

# AFRICA NEWS

## A Weekly Digest Of African Affairs

### ZIMBABWE ZANU STRONG IN MUGABE CABINET

[AN] Robert Mugabe's landslide victory gave him the option of forming a government with limited participation from other parties, and the Cabinet he announced last Wednesday show concessions to pragmatism only.

Despite Mugabe's repeated emphasis on the alliance between the two wings of the Patriotic Front guerrilla movement, Joshua Nkomo's party received only four of the 24 ministries, a proportion approximately equal to its share of the seats in the House of Assembly (20 out of 100, as compared with ZANU-PF's 57). Mugabe originally wanted Nkomo to accept the presidency, but the ZANU-PF leader refused that basically powerless post.

The job Nkomo bargained for, head of the Ministry of Home Affairs, bears some responsibility over the police force and some domestic affairs. Regional administration, however, which formerly controlled the Tribal Trust Lands through white district commissioners, is being shifted from Home Affairs to the Ministry of Local Government and Housing.

The other three Cabinet posts given to Nkomo's supporters are of minor importance.

After making the long-awaited cabinet announcement, Mugabe spokesman Eddison Zvogbo denied speculation that the unbalanced distribution of government jobs bodes ill for Patriotic Front unity. "That's nonsense," was Zvogbo's indignant reaction to a journalist's speculation about the possibility of civil war. "We have been partners in war, we will be partners in peace."

In private, however, many members of Nkomo's party have expressed resentment about the "crumbs" offered them by Mugabe. Nkomo himself is described by close friends as a "devastated and bitter man," though he has publicly called upon all parties to forget their past differences, saying that "the vital thing now is to effect the complete consolidation of

Zimbabwe's independence."

Mugabe appointed two whites to the Cabinet, but he was careful to stress that neither represents the white party headed by former Rhodesian Prime Minister Ian Smith. The former finance minister under the government of Ian Smith and Bishop Muzorewa will control the Commerce and Industry Ministry, a pragmatic concession to the integral role of white business even after Rhodesia becomes Zimbabwe. But David Smith will not officially represent Ian Smith's Rhodesia Front Party, which controls the twenty reserved white seats in Parliament.

An admission of the importance of white-controlled agribusiness is seen in the appointment of the head of the Commercial Farmer's Union to the Ministry of Agriculture. Dennis Norman has no political ties and commands the respect of white farmers.

Mugabe campaigned on a platform of land reform, so he has created a separate ministry of Lands, Resettlement, and Rural Development. That portfolio goes to one of the first doctors to attend to guerrillas in Mozambique, Sidney Sekeramayi, who also has experience in organizing refugees.

In a press conference on March 13, Mugabe singled out this ministry as the vanguard of his government's plans for change. "We must proceed with speed to acquire land for the resettlement of many displaced persons. Working jointly with the Ministry of Agriculture, we will carry out the program of creating cooperatives or collectives. This is a very urgent matter."

Mugabe also emphasized the need to restructure the civil service "with a view to African advancement in the operation of a non-racial system." In addition, he declared that the country's mass media "need a real over-haul," and he has asked the BBC to offer advice in training and management.

The ZANU-PF leader himself will be defense minister as well as prime minister. Party vice president Simon Muzenda also holds two portfolios, depu-

ty prime minister and foreign affairs.

Few of the new ministers have yet ventured policy statements. But the minister of finance, Enos Nkala, immediately vowed a radical realignment of the economy. Speaking in Addis Ababa where he was attending an OAU Council of Ministers meeting, Nkala is quoted by Reuters as saying "We want the rich to pay for all the social services," adding, "The ordinary people in Rhodesia must feel better off in the next few weeks."

The way Mugabe has divided up the ministerial responsibilities, however, it may not be Nkala who will direct Zimbabwe's economic change. The key post of minister of economic planning and development will go to a prominent United Nations economist, Bernard Chidzero, once he winds up his duties in Geneva.

Only two ministers have strong military backgrounds. Labor Minister Komerai Kangai, and Minister of Youth, Sport and Recreation Teurai Nkhongo. Mrs. Nkhongo, the wife of ZANLA's top military commander, Rex Nkhongo, fought as a guerrilla before becoming a camp commander in Mozambique and subsequently a member of the party's national executive. At 25, the youngest member of a rather youthful Cabinet, Mrs. Nkhongo is one of two women ministers.

The characterization of

the Cabinet by many white Rhodesians as "inexperienced and unknown" reflects the legacy of the war. Most of the ministers Mugabe has chosen are prominent members of the ZANU central committee, which ran the party from Mozambique, and half hold degrees of doctors or lawyers. Yet under the emergency powers legislation of the Smith regime, their names were not even allowed to be published in Rhodesia over the last fifteen years.

Only a handful of the new Cabinet ministers mention in the "who's of African nationalist leaders in Rhodesia."

The only top governmental post not yet known is the president of Zimbabwe. The parliament must officially meet and elect the person who will get that title, but sources in the party said they have agreed on a candidate. He is the Reverend Canaan Banana, a member of the Ndebele-speaking minority ethnic group from the south west of the country, a fact that adds balance to the new government.

The new president will also represent the internal political element that supported the Patriotic Front throughout the war. After the unsuccessful Geneva peace talks, Rev. Banana broke with Bishop Muzorewa's ANC and set up the short-lived Popular Movement, in support of ZANU.) Muzorewa's party,

with only three parliamentary seats, was not invited to join Mugabe's "broadly based coalition government."

Mugabe says his government has been promised immediate financial assistance from the U.S., Britain, Sweden, the Netherlands, and other European Economic Community (EEC) countries, and he is pressing for more grants than loans. He has received nothing from the Soviet Union, but is hoping for more assistance from both Western and Eastern countries.

As for the Rhodesian debt, Mugabe ruled out repayment of loans for arms, most of which he claims came as cash from South Africa, though tracing such loans will be difficult.

When asked about foreign investment opportunities, Mugabe chuckled and said, "Tell Union Carbide they can continue pouring in money as they've done before."

Meanwhile, British and South African authorities had admitted that South African forces were operating in Rhodesia with British permission but in contravention of the Lancaster House agreement during the last weeks of the election campaign. South African Prime Minister P.W. Botha said the troops were sent to facilitate the elections and that the British were aware of the arrangement. "Immediately after the elections," he explained, "I announced that this assistance was being withdrawn."

Evidently to stay in Rhodesia is a shipment of Soviet T-55 tanks which were paraded by the Rhodesian Army in Salisbury on election day. The tanks reportedly came from a shipment sent from Libya for Uganda before the fall of Idi Amin, and later diverted to South Africa and then to Rhodesia.



Brand New Look

The Boy Scouts of America will have a new look as the first entirely new outfit in 58 years was unveiled March 11. Designed by Oscar de la Renta, the new uniforms will be phased in as the old wears out and stocks are depleted. Among the new features are baseball caps for Boy Scouts (l) and Cub Scouts (r). UPI Photos

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In our Junior Dept.

In our Sportswear Dept.

### Judge Erwin

[Continued from Page 10] Methodist Church in Winston-Salem, where he has served as chairman of the board of trustees. He has been a National Methodist Layman and has served on several national church-related commissions. He is also a trustee of the Western North Carolina conference of the United Methodist Church.

Erwin is married to the former Miss Demerie ("Bunny") Whitley of Selma. They have two children, Richard Cannon Jr., and Aurelia Whitley.

### GOOD PSYCHOLOGY



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