



# 2018 Elections Evidence Factsheet



A Weekly Publication of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Information Centre

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## Allegation / Incident

- i. Key concerns around military engagement in the electoral process stemming from the deployment of military personnel in communities and the recent statement from government officials that the army will facilitate the return to power of the ruling party regardless of outcomes of the 2018 elections.



## Recorded Evidence

### - **Army Launches Album for President Mnangagwa's Campaign**

On 25 May 2018 The Zimbabwe Defence Force launched a music album for President Emmerson Mnangagwa's election campaign. The nine-track album's cover song is "Garwe Rauya" a chiShona phrase meaning "the hero has arrived". See: <https://www.timeslive.co.za/news/africa/2018-05-25-military-makes-music-for-emmerson-mnangagwas-bid-to-keep-presidency/> Also See: <https://www.dispatchlive.co.za/news/2018-05-25-military-makes-music-for-emmerson-mnangagwa/> Also See: <https://www.thestandard.co.zw/2018/05/27/army-releases-crocodile-album/>

### - **Terrence Mukupe, Deputy Minister of Finance**

Deputy finance minister and Harare East legislator Terence Mukupe told Zanu-PF members at a party meeting in Harare that Nelson Chamisa of the MDC Alliance – arguably president Emmerson Mnangagwa's most visible challenger – was too young for the task. “How can we say, honestly, the soldiers took the country, practically snatched it from Mugabe, to come and hand it over to Chamisa? This country, where it is now and where it is coming from, needs a grown-up,” he said. See: <http://www.thezimbabwean.co/2018/05/fears-that-army-will-influence-zimbabwes-elections/>

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/05/army-wont-let-chamisa-rule-minister/>

### - **Chris Mutsvangwa, Special Advisor to the President**

“We are going to campaign for Zanu PF along with our army, which is the best in the world and also traditional leaders,” said war veterans’ chairperson, Chris Mutsvangwa, who is also a special advisor in the President’s Office. See: <http://nehandaradio.com/2017/12/16/mutsvangwa-says-army-will-campaign-zanu-pf/>

### - **Josiah Hungwe, Minister of State Masvingo Province**



"Do you know that I am the leader of the new dispensation here in Masvingo and I say ichi chinhu chedu chatakaita (this is our thing that we did). Our leader Mnangagwa is a soldier and you know that a soldier is always equipped with a gun to do whatever he wants." See: <https://www.dispatchlive.co.za/news/2018-05-25-military-makes-music-for-emmerson-mnangagwa/>

- **Army Plays Crucial Role in ZANU PF Primary Elections**

Sibangumuzi Khumalo, who won the ticket to represent Zanu-PF in the forthcoming polls, is a retired major general in the national army, who is now accused by one of his rivals, Believe Gaule, of abusing government resources and roping in the army to win the primary elections.

"The rival candidate was assisted in these shenanigans by members of his campaign team like Alice Dube, Josephine Moyo, Ngqabutho Ngwenya and retired army officers who are on the army payroll, namely: retired colonels Dlamini, Ndlovu and Makhwelo," reads part of Gaule's petition obtained from the Zanu-PF commissariat.

"The same army personnel went about threatening people to vote for Khumalo.

"We kindly request for a thorough investigation of this affront, especially in ward seven.

"In ward eight, the party chairman, who was also an interested council candidate, told the people they 'were given Khumalo from the top and as such there is to be no disagreement with the order."

He claimed that Khumalo's driver, who is allegedly a serving soldier, was a polling agent in Mbiriya and "was also floating in all the polling stations, seemingly directing clandestine operations". See: <http://www.businessdaily.co.zw/index-id-national-zk-44535.html>

On another note, petitions by Zanu (PF) losing candidates in the party's primary elections held in May 2018 revealed that serving and retired members of the military were heavily involved in the

party's primary elections. See: <http://www.thezimbabwemail.com/main/armys-role-in-zanu-pf-campaign-exposed/>

- **Appointment of Utoile Silaigwana as Chief Elections Officer, ZEC**

In 2008, Mr. Utoile Silaigwana, a military operative, was appointed Acting Chief Elections Officer at the Zimbabwe Election Commission and upon public outcry; Zimbabweans were told he had retired from active service. After the elections, he served in the army only to be re-appointed in March 2018 at the election commission. Silaigwana was first appointed to the electoral commission when it was still called the Election Supervisory Commission (ESC) led by the chief executive officer of the-then ESC, Douglas Nyikayaramba, a serving member of the army who now currently holds the position of Major General. Silaigwana was a major with the Army Education Corps and a serving soldier when he was first appointed to Zec.

