



Human Security Early Warning and Early Response Report [01 October – 31 December, 2019]

Introduction

Heal Zimbabwe's Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) Situation Room recorded a total of 41 cases of human rights violations that directly threaten the security of Zimbabwean citizens. Although the effects of the recorded threats overlap across different rights highlighted in Sections 48 – 78 and Sections 80 – 84 of the Zimbabwean Constitution, this report categorizes them as: a) Threats to the wellbeing, dignified life and social protection of Zimbabweans, b) Threats to civil and political rights of the Zimbabweans and, c) Threats to the economic aspirations of the Zimbabweans. In this reporting period, Heal Zimbabwe recorded 8 deaths and 10 severely injured civilians due to police brutality among other violations whose threats could not be quantified in this report.

Of the 37 human rights violations that were recorded between the 1st of October and the 31st of December 2019, 21 threaten civil and political rights of the Zimbabweans, 15 cases threaten the wellbeing of Zimbabweans and the quality of social protection systems available to the Zimbabwean populace and 5 cases directly impedes the economic prospect of Zimbabweans.

Background

Heal Zimbabwe is a conflict transformation and peace building organization which envisions a socially cohesive Zimbabwe that enjoys tolerance, peace and prosperity at all tiers of the society. In 2016, the organization institutionalized a nationwide Early Warning and Early Response (EWER) network with which it monitors, detect, deter, document, respond and report threats to human security. The organization houses an Early Warning and Early Response Situation Room; a space for multiple civil society players documenting and responding to a plethora of human rights violations that has been taking place in the country since 2016.

Broadly, the economic aspirations of Zimbabweans are under threat due to the prevailing economic crisis in the country. By the 17th of December, Interbank rate was at ZWL\$1 612.06 to US\$100.00, whilst black market rates were staggering around ZWL\$2 200.00 per US\$100.00. This has resulted in volatile prices for services and goods. By the 17th of December, basics such as Cooking Oil (2l), Mealie-meal (10kg), sugar (2kg), salt (500g) and flour (2kg) would require that one pays at least ZWL\$250.00. Such a cost of living triples for a household in

urban areas where rentals, fuel (gas, firewood, petrol/diesel) and electricity are exorbitantly high. This implies that an urban government teacher is heavily incapacitated given the fact that their salaries range between ZWL\$900.00 – ZWL\$1030.00. This rationale also applies across different sectors where employees' salaries are not matching the skyrocketing cost of living, in urban areas and in rural areas. This has been made worse by the government's failure to clamp triple pricing systems in which the price hilariously differ depending on whether one is using Zimbabwe bond note dollar, Ecocash/bank card or US dollars to make a payment.

Zimbabwe's social service sector is currently suffering from poor allocation of human and financial resources. This lowers the quality of wellbeing and social protection systems for the majority of Zimbabweans who rely on government provided services. By the 20th of December, 2019 most government hospitals and council clinics in the country were severely understaffed, poorly equipped and under-funded. Consequently, the quality of health care services has since dwindled with the deteriorating economic environment in Zimbabwe. The Department of Social Welfare, on the other hand, is overwhelmed with growing number of people who are in need of social assistance programs. According to ZIMVAC reports at least 8.2 million people in Zimbabwe are food insecure. The Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare has been fleeced of millions of dollars by the former Minister Prisca Mupfumira and by December 31, not even an penny of that money had been retrieved by the Government of Zimbabwe. With the chances of a bad 2019 – 2020 farming season, the hyperinflation affecting Zimbabwe, ineffective measures of dealing with corruption among high ranking officials and politicization of food aid, the ZWL\$2 370 969 000 allocated for Labour and Social Services under the 2020 budget is likely not to effectively service the demand for social assistance.

This report comes out at a time when Zimbabwe's main political parties are failing to dialogue and foster political tolerance at the local community level. ZANU PF and MDC Alliance have had a history of fighting each other, accusing one another of rigging elections and inviting sanctions against Zimbabwe. This has created and sustained a culture of political intolerance, with ZANU PF as the main player in ensuring that its party structures control the business of every development structure at the local community level. Structures such as Village Development Committees (VIDCOs), Ward Development Committees (WADCOs), Traditional leadership, war veterans and councilors have consequently become anchors of patronage, injustice and impunity against those perceived or known to be MDC Alliance supporters. These structures are actively politicizing every other community development structure and ensuring that known MDC Alliance activists are left out of all forms of food and agricultural inputs.



