

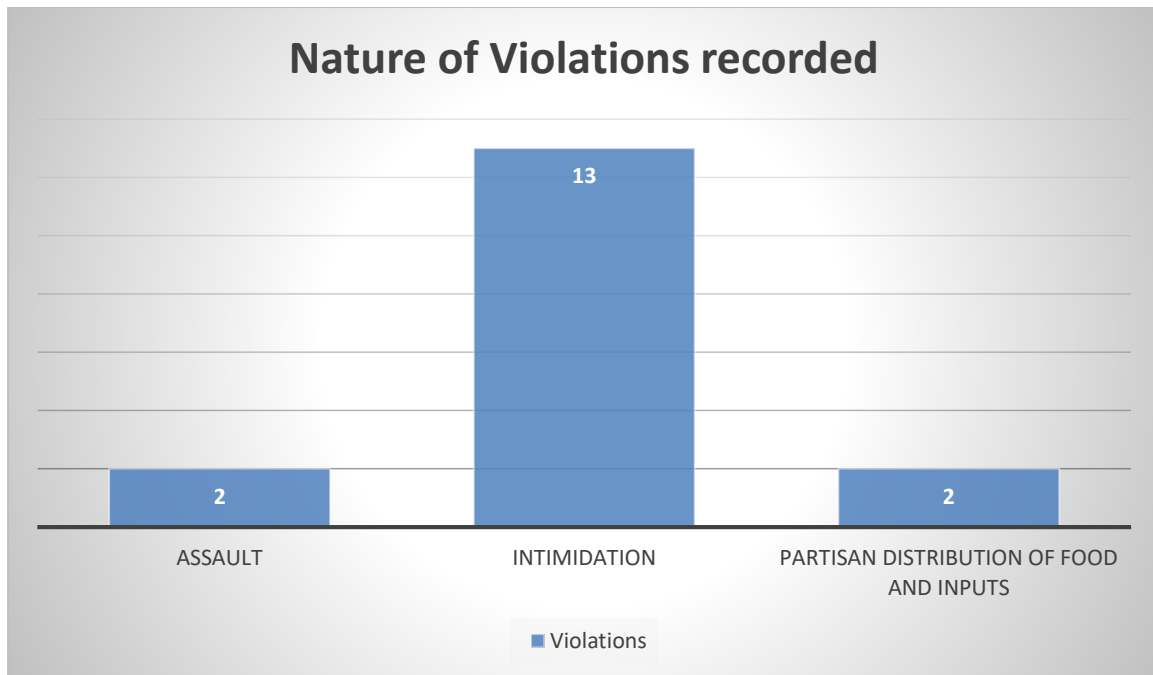


Human Rights Violations Weekly Update 01

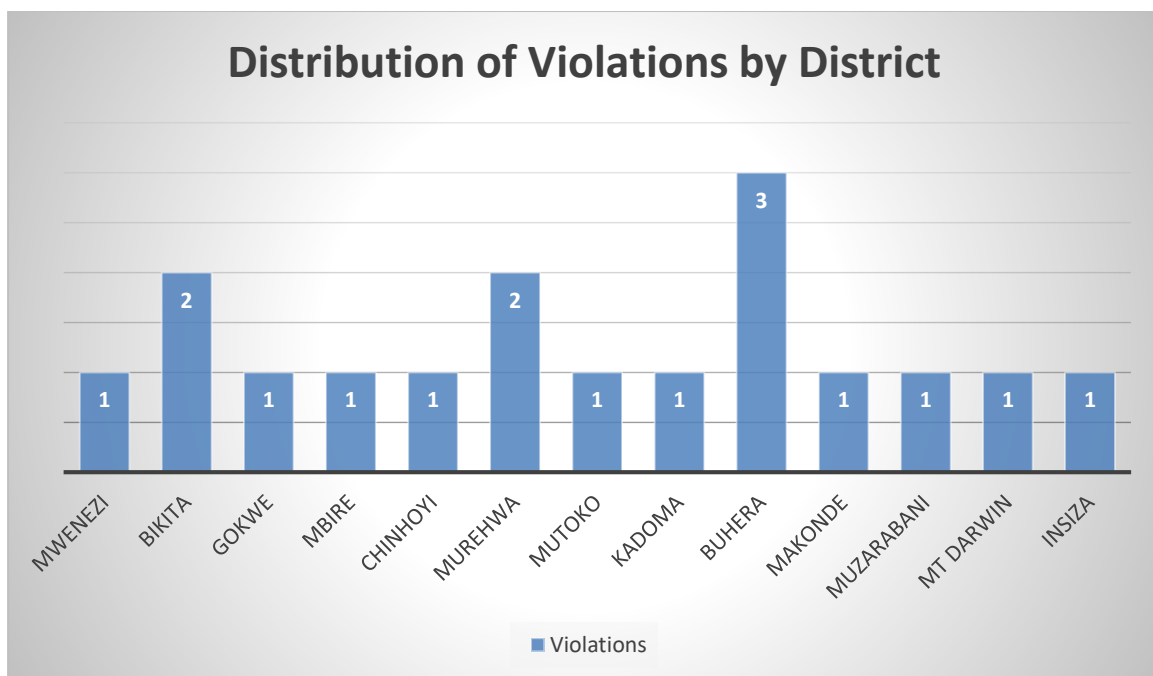
1. Summary of Violations.

