

2018 Elections

Evidence Fact Sheet

Introduction

There is a consistent level of concern among voters about electoral fraud in Zimbabwe. These concerns are shared by a broad range of stakeholders who include citizens, civil society organisations, the international community and opposition political parties. It is unlikely that these concerns will diminish in the immediate future. There has been consensus amongst key stakeholders that post 2008 and 2013 elections were marred with a number of malpractices. Unfortunately most of these malpractices have not been recorded to the effect of being useful evidence to challenge electoral outcomes at various levels. The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) has set up an information centre as an effort to set an early warning system in the event of any malpractice as well as to collect necessary evidence that stakeholders can make use of.

Major Highlights

- ◆ ZEC under fire for granting Zanu PF access to the BVR database
- ◆ Army speaks on elections
- ◆ Zanu PF activist assaults MDC Alliance supporter
- ◆ CSO raises concern over violence in Mudzi
- ◆ VP Chiwenga: Operation Restore Legacy Still Ongoing

1. Key concerns around the partiality of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission towards fostering a transparent, free, fair and credible election

1.1 ZEC Commissioner Priscila Chigumba dispels ideal electoral reforms



The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) is failing to come up with amicable ways of resolving the current disputed and contentious procedures related to free, fair and credible elections. In a statement Justice Chigumba (**Pictured**) is now claiming to be only choreographer for the coming elections, following a statement in which she said,

"Political parties had no choice, but to participate in the 30 July polls and raise their complaints later as the election date cannot be changed".

See: <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/06/zec-drops-poll-bombshell/>

1.2 Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (Zec) under fire for granting Zanu PF access to the Biometric Voters Roll (BVR) database

Major concerns around the security of voters data and the protection of privacy by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and other government parastatals such as POTRAZ has been raised by Zimbabweans following recent messages that were sent to all registered voters as Zanu PF solicited for voters. The messages are addressed to the person receiving by name (surname) and they are also from the aspiring candidates for their specific constituency. This means the political party does not just have a list of random phone numbers but they have a solid database of the person, their number, where they live and who knows what else.

https://www.techzim.co.zw/2018/07/econet-denies-selling-customers-data-to-3rd-parties-refutes-zecs-allegations-so-who-sold-data-to-zanu-pf

1.3 MDC alliance disgruntled with the modus operandi of the electoral commission

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) has also been prejudiced in its operations as an independent body. Addressing members of the media aspiring MDC Alliance candidate for Harare west, Tendai Biti disaffectedly said that the current Election Management body, ZEC must rank as the most subjective, most biased and most incompetent in the history of elections in Zimbabwe and must be disbanded.

Zimbabwe Democracy Institute (ZDI) director, Dr Pedzisai Ruhanya accused ZEC of being a sacrificial pawn, instrumental in assisting Zanu Pf to remain power through illegal means, in his words he said

"Justice Priscila Chigumba, the chair of ZEC is a disgrace and captured by ZANU PF or military. It should be noted that Zimbos won't swallow a cooked and manufactured electoral process and outcome designed to legitimized unrepentant electoral thieves," said Ruhanya

See: <https://263chat.com/biased-and-incompetent-zec-must-be-disbanded-mdc-alliance>

1.4 Jonathan Moyo discloses that ZEC is politically dining with Zanu PF



Former minister of tertiary education, Jonathan Moyo recently told his social media followers that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission partially availed the hard copy of the voters roll to Zanu PF.

"Zec continues to deny the opposition access to the voters roll, yet it has given Zanu PF hard copies. Zec has always done this and I can confirm it under oath," said Moyo.

"Government has seconded to Zec, a team of Chinese BVR and cyber experts from the People's Liberation Army linked to a top Chinese university. Their remit is to manipulate the voters' roll through shadowy and virtual polling stations and fake voters," added Moyo.

See: <https://www.dailynews.co.zw/articles/2018/06/14/moyo-speaks-on-zanu-pf-rigging>

1.5 Elton Mangoma castigates ZEC for being Tenaciously biased

Aspiring presidential candidate, Elton Mangoma representing CODE, has also expressed his disgruntlement claiming rigorous levels of scepticism with regards to the manner in which ZEC has been operating .

"We indicated that the independence of ZEC is hugely in doubt, in fact, it is not there and as CODE our position is that ZEC is so contaminated and part of ZANU PF. It is not possible for them to be able to hold a free, fair and credible election. It's a pipe dream to think that ZEC is independent, given the recent pictures of the new chairperson of ZEC being seen with the advisor to ED that shows them cuddling each other," he said. "www.chronicle.co.zw/zec-responds-to-mdc-alliance-petition, <https://statesman.co.zw/zec-zanu-pf-extension/>

2. Military involvement in electoral processes



Rtd General, VP Chiwenga

2.1 VP Chiwenga: Operation Restore Legacy Still Ongoing

Operation Restore Legacy, which reached tipping point with a nationwide march on November 18 last year and paved way for the new political dispensation in Zimbabwe, will be concluded by voting for President Mnangagwa on July 30, Vice President Constantino Chiwenga said yesterday.