Musician, Platinum Prince after the abduction

Methodology

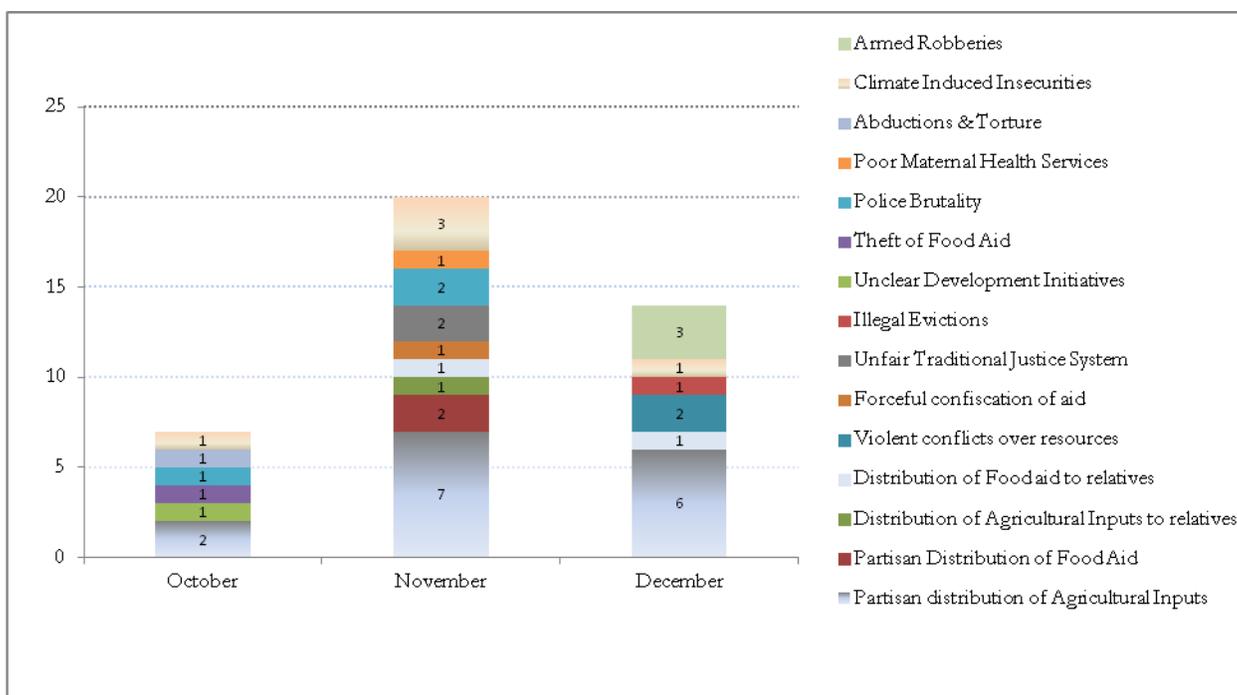
All threats to civil, political and socio-economic rights highlighted in this reports were received

between 1st of October and 31st of December, 2019 from a network of trained Early Warning and Early Response members from across the country. These reports were verified by way of contacting the involved parties and independent information sources. Cases of urban violence and machete gang violence were collected from mainstream media, and eye-witness accounts.

ALL DETAILS OF THREATS RECORDED IN THIS REPORTING PERIOD: INFO-GRAPHICS

1. Frequencies of threats recorded by month

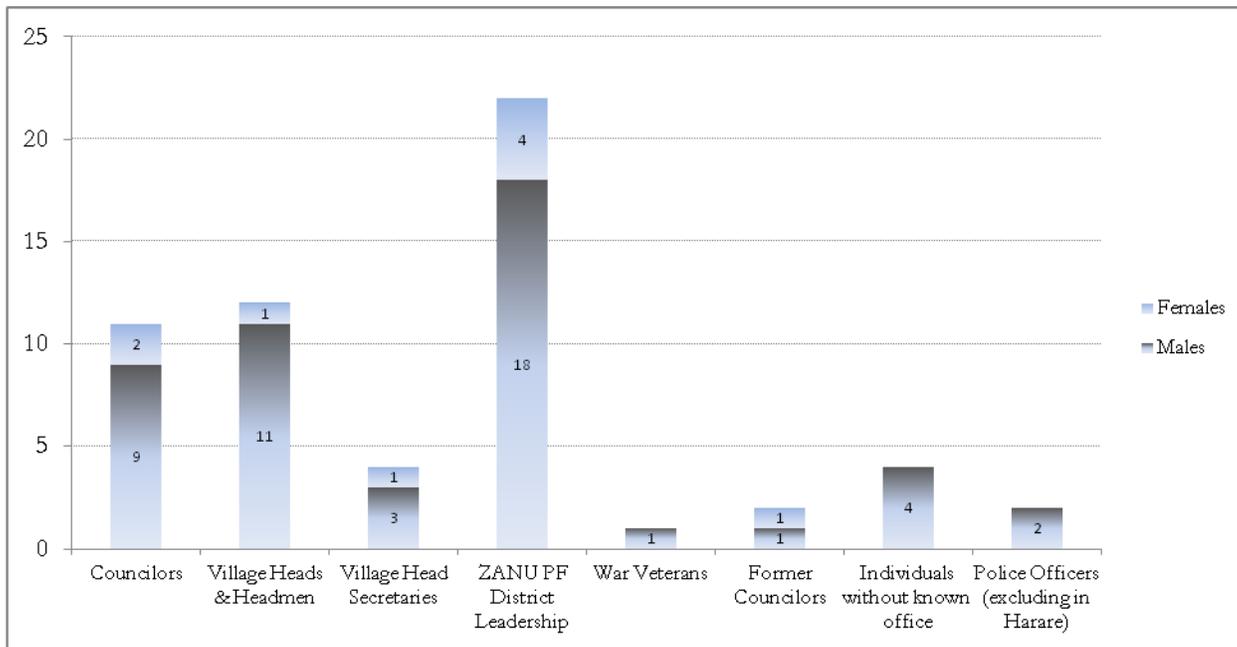
From the 1st of October to the 31st of December, Heal Zimbabwe’s EWER Situation Room recorded a total of 41 threats to human security, 36.6% of which were as a result of partisan distribution of Presidential Agricultural Inputs Scheme. The frequencies shown below only show the number of threats recorded from the 1st of October to the 31st



