

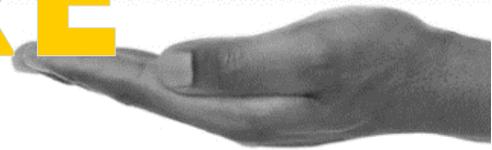
*Documenting an agricultural
input scheme so partisan...*

SOME

ANIMALS

ARE MORE

EQUAL



**THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY
MONITORING
REPORT**

OCTOBER 2020



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**

1.0 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

On 25 October 2020, at Kandeya Primary School in Mt Darwin South, about 177 kilometres from the main capital, Harare, dozens of villagers gathered to receive agricultural inputs under the government's Pfumvudza programme meant to boost Zimbabwe's food security. What started off as a fair distribution - with everyone getting their fair share - later turned out to be a partisan exercise. This was after about 20 villagers known to support opposition political parties were turned away and asked that they return after the distribution.

When they turned up later, they did not get the inputs.

Elsewhere, on October 8, only Zanu PF supporters benefited from the Pfumvudza inputs at Waze Business Centre in Chegutu East.

The Zanu PF Ward Chairperson Daniel

Makamure and another ruling party activist only identified as Musengi forced villagers to a meeting and beneficiaries were forced to surrender their personal details and chant Zanu PF slogans.

These two incidences are not isolated as, throughout the month of October, the partisan distribution of Pfumvudza inputs was a major highlight and the Zimbabwe Peace Project recorded 38 cases of discrimination of known and perceived political opposition supporters and/or activists. So widespread was this that ZPP recorded cases in all provinces except Harare and Bulawayo.

The ruling party contributed to 20.84 percent of all violations recorded, up from 15.61 percent in September; largely because Zanu PF officials were the ones influential in the distribution of Pfumvudza inputs

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'...the ruling party, as a perpetrator of human rights violations, contributed to 20.84 percent of all violations recorded, up from 15.61 percent in September.

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The sad story of a Harare girl child labourers, captured on camera

[Click here to see full story](#)

While government continued to relax Covid-19 regulations and the law enforcement agents exhibited less energy in enforcing the rules, the Zimbabwe Republic Police still contributed 19.87 percent of perpetrators of human rights violations, while the army, whose presence in the streets had become much lower, accounted for 2.75. Machete gangs came into the picture in October and while they contributed to only 1.78 percent of perpetrators, the mere reincarnation of machete violence symbolized government and law enforcement's failure to deal with the gangs, who have not only unleashed terror in mining communities, but have at some point resorted to armed robberies. Municipal police, mostly in Harare, who use some of the vilest methods of dealing with illegal vendors and traffic offenders, contributed to 9.85 percent of perpetrators. MDC Alliance affiliated activists had a share

of 3.07 percent of perpetrators of human rights violations while MDC-T Khupe contributed 0.16 percent; similar to last month, this is largely attributed to the battle for control by Nelson Chamisa (MDC Alliance) and Thokozani Khupe (MDC-T).

ZPP recorded 84 cases of harassment, a trend attributed largely to the distribution of Pfumvudza inputs, challenges in the access to water and enforcement of Covid-19 regulations by the police; among others. ZPP also recorded seven cases of unlawful detention, three displacements and two cases of sexual harassment.

ZPP is disheartened that two months in a row, there has been cases of killings, four in October and five in September. The sanctity of life is clearly outlined in the founding values of the Constitution of Zimbabwe and must be respected

