore MDC T-shirts — an increasingly rare sight.

"We don't put them on because the moment we do, we'll be targeted," said Brightson Masache, a factory worker who helped organize the rally.

The MDC has accused ruling party militants of beating up its supporters and forcing some to participate in

pro-government rallies. Attacks against workers on white-owned farms, many of whom are thought to support the opposition, continued overnight.

The political violence has claimed 13 lives in recent weeks. It began in February, when squatters claiming to be veterans of Zimbabwe's independence war swarmed onto hundreds of white-owned farms. To date, they have occupied more than 1,100 farms.

President Robert Mugabe has supported the occupations, saying they are a justified protest against unfair land distribution in a country where 4,000 whites own one-third of the fertile farmland.

Officials on Saturday announced Mugabe would invoke special presidential powers to seize white farms without paying compensation.

Police said Monday that a shop and car belonging to MDC parliamentary candidate Timothy Mukalera

were bombed Thursday. No one was injured in the explosion in Gweru, 150 miles southeast of Harare. A suspect has been arrested, a police spokesman said.

Mukalera said the ruling party was behind the explosion.

Workers at five farms were attacked overnight, said a spokeswoman for the Commercial Farmers Union, which represents most of the country's white farmers. None of the victims were hospitalized.

A leader of the occupations, Chenjerai Hunzvi, said Sunday he would travel around the country to make sure the violence ends and to ensure that planting could begin soon.

With worries high over the crisis' effect on the economy, Hunzvi urged farmers to bring their harvested tobacco — Zimbabwe's biggest export — to auction. The auction season began Wednesday, but sales have been dismal.

Despite Hunzvi's talk of

ending the violence, there is no sign the land seizures will end. Squatters moved onto four new farms overnight.

Police have often been accused of standing by idly during attacks on the opposition.

"We are very concerned with the attitude of police toward the opposition," said Kurauone Chihwayi, the president of the Zimbabwe National Debate Association, who monitored Monday's MDC rally for human rights abuses.

"They've been very inactive. They've not responding to political violence unless (the victim) is a member of the ruling party."

Chihwayi reported no human rights violations by police at the rally, but said MDC youths had harassed people watching the event, telling them they must join the rally or leave. Some youths said they would "mark" the people who did not participate, Chihwayi said.

## South African leaders support resettlement program

Lewis Machipisa  
Special to Sentinel-Voice

HARARE, Zimbabwe — Southern African leaders are giving their full support to Zimbabwe's controversial program to resettle its landless Blacks.

The Zimbabwean government wants to acquire five million hectares to resettle 150,000 families over the next five years.

During a nine-hour meeting among President Robert Mugabe, Namibia's Sam Nujoma, Joachim Chissano of Mozambique and President Thabo Mbeki of

South Africa, the leaders rallied around Mugabe on the land redistribution issue.

Mbeki called on Zimbabwe's former colonial power, Britain, to honor old pledges and provide the funds necessary for the program.

"The central issue in this dispute is the provision of resources which would enable the resettlement process, agreed by everybody, to start," President Mbeki told journalists at the end of the meeting held in the resort town of Victoria Falls. "This problem is not going to go

away unless it is addressed," Mbeki said.

Veterans of Zimbabwe's war of independence have occupied some 1,000 white-owned farms over the past two months saying they were reclaiming land stolen from their ancestors by white colonial settlers.

The land crisis has seen escalating clashes between the farmers and war veterans, which has so far left three people dead and scores injured.

Some 4,500 white commercial farmers own 70 percent of prime agricultural land or 11 million hectares while one million blacks own 16 million hectares often in drought prone regions not fit for agricultural production.

Some of the land, most of it fertile, was given as gratuity to some whites who fought in the First and Second World Wars between 1914 and 1950. Zimbabwe became

independent after a protracted war in 1980, a year after the Lancaster House Agreement, was signed.

The agreement barred the new black government from forcefully seizing privately owned farmland for the first 10 years.