Of December 2019. These frequencies were computed using the nature of threats as opposed to the number of persons who administered the threats. As such, it deliberately excludes the number of persons who administered or committed the threats and the number of people who were put at risk or victimized.

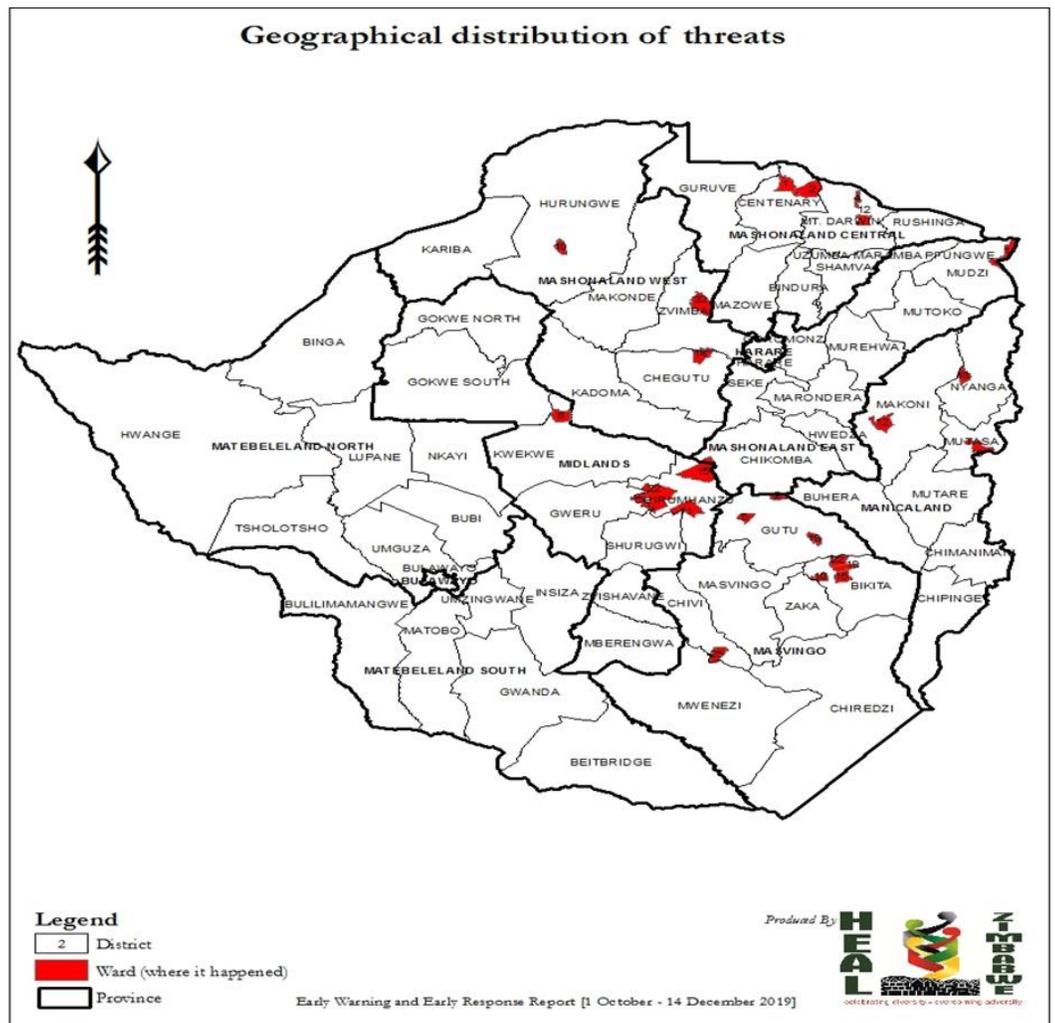
2. Persons/Offices who administered/committed the threats by sex

In this reporting period, at least 61 individuals were involved in perpetrating 36 of the recorded 41 human rights violations. Figures highlighted below exclude machete gang members, police officers who perpetrated violence in Harare Central Business District and the frequencies each of the persons perpetrated a violation. 37.93% of the perpetrators were known ZANU PF District leadership, 20.68% were Traditional leaders (11 Village Heads and 1 Headman) and 18.96% were Councilors. Machete gangs perpetrated 12% of the human rights violations in this report and they were all males.



