



Human Rights Violations Weekly Update 2

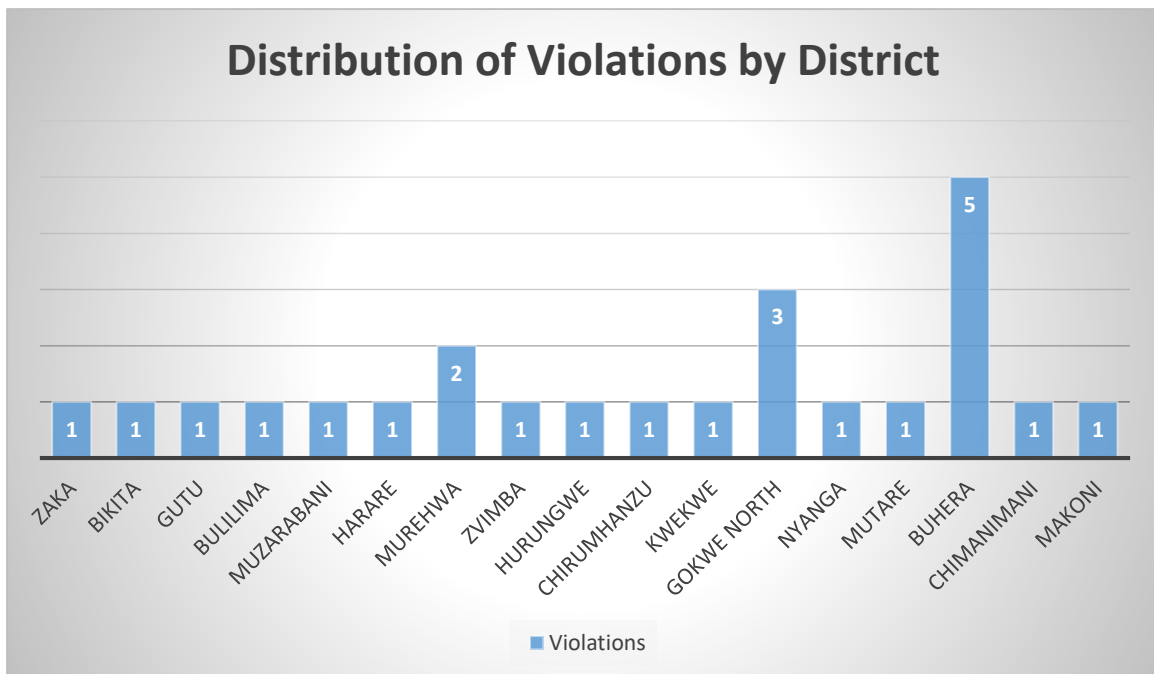
1. Summary of Violations.

In the period under review (09 – 25 March 2018), Heal Zimbabwe recorded a total of 24 human rights violations from 17 districts. The organisation recorded four categories of human rights violations which are intimidation (with threats of violence or threats of withdrawal of food aid or agricultural inputs), forced contributions to political party gatherings, disrupted political gatherings and assault. Intimidation recorded the highest number of violations constituting 83.3% (20 cases), forced contributions recorded 8.3% whilst assault and disruption of political gatherings recorded 4.1% each (1 case each). Heal Zimbabwe observed that the recorded human rights violations originated from the (i) ZANU PF restructuring exercise, (ii) the emergence of new political parties (iii) the collection of BVR serial numbers and (iv) the upcoming Independence Day commemorations.

Heal Zimbabwe observed that intimidation remain prevalent in local communities registering the highest number of cases each week. In this week's report, 20 cases of intimidation were recorded, seven cases higher than 13 cases recorded in the previous report. Political gatekeepers continue to use intimidation as a tool to harness support for the ruling ZANU PF party. Threats of past violence, withdrawal of food aid and agricultural inputs are issued to community members and opposition supporters. As such, free expression of their rights and participation is therefore stifled. HZT in this regard perceive intimidation as a threat towards the attainment of peace and social cohesion as the nation readies for elections.



