

# Crisis Report

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# contents

RAs in massive voter mobilisation  
drive / 3

---

Report reveals attacks on lawyers by  
the state / 5

---

ZOYP launches Youths in Politics  
Environmental Care Management /  
6

---

Persecuted for demanding a living  
wage: The case of Obert Masaraure  
/ 7

---

ARTUZ to protest over forced  
vaccination of teachers / 8

---

ZDI research reveals rights violations,  
rot in health sector / 9

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**R**ESIDENTS' associations (RAs) from across the country have embarked on a voter mobilisation drive that seeks to target youths, women, people living with disabilities as well as first time voters ahead of the 2023 elections.

The voter mobilisation drive is being co-ordinated by the Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA).

Below, we present a communiqué by the residents as-

# RAs in massive voter mobilisation drive

sociations:

## COMMUNIQUE OF THE RESIDENTS ASSOCIATIONS COALITION MEETING ON VOTER MOBILISATION

Residents Associations from different parts of Zimbabwe

convened on September 16, 2021 to deliberate on ways through which residents associations can strengthen their co-ordination and empower citizens in advocating for quality social service delivery, electoral reforms as well as influence public discourse around elections.



Citizens are being urged to register to vote ahead of the 2023 harmonised elections [Pic: NewsDay]

1. The meeting acknowledged the need to build citizen agency in terms of advocacy on electoral reforms as well as to mobilise and motivate citizens to participate in electoral processes.

This is in light of the continued voter apathy arising from lack of integrity on electoral processes.

2. Participants noted that voter education is critical in strengthening the capacity of citizens to demand for accountable, transparent, free and fair elections.

3. In light of the linkage between elections and service delivery, participants noted that there is need to push for electoral reforms which are linked to service delivery so that citizens will have an understanding of how their vote will impact on access to social services.

The need to push for duty bearers at council level to have power in terms of decision making as a way of enhancing accountability will also be a key advocacy issue.

This is in line with the principle of devolution as enshrined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

4. The meeting acknowledged the need to push for executive mayors at councils across the country.

This is in light of the fact that technocrats have become more powerful than elected officials and in some instances, appear to be pushing partisan agendas.

5. On natural resource governance, the meeting acknowledged that local communities must benefit, be involved and have a voice in the management of natural re-

sources within their localities.

6. Participants bemoaned the perpetual abuse of Section 129(k) by politicians through the ongoing recalls of Councilors and Members of Parliament which is working against representative democracy, crippling accountability mechanisms and rendering residents powerless, hence the need to come up with provisions in the Electoral Act that will operationalise Section 129(k) of the Constitution to allow involvement of citizens in the recall process of elected officials.

7. Attendants concurred that there is need to push for a youth and women's quota system in the composition of both local and provincial councils and that allocation processes for the women's quota should be inclusive and transparent.

8. The meeting acknowledged the need to strengthen operational structures of RAs as well as the need to engage with key stakeholders on issues related to elections.

Participants also acknowledged the need for a robust voter mobilisation drive deliberately targeting youths, women and people living with disabilities as well as first time voters ahead of the 2023 elections

9. The meeting acknowledged the need to push for a diaspora vote in the upcoming 2023 elections

Done on September 16, 2021

Present;

— Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association  
— Combined Harare Residents Association  
— Chiredzi Residents and

Ratepayers Association

— Chitungwiza and Manyame Rural Residents Association

— Combined Mvurwi Residents and Ratepayers Association

— Chinhoyi Residents and Ratepayers Association

— Gweru Residents Forum

— Epworth Residents Development Association

— Marondera Residents Open Forum

— Marondera Residents Association

— Marondera Progressive Residents and Ratepayers Association

— Masvingo Residents Forum

— Masvingo United Residents and Ratepayers Alliance

— Ruwa Residents and Ratepayers Association Trust

— Simukai Residents Association

— United Chiredzi Residents and Ratepayers Association

— Wedza Rural Development Initiative Trust

A REPORT titled “Attacks on Human Rights Lawyers in Zimbabwe” was launched on Tuesday 21 September 2021 by Lawyers for Lawyers (L4L), Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR) and the International Bar Association’s Human Rights Institute (IBAHRI).