3. Geographical distribution of threats

The map below illustrates how the threats are spread across Zimbabwe by showing the exact ward where the threat was administered. The map, however, does not show the frequencies experienced by each ward or constituency. Masvingo Province experienced 31.7% of human rights violations in this report and these are distributed across Chivi South, Gutu West, and Bikita East and South constituencies. Midlands province experienced 17% of the violations distributed across Chirumhanzu and Shurugwi. Harare province experienced 14.6% followed by Mashonaland West which experienced 12.1% of the total violations.



4. CASE BY CASE PRESENTATION OF THREATS

a) Threats to the wellbeing, dignified life and social protection of Zimbabweans

Magunje Ward 10 – Distribution food aid to relative

On 2 December, Village head Frank Mbirimbi unfairly distributed food aid meant for the underprivileged households under the LEAD Project. The majority of aid beneficiaries who received aid at Chishumba Primary School were related to Village Head Frank Mbirimbi. His son Isaiah Mbirimbi had compiled names of the beneficiaries prioritizing villagers who are related to the Mbirimbi family.

Chirumhanzu Zibagwe Ward 22 – Distribution of food aid to relatives

On 1 November 2019, Village Head who is also a ZANU PF position bearer Christina Mushure, Village Head Magaisa Rino and Councillor Dzitirai distributed food aid which was meant for the elderly to young people, sidelining many old people in the two villages. This took place at Lalapanzi township where community members had gathered to receive food aid from the Department of Social Welfare. When community members confronted them about the matter, the trio could not satisfactorily clarify why young people were benefitting from aid which is intended for those above 60 years of age.

Zvimba South Ward 32 – Forceful confiscation of aid

On 11 November, former Councilor for Ward 32, Mirriam Phiri forcibly confiscated bags of fertilizers

from locals who had received Presidential Agricultural Inputs at Saton Mine. She claimed that she people from Velbit should give her fertilizer as a way of showing gratitude to her for spearheading land redistribution in Velbit area during her tenure as a councillor. Phiri further threatened to eject all villagers from Velbit if they reported her. The incident ended up stalling aid distribution to the extent that other bags of fertilizer and sorghum seed were returned to the Grain Marketing Board depot in Banket.

Bikita West Ward 10 – Climate induced insecurity (property destruction)

On 14 November, four families lost their houses to a storm in Mafuruse, Murahwa and Magara Villages. Fortunately, there were no injuries recorded on this day. However, these families had not received any form of assistance to help them re-construct their houses by the 10th of December, 2019.

Headlands Ward 12 – Unfair traditional justice system

On the 2nd of November, Headman Ernest Nemuchenje fined Fransisca Nyamanhindi (Village Head Chimberengwa) for asking him why only one person from Chimberengwa Village was receiving food aid from the Department of Social Welfare. Headman Nemuchenje demanded that Village Head Chimberengwa give him a goat as a fine, “for questioning his authority.”

Nyanga South Ward 18 – Climate Induced Insecurity (Property Destruction)

On the 1st of October, a classroom at Mapako Primary School and a teacher’s house were damaged by hailstorm. Twenty roofing sheets were

swept-off the classroom for Grade 2s and two sheets were also blown away from the teacher's house. There were no injuries recorded on the day. However, only the roofing on the teacher's house was repaired by the 13th of December, 2019.

Muzarabani Ward 1 – Chadereka – Climate induced insecurity

By 12 December 2019, main road linking Ward 1 - Chadereka was inaccessible due to heavy rains which started on Monday the 9th December. Transport to Chadereka could not go beyond Musengezi turn-off, in Hoya.

Norton Ward 14 – Illegal evictions

On the 5th of December, Manager at Lydiate Tobacco Grading Shade Aaron Matekenya, saved 16 households with an order demanding that they vacate Lydiate Farm compound by 11 December, 2019. This came after the 16 households failed to supply labour as agreed in their employment terms. The terms highlighted that accommodation will be offered to households who will provide at least one person to work for the farm, grading tobacco.

Chivi South Ward 25 – Unfair distribution of Agricultural Inputs

On 5 November, Village Head Silindane Mutote distributed Presidential Agricultural Inputs to members related to the Mutote family alone. This took place at Madzivire Dip Tank.