Heal Zimbabwe recorded a total of 17 human rights violations from 13 districts from the 27 February to 09 March 2018. In the period under review, three categories of human rights violations were recorded. The human rights violations include intimidation (with threats of violence or threats of withdrawal of food aid or agricultural inputs), assault and partisan distribution of aid. Intimidation remain the major cause for concern with 76.4% (13 cases) being recorded this week, followed by assault and partisan distribution of food and agricultural inputs both recording 11.8% each (2 cases). The recorded human rights cases largely emanated from (i) the emergence of new political parties (ii) the collection of BVR serial numbers, (iii) the deployment of army officials in some rural communities and (iv) ZANU PF restructuring exercises in local communities.

Intimidation remain a cause for concern for Heal Zimbabwe as it continues to threaten and destabilise the prevalence of social cohesion and peace in communities. Local communities continue to be victimised by some political gatekeepers who instil fear as a way of gaining control and mobilising support for the ruling ZANU PF party. This in turn create fearful communities who are not able to freely exercise their democratic rights. HZT therefore perceive intimidation as a direct impediment to the realisation of peaceful coexistence and cast doubt over the possibility of free participation of citizens in the upcoming elections.



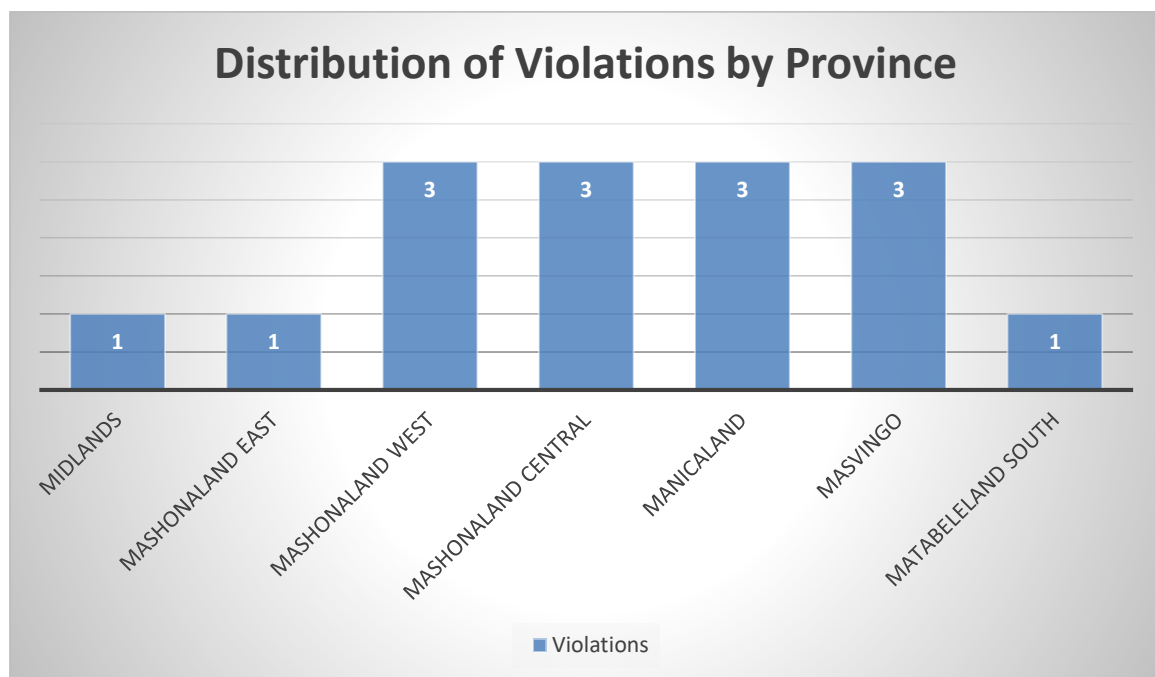
2. Distribution of Violations by District