See: <https://www.herald.co.zw/vote-ed-to-conclude-op-restore-legacy/>

2.2 We will not interfere with Elections, we will only provide transport: ZNA

On 04 July 2018 The military held a press conference in Harare, Zimbabwe and announced that allegations that the army was deployed in communities ahead of the elections are false and that the army will only be involved in the electoral process by offering transport to the Zimbabwe Election Commission (NB: This raise concerns with the military's involvement in the Elections Logistics Committee). **Source; ZDF Pres statement**

<https://www.facebook.com/slymediatv/videos/2166198773637890/>

2.3 ZANU PF/Military Deterrence of the village vote



MAJOR GENERAL S.B. MOYO

A recent report by the Zimbabwe Democracy Institute claims that 81% of the sampled respondents agreed that soldiers have been deployed in their areas while 19% dismissed the claim. The report established that deployed soldiers are mainly working with traditional leaders and the current running Zanu-pf candidates. The main observation is that the ZANU-PF government has innovatively increased military presence in villages the intent being to have as much intimidated village voters as possible before the election date. Instead of use of open violence as usual, the Mnangagwa regime has devised and unleashed a sophisticated 'military schematic deterrence' of the village vote which is hinged on five fundamental and perceptible electoral manipulation avenues;

- (i) 'strategic' and sudden increment in actual and perceived military 'presence' in villages;
- (ii) relentless ministerial assurance of a looming military intervention to 'defend legacy';
- (iii) refreshing and maximising on historically embedded village fear of the soldiers;

(iv) intimidating and enrolling traditional leaders to propagate fear of the military and;

(v) militarising key state and/or party structures that have a direct contact with villagers on a daily bases to intensify fear.

Source:- <https://www.facebook.com/ZimbabweDemocracyInstitute/>

3. Politically motivated violence and abductions

3.1 ZANU PF Activist assaults MDC Alliance supporter

According to court papers on the 22 June 2018 at around 1000hrs at Gem farm Compound, Mvurwi, Kangombe was on his way to his party meeting where he met Museba who confronted him on his opposition links other than supporting Mnangagwa.

The complaint told the Museba that it was his constitutional right to support an opposition party.

Quizzed on why he assaulted the complaint by the magistrate Museba said he insulted the president hence he became cheeky and assaulted him using open hands.

The complainant sustained bruises on the lower part of the left leg and was medically examined, the medical report was produced in court as evidence.

See: <https://www.zimetro.co.zw/zanu-pf-activi/>



Former ZANU PF members Dr Grace Mugabe and Shadreck Mashayamombe

3.2 MDC Alliance Candidate, Mashayamombe abducted

The case came at a time former Zanu PF Harare South MP, Shadreck Mashayamombe was last Wednesday allegedly kidnapped by suspected Zanu PF supporters who

demanding that he withdraws from contesting the constituency.

See: <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/07/mdc-alliance-candidate-raises-kidnapping-allegations/>

3.3 Mudzi Violence: Zimrights

"The threats against the National Assembly aspirant reportedly occurred in June in Mapundu village under Chief Mukota in Mudzi North constituency, leading to both the threats and the perpetrators being reported to the local police's Law and Order Section," ZimRights said.

"During the same month in Mudzi, police received a case accusing Zanu PF supporters of tearing up posters of independent candidate, Anyway Mupanduki, at Choori business centre as political temperatures rise."

The accused were charged with violating the Electoral Act.

"Mudzi has been a hotbed of political violence, which is enabled by its being one of the remotest areas in the part of Mashonaland East closer to the border with Mozambique," ZimRights said.

Apart from Mudzi, other areas, where cases of intimidation and violence were reported included Mvurwi, where a Zanu PF candidate reportedly stoked tensions when she blocked the entrance to the stadium to prevent MDC Alliance presidential candidate Nelson Chamisa from entering.

See: <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/07/mudzi-latest-political-violence-hotbed-zimrights/>

3.4 MDC Alliance Candidate, Dzeka abducted

"On Sunday night around 8pm, I hiked from Kadoma where I had been on party business. I was wearing our regalia which sparked the political discussion," chronicled Dzeka.

"They kept questioning why I would not vote Zanu PF and I told them that the deteriorating economic situation was the reason. They did not like that so when I arrived at my bus stop they refused to let me disembark and took me to a bushy area about 15 kilometres after Chegutu, towards Harare."

See: <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2018/07/mdc-alliance-candidate-raises-kidnapping-allegations/>