Chivi South Ward 25 – Unclear development Initiatives

Since September, community members have been contributing ZWL\$2.00 per household per month towards the construction of Chebvumbi Primary School. These contributions are being paid to local Village Heads who, when asked on who owns this

school, are failing to explain whether it is being constructed by the government or by local Member of Parliament Killer Zivhu. Village Heads have been referring all questions to Chief Madzivire and Councilor Jacob Magando, to whom contributions are submitted. Yet, there has not been any form of construction on the site since local community members started paying monthly contribution.

Muzarabani North Ward 2 – Unfair traditional justice system

On the 6th of November, Village Head Raymond Chibiya/Kamudyariwa ordered Lovemore Mapfumo to evacuate from Kamudyariwa Village for telling Red Cross officials that he had 9 children who required food assistance against what Village Head Raymond Chibiya/Kamudyariwa had told Red Cross. Village Head Kamudyariwa had publicly announced that Lovemore Mapfumo had 6 children during a meeting to compile aid beneficiaries for the Red Cross project at Gumbochuma Primary School.

Mt Darwin North Ward 4 – Theft of Food Aid

On the 1st of October, ZANU PF Ward Politiburo member Edzai Musangadza and ZANU PF Youth Chairperson Kudzanai Mutemamombe stole 19 bags of maize donated by the Department of Social Welfare. The bags were discovered by community members in one of the store rooms at Kapiripiri Primary School. The group reported the matter to Mukumbura Police Station, where it was received by Constable Allister Takudzwa Phiri. However, Constable Phiri informed community members that the matter had no evidence since Councilor Zingange Makabhiji then informed the police that he had distributed all the bags he had received from the Department of Social Welfare. The 19 bags that were retrieved were still at Mukumbura Police Station as of the 13th of December, 2019.

anodya kvaanga achimboenda,” – (everyone must get food aid from the party he/she supported).

Harare Mbare – Poor Maternal Health Services

By 15 November, Esther Gwena a St Johns Apostolic Church midwife had assisted over 100 expecting mothers deliver their babies in her house at Tichagarika Flats. This came about after these women were turned away from Edith Opperman Clinic where nurses were on strike.

Harare Mbare – Climate Induced Insecurity leading to death

On the 18th of November, 2 people died after their commuter bus was hit by a falling tree in Mbare. The tree fell on top of the vehicle after it succumbed to thunderstorm and strong wind.

Goromonzi – Climate Induced Insecurity leading to death

On the 19th of November, 3 Early Childhood Development pupils died after they were struck by lightning on their way home from school. The fourth child survived the attack with injuries.

b) Threats to civil and political rights of the Zimbabweans

Gutu Ward 19 – Partisan distribution of food aid

On 1 November, Councilor Cleophas Muzindi openly refused to hand-out food aid to well-known MDC Alliance activists despite the fact that the aid was coming from the Department of Social Welfare. Distributing aid at Guzha township, Councilor Muzindi highlighted that, *“Umwe neumwe*

Gutu Ward 19 – Partisan distribution of agricultural Inputs

On the 1st of December, at Guzha township, Councilor Cleophas Muzindi refused to hand-over Presidential Agricultural Inputs to known opposition supporters. He stated that Presidential Inputs Scheme was a program funded by President Emmerson Mnangagwa, hence there was no need for him to hand it out to people who do not support the President. Councilor Muzindi also highlighted that people should wear their ZANU PF regalia at all inputs distribution meetings so that he can easily distinguish them from those who do not support President Mnangagwa.

Gutu Ward 2 – Partisan distribution of agricultural Inputs

On 1 November, ZANU PF Chairperson Patrick Poshiwa openly told community members who were gathered at Chiguhune business centre to register for Presidential Agricultural Inputs Scheme were not meant for anyone who does not support ZANU PF. Patrick Poshiwa highlighted that, *“Zvinhu izvi zvakava kuna baba vedu vaMnangagwa...vanoda zvakasiyana nezvatinoita kuno endai ikoko kwamakanzwa kuti vanotambirisa zvakasiyana nezvatinoita kuno,”* – (these goods came from our Father....those want fairness should relocate to places where they know aid will be distributed fairly). This came after community members had expressed displeasure in list of beneficiaries that had been compiled which consisted of known ZANU PF supporters only. The councilor’s response sparked outrage that Police from Chiguhune Police Base had to intervene to calm the commotion that was ensuing.

Gutu Ward 2 – Partisan distribution of agricultural inputs

On 6 December 2019, self acclaimed Chairperson for VIDCO 6, Kanisio Matavire, Village Head's secretary Mernas Jeri and Cleopas Musasira partially distributed fertilizers and sorghum donated under the Presidential Inputs Scheme. The majority of beneficiaries who received inputs were known ZANU PF supporters. This took place at Chiguhune business centre. Kanisio Matavire also moved around collecting fertilizers and sorghum which was left after beneficiaries had equally shared stating that, *"Isu ndisu tinotora zvasara pamagovana sezvo tirisu vakuru veZANU PF,"* – (everything that is left after sharing belongs to ZANU PF leaders).