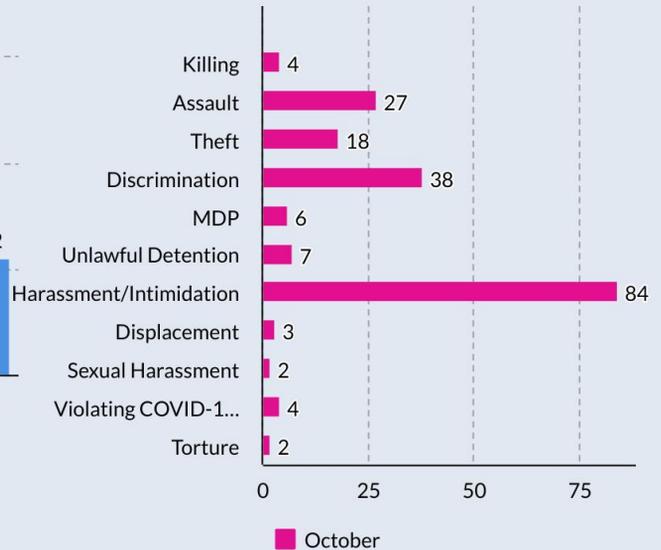
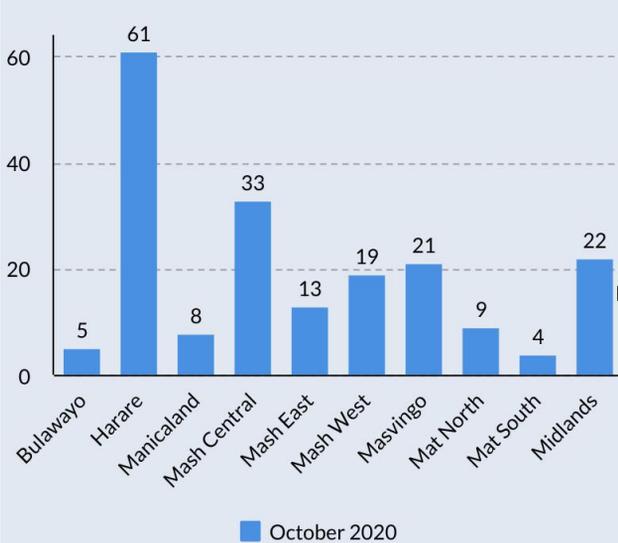
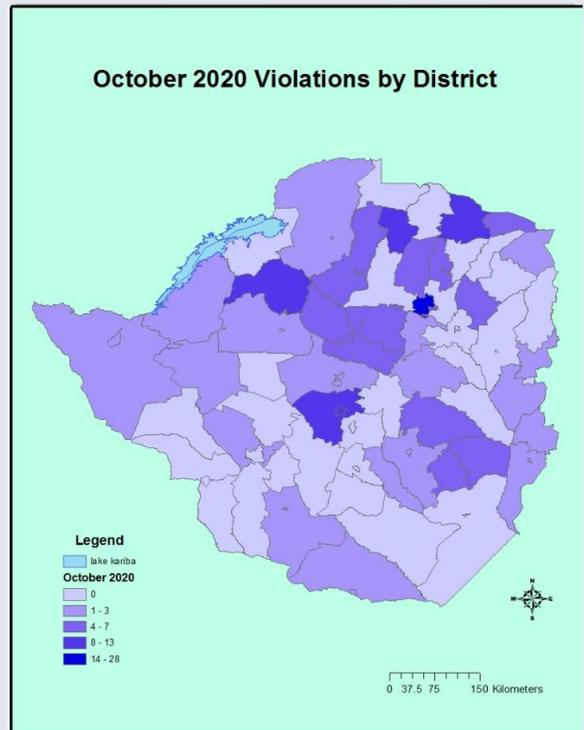
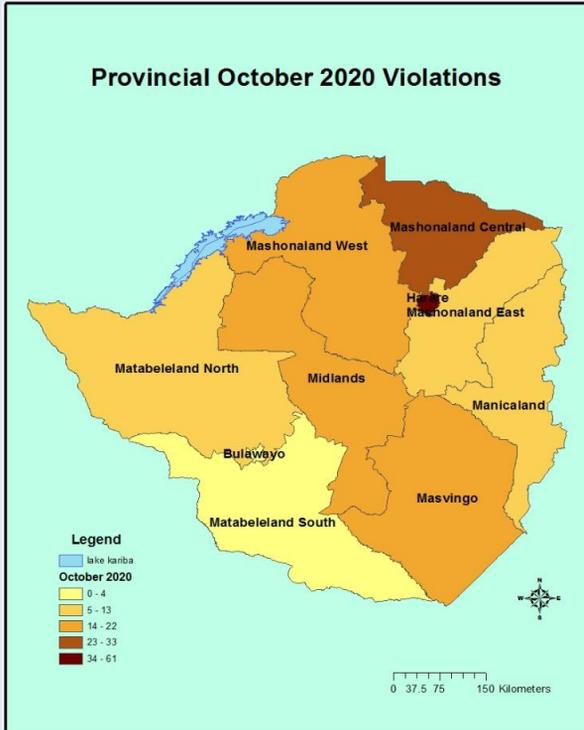
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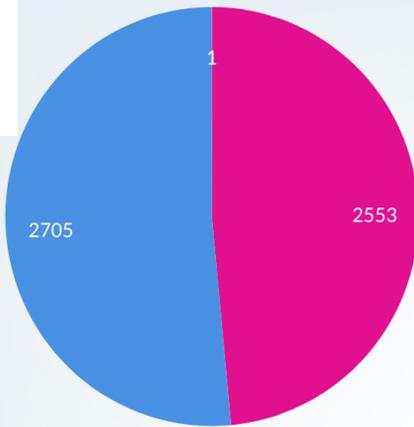
Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Zimbabwe Peace Project