The report, which was co-authored by L4L and ZLHR, outlines how lawyers are being barred from representing their clients, have become subjects of arbitrary arrests and being attacked for carrying out their profession as well as the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the legal profession.

Recommendations from the report are captured below:

L4L and ZLHR call upon the Zimbabwean authorities to guarantee in all circumstances that lawyers in Zimbabwe are able to carry out their legitimate professional rights and duties without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions, including judicial harassment.

In its task of promoting and ensuring the proper role of lawyers, the Government of Zimbabwe should respect, and take account of, the Basic Principles within the framework of its national legislation and practice.

Adherence to the Basic Principles is considered a fundamental pre-condition to fulfilling the requirement that all persons have effective access to legal assistance and representation.

Furthermore, as a member of the African Union and the UN, and as a party to the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Zimbabwe has legal obligations to adopt measures that effectively ensure rights to liberty, freedom

# Report reveals attacks on lawyers by the state

from arbitrary detention, freedom of expression, and fair trial.

L4L and ZLHR also call attention to the Report of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review Zimbabwe of Human Rights Council of December 28, 2016, which includes various recommendations by UN member states as to the position and protection of lawyers in Zimbabwe.

In light of the concerns addressed in this report, L4L and ZLHR draw specific attention to the following recommendations, as regards to which Zimbabwe expressed that they enjoy the support of Zimbabwe.

Ensure that violence directed against political activists, regardless of political affiliation, and human rights defenders will not be tolerated and that perpetrators will be held accountable in accordance with the law (Sweden).

Take concrete steps to create and maintain a safe and enabling environment for human rights defenders (Norway).

In view of the above, L4L and ZLHR respectfully urge the Government of Zimbabwe and Zimbabwean authorities to: 1) Immediately and unconditionally put an end to all acts of harassment against lawyers, including at the judicial level; 2) Take all necessary measures to guarantee the physical and psychological integrity and security of lawyers; 3) Guarantee in all circumstances that all lawyers in Zimbabwe are able to carry out their legitimate professional rights and duties without fear of reprisals and free of all restrictions including judicial harassment.

## Attacks on Human Rights Lawyers in Zimbabwe

2020/21 Report



THE Zimbabwe Organization For Youth In Politics (ZOYP) has launched a new programme that will focus on Climate Change and Environmental Care Management.

The Climate Change programme adds to ZOYP's political programmes that seek to capacitate young people vying for political office.

Speaking at the Youth From All Political Parties Community Caucus in Gokwe, ZOYP director Nkosilathi Emmanuel Moyo emphasised the need

# ZOYP launches Youths in Politics Environmental Care Management

for civil society organisations to capacitate local communities with knowledge on cli-

mate change adaptation and mitigation.

"As ZOYP, we have been capacitating youths with political aspirations. Our thematic areas are democracy and good governance, gender justice, human rights, constitutionalism and community mobilisation, but we have realised that most of the young people from across political divides are not conscious when it comes to issues to do with climate change. So producing leaders who are not aware of the critical need of protecting the environment is a disaster," he said.

Youth leaders from different political parties who attended the meeting applauded ZOYP for the initiative on climate change.

The new cluster is Code named Youth In Politics Environmental Care Management.

ZOYP is engaging various stakeholders and experts in the climate change field to assist in the coming trainings which will see hundreds of youths from across political divides coming together for environmental care management and climate change advocacy.

If interested to participate in the Youth In Politics Environmental Care Management send an email to [zoyporg@gmail.com](mailto:zoyporg@gmail.com).



ZOYP director Nkosilathi Emmanuel Moyo

AMALGAMATED Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) president Obert Masaraure is a victim of state brutality having been abducted and tortured by State security agents on numerous occasions.

The State has targeted Masaraure for his firm stance in demanding a living wage and better working conditions for rural teachers.

In January 2019, Masaraure was abducted at his Harare home by State security agents, who broke into his home, tortured him and later dumped him at the Harare Central Police Station.

As if that was not enough, the State went on to press charges of subversion against Masaraure who endured a lengthy period in detention at remand prison. His salary was also frozen.

The case is still pending before the courts.