Gutu Ward 2 – Partisan distribution of food aid

On 16 November, during a meeting to compile names for CARE food aid beneficiaries, Mernas Jeri and Kanisias Matavire/Mutema openly told community members from VIDCO 6, VIDCO 5 and VIDCO 4 that they were instructed by Councilor Nicholas Zambara to write ZANU PF campaign team first. This was contrary to the fact the CARE International had highlighted that the aid was meant for widows and orphans, People with Disabilities, and impoverished households. This took place at Gwiranenzara Primary school.

Chirumhanzu Zibagwe Ward 11 – Partisan distribution of inputs

On 30 October, Councilor Lina Dakata and Village Head who also doubles as ZANU PF District Chairperson Edson Manhovo openly denied Presidential Agricultural Inputs to known opposition supporters. The Councilor publicly announced that Pezulu Village will not receive Presidential Agricultural Inputs since it hosted MDC Alliance rallies in 2018. This took place

during the distribution of Presidential Agricultural Inputs at Lynwood shopping centre.

Chirumhanzu Zibagwe Ward 8 – Partisan distribution of inputs

On 16 November, Councilor Musechwa, ZANU PF District Secretary Mteliso and Village Head Sibanda Masauso distributed Presidential Agricultural Inputs to ZANU PF supporters only at Navata shopping centre. Councilor Musechwa also announced during the distribution that, *"Kana usiri veZANU PF usazvinetse bako uchiuya pano. Kana mukaona muvakidzani wenyu aine nzara musamunyorese, munokorerei upfu,"* – (Do not even bother attending aid distribution meetings if you are not a member of ZANU PF. If your neighbour runs out of food, do not enlist them for any form of aid.)

Bikita West Ward 19 – Partisan distribution of inputs

On the 6th of November, ZANU PF Chairperson David Chiduwa, ZANU PF member Rutendo Kasi and the representative of the Councilor Lisben Chivasa partially distributed Presidential Agricultural Inputs at Mupamaonde business centre. On that day, only 4 households per village received aid and the majority of the people who benefitted were known ZANU PF activists. Lisben Chivasa was also clad in ZANU PF regalia whilst leading the distribution process.

Bikita West Ward 22 – Partisan Distribution of Inputs

On 11 December, Councilor Joseph Unzeno, ZANU PF Chairperson Phillip Ticharava, ZANU PF members Pianos Vakai and Chinyoka politicized Presidential Agricultural Inputs Scheme stating that it was coming from ZANU PF. Councilor Unzeno and the other 3 ZANU PF members chanted "ED Pfee slogans" whilst addressing community

members who had gathered at Gangarahwe business centre to receive agricultural inputs. They were also clad in ZANU PF regalia throughout the distribution process.

Mutasa South Ward 18 – Partisan distribution of Agricultural Inputs

On the 8th of November, ZANU PF coordinator Placky Musamba distributed maize seed from the Presidential Agricultural Inputs Scheme to ZANUPF supporters. This was despite the fact all community members had been charged ZWL\$7.00 for transporting the inputs from Mutasa Grain Marketing Board Depot. This took place at Dunsinane Estate.

Magunje Ward 10 – Partisan distribution of agricultural inputs

On 6 November, Councilor Zadwell Chasara contracted a local commuter bus to deliver Presidential Agricultural Inputs to ZANU PF supporters, door by door around White Houses area. On the day, the councilor did not convene any community meeting to distribute inputs, instead he resorted to door to door deliveries. Most of the beneficiaries who received door to door deliveries of Presidential inputs on this day were identified as known ZANU PF supporters. This was against the fact that Councilor Chasara had convened a meeting to compile beneficiaries for Presidential inputs at Muchekeche meeting place sometime in October. The commuter driver only identified as Mbereko told community members that he was executing an instruction given to him by Councilor Chasara and all questions on why some people were being skipped from the deliveries were supposed to be directed to the Councilor.

Chivi South Ward 25 – Partisan Distribution of Agricultural Inputs

On the 7th of December, Councilor Jacob Magando distributed Presidential Agricultural Inputs to ZANU PF supporters. This happened at Madzivire Business Centre. The Councilor highlighted that his campaign team comprising of Mike Tumbwe, Mai Magonde, Mai Mutiri, Mazhata and Mahuhushe receive all forms of aid that comes in the Ward. This campaign team is also the one responsible with compiling names of beneficiaries for all forms of aid that comes to Ward 25. They are also responsible with collecting transport fees and yet they often charge different fees for the same distance. On this day, fees for transporting 50Kg of fertilizer from Chibi Grain Marketing Board to Madzivire business centre was ranging from ZWL\$14.00 – ZWL\$20.00 depending with which one of the campaign team members is collecting it.