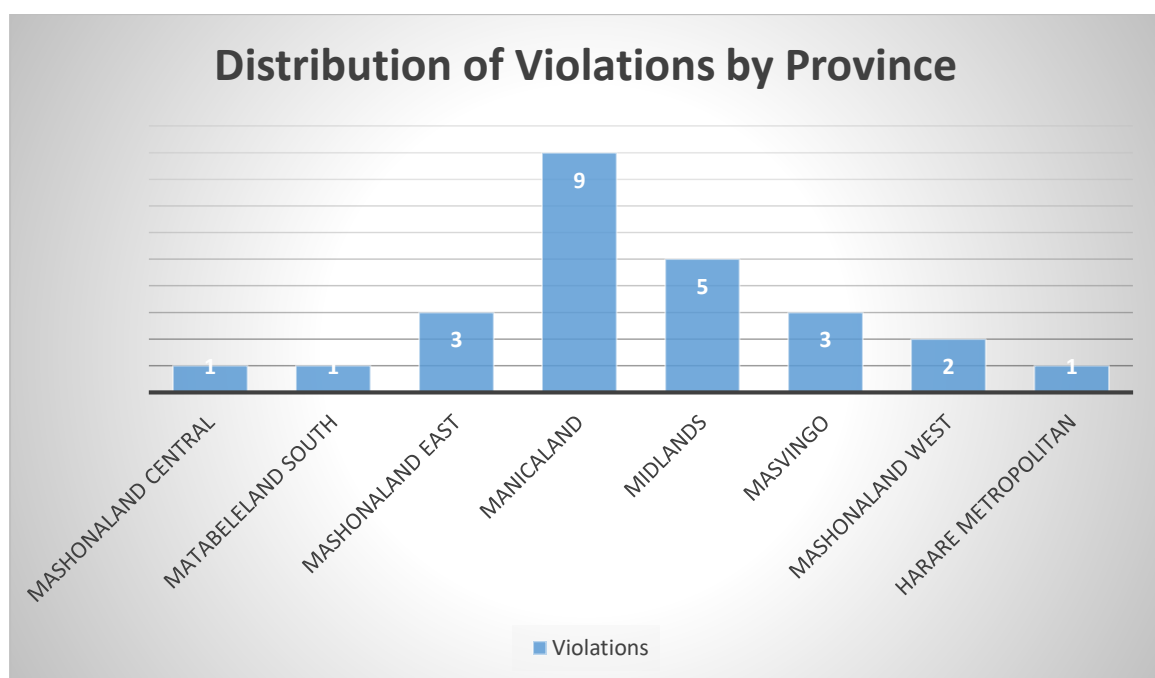
2. Distribution of Violations by District



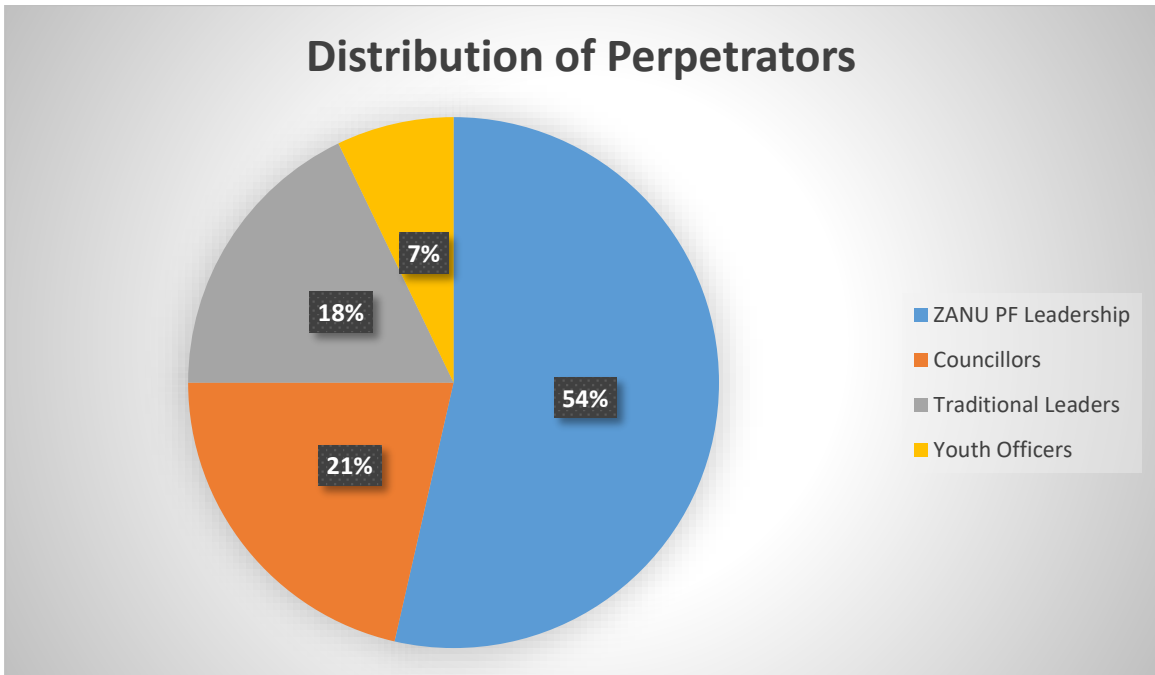
The chart above reveals the allocation of human rights violations across the districts. Human rights violations were recorded from 17 districts which are: Zaka, Bikita, Gutu, Bulilima,

