

DRAFT REPORT

CORRUPTION THREATENING THE GAINS MADE AGAINST FIGHTING THE CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) IN ZIMBABWE

[26 May 2020]



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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This report was produced by the Research, Development and Advocacy Department of the Anti-Corruption Trust of Southern Africa (ACT-SA). The assessment was motivated by many Zimbabweans who suffered and/or continue to suffer in the hands of corrupt public officials during the national COVID-19 lockdown. Among the victims include:

- ↔ The indigent sector of society who could not even afford to buy a mandatory face mask;
- ↔ All those who are not well connected;
- ↔ The little known in society;
- ↔ People who had no money to pay bribes;
- ↔ All those who refused to pay these bribes;
- ↔ All those who were forced to pay bribes;
- ↔ Whistleblowers who faced some reprisals during the lockdown.

The majority of the victims, from the indigent sector of society met face to face with corrupt public officials as they went outdoors looking for food.

It is these victims that motivated the compilation of this Report,

This Report is dedicated to all these victims of corruption.

Furthermore, ACT-SA appreciates members of its Research, Development and Advocacy Department for compiling this report.

In addition, it would be a huge remiss of us if we do not acknowledge the support received from all ACT-SA structures, friends and community members who provided the information that informed the compilation of this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Anti-Corruption Trust of Southern Africa (ACT-SA) has confirmed through its assessment that the national lockdown declared by President Emmerson D. Mnangagwa, pursuant to the *Public Health (COVID-19) Prevention, Containment and Treatment (National Lockdown Order, 2020)*, has unfortunately and shamefully presented an environment ripe for public corruption.

During the national COVID-19 lockdown, ACT-SA was and continues to be inundated with the following reports of corruption from members of the public:

- ↔ Police extortion and demanding bribes to give a blind eye to violations of the COVID-19 lockdown orders;
- ↔ Similarly, members of the public violating the COVID-19 regulations paid bribes to escape arrests and jail;
- ↔ Allegations of politicization and corruption in the distribution of food aid;
- ↔ Senior police officers allegedly endorsed and condoned police corruption and brutality and covered up ethical and legal lapses;
- ↔ Massive acts of corruption undermining health service delivery;
- ↔ Lax lockdown enforcement and poor decisions which people exploited by moving freely from one area to the other during the night when there were no checkpoints.

Against this background, ACT-SA makes the following recommendations:

↔ **General Recommendations**

- All individuals and institutions mentioned in this report should be investigated and appropriate action taken;
- The heavy fines levied against those violating COVID-19 regulations are part of the challenges that have fueled corruption during the lockdown period. It is recommended that these fines should be reduced;
- Government should urgently set up a task team comprising of ZACC and civil society to monitor, report and deal with corruption cases during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Instances of price hikes and fixing by service providers need to be investigated and where necessary, government needs to punish those responsible.
- Whistle blowers should be provided with safe avenues for reporting and be given more protection.
- The government should provide free masks since the majority that cannot afford buying them keeping in mind the economic crisis created by the pandemic. It is better to make people pay fines after getting free masks from the government. The punishment of individuals not wearing masks by the government that does not afford to provide them to its poorest citizens and inhabitants is particularly callous.
- The government of Zimbabwe should ensure a high level of transparency in its response to the ongoing health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to make its responses more efficient by reducing losses due to corruption, fraud and waste.

↔ **Recommendations to the Auditor-General**

- Audit of donations made towards the COVID-19 pandemic.

↔ **Recommendations to the Police General Head-Quarters**

- Police officers at checkpoints should be supervised to ensure that they carry out their duties in the most effective and ethical manner.
- Wrong-doing should be deterred through punishment. It has been noted with concern that the management of the police has the tendency of merely transferring police officers accused of wrong-doing. This may temporarily help but should not be recommended. All corrupt officials should be punished and if convicted should be dismissed from work.

- Investigate cases of reprisals against people complaining against police corruption: In the case of a Chinhoyi-based journalist covered in this Report the police arrested him because they thought that he had gathered evidence of corruption against them. Such cases should be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action taken

↔ Recommendations to the Minister of Social Welfare

- The Ministry of Social Welfare should cease and desist from using political party structures to identify food aid beneficiaries. Similarly, food aid should not be distributed using political structures;
- The Ministry should investigate all allegations of the politicization of food aid.

↔ Recommendations to Local Authorities

- Provide unhindered access to clean and potable water.
- Investigate and take appropriate action in regard to allegations of corruption against municipal police
- Carry out demolitions of identified informal structures in a non-partisan way.
- Provide temporary relief to vendors while more permanent structures are being processed.

↔ Recommendations to Minister July Moyo and the Municipality of Redcliff

- Consider taking steps to complete the borehole in Simbi Park which Minister July Moyo drilled as part of the political campaigns ahead of the 2018 elections. It is alleged that Minister Moyo neglected or refused to complete the borehole after losing the elections to an MDC-Alliance member;
- Maintain a borehole drilled by Mr. Chinhara which is situated in Rutendo close to the Rutendo ‘Zvigayo’ Business Centre. It has been established that the borehole was handed over to the Municipality of Redcliff but the local authority has long since refused and/or neglected to maintain it for reasons best known to themselves;
- Investigate why the drilling of a borehole at Simbi Park shopping centre was abandoned and where possible take action to resuscitate the drilling thereof.

↔ Recommendations to Legislators and Policy-makers

- Protecting reporting persons/ whistleblowers: Policy and law makers should consider protecting whistleblowers against reprisals. Such persons face a variety of unlawful and unjustified treatment. There is therefore need to devise measures to thwart such treatment. All threats, intimidation or retaliation should be criminalized
- Legislators should consider libel or defamation law reform as an important aspect of anti-corruption legislation. This may be particularly relevant to the investigations and reports by journalists and other whistleblowers.

↔ Recommendations to the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC)

- The ZRP and ZACC should investigate the circumstances that led to the former Managing Director of ZISCO Steel taking a heavy dump water pump at Cactus Dam in the town of Redcliff.

↔ Recommendations to the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA)

- Investigate all allegations of corruption leveled against ZNA soldiers

↔ Recommendations to Donors

- Donors should come up with strict transparency and accountability measures to ensure that beneficiaries receive services and support during the COVID-19
- Donors should channel donations through non-governmental organisations and other non-political entities
- Ensure aid given to the Government of Zimbabwe and other actors is not abused for political expediency.

↔ Recommendations to Political Parties

- Desist from interfering with government programmes
- Desist from food aid distribution

↔ **Recommendations to the Media, Civil Society and the Public**

- Considering that the Zimbabwean government is mobilising extremely large sums of emergency funding to respond to the crisis, the public, civil society and the media must monitor and evaluate how public resources are used
- Members of the public should resist and report all cases of corruption. It is also important for the public to note that they are also guilty of corruption when they offer or agree to pay the bribes.
- Obey lawful instructions from government and local authorities.

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1. INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND INFORMATION