Below, Masaraure pours his heart out on his continued victimisation by the State:

"Our courts are failing to deliver justice and restrain a vindictive state. State actors who abducted me, tortured me and latter dragged me to court have been allowed to have their cake and eat it.

"My salary was ceased while I was in Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison. I was remanded in custody at the whim of the State; no evidence was ever brought to court to justify my placement on remand. The State was allowed to randomly pick a charge and use it to persecute me," Masaraure said.

"Circumstances of how the crime might have been committed were never mentioned. To date, I have lost my salary, suffered torture, forced to

# Persecuted for demanding a living wage: The case of Obert Masaraure

abide to strenuous reporting conditions, dragged to countless routine remand hearings and lost an opportunity to study on a scholarship. Our attempts to go for a review at the High Court were also thwarted as the Clerk of Court failed to maintain a credible record of the case. We hope the case will be thrown out on November 24."

As Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, we maintain that

Masaraure, like many other human rights activists in Zimbabwe, is a victim of persecution by prosecution.

We deplore the continued weaponisation of the law by the State to clampdown on human rights defenders.

We implore the State to desist from capture and weaponisation of the judiciary and respect the independence of the courts.



ARTUZ president Obert Masaraure

THE Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) has commended the government of Zimbabwe for its COVID-19 vaccination programme, but continues to note with concern the forced vaccination of teachers and other civil servants by the government.

The government of Zimbabwe has implemented a “No Jab No Job” policy that will see civil servants who have not yet taken the COVID-19 jab losing their jobs.

ARTUZ says it will take action against the government’s stance.

We present the statement by ARTUZ below:

The Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe, ARTUZ applauds the government of Zimbabwe for a successful vaccination programme which saw the country reaching the World Health Organisation, WHO target of vaccinating more than 10% of its population by September 2021.

ARTUZ, however, noted with disgust the promulgation of Statutory Instrument 234 of 2021, which seeks to coerce civil servants to get vaccinated

# ARTUZ to protest over forced vaccination of teachers

ed or lose their jobs.

ARTUZ has been on the forefront encouraging teachers to get vaccinated as a way of containing the deadly COVID19 pandemic, however the Union is completely against mandatory vaccination.

Mandatory vaccination violates employee’s freedom of choice and right to dignity.

The policy further disregards the existence of underlying medical conditions which bar some employees from being vaccinated.

It is against this background that the Union launched the “Voluntary Vaccination Campaign”. The campaign seeks to achieve two objectives:

1. To raise awareness on

the safety and effectiveness of the COVID19 vaccines and encourage more people to voluntarily get vaccinated.

2. Pile pressure on the government to reverse the untenable mandatory vaccination policy.

ARTUZ has since engaged lawyers who are seized with filing a court application to try and block mandatory vaccination.

The Union is organising a Voluntary Vaccination March scheduled for October 8, 2021 ahead of the October 15 deadline set by government for mandatory vaccination.

On October 8, 2021, Voluntary Vaccination education campaign will be blended with a protest resisting mandatory vaccination.

Roadshows and marches will be staged in all the 10 provinces in Zimbabwe.

The Union invites progressive citizens and organisations who want to participate in this eduprotest to engage us on +263776129336/775643192 email to ruraltrsunion@gmail.com.

The eduprotest is nonpartisan; citizens from across the political divide are invited to join.

Details of the road shows and marches will be advised.





THE Zimbabwe Democracy Institute (ZDI) recently launched a report titled "Locking Down Democracy In Zimbabwe's Covid-19 Era: The State of Human Rights And Accountability In The Health Sector".

The objectives of the study were:

1. To interrogate the state of human rights in the public health sector in the context of Covid-19;

2. To document citizen oversight and perception outcomes on corruption, transparency and accountability in the public health sector in the context of Covid-19;

3. To interrogate the extent of impartiality in staffing and deployments in the public health sector in the context of Covid-19.

Below is the summary of the key findings of the report:

The study reveals that the public health sector in Zimbabwe suffers political institutional designs and institutional weaknesses that inhibit quality service delivery in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Institutional weaknesses identified in the study are traceable to patronage networks that have enabled rampant corruption and poor service delivery in the health sector.