Silaigwana was the deputy chief elections officer in the 2008 elections when Zec was accused of tinkering with election results to fit the matrix of a run-off election after the now late opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai had failed to beat then president Robert Mugabe by enough votes to avoid a second round. Observer groups said a one-month delay in announcing results of the March 29, 2008 polls undermined the impartiality of the Zec. Silaigwana then attributed the delays to lengthy "initial consultations" and to polling agents arriving late. See: <https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2018/03/07/silaigwana-appointed-acting-chief-elections-officer>

See: <http://kubatana.net/2018/03/16/appointment-silaigwana-consolidation-militarisation-zec/>

- **Employment and Redeployment of Military Personnel to the Election Commission**

78 out of the 97 senior personnel at the Zimbabwe Election Commission are active members of the Zimbabwe Defense Forces. The Election Commission says that they employed 15% ex-service men.

See: <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/03/zec-soldiers-storm/> Also See: <https://statesman.co.zw/zimbabwean-war-veterans-respond-mugabes-election-rigging-claim/>

**- Soldiers Terrorize Villagers in Gwelutshena**

Soldiers were camped in a village called Gwelutshena, outside Nkayi north. Mhlanga alleged that the soldiers were "unleashing terror" on villagers in wards 3,4,5 and 6. "Typical of Zanu-PF style, Zimbabweans are once again... subjected to a reign of terror by the state security apparatus now that we are in election season." See: <https://www.news24.com/Africa/Zimbabwe/zim-army-unleashing-terror-on-villagers-opposition-claims-report-20180128>

ii. Overt Violence



**- ZANU PF Activists Burn Opposition Activists House in Acturus Mine, Harare**

Zanu PF District Chair for Arcturus known as Mudani last week Saturday he send a text message to the owner of the property where MDC Candidate Chenesai Muchuwa is renting warning her that she must not be accommodate her on her business premise or otherwise she will face unspecified action. The same Mudani told residence in Gladstone that the short sleeve scenario of 2008 will repeat if they vote for Chamisa as the President. The burning of MDC member house come some days after a War Veteran by the name Marufu gathered people and addressed them telling them that voting MDC will create another 2008 violence scenario.

One Zanu PF sitting Cllr for Ward 12 by the Name Magaya is also going around Mwanza village threatening villagers not to vote MDC or risk their lives by doing so. **Source: Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Alert System**

**- MDC T Supporters Assault Two ZANU PF Activists**

Suspected opposition MDC-T supporters allegedly assaulted Zanu PF activists following differences over party regalia two weeks ago. The two – James Musukutwa and Daniel Museve, from Chirorwe Village, ward 20 in Bikita East, – were admitted to Silveira Mission Hospital after the attack. Zanu PF aspiring legislator for Bikita East, Johnson Madhuku said he assisted the injured party members with transport and paid their hospital bills. "I had to send my car to ferry the two to hospital and also paid for their X-rays. They were beaten by unprovoked MDC-T members. Their crime was just



putting on the regalia of their beloved Zanu PF party, which is a party of their choice,” Madhuku said. But addressing a rally outside Mucheke Stadium here Friday, Mnangagwa warned the opposition that Zanu PF revenge will be sour. See: <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/06/mnangagwa-warns-opposition-parties-over-violence/>

- **ZANU PF Activists attack Joice Mujuru Supporters, Glenview, Harare**

Zanu PF activists attacked National People’s Party leader, Joice Mujuru and her party officials last week in Glen View and Glen Norah high-density suburbs, Harare, leaving some of them nursing wounds. See: <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/02/political-violence-escalation-irks-rights-watchdog/>

- **Interparty Political Violence**

Professor Lumbe, who was found dead on the 10th of June 2018 under unclear circumstances. Professor Lumbe went missing from home on the 9th of June around 1400hours and was found dead in a soya beans field on the 10th of June with physical injuries. According to the Notice of Death issued on the 11th of June, 2018 the child had several head injuries. The parents believe that Professor Lumbe’s killing was politically motivated. There is evidence of political rivalry and tensions involving the father and ZANU-PF supporters. In 2014, Mr. Rambai Lumbe, the father of the deceased, defected from ZANU-PF to join the National Peoples’ Party (NPP) then the Zimbabwe Peoples’ First party led by Dr. Joice Mujuru. Mr. Lumbe is the Mazowe North parliamentary candidate for NPP in the 30 July 2018 harmonised elections. See: <https://harareblitz.com/2018/06/14/energy-mutodis-aides-accused-of-assault-trying-to-burn-rivals-supporters-h/>

iii. Piecemeal Reforms to the Electoral Act, the Act remains unconstitutional and a breeding ground for electoral contestation