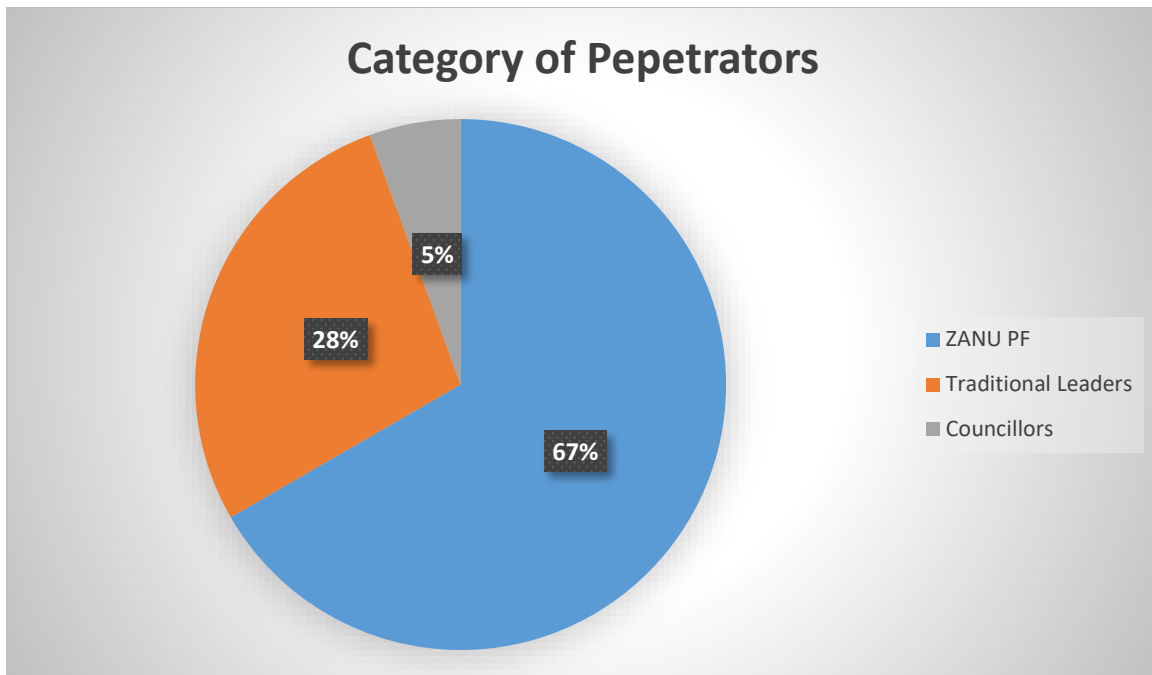
The chart above illustrates the distribution of violations across districts. In the period under review, Heal Zimbabwe recorded human rights cases in 13 districts. The districts are Mwenezi,

Bikita, Gokwe, Mbire, Chinhoyi, Murehwa, Mutoko, Kadoma, Buhera, Makonde, Muzarabani, Mt Darwin and Insiza. Buhera recorded the highest number of human rights violation cases (3 cases) followed by Bikita and Murehwa which recorded 2 cases each. The other remaining 10 districts all recorded one case each. Heal Zimbabwe predicts an increase of human rights cases in the coming months as a result of the pending harmonised elections.

