



MONTHLY  
**M****ONITORING**  
REPORT

**JULY** 2019



ZIMBABWE  
PEACE  
PROJECT

## **Living on a prayer**

The month of July has sadly not brought much to celebrate for Zimbabweans as the country is cascading into the precipice of conflict amid a continued deterioration in living conditions. The economy is officially experiencing hyperinflation as the Zimbabwean dollar (ZWL) has shed<sup>1</sup> 41.57% during this month alone, rolling power cuts of over 17 hours, evermore increasing intimidation by mainly ruling party officials against a frustrated citizenry, as well as blatant deprivation of food and other aid to people deemed to be opposition supporters.

The situation obtaining in the country shows deteriorating living conditions as mentioned above. Most concerning is the harassment and intimidation of the public when they express their frustrations about poor living conditions by mainly ruling party representatives. One such incident happened in Beitbridge, Dulibadzimu Township when Finot Ndou threatened to kill Marshall Mbedzi for criticising President Emmerson Mnangagwa's administration.

ZPP noted an increased involvement by war veterans in violations such as intimidation, assault and coercion of people to contribute funds towards Heroes Day Celebrations coming up in August. Sentiments expressed by Deputy Minister of Defense and War veterans Associations Victor Matemadanda at a meeting in Gweru on 27 July that government will unleash the Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) to crush any 'violent' protest have further highlighted the increasingly prominent role that war veterans are playing in sowing fear and despondency.

Such incidents are indicative of continued increases in human rights violations, most prominently cases of intimidation and harassment. These violations are on a steady increase from 57, 9% in April, 57, 3% and 59, 3% in May and June respectively and this month we noted an increase to 62.6% recorded cases. This indicates a continuing toxic environment and notably these violations are around food and other aid distribution. Mashonaland Central was the hotbed of violations contributing 20.9% cases, followed by Mashonaland East at 19.4% while Manicaland and Mashonaland West were an equal split of 14.7% each.

Previously, Matabeleland North, South and Bulawayo provinces have recorded low cases of human rights violations with an average of 2, 9% in the months of April and June. However, in July the

<sup>1</sup> <https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-national-byo-166909.html>

figure has increased to an average of 7.1%, indicating how widespread human rights violations are becoming.

### Case Files Highlights

**Food and other Aid distribution discrimination** keeps increasing at an alarming rate and the nature of resultant violations have further morphed into different forms. Citizens are still being victimised for supporting opposition parties and as a result deprived of needed food and other aid. This deprivation is taking an increasingly repressive and at times violent nature. On 10 July 2019 in Mt Darwin North Mukumbura Ward 34, Conceal Chiromo a Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (Zanu PF) activist summoned villagers at Kamutsenzere village for a community distribution of maize from the department of Social Welfare. When villagers assembled, Chiromo stated that only devoted ruling party supporters will receive the food aid. Villagers were told to return home and get ruling party regalia as evidence of their support for Zanu PF. Chiromo was quoted saying *“Kana uri we Zanu PF enda unotora, zambiya rako, scavha, nechose chauinacho chinoratidza kuti uri we musangano”* (If you are affiliated to the ruling party, bring the evidence in form of ruling party regalia to prove that you are indeed Zanu PF member).

In Guruve North Ward 19 at Negomo Primary School, villagers were warned to pay Council levies to continue benefitting aid. On 1 July 2019 Zanu PF Councillor Ranganai Nzvimbo told village heads that villagers with outstanding \$5 council levies will cease to benefit inputs or maize from government. Furthermore, Councillor Nzvimbo and village head Amon Gunyere and his committee compelled beneficiaries to pay \$4.50 each towards transportation of maize. This is despite government having previously reiterated that people are not supposed to pay anything before receiving food aid; however the situation on the ground is different. In Chinhoyi on 24 July at Chengetanai Old People’s Home the elderly were forced to contribute \$1 for the transport. In a number of instances, we have also received reports that Social Welfare Department personnel as well as private transport operators are colluding and fixing transport costs at ridiculous rates when villagers want to transport their received goods home.