Report time frame: October, 2020

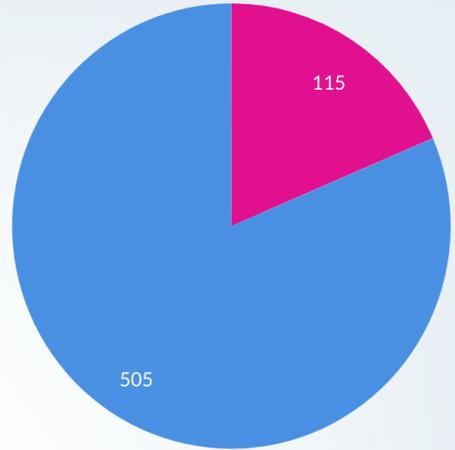


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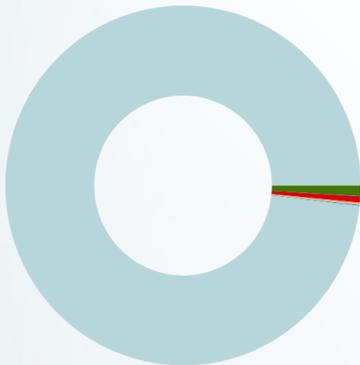
Female (48.55%) Male (51.44%)
Female PWD (0.02%)

Gender of October Victims



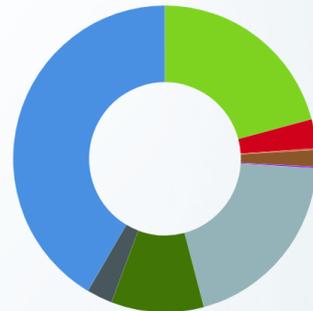
Female (18.55%) Male (81.45%)

Gender of October Perpetrators



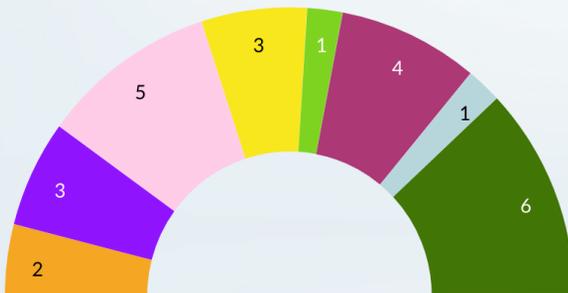
Zanu PF (0.97%) MDC Alliance (0.57%)
MDC-T Khupe (0.15%) PF Zapu (0.02%) NPP (0.02%)
Machete Gangs (0.08%) Unknown (98.19%)

October Victims Affiliation



Zanu PF (20.84%) MDC Alliance (3.07%)
MDC-T Khupe (0.16%) Machete Gangs (1.78%)
War Vets (0.16%) ZRP (19.87%)
Municipal Police (9.85%) ZNA (2.75%)
Unknown (41.52%)