3. Distribution of violations by Province

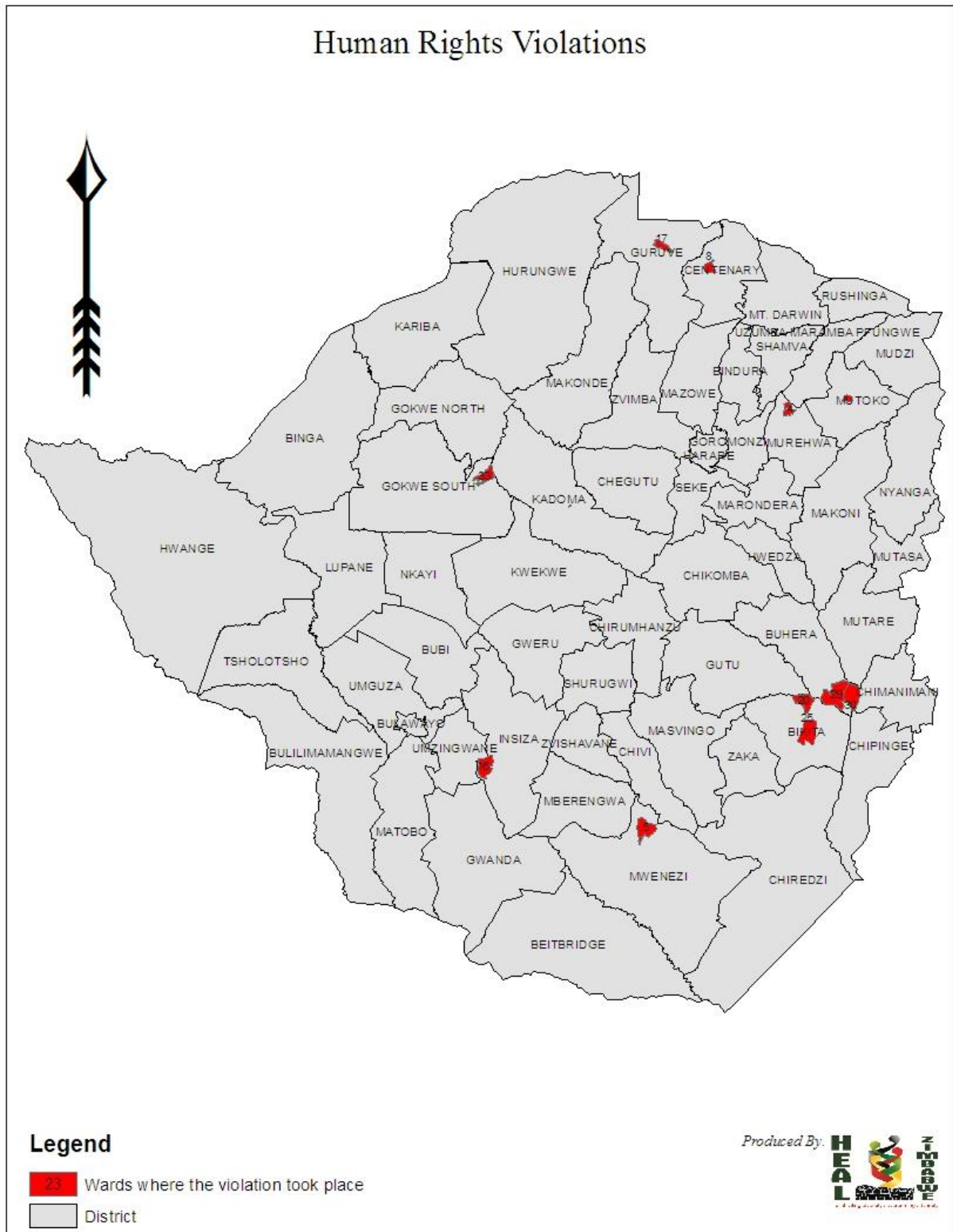


Heal Zimbabwe recorded human rights violations in 7 provinces which are Midlands, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Manicaland, Masvingo and Matabeleland South. Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Manicaland and Masvingo recorded the highest number of violations with 3 cases each. Midlands, Mashonaland East and Matabeleland recorded the least with one case each.



The chart above indicates the distribution of perpetrators across the seven provinces recorded in the period under review. Three categories of perpetrators were recorded, these include ZANU PF leadership, Traditional Leaders and Councillors. ZANU PF leaders registered the highest number of perpetrators with 67% (12 people out of 18). The perpetrators were largely ZANU PF ward chairpersons and its local supporters. Traditional leaders were the second highest constituting 28%. The involvement of traditional leaders is a cause for concern as the constitution forbids them from participating in partisan politics. Local Councillors registered the least with 5%. Victims ranged from opposition supporters, human rights defenders and residents.