The permissiveness of the Social Welfare Department in letting ruling party officials preside over the distribution process is a very contentious issue which enables this violation. In some instances, these officials have become demigods who determine if one is to receive aid or not and if slighted

even in the most innocuous way, they punish ordinary folk. On 12 July 2019 three individuals were denied food aid by Zanu PF Councilor Elia Manjerwa at Hambe Business Centre in Mbire Ward 7. The victims had requested Manjerwa for their hut tax receipts, a fortnight after making the payment. Manjerwa however took offense, concluding that they were indirectly accusing him of stealing their money; he then removed their names from the list of beneficiaries. In Zvimba West Guzha Business Centre Ward 1 on 10 July, village head Nyachowe denied the Manyika family social welfare handouts. The Manyika family has been sidelined apparently due to having a surname that is different from the rest of the villagers.

**Deterioration of economic conditions** has continued unabated in the month of July. According to Zim Stats the inflation rate between May and June rose from 97.85% to 175.6%. The Zimbabwean dollar has reportedly shed 41.57% value in the month of July alone. The noose is further tightened on struggling Zimbabweans through shortages of fuel, water, electricity among other basics.

Although economic challenges are affecting all Zimbabweans, there seems to be a perception by ruling party members that complaining about poor living conditions is tantamount to insulting the ruling party. In Mazowe Central at Kanyemba village on 13 July 2019 two Zanu PF supporters and an MDC member clashed after an argument on the return of the Zimbabwe dollar. The Zanu PF supporters claimed that prices of basic commodities will be affordable in time, however the MDC member chastised them stating that their party was failing to revive the economy. A verbal altercation was reported resulting in a violent fist fight which was stopped by other villagers.

In Insiza North Constituency, at Filabusi Business Centre, a delegation of eight Zanu PF youths led by a man popularly known as ‘Moyoza’ were moving about shops checking prices. The youths were intimidating and threatening shop owners to reduce prices and noting those still charging in foreign currency. Shop owners were threatened to heed the Presidential call to reduce prices or risk losing their licenses.

**Inter-Party Violence** is on the increase and there is a risk that the situation will continue to escalate. Violations received this month demonstrate an increase in tensions between the main opposition the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) and the ruling Zanu PF. These confrontations are getting increasingly violent in nature.

An MDC member was attacked by Zanu PF activists for wearing opposition party regalia in Mbire at Chigwededza village Ward 14 on 1 July 2019. Last Togara besieged the MDC member’s home

with 10 ruling party youths at midnight armed with sjamboks, machetes and catapults. They assaulted him for wearing an MDC T-shirt, fortunately the victim escaped but the youths pursued him with stones and catapults. In Mhondoro Mubaira in Makaki Village Ward 29 on 11 July a suspected MDC activist was assaulted and choked by Chief Ngezi (Peter Pamire) (39). The victim was forcefully evicted from her farm by Chief Ngezi on allegations that she was an MDC activist. A violent verbal fight broke out resulting in Chief Ngezi assaulting, shoving and choking the victim as she resisted the eviction. On 12 July 2019 in Ward 12 of Mt Darwin East at Mutyandaedza village, a villager was denied agricultural land by village head Aleck Mutyandaedza. Mutyandaedza told the individual that they will not get a piece of land under his jurisdiction for supporting the opposition MDC.

In Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe at Nyahungwe Village Ward 6 on 8 July a villager was evicted and intimidated by Itai Mupfava and Ishmael Mazarura. The victim was told to produce his national identity card and his Zanu PF membership card, which he failed to produce. He was immediately evicted from the village and accused of being an opposition supporter.

**Intra-party Conflict** is sadly prevalent in both the ruling party and opposition MDC. Incidents recorded this month uncover internal strife in both political parties which sadly do not augur well in demonstrating the parties as torch bearers of building peace.

Chaotic scenes were reported on 17 July 2019 during Zanu PF district elections held in Hatfield at Komboniyatsva in Ward 1. Contestants for the district positions were Simon Kuipa, Brian Jangira, Emma Mabika and Tonderai Nyongo. Party youths clashed on allegations of vote buying and rigging. A rerun facilitated by Mr Mhlanga was also marred with violence as people refused to acknowledge the winner identified as Emma on allegations of vote rigging, as most ballot papers were in her favour yet she was not known within the party structures.