October Perpetrators Affiliation



Harare (8%) Manicaland (12%) Mash Central (20%)
Mash East (12%) Mash West (4%) Masvingo (16%)
Mat South (4%) Midlands (24%)

October Food & Other Aid Violations



1 4
MDC Zanu PF

October Intra Party Violence

2.0 OVERALL ANALYSIS

PFUMVUDZA: A NOBLE IDEA DONE BADLY

“Equality is not a concept. It's not something we should be striving for. It's a necessity. Equality is like gravity. We need it to stand on this earth as men and women...” — Joss Whedon

On October 28, The Herald reported that more than a million households across the country had received inputs under the Presidential Inputs Programme known as Pfumvudza.

According to the paper, the inputs were being distributed to farmers by the Grain Marketing Board (GMB).

However, ZPP recorded that in a significant number of places, Zanu PF local leaders such as ward chairpersons, councilors, activists or war veterans heavily influenced the distribution method, which left those accused of being non-supporters of Zanu PF excluded.

In some cases, the distribution of what is supposed to be government aid and is meant for all deserving citizens, was conducted within a Zanu PF meeting setting, with beneficiaries being forced to chant Zanu PF slogans.

According to the Herald, each household got a standard input package comprising 5kg maize seed , a 50kg bag of basal dressing, 50kg of top dressing and traditional grain seeds for both oil seeds and cereals.

The paper reports that the standard input package is enough to cultivate three Pfumvudza plots, each plot measuring 16mx39m, two plots for cereals (maize and traditional grains) and a third one for oil seeds such as soyabeans in high rainfall potential areas and sunflower in the low rainfall potential areas.



Pfumvudza is a crop production intensification approach under which farmers ensure the efficient use of resources on a small area of land in order to optimize its management.

This means that those who did not benefit are due to face starvation as they likely will not afford to buy seed, which is selling at well over ZWL1600.00 for a 5kg bag. In some instances, farmers only received 1kg of seed instead of the 5kg, which will impact on the size of the harvest.

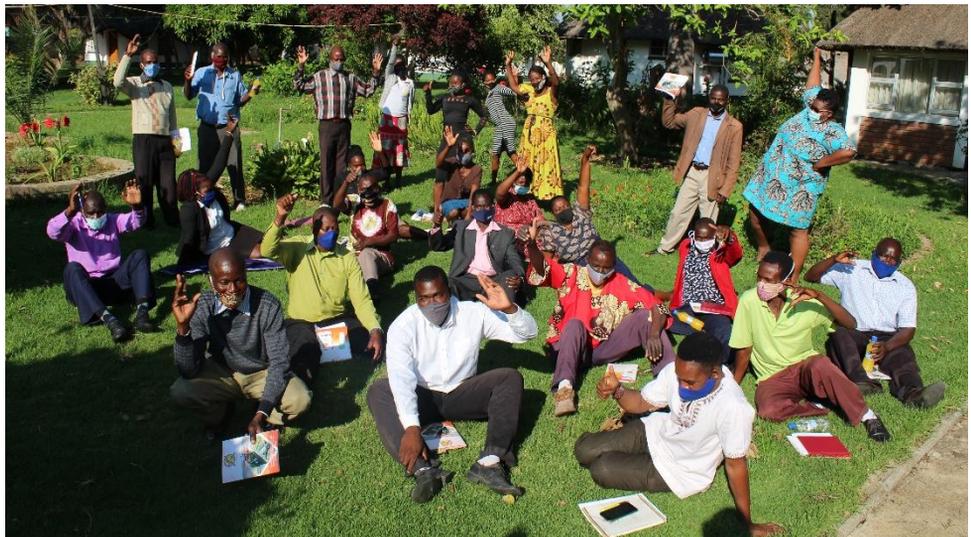
The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) is providing food aid to about 8 million Zimbabweans – more than half the population. While the attempts to achieve food security through Pfumvudza are noble, the implementation has remained largely discriminatory and this will defeat the entire purpose.

ZPP ASKS AND RECOMMENDS:

The line between the State and the ruling party should be respected and government programmes should benefit all the deserving beneficiaries in spite of their political, religious or any other affiliation.