Gutu Ward 5 – Partisan distribution of Agricultural Inputs

On 12 November, ZANU PF Chairperson who is also a teacher at Serima Secondary School George Chidhuza instructed Village Heads to prioritize known ZANU PF supporters when distributing Presidential Agricultural Inputs. This took place at Gapare township where community members were gathered to receive aid under the Presidential Agricultural Inputs Scheme. Some Villagers refused to honour the instruction and started confiscating inputs by force.

Mudzi Ward 1 – Partisan distribution of Agricultural Inputs

On the 2nd of December, ward coordinator Kamero Shorani distributed Presidential Agricultural Inputs to ZANU PF members only. The aid consisted of 50kg of fertilizer, 10kg of maize seed and 5kg of

sorghum per household. This took place at Nyamapanda Primary School.

Mudzi Ward 1 – Partisan distribution of Agricultural Inputs

On 31 October, Councilor Babra Mudzimu, War Veteran Antony Madzinga, ZANU PF Chairperson Peter Karikwimba, and ZANU PF Youth Chairperson Smart Kamwaza told community members who were gathered at Nyamapanda Primary School that Presidential Agricultural Inputs Scheme is meant for ZANU PF supporters only. The group also forced the Agricultural Extension Officer who was presiding the distribution process to distribute inputs to ZANU PF supporters only.

Mt Darwin Ward 12 – Partisan distribution of Agricultural Inputs

On the 3rd of December, ZANU PF Chairperson Dick Frank, Village Head David Kanonhuwa, Village Head Kangidza Charles, Aleck Mutyandaedza, and Village Head Secretary Shupai Kaseke highlighted that they are not going to distribute Presidential Agricultural Inputs to MDC supporters. They highlighted this at a community meeting in Kanonhuwa Village. Village Head David Kanonhuwa even stated that, *“kana usiri wedu weZANU PF enda unopiva naamai vako,”* – (We will not give aid to anyone who does not support our party, ZANU PF).

Bikita East Ward 15 – Partisan distribution of Agricultural Inputs

On the 8th of November, former ZANU PF Councilor Ishmael Kanjera hijacked Presidential Inputs distribution from the current Councilor Samson Dzinodya and started to distribute it to known ZANU PF supporters only. Kanjera stated that Presidential Agricultural Inputs are funded by

ZANU PF and hence they were meant for ZANU PF supporters. Community members protested about his words and he could not proceed distributing maize and sorghum seeds. This took place at Silveira business centre.

Harare Central Business District – Police Brutality

On the 20th of November, Riot Police from Harare District brutally and indiscriminately attacked civilians who were around Harvest House, where MDC Alliance President Nelson Chamisa was expected to deliver his Hope of the Nation Address. The police used button sticks and booted feet to assault everyone who passed by Harvest House. Forty four civilians were injured after this event, 9 of which were severely injured. One of the severely injured victims had a 16 cm long cut on the head.

Harare Central Business District – Police Brutality resulting in the death of a civilian

On 12 October, riot police assaulted, arrested and detained 11 vendors who were displaying their wares close to QV Pharmacy, alleging that the vendors had beaten another Police Officer. The police also seized shoes, trousers, belts and shirts, mobile phones and money from the vendors. On 19 October, one of the vendors Hilton Chamangani passed away in Harare Remand Prison due to injuries sustained from the beatings.

Harare Central Business District – arbitrary arrest and detention

On the 14th of November, police arrested and detained three opposition activists who were at Africa Unity Square demonstrating against the 2020 budget statement by Finance and Economic Development Minister Mtuli Ncube.

Harare Central Business District – Abduction

On the 27th of October, a dancehall musician Platinum Prince was abducted and brutally assaulted allegedly for producing a song titled, “*Ndiyo yacho here Mr President*” in which he was questioning the President for deteriorating socio-economic situation in the country. Platinum Prince was abducted by a group of masked and armed men who left him on the 28th of October 2019. Platinum Prince was seriously injured on the head and lacerations all over his body.

c) Threats to the economic functioning of the Zimbabweans

Shurugwi – Armed robbery

On the 1st of December, three machete wielding gang members identified as Edson Siyaliki Nyathi and Kudakwashe Ndlela and an unidentified man assaulted Bonsa Mine owner and robbed him of US\$487.00.

Shurugwi – Armed robbery

On the 5th of December, a machete wielding gang including Edson Siyaliki Nyathi and Kudakwashe Ndlela and an unidentified man attacked Mount Dawn Farm and robbed US\$700.00 and cellphones. The group also robbed US\$500.00 from another victim on that same day.