4. Distribution of Human Rights Violations.



5. Our Intervention on Human Rights Violations.

As part of responding to cases of human rights violations, Heal Zimbabwe through its resident human rights monitors embraces the importance of local solutions to address cases of human rights violations. In Insiza North ward 16, where Village head Winani Dube was forcing community members to submit registration slips, an Early warning and response committee established by Heal Zimbabwe has since embarked on raising awareness on the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) process and demystifying myths and falsehoods around the process. Added to this, the committee has facilitated for affected people to report the matter to the police and the case has since been reported at Filabusi police station.

Heal Zimbabwe also runs a 24hr situation room that documents, responds and make timely referrals to incidences of human rights violations. Through the situation room the organisation offers a 24hr rapid response service. One of the objectives of the situation room is to also offer peaceful mediation to conflicts that ferment conflicts in local communities. In Buhera South for example, Heal Zimbabwe managed to mediate in a case of assault between two brothers (Daniel Makura and Aleck Jiswa) who had a misunderstanding over their political affiliation and assaulted each other. Heal Zimbabwe has since engaged the two to organise collaborative neutral platforms in their area in a bid to build peace and tolerance.

Heal Zimbabwe has also engaged Village heads implicated in perpetrating human rights violations and highlighted that it is a criminal offence to collect registration slips. In Mt Darwin East, Heal Zimbabwe facilitated for people who were denied food aid to report their case at Karanda Base camp police station. The implicated Village head Bright Mafundirwa was summoned to the police station and cautioned. The police also instructed him to give food aid to those whom he had struck off the beneficiary list.

In Buhera South ward 29, Heal Zimbabwe again facilitated for Daniel Makura to report an assault case at Birchenough Bridge police station. Makura was assaulted by a ZANU PF member Aleck Njiswa on 27 February 2018. He was assaulted for supporting opposition party, MDC-T. The case appeared before Chimanimani Magistrate court on 6 March 2018 and Aleck Njiswa was found guilty and sentenced to 6 weeks of community service. Njiswa has since started community service at Bhegedhe secondary school. Added to this, as part of its target advocacy initiative, Heal Zimbabwe has also engaged the perpetrators and cautioned them on the need to uphold fundamental human rights such as the right to register and vote freely.

Heal Zimbabwe also engaged other implicated Village heads in areas such as Buhera South, Bikita and Insiza North. Generally, the Village heads highlighted that most of the directives came from the local ZANU PF leadership within their areas. Heal Zimbabwe implored the Village heads to uphold their constitutional duty of not violating fundamental human rights and freedoms of any person as enshrined in Section 281 of the constitution. Heal Zimbabwe will make a follow up on the Ministry of Local Government to ascertain the action the Ministry has taken to ensure that the Traditional leadership institution remains non-partisan. Heal Zimbabwe has also facilitated for affected community members to report their cases to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC).

6. Conclusion

Heal Zimbabwe through its National Peace campaign will continue to campaign aggressively on the need for citizens to uphold peace before, during and after the 2018 elections. The organisation has sent all these cases to the ZEC and ZHRC for redress. The organization will continue to monitor human rights violations around the registration process especially in political hotspots areas.

Annexure: Specific cases recorded:

Masvingo Province

Mwenezi East ward 5

Zvidzai Moyo intimidated community members on the 6th of March 2018 in Chirimigwa village. On the day in question, Moyo moved in the ward ordering people to submit serial numbers to village head Philemon Bhande. Moyo also highlighted that all those who fail to submit serial numbers will be beaten up by soldiers.

Bikita ward 20

ZANU PF Chairperson, Liliosa Kasova on the 7th of March 2018 intimidated community members during a fertilizer distribution exercise conducted at Chirorwe Business Centre. Kasova highlighted that all the community members who fail to vote for ZANU PF in the upcoming elections will be heavily beaten by soldiers.

Bikita West ward 25

On 03 March 2018, Village head Joseph Muchara denied 20 people agricultural inputs accusing them of supporting opposition party, MDC-T. The inputs were from the Ministry of Social Welfare. This took place at Muvava Business Centre. The Village head announced that he was only going to give to ZANU PF members as they had demonstrated that they were not “sell outs”.