Muzarabani, Harare, Murehwa, Zvimba, Hurungwe, Chirumhanzu, Kwekwe, Gokwe North, Nyanga, Mutare, Buhera, Chimanmani and Makoni. Buhera for the second time recorded the highest number of human rights violations (5 cases). Gokwe North recorded the second highest number of human rights violations with 3 cases followed by Murehwa which recorded 2 cases. The rest of the districts recorded one case each. In this reporting period, 24 cases were recorded compared to 17 recorded in the previous report. More cases are likely to increase as the election mode continues to intensify.

3. Distribution of violations by Province

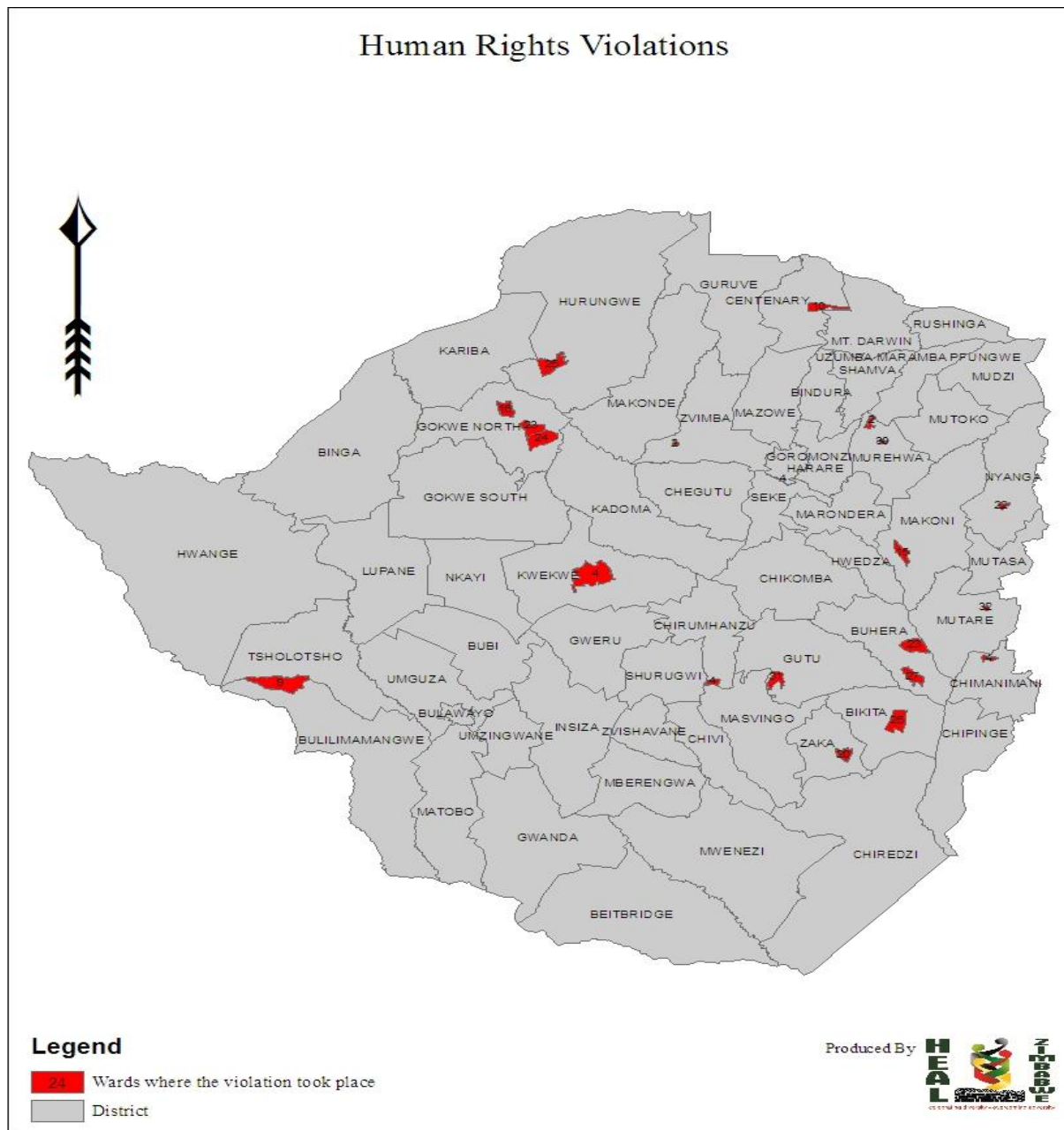


The diagram above indicates the distribution of human rights violations across the provinces. Heal Zimbabwe recorded human rights violations in 8 provinces which are Mashonaland Central, Matabeleland South, Mashonaland East, Manicaland, Midlands, Masvingo, Mashonaland West and Harare Metropolitan Province. Manicaland recorded the highest number of human rights violations with 9 cases. Midlands recorded the second highest number of human rights violations with 5 cases. Mashonaland East and Masvingo province recorded 3 cases each. The least human rights violations were recorded in Matabeleland South, Mashonaland Central and Harare metropolitan provinces which recorded one case each. Heal Zimbabwe predicts an increase in human rights violations in the coming weeks as political parties intensify their campaigns across the provinces.



The chart above indicates the distribution of perpetrators across the 8 provinces upon which human rights violations were recorded. A total of 28 perpetrators (22 males and 6 females) were recorded in this report. Heal Zimbabwe observed three categories of perpetrators who were involved in the human rights violations. These are ZANU PF leadership, Councillors, Traditional leaders and Youth Officers. ZANU PF leadership recorded the highest number of perpetrators with 54% (15 out of 24). These were largely ZANU PF ward chairpersons and party supporters. Councillors were the second highest with 21% (6 perpetrators), village heads recorded 18% (5 perpetrators) and Youth officers recorded 7% (2 perpetrators). Victims varied from community human rights defenders, opposition supporters and residents.