- **Insufficient Amendments to the Electoral Act**

The Independence and Transparency of ZEC, *Extract from Veritas Election Watch 18-2018*



Under section 235 of the Constitution the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission [ZEC] is supposed to be independent and not subject to the direction or control of anyone. Even under the amended Electoral Act, however, ZEC's independence will continue to be limited by the following provisions:

- Section 9(5): ZEC does not have a general power to dismiss its Chief Elections Officer without the approval of the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs.
- Section 12(1)(e): ZEC is not allowed to accept donations or grants from anyone without the approval of the Minister of Justice and the Minister of Finance.
- Section 40H: The accreditation of election observers is not left to ZEC but is put largely in the hands of an Observers Accreditation Committee on which government is given excessive representation.
- Section 192(4): ZEC cannot make regulations regarding electoral procedures – or anything else – without the approval of the Minister of Justice.

Although section 194(1)(h) of the Constitution requires all tiers of government – including ZEC – to foster transparency by providing the public with timely, accessible and accurate information, this is not reflected in the Electoral Act and ZEC has not been transparent about many issues. For example, it has not published its procedural manuals, has refused to put the contract for printing ballot papers to public tender, and has not disclosed how many of its staff have security force backgrounds. See: <http://www.veritaszim.net/node/2431>

See: <http://kubatana.net/2018/04/19/csos-vow-intensify-campaigns-amendment-electoral-act/>

iv. Cases of intimidation and the role that traditional leaders are playing in predetermining electoral outcomes in rural communities.

- **Chief Charumbira**  
 “We are going to campaign for Zanu PF in the next elections. There will be chiefs and the army and Zanu PF. That is the differences between us and other parties that might also have T-shirts but don't



have war veterans,” Charumbira, President of the Traditional Chiefs Council See: <http://nehandaradio.com/2017/12/16/mutsvangwa-says-army-will-campaign-zanu-pf/>

- **Traditional Leaders Defy ZEC on Voter Registration Slips**

Traditional leaders in Manicaland province have reportedly defied directives from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) and continued demanding serial numbers on their subjects’ voter registration slips. See: <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/02/traditional-leaders-defy-zec-order-voter-registration-slips/>

- **Chief Charumbira Defies Court Order**


President of the National Council of Chiefs (NCC) Fortune Charumbira is facing jail after failing to comply with a court order that directed him to issue an apology for rallying other chiefs to support the ruling Zanu PF in this year’s elections. Charumbira was given seven days within which to issue the apology, which expired on Thursday 14 June 2018. This followed an application lodged by the Election Resource Centre (ERC).

See: <https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2018/06/16/chief-charumbira-faces-arrest-for-contempt-of-court>

- **Intimidation on the Rise in Rural Areas**

ZESN noted that in several rural areas people registering to vote were being intimidated and misinformed as they were being made to believe that their voting choices would be traceable in next year’s election. “ZESN has received reports of registrants being forced to submit their names and details such as serial numbers of voter registration slips to community chairpersons and other community leaders as a way of intimidating them into believing that their voting choices will be traced in the 2018 election,” See: <https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2017-10-26-zimbabwe-elections-2018-intimidation-and-threats-affect-voter-registration-turnout/#.WydZYCCxXIU>



<p>v. Civics accuse the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission of failing to administer the electoral process thus noting that the Nomination Court proceedings opened at 10 AM today without access to the voters' roll.</p> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The National Constitutional Assembly on June 14, 2018 launched an urgent High Court application seeking to compel the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to avail a copy of the voters' roll before the sitting of the nomination court</li> <li>- "Zec's conduct in failing to avail copies of the voters' roll contravenes Section 21 (4) of the Electoral Act, Section 155 (2) of the constitution and Section 67 (3)(b) of the constitution which among others entitles the NCA to have all material and information necessary for the opposition political party to participate in elections," argued the NCA</li> <li>- See: <a href="https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/06/nca-sues-zec-over-voters-roll/">https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/06/nca-sues-zec-over-voters-roll/</a></li> <li>- Civic society groups on June 15, 2018 expressed concern over the uneven playing field ahead of elections and expressed concern that Zimbabwe was far from implementing recommendations by AU and SADC observer missions to the country's 2013 polls</li> <li>- See: <a href="https://www.thestandard.co.zw/2018/06/17/zim-cannot-afford-another-charade/">https://www.thestandard.co.zw/2018/06/17/zim-cannot-afford-another-charade/</a></li> <li>-</li> </ul>
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