A Zanu PF cell restructuring exercise held in Mabvuku Tafara at Old Tafara community centre in Ward 46 was marred by violence resulting in the postponement of the process. On 14 July 2019, party youths gathered to vote for a chairperson but allegations of vote buying forced the election to be postponed. Aspiring party chairperson Shupikai Nyakabau allegedly connived with youth chairperson Victor Nyandoro, to mobilise Ward 20 party youths to vote for her. This reportedly did

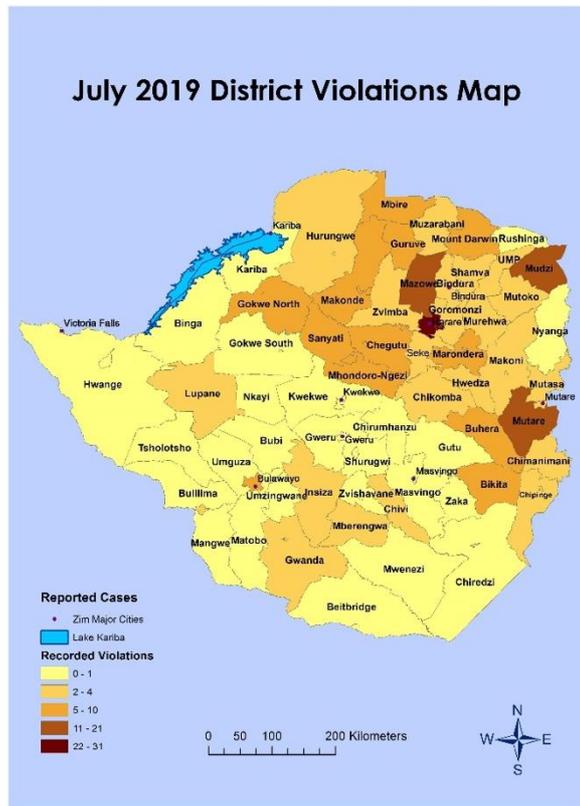
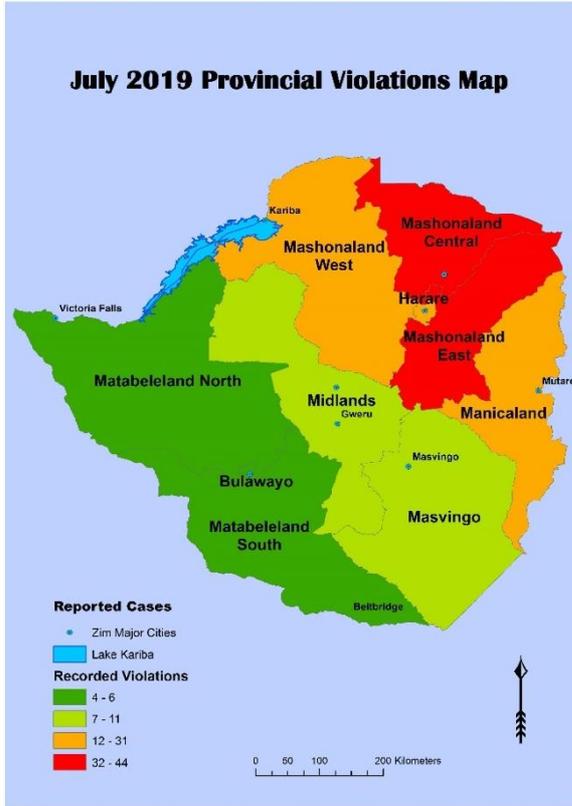
not go down well with other aspiring candidates resulting in clashes among the youths leading to the postponement.

Chaotic scenes were reported during an MDC executive district meeting convened in Manyame Park at Legislator Unganai Dickson Tarusenga's residence on 5 July 2019. Ward 5 councilor and district organising secretary Richard Chamutsa was physically assaulted by Ward 4 chairperson only identified as Mangena. The assault took place in Ward 4 of St Mary's following an altercation over alleged mismanagement of funds at Chitungwiza Municipal Council.

**War Veterans** are increasingly showing their hand as protagonists in fermenting dissent and deprivation. On 6 July 2019, war veterans from Mt Darwin district convened at Mt Darwin Sports Club for a meeting in Ward 26. The engagement reportedly sought to discuss issues around the welfare of war veterans and war collaborators. Never Mutasa (*war veteran*) who resides in Ward 24 remarked that, "as custodians of the liberation struggle, war veterans were mandated to thwart all activities of opposition political parties".