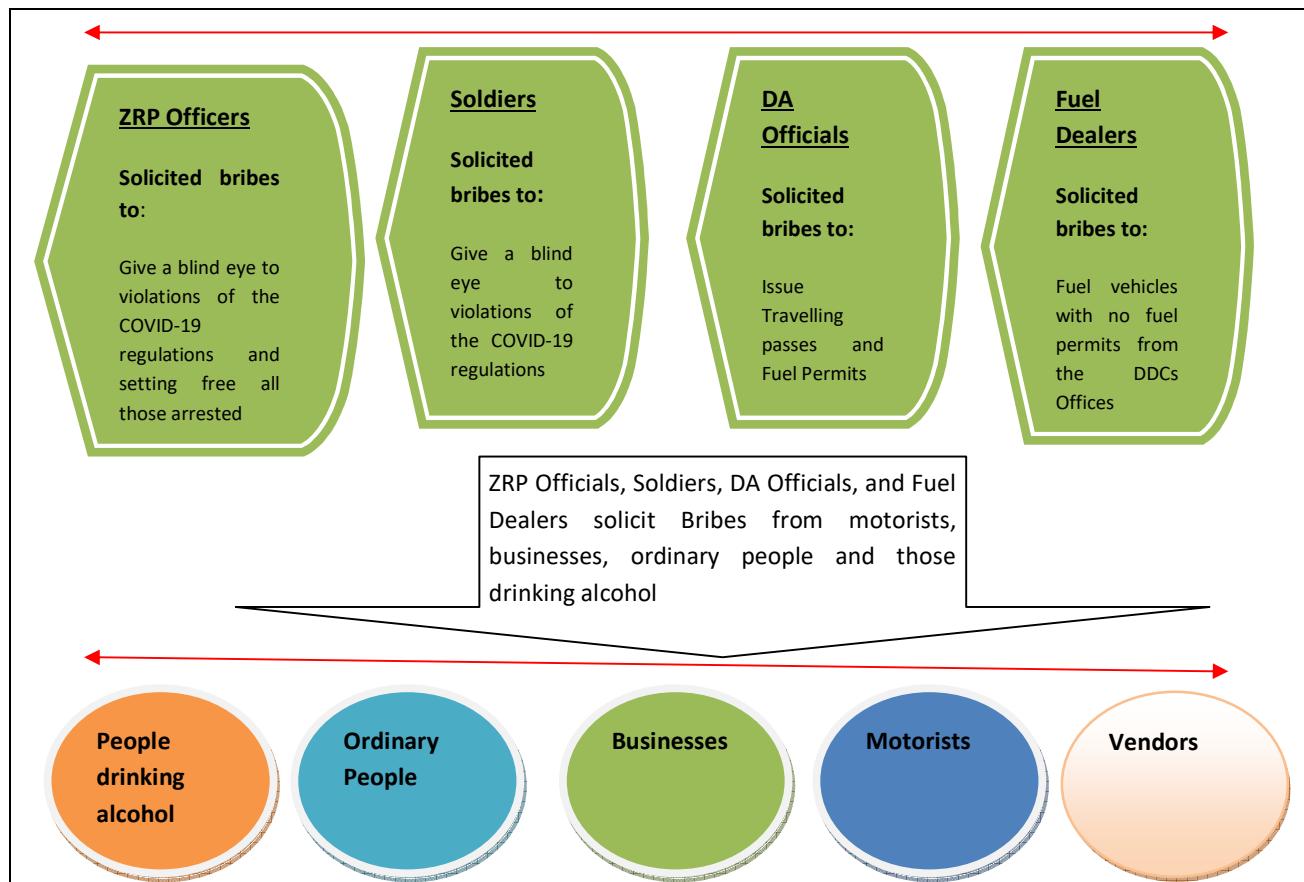
In consonance with the world-wide chorus against the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Zimbabwean government declared a national lockdown in line with the Public Health (COVID-19) Prevention, Containment and Treatment (National Lockdown Order, 2020).

The national lockdown limited unnecessary movement of people with the exception of all those providing essential services needed to fight the pandemic. To limit movements of people, the offices of the District Development Coordinators (DDCs) country-wide issued travel passes as well as fuel permits. On several occasions, the officials exercised personal discretion to approve or reject travel permits.

However, as at the time of this report the government relaxed some of the conditions. For instance, industry and commerce that was previously forced to close was re-opened from 8:00 a.m to 4:30 p.m.

However, against the spirit of the lockdown, ACT-SA noted with grave concern the escalation of corruption cases perpetrated by public officials. It is the contention of ACT-SA that corruption by these public officials is likely going to reverse the gains made against the COVID-19 pandemic. The major culprits reported against as having solicited bribes are reflected in Figure 1 below:

Figure 1: Major Participants in Corruption Cases committed in the context of COVID-19 Pandemic



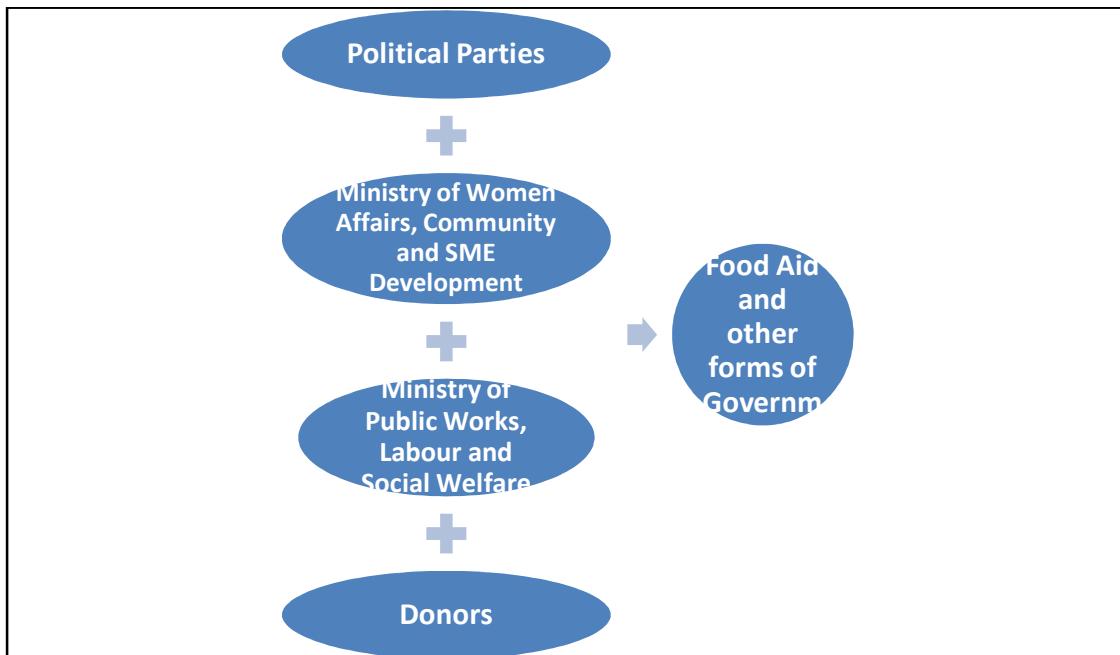
Furthermore, in some areas, the distribution of food aid was politicized. In some areas the indigent sector of society failed to get assistance to date. The major players in the politicization of food aid include: officials in the Ministry of Public Works, Labour and Social Welfare, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community and SME Development, traditional leaders and political parties.

It was preposterous for the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development to allow ZANU PF and the MDC-Alliance to compile a list of informal

traders to benefit from the government sponsored scheme. In the suburb of Rutendo in Redcliff, ZANU PF and MDC-Alliance compiled lists of their members for submission to the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development.

It would also be a remiss to skip the donor community in these prefatory remarks since some of the donors failed and/or neglected to moderate and check on the distribution of the aid they had given when they know the behavior of the government and the ruling political party when it comes to the distribution of such aid. The ordinary people, constituting the beneficiaries were left prey to predatory tendencies of political parties. These people were left at the mercy of political parties. ***In several areas, ZANU PF distributed rice to its members purporting that the rice was a donation from the party.*** The Figure below shows political parties, the Ministry of Social Welfare, Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development and donors as part of the corruption problem.

Figure 2: Participants in the Politicisation of Food Aid



In addition, this report will show that corruption affected health service delivery and the provision of clean and potable water. Local authorities failed and/or neglected to provide adequate running water to the people at a time when water was needed most. Crowds of thirsty people gathered at community boreholes, ignoring social distancing thereby posing a huge threat to the spreading of the COVID-19 pandemic.

This report summarises the major findings of the investigation by ACT-SA.

2. METHODOLOGIES USED

This report was compiled based on ACT-SA's monitoring efforts. The organisation received reports from its community structures, friends and members of the public. In addition to primary sources of data, ACT-SA reviewed secondary data in form of reports from other NGOs such as the Human Rights NGO Forum.

During the research process, the research team encountered a setback when the Kwekwe District Development Coordinator (DDC) rejected its request to visit ACT-SA offices for research

purposes. On the 22nd of April 2020, ACT-SA had written a letter seeking permission to visit its offices but the request was turned down under the pretext that anti-corruption was not listed as one of the critical services needed during the COVID-19 lockdown.

3. MAJOR FINDINGS

Notwithstanding the importance of the national COVID-19 lockdown, ZRP officers, ZNA soldiers, DDCs officials and political parties among other actors seized the lockdown as an opportunity for personal and unjust enrichment. Some Parliamentarians also seized the opportunity to abuse Constituency Development Fund (CDF) resources for political gain.

Motorists, travelers, businesses and the ordinary people paid bribes to ZRP officers, and soldiers among other actors.