4.



5. Our Intervention on Human Rights Violations.

Heal Zimbabwe’s objective is to facilitate community led processes in resolving and managing conflicts. Through the work of various HZT community led peace structures such as early warning and early response committees and human rights monitors, Heal Zimbabwe has managed to monitor and document human rights violations countrywide. As a way of responding to the violations, the organisation has been providing rapid response and referrals to affected individuals and communities. HZT has also engaged the affected communities and

emphasised on the need to uphold peace and tolerance. In Gutu West ward 31, where a ZANU PF member, Jacob Matesva was forcing community members to submit serial numbers of voter registration slips, the organisation highlighted to Matesva that it was a criminal offence to collect serial numbers. In the engagement that ensued, Matesva revealed that he received the directive from Village head Maworera and Councillor Davison Gwirimira. Of special mention is the fact that Matesva highlighted that although he was aware that it was criminal to collect serial numbers, the Village head and Councillor refused to entertain this when he engaged them on the need to desist from such a practice. Heal Zimbabwe further engaged the Village head and the Councillor who confessed that they were given the directive by the ZANU PF District office in Gutu but however refused to divulge details of the persons involved. An early warning committee established by Heal Zimbabwe has since embarked on an awareness raising campaign on the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) targeting churches and social gatherings in the area.

In Mutare ward 32, Heal Zimbabwe through its early warning and response committee managed to report Councillor Josphat Gupa to Zimunya police station. Councillor Zimunya was forcing people to submit serial numbers of voter registration slips. Added to this, the early warning committee has also embarked on an awareness raising campaign where they dispel myths around the BVR and urge people to report people who collect serial numbers to their nearest police station.