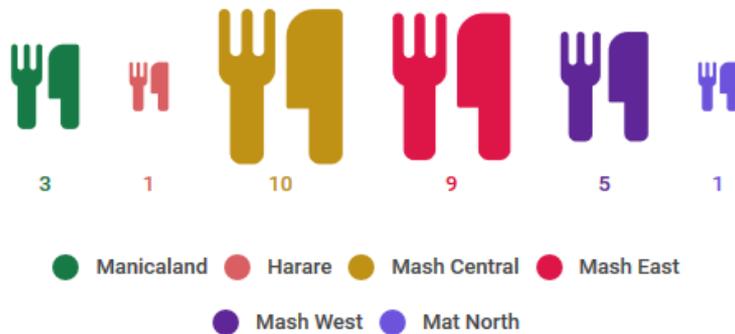
During a Social Welfare food distribution programme at Katamba Business Centre on 15 July in Gokwe Chireya, some villagers did not receive their expected food handouts as war veterans decided to take a larger share, indicating they were supposed to be given first priority. The war veterans implicated include Timothy Magaisa, Edward Munyuki and one Chacha. As a result, the maize was not enough for all villagers, depriving them needed aid to vulnerable groups such as orphans, Persons with Disabilities (PWDs), the elderly as well as widows. In Guruve North constituency at Guruve Business Centre in Ward 6, agricultural extension officers Mr Lucky Karasa and Thokozani Moyo in charge of the Command Agriculture input distribution were demanding bribes from farmers to facilitate their access to inputs. Sums demanded were unclear but reports indicate that only war veterans were getting first priority to command agriculture inputs thus ordinary farmers had no option but to pay the officers.

**Dashboard of Statistics**

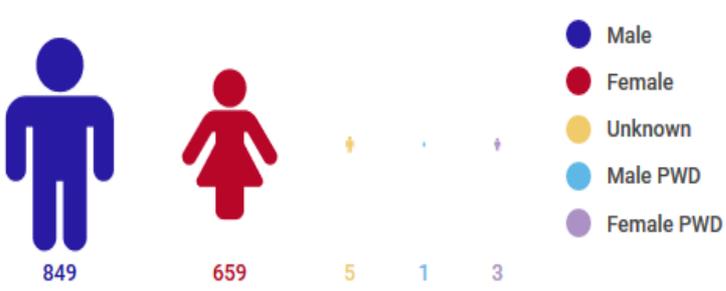


**Distribution of violence by type across provinces**

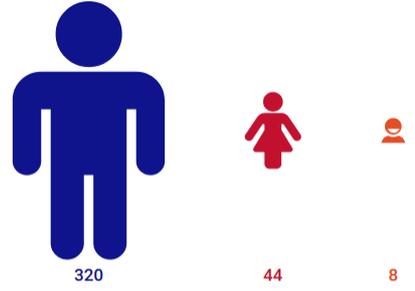
ACTS	Midlands	Byo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Masvingo	Manicaland	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	TOTAL
Killing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Rape/Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Kidnapping/abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Assault	0	1	0	0	2	1	7	1	3	3	18
Theft/looting	1	0	0	0	1	2	2	4	1	3	14
Discrimination	2	1	0	1	2	8	0	8	7	11	40
MDP	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
Torture	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Unlawful Detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Intimidation /harassment	7	4	5	3	6	20	19	24	17	27	132
Displacement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	0	3
Attempted Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Attempted Abduction	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Banned Political Party Mtg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Disrupted Political Mtg	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>211</b>