The following were the reasons why bribes were exchanged:

- ↔ Businesses paid bribes to open bars as well as to operate after the gazetted timelines;
- ↔ The police demanded bribes to give a blind eye to violations of the COVID-19 regulations;
- ↔ Members of the public violating the COVID-19 regulations paid bribes to escape arrests and jail;
- ↔ Travellers paid bribes to move freely from one city or district to the other in contravention of the regulations;

Also noted with trepidation, was the reluctance by the management of the police to take appropriate action against the allegations of corruption raised against ZRP officers. ACT-SA also noted that the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe was fully aware of the corruption committed by the law enforcement agents. This is evidenced through a twitter message from the twitter handle of Hon. Nick Mangwana, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Information. Refer to the Figure below for more information on what Hon. Nick Mangwana said.

Figure 3: Bribes given a new name 'Coronavirus risk allowance'

Nick Mangwana
@nickmangwana

Getting a lot of calls during this #LockDownZim so we are establishing a helpline to deal with non-clinical queries. The majority of the calls being received so far are about some @PoliceZimbabwe officers soliciting for bribe at checkpoints calling it a "Risk Allowance". Nooo!

3.1 CORRUPTION BY ZRP OFFICERS, SOLDIERS AND MUNICIPAL POLICE

The following are few examples of corruption cases obtained through both primary and secondary sources of data:

- ↔ Corruption by ZRP officers, soldiers and municipal police:
- I. On the 11th of May 2020 at around 7:00 p.m Marondera Police arrested a motorist who was traveling from Mutare to Harare. The arresting officer impounded his vehicle and took it to Marondera Police Station. Upon arrival, he took the car keys and asked for

payment of a bribe which the motorist did not have. He put the car keys in his pocket and told the motorist to call him on 0771774008 after securing the money. The officer only returned from the checkpoint around 1200 midnight. The officer in the company of another one who introduced himself as Madakadze told the motorist to pay \$314 through Ecocash in someone else's number 0775112076. The motorist paid and was given the car keys to proceed with his journey¹

- II. On the 28th of April 2020 in Rutendo, a joint operation comprising ZRP and municipal police arrested several vendors who were selling different products at the shops. However, most of all those who paid bribes were released. Poor women and girls who could not afford the bribes were arrested and taken to the Rutendo police base situated at Furusa shops in Redcliff. On Sunday 24 May 2020, a senior manager within the police force came driving a Ford Ranger Registration Number AEN 0320 accompanied by police details known for soliciting bribes. These officers targeted a local business person who had previously refused to pay bribes. The involvement of a senior manager within the police force, coupled with him in the company of officers known for taking bribes as well as targeting a business person who had refused to pay bribes is more worrying.
- III. In Gokwe, on the 4th of May 2020 at around 5:00 p.m, a Kwekwe-bound commuter omnibus was stopped at a checkpoint set by a joint operation of both the police and the army. The driver asked all passengers on board to contribute RTGS\$25 to pay a bribe which the police and army officers had demanded. In addition to a USD20 which the driver had paid, all contributions from passengers were handed over. After the payments, the driver was allowed to proceed to Kwekwe with all its passengers who had no masks.²
- IV. In Zhombe, the police solicited bribes from people whom they accused of violating COVID-19 regulations. The Box below gives a testimony from an anti-corruption monitor based at Zororo Business Centre.

Box 1: Police soliciting bribes in USD. The case of Zhombe in Kwekwe

Morning. It's a shame really - after beating, arresting and making them pay bond\$200 fines the police went on to demand 'ko yedu' grease money. They then demanded USD100 on top of the fines. This amount could not be raised but I understand they were then given a total of USD70. One detail even had the audacity to provide his phone number to one of the accused persons so that he communicates when he manages to secure the police officer's share of USD20.

- V. In Sanyati, it is alleged that ZRP Officers took bribes from the business sector in exchange for allowing them to operate hassle-free.³
- VI. In Mt Darwin, it is alleged that ZRP officers demanded bribes from people defying the COVID-19 regulations. The Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) reported that one of the shop owners who continued operating after 3:00 p.m paid ZW\$500 to avoid being arrested.⁴
- VII. At Solani Business Centre in Harare it is alleged that ZRP officers and soldiers received bribes of ZW\$20 from vendors to allow them to continue operating. All those refusing to pay were arrested⁵
- VIII. In Muzarabani, a man from Mudoka village under Chief Sekete paid a bribe to a soldier identified as Jonah Nyamutundu who caught him red-handed without wearing a face mask. Before the payment of the bribe, the soldier had threatened to assault the man. The victim was released by the soldier after paying a bribe of ZW\$300.⁶
- IX. Zhombe Police charged ZW\$100 bribes to commuter omnibus operators to allow them to ply the Gokwe-Kwekwe route.⁷

¹ Discussion with the victim on the 11th of May 2020.

² Meeting with one of the passengers who was made to pay contributions towards the bribe

³ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 2 May 2020- Day 34

⁴ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 29 April 2020- Day 31

⁵ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 22 April 2020- Day 24

⁶ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 16-17 May 2020- Day 48 to 49

⁷ Meeting with a whistleblower on 26 May 2020.

The solicitation of bribes, extortion of cash, fuel and food was widespread. The Gweru case study shown in the Table below helps to confirm these allegations.

Table 1: The Gweru Case Study

Seven Police Officers Nabbed For Extortion

May 20, 2020

SEVEN police officers in Gweru were arrested for allegedly extorting cash, fuel and opaque beer from bottle store and shop operators who had allegedly violated lockdown regulations in and around Gweru. The accused persons, who are all stationed at Gweru Rural Police Station, allegedly solicited and accepted bribes from nine shop and bottle store operators between April 25 and May 1.

They allegedly shared the loot. Constables Joyful Magumise (35), Mugwagwa Magumise (42), Goodhope Chitimbe (31), David Mandimutsira, Bruce Chikwanda, Freddy Mahupere (all 35), Tonderai Gomana (39) were arrested on Monday following a tip-off. They appeared before Gweru Provincial Magistrate Mr Tayengwa Sangster yesterday facing bribery charges. They were remanded out of custody to June 18 on \$3 000 bail each.

Mr Sangster ordered them to reside at their given addresses and not to interfere with State witnesses. The magistrate said he was worried that the police officers were still reporting for duty when they were facing a criminal matter.

“Police officers working in the jurisdiction where complainants are doing business and continue to be, puts some doubts in terms of justice delivery in the witnesses’ eyes. Even if they see them patrolling, it leaves questions on the intention of the employer and I’m not sure what is happening in terms of their suspension,” he said.

Prosecutor Ms Margret Mukucha told the court that police investigations were still underway. “Police investigations are underway and we hope by the next remand date they will be complete,” she said.

It is the State case that on April 25, the accused persons hatched a plan to swindle Khumbulani Ngwenya at his shop at Shamrock Mine, Lower Gweru. They allegedly drove to the mine and approached Mr Tawanda Ngwenya, the younger brother to Khumbulani whom they found operating without a liquor licence. The accused persons, the court heard, allegedly took 16 cases of Chibuku Super and four cases of spirits.

Tawanda advised his brother that the police officers were in the shop. The court heard that Khumbulani approached Cst Mugwagwa Magumise who demanded that he pays some money in order for them to return the beer they had confiscated.

The complainant succumbed to the threat and allegedly gave them \$1 000 cash before they returned the cases of Chibuku Super and spirits. Cst Mugwagwa Magumise further told Mr Ngwenya that they had used Government fuel to raid his shop and asked him to replace it or else they were going to confiscate 200 litres of diesel he was keeping in his shop.

Mr Ngwenya allegedly gave them a further \$200 and 20 litres of diesel before they left. Using the same modus operandi, the seven police officers on April 28 proceeded to Kitchenburg Farm, in the Matobo area of Gweru, where they allegedly approached Mrs Alice Chokora who operates a shop and liquor store.

Fearing that she was found illegally selling beer, Chokora bribed them with \$1 000 cash. On May 1, around 2pm, the accused persons allegedly proceeded to Ranch Farm in Lower Gweru

where they approached Mr Dumoluhle Ngwenya and threatened to arrest him and confiscate his beer and that of other shop operators for allegedly selling alcohol during the lockdown period.

They allegedly ordered him to collect \$150 cash from seven operators totalling \$1 050 before they went away. Police working on a tip-off, arrested the rogue police officers. In April, 13 police officers in Bulawayo were arrested for allegedly soliciting and accepting a US\$10 bribe from a commuter omnibus crew, which had allegedly violated lockdown regulations following the interception of their vehicle in the central business district.

The accused persons, stationed at Bulawayo Central Police Station, were arrested by a Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (Zacc) team after an unidentified whistle-blower captured them on video while they were allegedly receiving the bribe before posting it on social media where it circulated.