For that guarantee, Britain agreed that it would match a dollar for every dollar that the newly independent Zimbabwean government put down as compensation to buy back the farms.

But the Zimbabwean government has accused Britain of reneging on its promise and last month amended the constitution to allow the government to seize land without having to pay any compensation.

President Chissano, who chaired the Victoria Fall Summit, also called on Britain to honor its pre-  
(See Mugabe, Page 14)

## Plane crashes in Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) — A cargo airplane overshot the runway during its approach to the Entebbe international airport and crashed into Lake Victoria, a newspaper reported Monday.

The seven-member Ugandan crew was rescued with only minor injuries, the government-owned New Vision newspaper quoted Housing and Communications Minister John Nasasira as saying. The airport is located 20 miles south of Kampala. Nasasira said the cause of the crash of the DC-10 was unknown.

The plane, owned by the Ugandan company, Dairo Air Services, was en route from London's Gatwick airport with 50 tons of cargo.

New Vision said the plane broke in two and lay in shallow water under police guard. One end of the runway at Entebbe leads directly into Lake Victoria.

Ignie Igunduura, a spokesman for the Civil Aviation Authority, which runs Uganda's airports, said the East African nation lacks equipment to salvage the aircraft and might seek international help.

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## WORLD BRIEFS

## MAN ARRESTED IN DEATH OF TOURISTS

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (PANA) — A 45-year-old man has been arrested and charged in connection with the murder of two Danish tourists who were shot dead in their car last week while travelling from Sun City to a game park in Phalaborwa. The suspect, who has not been identified, appeared in the Ga-Rankuwa Magistrate's Court Tuesday. He was not asked to plead and remained in custody while investigations continue. Police said they are pursuing two other suspects. The two Danish friends arrived in Cape Town April 14 and were due to leave South Africa April 23. Their bodies have been taken home to their families.

## SUDAN ADVISES BANKS TO MERGE OR RAISE CAPITAL

KHARTOUM, Sudan (PANA) — Sudan has announced a new policy to restructure its banking system in order to create bigger banking entities with bigger financial platforms. The Bank of Sudan, the country's central bank, said all banks in the country should seek to merge to form bigger entities or raise their capital "to be able to face the challenges of global competition." It said the mergers would not be mandatory but were necessary in current business trends. The move also comes amidst growing central bank complaints that some banks in the country were running short of capital and were unable to fulfill their commitment to clients.

## KENYA MOVES TO PUT ROADWAY ACCIDENTS IN CHECK

NAIROBI, Kenya (PANA) — Kenya authorities have announced tough measures in a bid to check the rise in road accidents that have claimed more than 300 lives since the beginning of the year. The crackdown comes in the wake of a series of bus crashes in the past month. In one of the worst at Kericho, western Kenya, 105 people perished when two passenger buses crashed head-on. Last Thursday, 73 people were killed when the bus they were traveling in was involved in an accident with a trailer truck. The traffic police chief, Samuel Angote, and Attorney General Amos Wako said everything would be done to ensure that the country's roads were free from accidents.

## U.S. FOUNDATIONS SUPPORTING AFRICAN UNIVERSITIES

NEW YORK (PANA) — Four U.S. foundations launched an initiative in support of higher education in Africa. Through the initiative, termed "Partnership to Strengthen African Universities," the foundations plan to dispense \$100 million over the next five years to support a variety of projects in a number of African universities. The four are the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Rockefeller, the Ford, and the MacArthur Foundations. Leaders of the foundations said their initial efforts will be concentrated in countries where they already have programs. For a university to be selected to receive support, it must be located in a country undergoing systematic policy reform. It also must be supporting innovation, particularly through the use of new technologies to meet the needs of their countries. Finally, it must be committed to helping in the building of national capacity for social and economic development and must have a creative institutional leadership. Some of the universities to benefit from the initiative are Makerere University, Uganda, University of Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, and Eduardo Mondlane University in Mozambique.

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