In Kwekwe, Heal Zimbabwe facilitated for Eric Matsapa to receive medical attention after he was assaulted by unknown assailants in Kwekwe for attending an MDC-T rally in Kwekwe on 17 March 2018. The organisation also facilitated for Matsapa to report the matter to Mbizo police station though no arrests have been made so far.

Heal Zimbabwe also engaged other implicated Village heads in areas such as Buhera, Muzarabani South, Gutu West, Nyanga South and Gokwe North. Generally, the Village heads highlighted that most of the directives came from the local ZANU PF leadership within their areas. Heal Zimbabwe implored the Village heads to uphold their constitutional duty of not violating fundamental human rights and freedoms of any person as enshrined in Section 281 of the constitution. Heal Zimbabwe has also facilitated for affected community members to report their cases to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC).

6. Conclusion

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

Annexure: Specific cases recorded:

Manicaland Province

Buhera ward 23

ZANU PF ward chairperson, Wadzanai Magaisa, Councillor Marian Matizha and Village head Secretary, Box Mugonyi on the 14th of March 2018 intimidated and forced community members to pay \$0.25 contributions towards the Independence Day commemorations during a community meeting conducted at Gwama Business Centre. At the same meeting, ZANU PF ward chairperson Wadzanai Magaisa also announced that all community members who fail to submit their serial numbers of voter registration slips will not receive food aid from the Grain Marketing Board (GMB).

Buhera ward 23

Josphat Mutiya, a ZANU PF supporter on the 18th of March 2018, intimidated and forced community members to make \$0.25 contributions towards Independence Day Commemorations during a meeting conducted in Charuka village. Josphat Mutiya also highlighted that people who fail to submit serial numbers of their voter registration slips will not receive food aid and also risk being beaten in the upcoming elections.

Buhera ward 27

On 19 March 2018, Village head Ripisai distributed food aid from the Ministry of Social Welfare to ZANU PF members only at Mutiusinazita Business centre. This was despite the fact that several people who support opposition parties were registered as beneficiaries. Village head Ripisai openly announced that he was only going to distribute food aid to ZANU PF supporters only

Chimanimani west ward 4

On 20 March 2018, Councillor Tendai Chikosha threatened two MDC-T supporters (names withheld) who were distributing party fliers at Gonzoni business Centre. Councillor Chikosha warned the two that he was going to evict them from the village if they continue supporting MDC-T.

Makoni ward 15

Village head Charles Chingori on the 17th of March 2018 intimidated community members during a ZANU PF meeting conducted at Nyanhete shop. Chingori highlighted that community members who failed to continuously attend ZANU PF meetings will not receive food aid.

Mutare ward 32

On 21 March 2018, Councillor Josphat Gupa conducted a meeting at Zimunya Primary school and forced people to submit serial numbers of voter registration slips. Councillor Gupa announced that people who fail to submit their serial numbers were not going to be registered as beneficiaries for food aid from the Ministry of Social welfare.

Nyanga South Ward 22

On 20 March 2018, Village head Tecla Manyau called for a meeting at her homestead and forced community members to submit serial numbers of voter registration slips. The Village head also warned that those who refuse to submit serial numbers would be struck off the food aid beneficiary list.

Masvingo Province

Zaka ward 20

ZANU PF ward chairperson, Samuel Janga on the 14th of March 2018 disrupted an MDC meeting conducted at Cheshanga Business Centre. Samuel Janga highlighted that no opposition party activities will be “tolerated” in the ward save for the ruling ZANU PF party.

Gutu West Ward 31

On 15 March 2018, Jacob Matesva, a ZANU PF member moved around the ward forcing people to submit serial numbers of voter registration slips. Matesva told people that those who refuse would have their names submitted to ZANU PF District offices.

Bikita ward 25

ZANU PF District Chairperson, Marko Masuka, ZANU PF Youth Chairperson, Shylock Chienga and Councillor Aaron Munhando intimidated community members during a ZANU PF meeting conducted at Utete Business Centre on the 17th March 2018. Masuka threatened that soldiers will heavily beat up everyone in the community if ZANU PF loses in the upcoming elections. Masuka further revealed that ZANU PF has since commenced compiling names of people who participate in activities of opposition parties in the area.