-State Media

Source: <https://www.zimeye.net/2020/05/20/seven-police-officers-nabbed-for-extortion/>
[Accessed on 20 May 2020]

↔ **ZRP officers abused the police uniform to access scarce commodities**

- I. In Bulawayo, ZRP officers clad in police uniform were accused of hoarding scarce commodities such as mealie-meal. In order to be given first priority, these officers would put on police uniform. However, this prompted the management of the police to ban them from abusing the police uniform for personal gain.⁸
- II. In Kwekwe and at OK Supermarket, ZRP Officers had a separate queue. However, there were allegations that they were hoarding scarce commodities for resale⁹

3.2 POLITICALLY EXPOSED PERSONS (PEPs) ENJOYED IMPUNITY DURING THE LOCKDOWN PERIOD

- I. Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) enjoyed impunity for violating COVID-19 regulations. For instance, the Box below gives information of a case of a Zhombe-based case study given by a whistleblower.

Box 2: Police give a blind eye to violations of COVID-19 regulations by PEPs

Zhombe PISI details were spotted moving around shopping centres educating people on preventive measures and elements of the Lockdown. As they were discussing with one of the business persons, a white tipper truck passed through with a load of gold ore. The lorry was also fully packed with a number of 'makorokozas' or artisanal miners. The truck is alleged to be belonging to the local MP's brother one alias 'Naran'. The police were advised to make a follow-up on the truck and give feedback since there was real risk of spreading the COVID-19 pandemic. However, there was no interest from the police. The truth is that police details give a blind eye to violations of the COVID regulations by businesses owned and run by Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs).

- II. In the City of Kwekwe one beerhall operating under the name and style of 'Kwamaiguru' remained open throughout the lockdown. This was somehow bizarre since the COVID-19 regulations made it mandatory for all bars to close.¹⁰
- III. Mudhomboyi Butchery in the City of Kwekwe operates an open place where people roast meat that they buy from the butchery. The braaing spot operated throughout the

⁸ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 23 April 2020- Day 25

⁹ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 18 April 2020- Day 21

¹⁰ Meeting with a whistleblower on 25 April 2020

lockdown, when other similar places in Kwekwe were forced to close. ZNA soldiers, and ZRP officers were seen enjoying free meals from the owner.¹¹

- IV. A beerhall at Roasting Plant in Kwekwe remained open throughout the national lockdown. The Support Unit is camped close by but gives a blind eye.¹²
- V. In Chimanimani, it was reported that soldiers from Rufuka training base allegedly demanded that shop owners open their beerhalls. On 15 May 2020, it is alleged that ZNA soldiers overturned the order by police officers who had ordered the closure of one of the beerhalls in the area.¹³

3.3 CORRUPTION IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUBSIDIZED AND FREE FOOD AID

When the lockdown declared, the government announced plans to give food aid and subsidized mealie-meal to the indigent sector of society. However, ACT-SA received reports that some areas did not receive any food aid. In some areas that received assistance, the distribution process was politicized.

- I. The Grain Millers Association of Zimbabwe (GMAZ) pledged to deliver subsidized mealie-meal country-wide¹⁴. However, the distribution of the subsidized mealie-meal was not only chaotic but plagued with allegations of corruption starting from the selection of the distributors to the prices charged for the maize meal. On the 26th of April 2020, ACT-SA wrote to the Resident Minister in the Midlands Province, the Kwekwe Dispol, Members of Parliament, and the Office of the President and Cabinet raising several issues. These concerns are more fully explained in the Box below.

Box 3: Letter of Complaint to the Government of Zimbabwe

MEMO

DATE: 26 April 2020

FROM: Anti-Corruption Trust of Southern Africa (ACT-SA)
info@anticorruptiontrust.org / 0783011963

TO: The Resident Minister for Provincial Affairs- Midlands Province
Dispol- Kwekwe
District Administrator
Members of Parliament
Office of the President and Cabinet

REF: CONFUSION AND CORRUPTION IN THE DISTRIBUTION OF SUBSIDISED MEALIE-MEAL DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

We would like to inform you that our organisation is inundated with reports from members of the public and from its community structures on the distribution of subsidized mealie-meal. The following is a summary of the concerns:

1. All those responsible for distributing and selling the subsidized mealie-meal charge different prices for the same quantities. For instance, some are selling a 10,KG bag for \$90, whilst others sell the same for \$100. Others sell the same for \$110. It appears that there is no fixed price. This needs clarification from your good offices
2. There are concerns on how the distributors are chosen. Some of them have no shops but simply bring the mealie-meal in Lorries which they park at shops and start selling.
3. Some of the distributors charge in the United States dollar currency which the majority of

¹¹ Meeting with a whistleblower on 14 April 2020

¹² Interview with a resident of Roasting Plant on 26 May 2020

¹³ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 16-17 May 2020- Day 48 to 49

¹⁴ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 11 April 2020- Day 12

the people have no access to. Some reject Ecocash payments

That said, we hereby escalate this issue to your good offices requesting the following:

1. Clarifying prices of the subsidised mealie-meal
2. Advising on the mode and currency of payment
3. Clarifying on how distributors are chosen

Looking forward to your intervention

II. ACT-SA gathered information that the distribution process was politicized. The following are shining examples:

- ↔ In Rutendo, in Redcliff, and at Amatava farm, ZANU PF distributed rice to its members. The same happened in other areas country-wide. The aid only benefitted members of the ruling party which left out the rest of the people.¹⁵
- ↔ In Nyanga North, Chido Sanyatwe who is a Member of Parliament convened a meeting with ZANU PF structures and village-heads. He gave all the 18 Village-heads who attended 50 kgs bags of rice and members of ZANU PF ward structures were given 5 kgs of rice per person¹⁶
- ↔ In Buhera, it is alleged that the local Member of Parliament Honourable Mutomba used a ZANU PF register during a food distribution process that was being done by the Ministry of Public Works, Labour and Social Welfare. It is alleged that the Member of Parliament substituted the government's list of genuine beneficiaries.¹⁷
- ↔ In Mutasa Central ZANU PF officials disrupted food distributed by the Ministry of Public Works, Labour and Social Welfare. It is alleged that ZANU PF officials brought a list of its members whom it wanted to benefit from the food hand-outs¹⁸
- ↔ In Bubi, a ZANU PF Councillor Eden Ncube distributed rice to ZANU PF members only. A ZANU PF card was requested before the handing over of the food¹⁹
- ↔ In Lupane the distribution of food was politicized. ZANU PF members constituted most of the screened beneficiaries.²⁰
- ↔ In Mutare at Sakubva, social welfare food aid was distributed on partisan lines. On the 12th of April 2020, the ZANU PF Youth Assembly invited more than 200 party supporters at Sakubva Beit Hall for the purpose of screening beneficiaries. The meeting produced a list of people who benefitted from the social welfare food aid.²¹
- ↔ In Gweru under Ward 10, social welfare food allegedly benefitted ZANU PF supporters at the exclusion of the rest.²²
- ↔ In Gutu, ZANU PF through Mai Samatanga and Mr. Muzorori hijacked the social welfare food distribution exercise. Beneficiaries chanted ZANU PF slogans when the food was being distributed²³

3.4 POLITICISATION OF GOVERNMENT PROGRAMMES

It is alleged that some government programmes were hijacked for political expediency. A classic example, is a programme for the informal sector initiated by the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development. The initiative was meant to cushion SMEs against the negative impact of the national lockdown on their livelihoods.

¹⁵ Interview with a whistleblower on the 15th of May 2020

¹⁶ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 4 May 2020- Day 36

¹⁷ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 3 May 2020- Day 35

¹⁸ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 30 May 2020- Day 32

¹⁹ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 17 April 2020- Day 19

²⁰ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 16 April 2020- Day 18

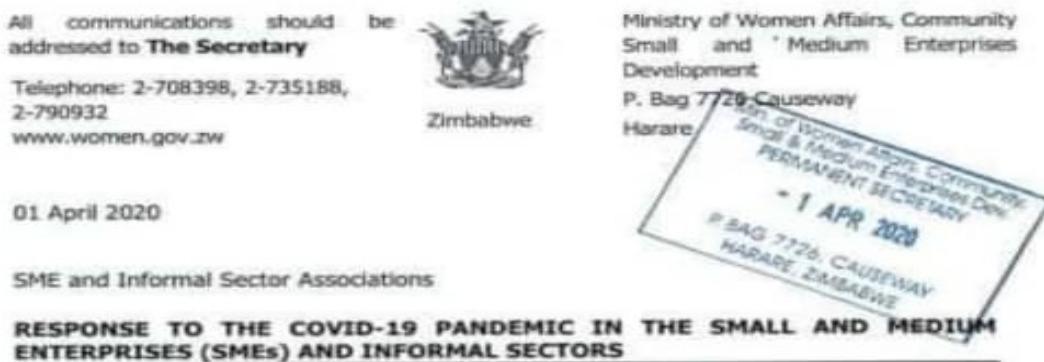
²¹ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 13 April 2020- Day 15

²² Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 12 April 2020- Day 14

²³ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 11 April 2020- Day 12

On the 1st of April 2020, the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development wrote to SMEs and Informal Sector Associations requesting lists of members of the associations for submission to the Ministry's Provincial Offices. See the letter below dated 1 April 2020 requesting SMEs and their associations to submit the names.