ZPP recommends that government should put in place measures such as the use of official government data, and not political party members' lists when distributing aid in communities.

ZPP also urges community elected and traditional leaders to safeguard against the politicization of aid and use the direct influence they have on people to ensure every deserving beneficiary gets aid. Besides, when one is elected as councilor, they represent everyone in the ward, and not just their party supporters. Similarly, traditional leaders are prohibited by Chapter 15 of the Zimbabwe Constitution from acting in a partisan manner.



This month, ZPP conducted a Public Social Accountability Monitoring workshop, and participants, who included rights holders and office bearers drawn from across the country discussed, among other things, how as a community they can account for public resources using local tools & mechanisms



2.2 END THE KILLINGS

ZPP is concerned by the growing trend in the use of live ammunition on unarmed citizens, with four killings recorded in October and five in September. The security of persons is increasingly under threat.

In one case, on 2 October 2020, a Zanu PF youth was shot dead while nine others sustained serious injuries following a land dispute with CIF holdings security guards in Hopely Ushewokunze suburb, Harare South.

Reports indicate that the youths who were coming from the Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport where they had gone to bid farewell to Malawian President Dr Lazarus Chakwera at the end of his two-day State visit, went to Harare South where they clashed with security guards for arresting their colleague, Tonderai Marongwe after a land dispute.

Following the dispute, the guards dispersed the youths with gun shots and one died on the spot with nine others sustaining serious injuries. The victims were admitted at Sally Mugabe Central hospital, while the two security guards were arrested.

The second case involved a senior Zanu PF official, retired Lieutenant General Engelbert Rugeje.

It is alleged that a man died after a reported shootout at the home of the retired Lieutenant General on 12 October 2020.

It was reported that Rugeje was not home when at least six men armed with pistols scaled a perimeter wall to his Mt Pleasant home at around 3am.

Two soldiers guarding the property exchanged gunfire with the intruders who fled. The gunfight attracted other armed units guarding other VIPs on Cheshire Road, police sources said.

During a subsequent sweep of the area at around 5AM, the body of a man with gunshot wounds was found at 18 Cheshire Road; Rugeje lives at number 6. A search of his pockets turned up a Zanu PF Youth League membership card.

Witnesses also told police of a black Range Rover which allegedly picked up the deceased's associates.



2.2 END THE KILLINGS

Two soldiers who shot and killed two men in Chisuma area just outside Victoria Falls were arrested while angry villagers allegedly torched a house belonging to a businessman who they accused of working in cahoots with security forces in terrorising members of the community.

The soldiers identified as Bernard Sibanda and Bonang Nare both stationed at 1.2 Infantry Battalion in Hwange are expected to appear in court facing murder charges, police investigators confirmed Friday.

The shooting incident happened at Chisuma Business Centre where Sibanda and Nare had been deployed in the area for Covid-19 lockdown operations including border control to prevent cross-border smuggling.

ZPP ASKS AND RECOMMENDS

In light of this, ZPP urges government to ensure that the security of persons is guaranteed.

Soldiers should not be involved in civilian affairs, neither should they be part of the public life as they belong to the barracks. The security sector reform recommendations by the Motlanthe Commission of Inquiry should be fully implemented in order to prevent extra judicial killings of unarmed civilians.

ZPP urges the police to scale up their operations to end the scourge of machete violence as it has the potential to drive the country into anarchy.

It is only in
a lawless
country
that people
are
summarily
killed.



ARBITRARY ARRESTS & DETENTION

The arrests and detention of activists continued throughout the month of October.

In October, Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) President, Takudzwa Ngadziore remained incarcerated at Chikurubi Maximum Prison for staging a peaceful demonstration against the alleged involvement of Impala Car Rentals in the abduction of human rights and opposition activists.

Ngadziore remained a victim of state persecution for demanding justice on behalf of Muchehiwa who was abducted by suspected state security agents. Ngadziore was later released on bail.

Another activist, Terrence Manjengwa who was arrested on 29 August as he was protesting the arrest of Job Sikhala had been in remand for over 60 days and was granted bail in October.