Chirumhanzu Zibagwe Ward 15 – Violent conflict over resources

On the 8th of December, Mvuma Police Officer identified as Constable Phiri, accompanied by Elias Sithole and a man identified as Nzvengende attacked a group of mine workers at Special Grants

2854 and 2858 leading to the death of Euweight Senzere. It is alleged that Elias Sithole and Nzvengende used machetes to assault Euwet and later pushed him into a mining shaft in the presence of Constable Phiri. Constable Phiri later arrested the other mine workers and brought them to Mvuma Police Station. This violence grew out of disputed ownership of SG2854 and SG2858 between George Matsikidze (of Matsikidze Mine) and Kumbirai Mangwende (of Zeplin Resources); a dispute which draws back to 2010.

Shurugwi – Armed robbery

On the 26th of December, a machete wielding gang including Edson Siyaliki Nyathi and Kudakwashe Ndlela and an unidentified man attacked Besta Mine and went away with \$78.00 and cellphones.

Battlefields – Violent Conflict over resources

On 28 December, a machete wielding gang identified as “Team Barca” invaded Good Hope Mine, killing a police officer, Constable Hokoyo and injuring another officer Constable Kamhuka. The two victims were on duty protecting Good Hope Mine from invaders. The gang attacked the two using machetes, logs, axes and catapults.

Recommendations

Given the increase in the number of threats parceled around the distribution of Presidential Agricultural Inputs Scheme, Heal Zimbabwe urges the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water, Climate and Rural Resettlement and the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare to:

- Investigate all allegations and prosecute all persons distributing aid on partisan grounds. Traditional leaders and political activists need to know that there are stringent consequences

for politicizing and embezzling aid provided by the government. This helps boosting agricultural production, fostering inclusive societies in which people's political rights (as highlighted in Section 67 of the Constitution) are respected and ensuring that all persons in positions of authority exercise their duties impartially.

- Clarify aid distribution criteria to local community members and empower them with mechanisms to monitor, document and feedback on the distribution process, including the conduct of the personnel distributing such aid. It is critical for the Department of Social Welfare to receive and act upon near-real time complaints and enhance the effectiveness of aid.
- Institutionalize inclusive aid distribution committees, comprising of ZANU PF, MDC Alliance and other political parties leadership to help ensure that aid is handed out to all deserving persons across the political divide. This is a missing element in Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD). Aid distribution has always fuelled conflicts in most rural areas, and finding a long-term solution is crucial especially in this prevailing economic and climatic conditions.

Heal Zimbabwe further urges the government of Zimbabwe especially the Ministry of Home Affairs and Cultural Heritage to:

- Retrain members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police in peaceful and non-partisan interventions. The Police, “must be non-partisan, national in character, patriotic, professional and subordinate to the civilian authority as established by the constitution,” as outlined in Section 219 (3). The brutality with which police in Harare Police District is responding to unarmed protestors, especially MDC Alliance gatherings is a cause for serious concern.

- Restore the confidence of the public in the Zimbabwe Republic Police by publicly apologizing for violent attacks on civilians and guaranteeing a non-recurrence. The institution is losing people's confidence as it from time to time.
- Swiftly and effectively address groups moving around with machetes, brutally attacking civilians especially in mining areas. Such groups, when allowed to roam freely, will develop into fully fledged militia squads destabilizing national security and undermining the mining industry.

Heal Zimbabwe also urge the Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing to:

- Train all development structures and empower them so that they resist infiltration by individuals with partisan agendas. These structures include VIDCOs, WADCOs, and Traditional Leaders, they all need to be non-partisan. Depoliticizing these structures will not undermine ZANU PF, but rather will strengthen the visibility of the Government of Zimbabwe in spearheading non-partisan development agendas at the local community level.
- Train Councilors on their duties and responsibilities. Above all, penalize all councilors who are serving their constituents on partisan basis as well as councilors who are not accountable and responsive to their wards. This helps improve the quality of social services available to all Zimbabweans.

The Ministry of Health and Child Care and the government need to engage Doctors and resolve their concerns in a manner that saves the country from a looming health crisis. Cities such as Harare are sitting on a health time bomb due to poor water quality and quantity. Harare City Council has not been able to provide reliable solid waste

management services, service water drainage systems and water bodies including Lake Chivero thereby exposing citizens in Harare to waterborne diseases especially typhoid and cholera.

Conclusion

Heal Zimbabwe notes with concern the economic, social and political crisis that the country is currently experiencing. It urges all the Independent Commissions Supporting Democracy to swiftly intervene and ensure that the socio-economic, civil and political rights of Zimbabweans are effectively protected. The current Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD) needs to be alive and responsive to current and historical conflicts between ZANU PF and MDC Alliance and ensure that these two dialogue. This dialoguing needs to be conducted across sectors in order for it to arrest the deteriorating socio-economic and political situation in the country. Business people, traditional and religious leaders, the ruling party and MDC Alliance, and social service sector leaders need to dialogue and find non-partisan answers to the current crisis.