Figure 4: Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development



In view of the global outbreak of COVID 19 and the subsequent National Lockdown to minimise the spread of the disease, Government is considering a number of interventions to minimise the impact of the lockdown. One of the interventions is to assist people engaged in the SME and Informal Sector through providing assistance to cushion against loss of income for subsistence.

The Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development is therefore requesting for SME and Informal Sector Associations to compile lists of members of their associations for submission to the Ministry Provincial Offices. The information should include name, sex, ID number, address, ward or area and cell number.

Below are the contact details of the Ministry's Provincial Development Officers:

	Province	Provincial Head	Contact Number
1	Harare	Mr Chimboza	0712328636
2	Bulawayo	Mr Dhlomo	0774638005
3	Mashonaland West	Mr Rangwani	0719094072
4	Mashonaland East	Mr Nyamadzawo	0773813623
5	Manicaland	Mr Rubaya	0775162571
6	Mashonaland Central	Mrs Hove	0772855023
7	Midlands	Mrs Dube	0773466518
8	Matebeleland North	Mr Phiri	0774308873
9	Matebeleland South	Mrs Sikhudla	0712379209
10	Masvingo	Mr Mupinga	0775088534

However, ACT-SA learnt with shock that the compilation of the lists were hijacked by political parties.

- ↔ In the town of Redcliff, it is alleged that the leadership of the MDC- Alliance moved door to door registering MDC Alliance members to benefit from the initiative of the Ministry of Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development ;
- ↔ In the same town, it is alleged that the ruling ZANU PF political party registered its members to benefit from the scheme.
- ↔ Similarly, Chinowaita (2020) reports that ZANU PF hijacked the programme in Mutare. See hereunder the article on the same.

Box 4: Zanu pf Hijacks World Bank fund towards informal traders.

Zanu pf Hijacks world bank fund towards informal traders.

By Fanuel Chinowaita

Zanu pf in Mutare has hijacked World Bank Program which was supposed to assist informal traders during 19 days of lockdown. The world bank wanted to channel money through Council so that it will give 10US dollars per day to every registered informal trader. However, Zanu pf ordered town clerk Joshua Maligwa not to submit the database so that it will submit a list of Zanu pf members.

Mutare City Council official who asked for anonymity said, "the world bank wanted to help registered informal traders in Harare, Mutare Masvingo, Gweru with money through local government.

"They wanted to pay money equivalent to 10 usd per day for 19 days per person with a table or a flea market which is in the database of council.

"The world bank contacted city council directly, when Zanu pf members picked it, it made noise saying that the money should not be channelled to council, for it will benefit only mdc members will benefit, therefore they instructed town clerk not give world bank the council's database."

Meanwhile, Zanu pf is busy compiling Zanu pf members list in the wards through their chairpersons.

"Now Zanu pf is writing down Zanu pf members in the wards. They want their members to be given money which is supposed to be given registered informal traders who are paying taxes to the council.

"Zanu pf also approached world bank demanding to know why it involved city council instead of Ministry of Women's Affairs."

Some Zanu pf leaders are now asking for bribes so that they can write down your name, said a source who lives in ward 17.

"Mrs Mupofu of Zanu pf from dream house is asking for bribes and she is making a lot of money through that. Moyo and Mrs Muringa from Garikai ward 17 are writing their own members' names during the night and during the day they write other members on a scratch paper", she said.

"In ward 8, Joseph Mashati, Mrs Muridzo and Ziland Matope are the ones who are writing a list of Zanu pf members", said a reliable source in ward 8.

Another close source said "Chakarisa, Matambu and Mrs Mudzimba are operating In ward 15 while Benali Yard is doing the same in ward 6.

"Ward 18, 8, 16 and 15 are the most areas affected by Zanu Pf disturbing the professional implementation of the process."

3.5 CORRUPTION IN THE ISSUANCE OF TRAVELLING PASSES AND FUEL PERMITS

During the national lockdown, the Offices of the District Development Coordinators (DDCs), formerly District Administrator were and are still responsible to issuing travelling passes as well as fuel permits among others. However, there were several complaints received against the DDC's offices in Kwekwe that serves as a microcosm of the situation country-wide. The following are few examples:

- ↔ In the town of Kwekwe, it is alleged that the DDC's office allegedly received bribes of US\$5 in exchange for issuing travelling passes and fuel permits. The money was received by officials and security guards at the gate. After paying the bribe, the officers in the office will

- expeditiously process all the paper work for them. These special clients were served inside the offices whilst the rest of the people were served through the window.²⁴;
- ↔ The Offices of the DDCs gave first preference to politicians applying for travelling passes and fuel permits. Apart from the people paying bribes, the rest of the people followed a tiresome process to get these passes and permits.

3.6 CORRUPTION AT FUEL STATIONS

As part of measures to contain the movement of people during the lockdown period, the government introduced fuel permits issued by the offices of the DDCs. To ensure compliance, ZNA soldiers and ZRP officers were deployed to all fuel stations: However, these soldiers and police officers solicited bribes to allow people with fuel permits to buy fuel. Similarly, fuel attendants joined the bandwagon and shared the ill-gotten loot with soldiers and police officers.

The following reports were received:

- ↔ At Engine Garage in Redcliff, ZRP police officers solicited bribes from motorists in exchange for allowing these motorists to refuel without permits.²⁵
- ↔ At Trek Garage in Kwekwe situated opposite OK Supermarket bribes of between US\$20 and US\$50 were paid in exchange for drums of fuel²⁶
- ↔ At Zuva Garage one of the employees allegedly demanded bribes to refuel.²⁷

3.7 CORRUPTION AND SERVICE DELIVERY IN THE WATER SECTOR

Research has shown that there is a cause-effect relationship between corruption and access to improved drinking water in Zimbabwe. The more corrupt a country is, the smaller the fraction of the population that has access to improved drinking water (UNDP 2011:17²⁸. Why is this the case? According to Transparency International (2008) the disparity is caused by “.. poor governance manifested through dysfunctional institutions, poor financial management, weak capacity for citizens to demand change, low accountability, and outright corruption.”²⁹

It is thus not a coincidence that most local authorities in Zimbabwe face challenges in providing clean water and sanitation to the people. The national COVID-19 lockdown was the time when safe, clean and potable water was needed most. However, the government through its local authorities country-wide failed to provide water which is one of the rights enshrined under Section 77 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. This failure is largely due to corruption which manifests itself as depicted in the Figure below.

Figure 5: Defining corruption in the water sector in Zimbabwe

²⁴ Interview with a whistleblower on the 24th of May 2020

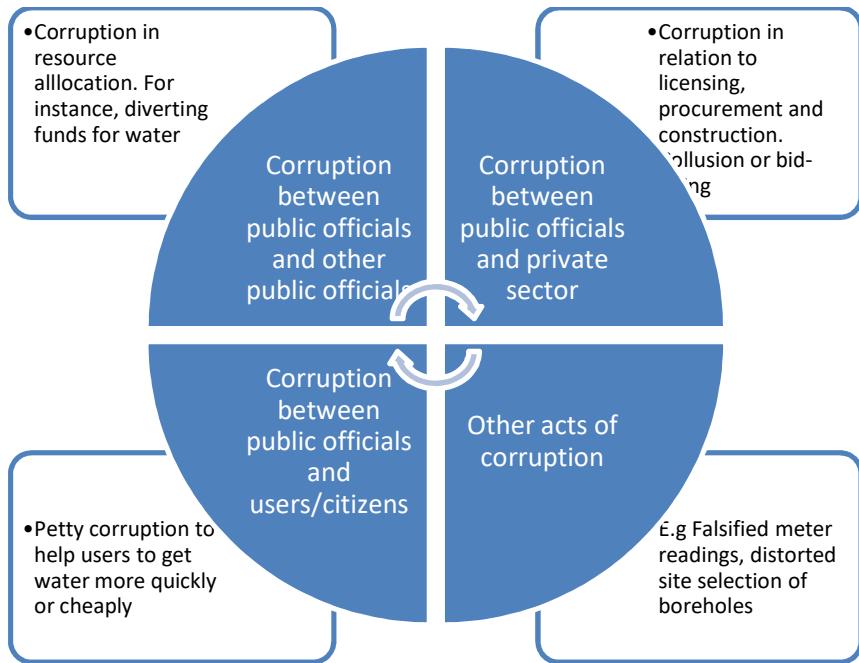
²⁵ Interview with a whistleblower on the 9th of May 2020