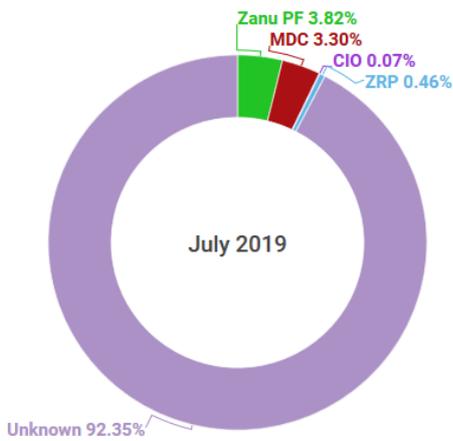
**Food and Other Aid Violations**



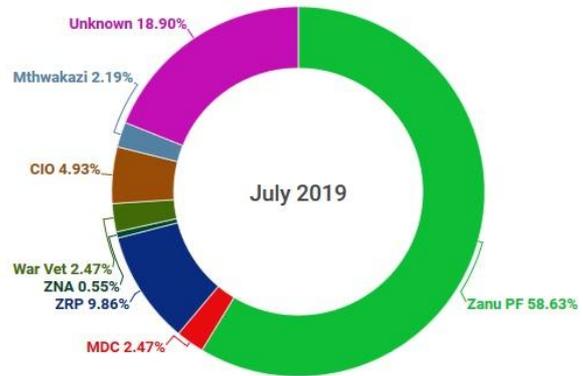
Victims by Gender



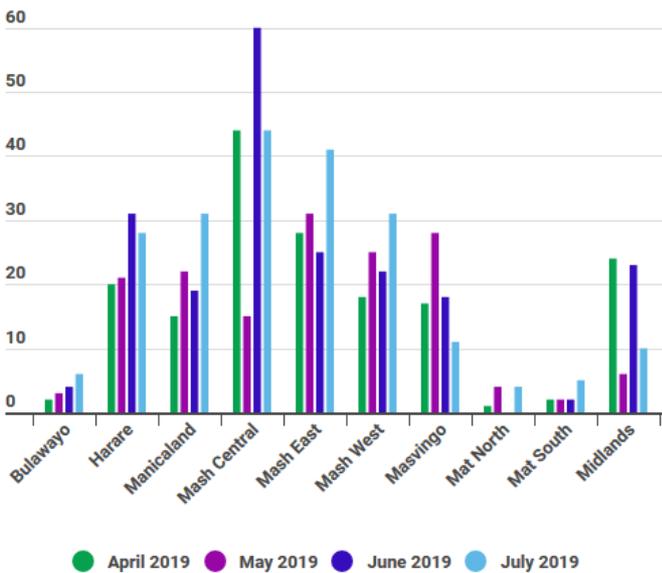
Perpetrators by Gender



Victims by Affiliation



Perpetrators by Affiliation



Violations by Province



Intra Party Violence

## Overall Analysis

The continued deprivation of food aid to the vulnerable due to political affiliation is a worrying trend that must be addressed immediately. Section 77 in the Zimbabwean Constitution clearly provides for the right to food. The state has the obligation to ensure that right is provided for all citizens whatever their political persuasion. Conflicting reports from government officials in acknowledging that there indeed is discrimination in food allocation is worrying to say the least. Local Government, Public Works and National Housing Minister July Moyo (Chairperson of Inter-Cabinet Committee that deals with disaster and climate change) recently confirmed that government was concerned over reports of abuse of food aid, however Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare Minister Dr Sekai Nzenza recently refuted reports of partisan distribution of food aid. We urge government to sincerely and honestly reflect on the many reports we have highlighted just this and proceeding months about how Zanu PF officials are depriving deserving citizens of food aid. The 5,7 million Zimbabweans reportedly needing food aid (Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Report) will fail to get the needed assistance if partisan allocation of aid is not addressed.

The depressed socio-economic environment in Zimbabwe is increasingly a cause for concern as citizens are frustrated. As the environment gets ever tighter people are bound to protest. The Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Union (ZCTU) together with the MDC have indicated that they will be taking to the streets to demonstrate against the poor social and economic conditions prevailing in the country. The situation is highly likely to deteriorate as most citizens are finding it extremely tough to navigate.

Sadly, these indications are followed by threats from government rather than take a cue to take steps to address the challenges faced. Notably sentiments expressed by Hon. Matemadanda noted earlier are a case in point. This is a disconcerting assertion by those in power, most sadly due to the fact that these sentiments were followed by deafening silence by government thus inferring agreement with Matemadanda.

Only 12 months ago, six lives were unnecessarily lost in the streets of Central Harare when the army was deployed to control protests that had broken out as some people who perceived delay in the announcement of presidential election results. The ZPP implores those in power to exercise caution and particularly restraint when making statements as there is great risk of them inciting

violence. The August 1, 2018 episode must never be repeated in Zimbabwe, and it is imprudent for anyone in power to wish a repeat of such an atrocity on the people they lead

The continued upsurge in violations of intimidation and harassment shows a disturbing trend. This month we noted how economic issues are now a trigger for conflict as people are victimised for voicing discontent over increasingly difficult state of affairs. Section 60 of the Zimbabwean Constitution clearly provides for Freedom of conscience, that is “Freedom of Thought and Opinion” while section 61 provides for Freedom of Expression. Citizens should be allowed to freely express their opinions despite the fact that they may not be favorable to others. This also extends to people having the freedom to access and consume whatever information they want.