Mashonaland East

Murehwa ward 2

ZANU PF member, Paul Tanhamira on the 16th of March 2018 intimidated opposition supporters who attended a National Patriotic Front (NPF) meeting conducted at Dandara Business Centre. Tanhamira also announced that he compiled the list of people who attended the NPF meeting. He further highlighted that the list will be used by soldiers to beat up all the opposition supporters in the ward.

Murehwa ward 30

ZANU PF supporter, Gladys Mutyoza on the 22nd of March 2018 intimidated community members at Murehwa Centre accusing them of attending NPF meetings. Mutyoza also moved around the business centre announcing that NPF supporters will be heavily beaten in the upcoming elections.

Mashonaland West

Zvimba South ward 2

On the 11th of March 2018, Councillor Chamunorwa Mutevera addressed a meeting at Murombedzi business centre. In his address, Mutevera warned that people who attend opposition party rallies in his area will be struck off the food aid beneficiaries list. Mutevera singled out Mike Chidarika accusing him of being an MDC-T supporter and threatened him with violence.

Hurungwe West ward 25

On 06 March 2018, Hurungwe West Legislator, Keith Guzah threatened teachers at Denderedzi Primary school after they failed to mobilise community members for a ZANU PF meeting. On

the day in question, Guzah arrived at the school with a tonne of rice that he wanted to distribute. When he realised that there was low turnout, he started harassing teachers at the school and threatened them with unspecified action for “sabotaging” his meeting.

Midlands

Chirumhanzu Zibagwe ward 4

ZANU PF Ward Chairperson Connick Musemwa and Timothy Kwendatiya a youth officer, intimidated community members during a ZANU PF restructuring meeting conducted at Tokwe 4 centre on the 15th of March 2018. Musemwa stated that opposition parties are not “tolerated” in the ward and those found supporting any opposition party will be barred from receiving food and agricultural inputs. Kwendatiya further threatened to unleash violence on anyone found attending opposition party meetings in the ward.

Kwekwe ward 4

On the 17th of March 2018, Eric Matsapa was assaulted by unknown assailants at Mbizo 4 shopping centre. The unknown assailants accused him of attending an MDC-T rally in Kwekwe on 17 March 2018 and mobilising people to attend the rally. Matsapa sustained serious injuries on his back and hand. The matter was reported at Mbizo police station and no arrests have been made so far.

Gokwe North ward 16

On 16 March 2018, ZANU PF youth chairperson, Joseph Gumindoga and ZANU PF District chairperson Munyira Atnos, harassed workers at Choda COTTCO depot. The two further warned the workers that they risk losing their jobs if they give cotton seeds to opposition party supporters.

Gokwe North ward 24

On 14 March 2018, Councillor Walter Wafana and youth officer Edmore Mutemeri threatened people during a fertiliser distribution exercise at Ukomo Business centre. The two warned the people in attendance that all those who refuse to submit serial numbers of their registration slips would not receive fertilisers.

Gokwe North ward 23

On 16 March 2018, Village head Chiwara announced during a meeting at Tsungai business centre that soldiers would soon be deployed in ward 23 to assault people who refused to submit serial numbers of voter registration slips. The Village head further highlighted that those who had voluntarily submitted serial numbers would soon receive food aid.

Harare Metropolitan

Zengeza ward 4

ZANU PF ward secretary for youth, Idah Chakanyuka forced people to submit serial numbers of voter registration slips. On 20 March 2018, Chakanyuka who was in the company of unidentified youths moved around the ward forcing people to submit serial numbers.

Matabeleland South

Bulilima West ward 9

On 19 March 2018, ZANU PF chairperson, Agnes Bhule moved around the ward forcing people to submit serial numbers of voter registration slips. Bhule announced that those who refuse will not receive food aid from the Ministry of Social Welfare.

Mashonaland Central

Muzarabani South ward 10

On the 18th of March 2018, Village head Dominic Mazhambe conducted a meeting at his homestead and ordered people to submit serial numbers of their voter registration slips. Village head Mazhambe further warned that people who defy his directive will be struck off the food aid beneficiaries list.