²⁶ Interview with a whistleblower on the 9th of May 2020

²⁷ Interview with a whistleblower on the 9th of May 2020

²⁸ UNDP (2011) Good Anti-Corruption Practices in the Water, Education and Health Sectors in Sub-Saharan Africa. Jbg, South Africa

²⁹ See TI Global Corruption Report, 2008



This report cites a few examples of towns where water remains erratic at a time when it is needed most. The following areas faced water supply challenges:

- I. Most parts of Harare, people continue to suffer from limited to no access to water supply. This is partly attributed to water infrastructure that suffered neglect for many years. The government and the local authorities did not prioritise meaningful investment in the sector. Furthermore, in Harare, access to water was used as a political campaigning tool. A shining example is the case of the Glen-View South by-election that took place on the 7th of September 2019. The District Development Fund (DDF) allegedly drilled boreholes in the constituency at the invitation of a ZANU PF candidate. The drilling was diverted from other areas that needed water most.
- II. In Ngezi residents walked distances between 2 to 3 kilometres to fetch water. This was after residents were denied access to running water for almost three weeks.³⁰ The majority of the people relied on unprotected sources of water.
- III. In Mkoba in Gweru, residents complained of acute water shortages. The suburbs did not get water for many days. As a result, communities resorted to overcrowded community boreholes³¹
- IV. In Epworth, it was reported that community members are suffering from incessant water shortages. In Bulawayo, it was reported that community members receive tap water once a week. In Mbare in Harare, it is alleged that ZANU PF supporters are given first preference to fetch water at the community boreholes. It was also alleged that suspected ZANU PF youths have taken over control of some community boreholes near Budiriro³²
- V. In the town of Redcliff, it is alleged that some residents had no water for several months. As a result, residents resort to queuing for water at community boreholes in Rutendo and Torwood. Whilst queuing for water, it was business as usual, as people ignored social distancing.

↔ On the question of corruption, the ACT-SA research gathered information that the town of Redcliff was supposed to have access to water from the nearby Cactus dam. However, a

³⁰ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 3 May 2020- Day 35

³¹ Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 2 May 2020- Day 34

³² Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum (2020) Zimbabwe COVID-19 Lockdown Monitoring Report: 20 May 2020- Day 52

heavy duty pump at the dam was removed by one of the senior managers of ZISCO. The pump was allegedly taken to a personal farm owned by the former ZISCO Managing Director. Residents reported the matter to the Criminal Investigations Department (CID) for investigations but there has been no feedback on progress made.

- ↔ In addition to the removal of the water pump, the town of Redcliff was supposed to have more boreholes through the benevolence of the private sector and some philanthropists. However, the donors were frustrated by politicians who suspected that these philanthropists may capture much attention at their expense. One of the philanthropists mentioned is Mr. Matorino who grew up in Torwood, Redcliff. It is alleged that Mr. Matorino drilled some boreholes but was forced to discontinue the project by local politicians. It is alleged that these politicians expected Mr. Matorino to handover resources to them so that it would appear as if the project was sponsored by their political parties. As a result, the project was abandoned because of political greed.³³
- ↔ Another shining example is a borehole close to Zvigayo Business Centre in Rutendo that was sponsored by one Mr. Chinhara, a member of the opposition MDC-T. It has an abundance of water but the local authority refused and/or neglected to maintain it. There is suspicion from the community that the local authority has no interest to maintain projects that were initiated by the opposition. In the same vein, it is alleged that a local school refused to accept a donation of cement needed to complete a toilet block for school children simply because of the fact that the donation was coming from a member of the opposition using CDF resources.³⁴ The Figure below shows the picture of a neglected borehole:

Figure 6: Abandoned Borehole in Redcliff

³³ Interview with a community member on the 25th of April 2020

³⁴ Interview with a community member on the 25th of April 2020



The people of Redcliff also rely on some boreholes sponsored by Hon. July Moyo when he was campaigning for the Redcliff Parliamentary seat in 2017/8. In a nutshell, Minister July Moyo sponsored the boreholes as part of efforts to lure voters. However, after losing elections to an MDC Alliance candidate, he abandoned these projects.

A shining example is an incomplete borehole in Simbi Park, Redcliff. The borehole has an abundance of water but the Minister neglected completing it after losing the election. Refer to the Figure below showing the cased borehole abandoned by Minister July Moyo.

Figure 7: Borehole Abandoned by Minister July Moyo



In Simbi Park another borehole was abandoned because of politics. It is alleged that the sponsor had not consulted local politicians who stopped the drilling process.³⁵

Figure 8: Abandoned Borehole in Simbi Park due



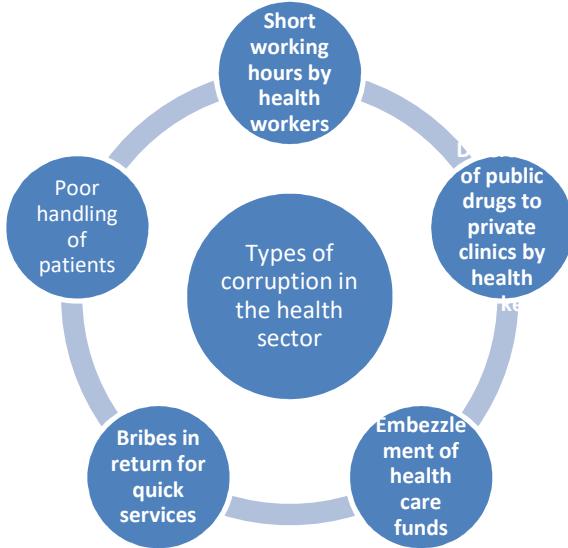
In keeping with the above, corruption has emerged as one of the obstacles to the provision of safe, clean and potable water. In the case of Hon. Minister July Moyo, he supported the drilling of boreholes during election campaigns as part of efforts to buy votes.

3.8 CORRUPTION AND THE STATE OF HEALTH SERVICE DELIVERY

In Zimbabwe, the health sector has for a long time been prone to corruption. According to UNDP (2010) acts of corruption in the health sector include: the diversion of public drugs to private clinics, short working hours for health personnel due to absenteeism and late coming, poor handling of patients especially the poor, bribes in return for quick services and embezzlement or abuse of health care funds. The Figure below shows the common forms of corruption in the health sector.

Figure 9: Types of Corruption in the health sector

³⁵ Interview with community members on 5 April 2020



During the lockdown, the following reports of alleged corruption were received:

- I. It is alleged that some high profile individuals threatened health personnel to release their friends and relatives on quarantine. This prompted the intervention of the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) to warn all those responsible to refrain.
- II. It is alleged that public officials paid themselves hefty allowances. A letter from the Treasury dated 28 April 2020 signed by Mr. George Guvamatanga, the Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development confirmed unjust enrichment through hefty allowances. The Treasury ordered that all payments be reversed. Instead, the money should be channelled towards the COVID-19 pandemic.
- III. In the wake of the pandemic, the Statement issued by the Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR) issued on the 7th of April 2020 is more telling. Refer to the State below.