On 12 July Zanu PF youth in Murehwa North forced villagers to convene for a development meeting at Zihute Hall in Ward 30. The youths, led by Innocent Mhutebwani (45) and Tashupika Mushonga (60) threatened and intimidated villagers who were suspected to have been listening to Voice of America Studio 7. Villagers were told that Zanu PF members will conduct a local operation called “*Muphone mako munei*” (What’s in your phone?) in order to bring to book opposition supporters who keep Studio 7 content in their phones. These threats are a clear indication of the increasingly intolerant landscape. A democratic society is evident through people of different persuasions thriving side by side without confrontation and retribution.

ZPP has also noted incidences of inter and intra party violence within and among the leading political parties. As political protagonists, it is crucial that these leaders are seen as the beacon of peace and are exemplary in tolerance. Reports of contentions that degenerate into physical confrontations are a disturbing trend which is also indicative of the growing intolerance and polarisation. We urge political actors to be exemplary in exercising peace.

We are also concerned by reports that people have been victimised and intimidated during First Lady Mrs Auxillia Mnangagwa’s outreach visits. One such case was reported in Mazowe Central at Rosa Rural District Hospital in Ward 9 where suspected state agents reportedly harassed Simbarashe Sithole a freelance journalist, confiscated his card press card and barred him from conducting his duties. In Binga North the First Lady reportedly castigated women for failing to take up business opportunities and ‘allowing’ other tribes to take resources from them; offending and

angering residents in the process. We urge all leaders in their various capacities to exercise restraint and create an enabling environment for peace, and desist from fermenting contention and strife.

War Veterans are an important part of Zimbabwe's legacy and we appreciate the immense contribution they made to the liberation of Zimbabwe. We are also alive to the fact that this liberation was to ensure that every Zimbabwean thrives in a free society. This legacy is being tainted by the predatory tendencies exhibited by some members who deprive food aid to the vulnerable, who threaten the peace of Zimbabweans for expressing their political opinions and hounding people for monies to commemorate Heroes Day. We beseech the liberation fighters to dig deep and return to the heroes of old, championing the rights of every Zimbabwean and fostering a free and peaceful country.

### **Watchlist**

As we countdown to Heroes and Defense Forces Days on 12 and 13 August, we are aware that villagers are already being coerced into funding Heroes Day celebrations. In Mudzi South reports received indicate that the District Administrator (DA) has begun canvassing for donations from teachers, villagers and civic society leaders in the area. The fact that the demand for donations is coming from the office of the DA is reportedly causing unease and tension among citizens who feel compelled to contribute for fear of retribution. ZPP will closely monitor the situation as we count down to these celebrations.

In the month of August there are three by elections expected in Nkayi North Ward 23, Bubi Ward 22 and Lupane East. The campaign process has already been littered with accusations of hate speech and vote buying by those contesting for office. ZPP will closely monitor events leading up to these elections.

We noted with interest recent high-profile arrests by Zimbabwe Anti Corruption Commission (ZACC) of Minister of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Priscah Mupfumira over allegations of corruption emanating from her previous role as Minister of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare, Douglas Tapfuma former Principal Director State Residences and the questioning of Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Munesu Munodawafa. As noted before, there is general discontent over government's failure to effectively bring to book high profile individuals accused of corruption. We hope that due process will be allowed to take place.

**ZPP Calls for:**

- A frank and genuine approach by government to address the issue of partisan distribution of food aid and that government stops denying the existence of such without investigating.
- Those in leadership positions to desist from making statements that may ferment hate and strife and in line with this, political parties are urged to reign in their supporters to desist from such practices.
- Peaceful conduct from all political actors in order to advance sustainable peace in Zimbabwe.
- Comprehensive all inclusive dialogue that will help bring relief to the growing suffering of Zimbabweans
- Implementation of the recommendations of the Motlanthe Commission and ensure all those affected receive the requisite assistance while those responsible are made to account for their actions

## ABOUT ZPP

*The organisation was founded in 2000 by church-based and human rights organisations. The current members of ZPP are Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), and Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ).*

*ZPP was established with the objective of monitoring, documenting and building peace and promoting the peaceful resolution of disputes and conflicts. The Zimbabwe Peace Project seeks to foster dialogue and political tolerance through non-partisan peace monitoring activities, mainly through monitors who document the violations of rights in the provinces.*

*The monitors, who at full complement stand at 420, constitute the core pool of volunteers, supported by four Regional Coordinators. The Regional Coordinators relate with the national office headed by the National Director and programme officers in various units.*

***If you are concerned about acts of violence in your community ZPP encourages you to get in touch on WhatsApp numbers: +263 774 883 406 and +263 774 883 417***