Midlands

Gokwe south ward 33

Village head Aaron Mukombe who was in the company of Ranganai Ndidi and Stephen Hlupe intimidated community members on the 7th of March 2018 in Mukombe village at Nyamacheni Business centre. Village head Makombe highlighted that all the people who did not submit serial numbers of their voter registration slips will be assaulted by ZANU PF youths.

Mashonaland West

Chinhoyi ward 7

A soldier only identified as “Obama” on the 2nd of March 2018 assaulted Getrude Magaso who was distributing MDC alliance rally posters at Chengaose Business Centre. He later on assaulted Malvin Mahwani for moving around with MDC youths who were distributing posters and fliers in the ward. Mahwani received treatment at Mataruse clinic after sustaining minor head injuries.

Makonde ward 16

On 05 March 2018, ZANU PF District chairperson, Bruce Pedzisai addressed a meeting at Naison dip tank. He announced that everyone who had not registered to vote will be denied food aid and have their names submitted to soldiers.

Kadoma ward 8

ZANU PF ward Chairman Lenny Samhembere forced residents to submit serial numbers of voter registration slips on the 10th of March 2018 in Rimuka. Samhembere moved around the ward highlighting that all those who refuse to submit will not receive food aid.

Mashonaland East

Murehwa ward 4

ZANU PF Vice Chairperson, Gladys Mutyoza on the 6th of March 2018 intimidated community members at Chinyemba Business Centre. Ms Mutyoza highlighted that all opposition supporters will be heavily beaten by soldiers towards the election. She further warned people in the area to stop attending National Patriotic Front (NPF) party rallies in the ward.

Murehwa ward 4

ZANU PF Youth Chairman Shingai Makuna intimidated community members for supporting National Patriotic Front on the 10th of March 2018 at Chinyemba Business Centre. Shingai Makuna highlighted that all the youth who attend NPF meetings will be assaulted by soldiers in the upcoming elections.

Mutoko ward 20

ZANU PF youth chairman Thanks Rombora intimidated community members during a ZANU PF meeting conducted at Chikondoma on the 10th of March 2018. Rombora highlighted that the National Patriotic Front (NPF) party led by Rtd Brigadier Ambrose Mutinhiri will not be 'tolerated' in the area. Rombora further highlighted that all those found supporting the party will be heavily beaten in the coming elections.

Manicaland Province

Buhera South ward 29

On 27 February 2018, ZANU PF member Aleck Njiswa assaulted Daniel Makura accusing him of supporting opposition party, MDC-T. Makura reported the case at Birchenough Bridge police station. The matter was heard at Chimanimani court on 6 March 2018. Njiswa was found guilty and ordered to carry out community service at Bhegedhe secondary school.

Buhera South ward 30

On 01 March 2018, Village head Svongwa sent people who moved door to door around the village forcing people to submit serial number of voter registration slips. The Village head also announced that failure to provide the serial numbers would lead to denial of food aid.

Buhera South ward 29

On 01 March 2018, Ward 29 Councillor Shepherd Mufundirwa, ordered Village heads in ward 29 to collect serial numbers from every household in their villages. The Councillor further instructed the Village heads to write down names of people who defy the directive.

Mashonaland Central

Muzarabani ward 8

On the 2nd of March 2018 at Muringazuva growth point, Hamunyari Kamusengezi, the ZANU PF district chairperson announced that he had compiled a list of people who attended the funeral of the late MDC-T President, Morgan Tsvangirai. Kamusengezi further warned that everyone who attended the funeral will be denied food aid and will be assaulted by soldiers come election time.

Mt Darwin East ward 14

On the 7th of March 2018, Village head Bright Mafundirwa removed four people from the Ministry of social welfare beneficiary list accusing them of supporting opposition party, MDC Alliance. This took place at Karanda Business centre. Village head Mafundirwa openly announced during the food aid distribution list that he was going to ensure that all opposition party members in the ward will not receive food aid.

Mbire ward 17

ZANU PF District Chairman, Shuden Bandera intimidated community members on the 3rd of March 2018 at Mushumbi Business Centre. Bandera highlighted that everyone should vote for ZANU PF and warned that people who fail to vote for ZANU PF will be heavily beaten by ZANU PF youths.

Matabeleland South Province

Insiza North ward 16

On 11 March 2018, Village head Winani Dube announced at ward 16 ward centre that community members were supposed to submit registration slips to him if they wanted to receive food aid. To date more than 20 people have submitted their serial numbers.