Figure 10: ZADHR Statement on the second COVID-19 Death



120 Chiremba Road, Cranborne, Harare; PO Box CY 2415, Causeway, Harare, Zimbabwe
Tel: (263-4) 703430, 703528 Fax: 705641; email: info@zadhr.org



STATEMENT ON SECOND COVID-19 DEATH

07 April 2020

The Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR) calls for an urgent audit of the circumstances leading to the death of patient number 11 diagnosed with COVID-19 in Zimbabwe (Ministry of Health and Child Care Coronavirus (COVID-19) Update: 07 April 2020). ZADHR is deeply concerned by the continued lack of preparedness in handling severe COVID-19 cases in Zimbabwe. Equally, we are extremely worried by the possible exposure of health workers both in private and public facilities who are working without PPEs. We urge the health authorities to account for the following grey areas in the management of this case:

- i. It took five days (from 2nd April to 7th April) to get the result of the COVID-19 test a period which is rather too long. The absence of diagnostic facilities for COVID-19 brings to question the state of preparedness of centre outside Harare. What is the government doing to improve the turn-around time for tests?
- ii. The patient was treated at a local hospital. Is this an infectious diseases hospital or a COVID-19 designated facility? Previously the Minister of Health and Child Care has assured the nation that the country is ready to deal with COVID 19 cases countrywide. The lack of clarity arouses lots of questions.
- iii. The inability to diagnose on time is a clear sign that health professionals attending the deceased were exposed as they lack essential protective equipment (PPEs).
- iv. Does this case reflect the lack of knowledge on the case definition for suspected cases of COVID-19? The patient was first seen on 23 March and was not advised to self-quarantine, get tested for COVID-19, and managed as a suspected case.
- v. What is the state of preparedness in centres outside Harare?

ZADHR believes this case and the continued demise of severe cases of COVID-19 patients mirrors the utter lack of preparedness of the health system. It also reflects the minimal focus on other regions outside Harare. Lastly, the Minister of Health and Child Care must be made to account on what he referred to when he claimed the country was prepared for COVID-19 when such regional inequities and pervasive logistical issues characterize our response to date.

///END///

Member: International Federation of Health and Human Rights Organisations (IFHHRO)
Observer Status: African Commission for Human and Peoples' Rights



An extract below from the ZADHR statement summarizes events that may have led to the death of the Patient Number 11.

It took five days (from 2nd April to 7th April) to get the result of the COVID-19 test a period which is rather too long. The absence of diagnostic facilities for COVID-19 brings to question the state of preparedness of centre outside Harare. What is the government doing to improve the turn-around time for tests?

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Does this case reflect the lack of knowledge on the case definition for suspected cases of COVID-19? The patient was first seen on 23 March and was not advised to self-quarantine, get tested for COVID-19, and managed as a suspected case.

What is the state of preparedness in centres outside Harare?

- IV. In Gokwe at Mangidhi, Chitave, and Sai Clinics patients were turned away. The clinics only served patients visiting the maternity ward, those suffering from snake bites, accident victims, and those collecting ARVs. The rest were turned away and resorted to traditional herbs. It is alleged that bribes were paid in exchange for treatment.³⁶

4. REPRISALS AGAINST ANTI-CORRUPTION ACTIVISTS AND JOURNALISTS

Anti-corruption activists were not spared during the COVID-19 lockdown. These activists play a very important role of exposing corruption. This report will cite one example of a whistleblower linked to ACT-SA who was arrested. The name is withheld for security purposes

↔ The Case Study of Chinhoyi-based anti-corruption activist

The self-explanatory statement from the whistleblower is shown below.

Box 5: Testimony of a Journalist cum Anti-Corruption Activist

After getting a tip from residents that police in Chinhoyi were asking for bribes in exchange for flouting Covid-19 rules and regulations i decided to investigate the issue. I chose a roadblock nearby CBD and monitored it for close to one and half hours while i witnessed their operations at the roadblock site. True to residents word the police were indeed taking bribes from motorists whose vehicles were 'overloaded' since vehicle are allowed to carry two passengers only and residents who wanted to get into town for reasons deemed not essential. I took pictures and videos as evidence of what was happening that's when one of the officers saw me and came to me to inquire why i was taking pictures and I told him that I was an accredited journalists and produced my accredited card and he noticed that it only covered 2019 but I tried to reason with the officer that the card is still valid since we have not been issued with new 2020 cards but couldn't take it thereby asking me accompany them to the station for clarification from senior officers.

They said I was using a 2019 Accreditation card but when Acting Mashonaland West police spokesperson Ian Kohwera explained to them at the station they then changed saying I was not cooperating and had insulted them. I phoned MISA and Zimlawyers and a lawyer came, went to court but court officials were not there I was released in the hands of my lawyer to appear in court the following day.

³⁶ Interview with a Gokwe-based community member on the 14th of April 2020

When I appeared in court yesterday i was remanded out of custody to 7 May on free bail. Hopefully then the trial will kick off.

The charges are disorderly conduct in a public place (breaching section 41 of the criminal law codification and reform).

Or alternative charge of contravening section 11 (a) (b) of the public health (Covid-19) Prevention, Containment and Treatment (National Lockdown Order, 2020)

It must be noted that this is not the first time that I was arrested. In 2012 I was arrested accused of insulting police officers but acquitted after a full trial.

In 2007 I was arraigned before Media and Information Commission then accused for using an expired accreditation card allegedly issued in 'error' by the state controlled body (whatever that meant).

It is not a secret that police continued to harass me for exposing their corrupt tendencies that I have reported on many occasions but this will not deter me.

I think my life was more in danger during former late President Robert Mugabe than what it is now.

My worry is my family mainly because sometimes they don't understand why the police is always after me...they fear for my life but for me its now part of my life.

It is crystal clear from the Chinhoyi case study that ZRP Police officers can fabricate charges in a vendetta to settle personal scores with members of the public. To this end, whistleblowers remain at risk in Zimbabwe.

5. DRIVERS OF CORRUPTION DURING THE COVID-19 LOCKDOWN

There are several factors that contributed to an escalation of corruption cases during the COVID-19 pandemic lockdown. The following are some of the factors thereof:

- I. Lack of supervision: During the lockdown period, police details allegedly took advantage of the lack of monitoring by their supervisors to such an extent that some of the officers drove their personal vehicles and parked them at checkpoints. This was the case in Kwekwe.
- II. Exorbitant fines: Heavy fines against all those violating the COVID-19 regulations worsened the problem. The ZRP officers charged bribes that are less than the prescribed fines. Firstly, ZRP officers used these heavy fines to threaten people who obviously opted for the bribes.
- III. Hunger: The government failed by not giving the poor enough food to eat. People moved outside in search of food. As shown earlier in this report, the food aid that was given was also politicized which made it difficult for everyone to get support.
- IV. Lack of Sanctions against the Corrupt: Public officials accused of corruption were not punished. This explains why corruption does not seem to end in Zimbabwe.

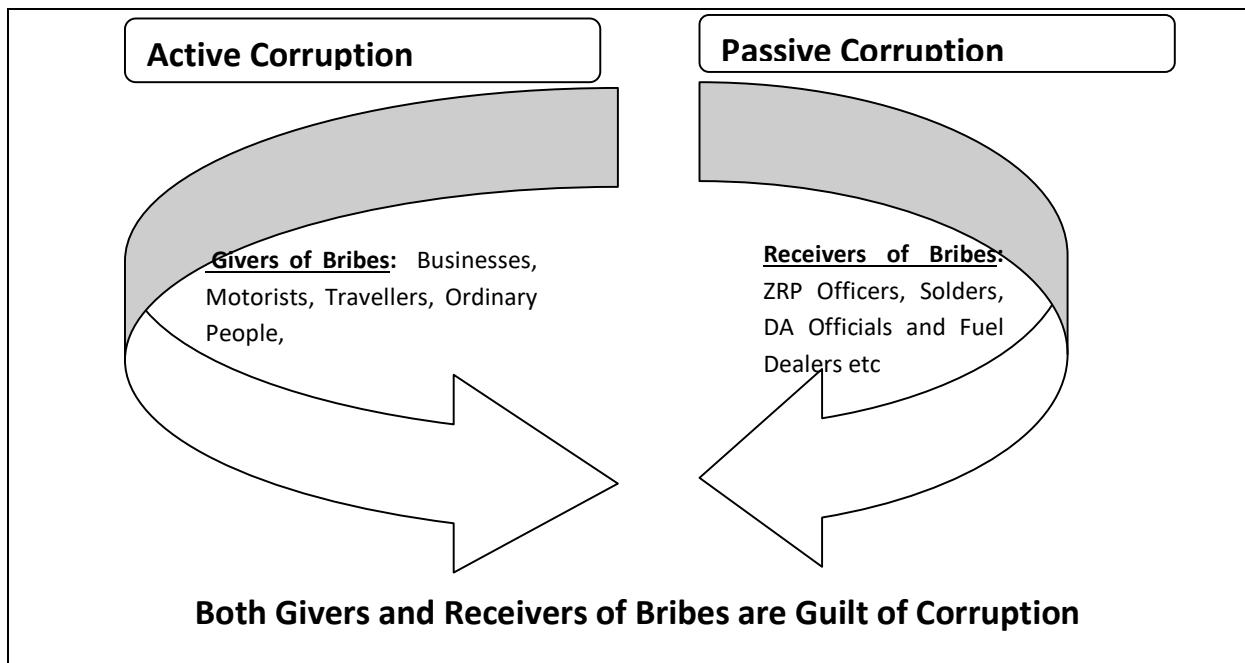
6. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This investigation demonstrates the endemic nature of corruption in Zimbabwe. ZRP officers, ZNA soldiers, Municipal police, DDCs officials, and some Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs) were fingered in corruption.