The study posits that instead of plugging the gaps of corruption in the sector, the government has resorted to creating political institutional designs that have worsened the challenges of poor service delivery and incapacitation in the public health sector.

These institutional designs include patronage networks,

# ZDI research reveals rights violations, rot in health sector

identity politics and militarisation of the public health sector.

Militarisation has been done in three related approaches — militarisation by recruitment, militarisation by deployment and militarisation by appointment.

It is exposed in this study that the political institutional designs put in place have led to incapacitation of the public healthcare that manifests in

form of a demotivated, intimidated and disgruntled workforce, industrial action, brain drain due to the exodus of skilled workforce in the sector and linguistic barriers to healthcare delivery.

## Perceptions on efforts done by public health institutions to raise Covid-19 awareness

●Public health institutions' efforts in raising awareness on rights in the context of



Nurses down tools at Sally Mugabe Central Hospital in Harare [Pic: NewsDay]

Covid-19 were found lacking.

43% of the sampled respondents think that efforts by public health institutions in raising awareness on rights in the context of Covid-19 are poor.

Of this 43%, 77% constitute people residing in rural areas whilst the remaining 23% come from urban areas.

On the other hand, 41,5% of the respondents think the efforts are satisfactory.

●The study found that 88% of 14,5% of the total sampled respondents who think the efforts by public health institutions to raise Covid-19 awareness are satisfactory reside in urban areas whilst 12% come from rural areas.

●Respondents from rural Zimbabwe noted that citizens in rural areas appear to be sidelined in the Covid-19 information dissemination processes.

43% of the sample stated that efforts by public health institutions to raise Covid-19 awareness are poor and those in rural areas are not well informed.

### **Perceptions on the state of the right to access healthcare services during Covid-19**

●The state of right to access healthcare services in Zimbabwe was found pitiable. 40% of the sampled respondents are of the view that the state of their right to access healthcare services in the context of Covid-19 is poor, while 17% perceived it to be satisfactory.

Of this 40%, 67% are in the rural areas suggesting that medication in rural clinics and hospitals is not available and, in some cases, in short supply.

### **Perceptions on corrup-**

### **tion in the public health sector**

●Regarding management of public resources related to Covid-19, 59.9% of the research participants noted that the health sector is corruption-ridden while 14% dismissed the claim stating that there is no corruption in the health sector.

●The study shows that urbanites have more access to information pertaining to the day-to-day running of healthcare institutions as compared to their compatriots in the rural areas.

People in rural areas have limited interaction with healthcare institutions hence their minimal exposure to corrupt practices.

On the other hand, people in urban areas are more exposed to the daily activities of public health institutions as hospitals and clinics are more concentrated in these areas.

Perceptions on public health expenditure and conduct of public health officials

●The study finds out that there is lack of accountability and transparency in the running of the public health sector in Zimbabwe.

For instance, 53,5% of the research participants noted that public health officials are unaccountable and opaque with regards to public health expenditure while only 15% of the respondents noted that the conduct of public health officials is transparent and accountable.

●The survey submits that the management of public healthcare resources is corruption ridden.

59,9% of the respondents noted that the management of public resources related to

Covid-19 in the health sector is corruption ridden, while 14% dismissed the claims stating that there is no corruption in the health sector.

### **Perceptions on human resources deployments in the health sector in Zimbabwe**

●The study reveals that patronage and militarisation are key features defining the human resource deployments in the public health sector.

●On human resource deployments in the health sector, the majority of the sampled respondents (51%) indicated that human resource deployments are patronage-ridden and politicised while 26% of the research participants highlighted that there is militarisation in deployments of public healthcare human resources.

A small section of research respondents (13%) among whom rural dwellers constituted 67% perceived the health sector's human resource deployments as transparent, apolitical and professional whereas 10% said they don't know.

●Findings reveal that there is a conflation between the state and ZANU-PF thus, public institutions operate as an extension of ZANU-PF leading to unfair and unjust recruitment methods.

On this aspect, two competing rational motives were identified by research participants: (i) political clientelism and (ii) identity politics.

●Above 51% of the overall sampled research participants noted that human resource deployments in the health sector have been distinguished by identity politics prevailing in the country.