This exposes the level to which the State has used prosecution as a tool for persecution. In addition to these cases of prominent activists, ZPP recorded several other cases of unlawful detention.

It comes as stark contrast that Zanu PF linked people when arrested, have been granted bail, with some of them not having seen the inside of the remand cells. One typical example is that of Nicholas Goche, a former minister arrested on 10 October for cattle theft and released on bail the same day.

ZPP RECOMMENDS

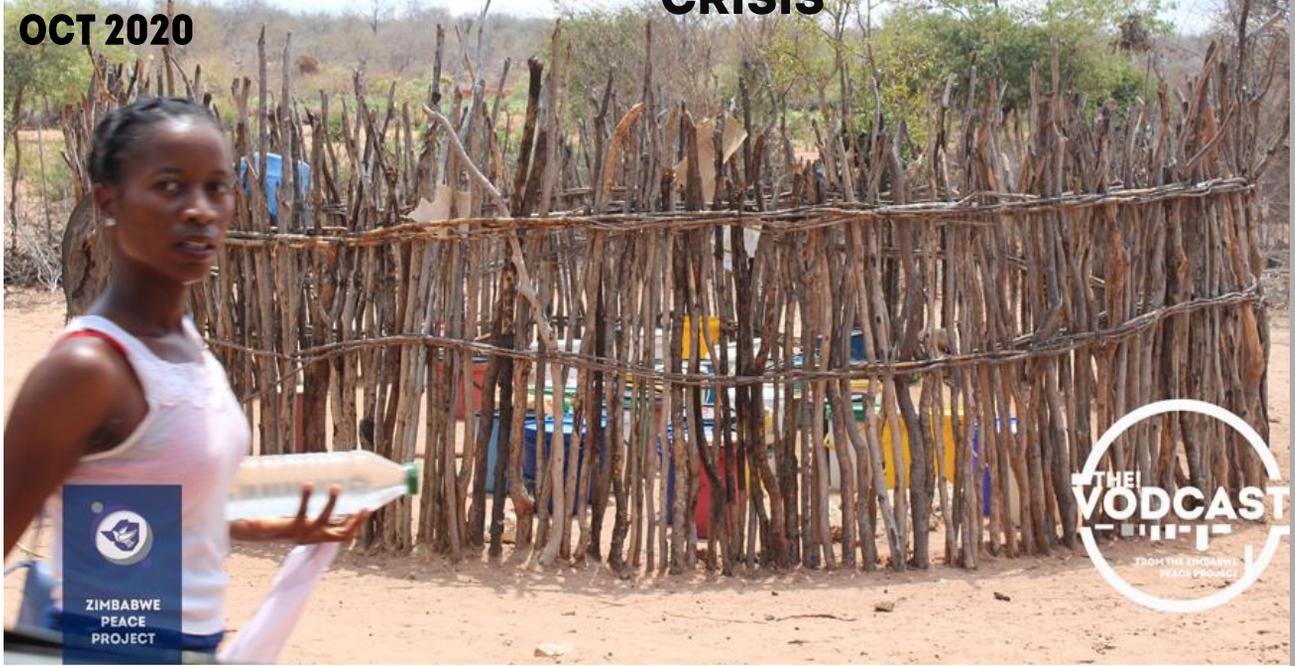
ZPP urges the police, the courts and the entire judicial system to go back to the Constitutional values and respect the Constitution's provisions on separation of power and the independence of the judiciary.

ZPP also welcomes the letter by judges calling on the Chief Justice Luke Malaba to stop victimising judges and manipulating judgements. The independence of the judiciary, and judges is essential to any democracy as it allows the exercise of the rule of law in a fair and transparent manner.

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INSIDE ZIMBABWE'S UNTENABLE WATER CRISIS



A woman holds a water bottle as she passes thru a borehole near Siyanzundu, Binga, ZW. Due to the acute water scarcity in the area, pple leave buckets in a 'queue' till day end when the water table is replenished enough for boreholes to pump out the precious water

Urban areas, have continued to experience water shortages attributed to a combination of the shortage of water treatment chemicals and the drying up of water reserves.