Regardless of the endemic nature of corruption by public officials, there were few arrests made by ZRP and ZACC. It is becoming clearer that ZRP tends to condone corruption by its members, which leaves ZACC as the most strategically placed organisation to combat

ACT-SA is also worried by a culture of corruption bedeviling Zimbabwean societies. The ordinary people are not resisting paying bribes, regardless of both the givers and receivers of bribes being guilty of corruption. The Figure below demonstrates this link.

Figure 11: Givers and receivers of bribes are all guilty of corruption



Against this background, ACT-SA makes the following recommendations:

↔ **General Recommendations**

- All individuals and institutions mentioned in this report should be investigated and appropriate action taken;
- The heavy fines levied against those violating COVID-19 regulations are part of the challenges that have fueled corruption during the lockdown period. It is recommended that these fines should be reduced;
- Government should urgently set up a task team comprising of ZACC and civil society to monitor, report and deal with corruption cases during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Instances of price hikes and fixing by service providers need to be investigated and where necessary, government needs to punish those responsible.
- Whistle blowers should be provided with safe avenues for reporting and be given more protection.
- The government should provide free masks since the majority that cannot afford buying them keeping in mind the economic crisis created by the pandemic. It is better to make people pay fines after getting free masks from the government. The punishment of individuals not wearing masks by the government that does not afford to provide them to its poorest citizens and inhabitants is particularly callous.
- The government of Zimbabwe should ensure a high level of transparency in its response to the ongoing health and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in order to make its responses more efficient by reducing losses due to corruption, fraud and waste.

↔ **Recommendations to the Auditor-General**

- Audit of donations made towards the COVID-19 pandemic.

↔ **Recommendations to the Police General Head-Quarters**

- Police officers at checkpoints should be supervised to ensure that they carry out their duties in the most effective and ethical manner.
- Wrong-doing should be deterred through punishment. It has been noted with concern that the management of the police has the tendency of merely transferring police officers accused of wrong-doing. This may temporarily help but should not be recommended. All corrupt officials should be punished and if convicted should be dismissed from work.
- Investigate cases of reprisals against people complaining against police corruption: In the case of a Chinhoyi-based journalist covered in this Report the police arrested him because they thought that he had gathered evidence of corruption against them. Such cases should be thoroughly investigated and appropriate action taken

↔ **Recommendations to the Minister of Social Welfare**

- The Ministry of Social Welfare should desist from using political party structures to identify food aid beneficiaries. Similarly, food aid should not be distributed using political structures;
- The Ministry should investigate all allegations of the politicization of food aid.

↔ **Recommendations to Local Authorities**

- Provide unhindered access to clean and potable water.
- Investigate and take appropriate action in regard to allegations of corruption against municipal police
- Carry out demolitions of identified informal structures in a non-partisan way.
- Provide temporary relief to vendors while more permanent structures are being processed

↔ **Recommendations to Minister July Moyo and the Municipality of Redcliff**

- Consider taking steps to complete the borehole in Simbi Park which Minister July Moyo drilled as part of the political campaigns ahead of the 2018 elections. It is alleged that Minister Moyo neglected or refused to complete the borehole after losing the elections to an MDC-Alliance member;
- Maintain a borehole drilled by Mr. Chinhara which is situated in Rutendo close to the Rutendo ‘Zvigayo’ Business Centre. It has been established that the borehole was handed over to the Municipality of Redcliff but the local authority has long since refused and/or neglected to maintain it for reasons best known to themselves;
- Investigate why the drilling of a borehole at Simbi Park shopping centre was abandoned and where possible take action to resuscitate the drilling thereof.

↔ **Recommendations to Legislators and Policy-makers**

- Protecting reporting persons/ whistleblowers: Policy and law makers should consider protecting whistleblowers against reprisals. Such persons face a variety of unjustified treatment. There is therefore need to devise measures to thwart such treatment. All threats, intimidation or retaliation should be criminalized
- Legislators should consider libel law reform as an important aspect of anti-corruption legislation. This may be particularly relevant to the investigations and reports by journalists and other whistleblowers.

↔ **Recommendations to the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC)**

- The ZRP and ZACC should investigate the circumstances that led to the former Managing Director of ZISCO Steel taking a heavy dump water pump at Cactus Dam in the town of Redcliff.

↔ **Recommendations to the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA)**

- Investigate all allegations of corruption leveled against ZNA soldiers

↔ **Recommendations to Donors**

- Donors should come up with strict transparency and accountability measures to ensure that beneficiaries receive services and support during the COVID-19

- Donors should channel donations through non-governmental organisations and other non-political entities
- Ensure aid given to the Government of Zimbabwe and other actors is not abused for political expediency.

↔ **Recommendations to Political Parties**

- Desist from interfering with government programmes
- Desist from food aid distribution

↔ **Recommendations to the Media, Civil Society and the Public**

- Considering that the Zimbabwean government is mobilising extremely large sums of emergency funding to respond to the crisis, the public, civil society and the media must monitor and evaluate how public resources are used
- Members of the public should resist and report all cases of corruption. It is also important for the public to note that they are also guilty of corruption when they offer or agree to pay the bribes.

ANNEXES

↔ FOLLOW-UP ACTION POINTS ON HIGHLIGHTED CASES

Individuals/Organisations Implicated	Allegations and Recommendations
ZRP Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commission investigations into allegations that ZRP officers country-wide are receiving bribes at checkpoints, fuel stations, in shops and in the streets ○ Investigate allegations that there is lack of sanctions against corrupt ZRP officers. ○ Investigate allegations that there is lack of supervision of ZRP officers at checkpoints. ○ Investigate the case of the harassment of a Chinhoyi-based whistleblower
Ministry of Social Welfare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate allegations of partisan distribution of food aid
Ministry of Women Affairs, Community and Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate allegations of partisan registration of the informal sector to benefit from the government.
ZRP Kwekwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate all allegations leveled against ZRP Officers in Kwekwe. ○ Also investigate why beerhalls operating under the name and style of 'Kwamaiguru', and Roasting Plant remained open throughout the lockdown . ○ Also investigate why a braai spot at the back of Mudhomboyi Butchery is open when others have been closed. ○ Investigate and lay traps on corruption at fuel stations: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ↔ At Engine Garage in Redcliff, ZRP police officers are soliciting bribes from motorists in exchange for allowing these motorists to refuel without permits. ↔ At Trek Garage in Kwekwe situated opposite OK Supermarket bribes of between US\$20 and US\$50 were paid in exchange for drums of fuel ↔ At Zuva Garage employees are allegedly demanding bribes to refuel.
Ministry of Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate allegations of corruption and turning away patients at Mangidhi, Chitave, and Sai Clinics. Further investigate circumstances leading to the death of Patient Number 11
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development and the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate allegations that public officials paid themselves hefty allowances during the lockdown
Minister July Moyo	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Complete a borehole in Simbi Park which he abandoned after losing elections in 2018
Municipality of Redcliff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maintain a borehole sponsored by one Mr. Chinhara in Rutendo
Parliament of Zimbabwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate allegations of the abuse of CDF resources under the guise of responding to the COVID-19 pandemic
Former Managing Director of ZISCO and CID Kwekwe	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate circumstances leading to the removal of a heavy duty water pump at Cactus dam in Redcliff
ZANU PF / MDC-Alliance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Allegations of politicization of food aid and community

	boreholes. Shining examples being the hijacking of social welfare assistance country-wide
DDF/ZACC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commission investigations into allegations that the DDF was abused to drill boreholes in the run-up to the Glen View South by-election that took place on 7 September 2019
Fuel Garages (Engine, Trek and Zuva)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate allegations that fuel attendants are soliciting bribes to fuel vehicles without fuel permits issued by the office of the DDCs.
Kwekwe District Development Coordinator	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Investigate allegations that officials in the employ of the DDC's office are receiving bribes of US\$5 to issue travel passes and fuel permits
Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Commission investigations into allegations that ZNA soldiers receiving bribes to give a blind eye to COVID-19 regulations