Residents have been forced to rely on open water sources or overcrowded manually pumped boreholes.

Some of the water sources are not safe and can expose people to diseases such as typhoid, cholera and diarrhea.

For example, in Bulawayo, the city has recorded nearly 400 cases of diarrhea since September in three hotspots ..

According to The Guardian newspaper, people interviewed in Bulawayo believe they are drinking sewage water.

"We are drinking sewage water and we are all going to get sick. The city council should respect us. What is surprising is that we have been paying bills every month without a drop of water. How is that fair when my children have to drink this dirty water?"

"We have the right to water. What do they want us to do? We do not have boreholes, seriously we cannot survive like this."

Apart from exposing people to Covid-19, the water problems have resulted in some having to queue for as long as five hours just to get a bucket of water. Some young girls and women who wake up as early as 2 am to queue for water have reported sexual and other forms of harassment.

Zimbabwe is in the grip of a nationwide water crisis due to poor rains and drought. Most local authorities have been forced to ration water. But Bulawayo is facing the worst crisis.

In its recent research on access to water, ZPP identified the poor and old water infrastructure as a major cause of the deprivation of the right to water.

ZPP also noted that government and local

authorities have not invested enough in the maintenance of existing water reticulation infrastructure and has not done enough to construct modern infrastructure to harvest, pump and distribute clean, safe and potable water to all.

ZPP recommends that government prioritises water as it is a basic right as in Section 77 of the Constitution.



A pupil at Chikhovo Primary School in Chiredzi, opens the gate while a goat looks on. Schools opened today for exam classes for the first time in six months. The opening of schools in October was marked by chaos as government failed to provide adequate PPE and teachers remained on strike, citing poor wages and demanding at least US\$520 worth of salaries a month.

#THEVODCAS is a series of community voices audio/visual broadcasts that are flighted on ZPP social media platforms. Through **#THEVODCAST**, ZPP goes far & wide and **#PEOPLESPEAK** out on key human rights issues in Zimbabwe

SCORCHED BINGA REELS UNDER THE WEIGHT OF ‘MARGINALISATION’

It is 8am and a couple of hours after sunrise. For the folk here in Binga, it is the beginning of yet another sweltering October day. Ar Siansundu, the boreholes only release water after sunset, leaving many to spend the better part of the nights at the few available water points. In May, human rights watchdog, the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), in a survey report, noted that Binga, despite its proximity to the Zambezi River, had chronic water shortages, due to inadequate infrastructure. Jestina Mukoko, the ZPP national director, said the issue of water problems in Binga needed an urgent solution. "The government should also ensure the prioritisation of the welfare of the people of Binga," Mukoko said.

"Only eight months ago, one person died and others were injured in floods, and as we approach another rainy season, the people of Binga are still at risk of floods as nothing has been done to relocate the victims." In addition to water shortages, the area, whose majority population are the Tonga people, is always stalked by hunger despite being located close to Zimbabwe's major water body, Lake Kariba.

The stark contrast between the lives of the native Tonga people and of those who live at and come to the fancy hotels and resorts and fisheries lining up the edges of Lake Kariba, and the safaris surrounding the areas, lays bare the marginalisation of the locals, who live from hand to mouth.

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[Opening of schools](#)



[#PeopleSpeak](#)
[Jacob Ngaruvhume](#)



[#PeopleSpeak:](#)
[Beaten by soldiers](#)

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The Zimbabwe Peace Project continues to remind government that it has an obligation towards its citizens and should provide all essential social services to all without bias.

The cases where people have been denied Pfumvudza aid for belonging to some political parties is disturbing and should be addressed as a matter of urgency. ZPP calls on the Agriculture minister to account for the partisan distribution and ensure those denied get the inputs before the onset of the rains.

ZPP also implores government to ensure that the security of persons is guaranteed. The increasing cases of the use of live ammunition on unarmed civilians is a cause for great concern and should be addressed imperatively.

Additionally, ZPP urges government to make genuine efforts towards the setting up of adequate infrastructure for the harvesting, preservation and distribution of water. Water is a basic right, and contributes to the enjoyment of the right to life and the right to health.



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