

THE WALL

THE MORE THE POOR DEMANDED THEIR FAIR SHARE
OF THE WEALTH, THE MORE THE RICH BUILT HIGHER
WALLS BETWEEN



SCAN ME



THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT
APRIL 2022



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PICTURE OF THE MONTH

A ZUPCO BUS ALONG WILLOWVALE ROAD IN HARARE SPEWS SMOKE AS IT TAKES A TRIP TO THE CAPITAL'S CENTRAL BUSINESS DISTRICT. THE ROADWORTHINESS OF THE STATE-RUN ZUPCO BUSES HAS COME UNDER SCRUTINY



2023 GEAR UP!



President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s Zanu PF party was responsible for violating the majority of human rights across the country. ZPP recorded 165 incidents in which the ruling party was responsible. In the majority of these incidents, Zanu PF supporters were hounding people they suspected had supported the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) in the run up to the March 26 by- election. In the by-elections, the CCC- formed towards the end of January- put up a noteworthy show , grabbing 18 out of the 26 contested House of Assembly seats, a situation that appeared to have unsettled Zanu PF, which immediately launched what appears to be a systematic onslaught on those who had campaigned for, supported or sympathized with the CCC in the run up to the election. Since Zimbabwe is scheduled to hold a general election by July 30, 2023, the March 26 by-elections were a test of what might be expected next year.

ZPP can confirm the existence of Zanu PF structures meant to intimidate and silence people in rural areas ahead of the 2023 elections and this is more prevalent in Mashonaland East, Central and West provinces, where the organization has recorded a combined 77 cases. A few examples include an incident in Murehwa North, where a Zanu PF Councillor Masimba Gumira gathered villagers to celebrate his victory in the 26 March by-elections. He then ordered the punishment of anyone seen wearing yellow which is the colour of the CCC. He threatened the loss of life of those who might want to deviate from voting for his party.

“Watichaona akapfeka hembe dzeyellow tichamuita kafira mberi (We will beat to death anyone we see wearing yellow)” said Gumira. Gumira’s words cannot be taken as bluffing as people have been killed in the past for simply associating with the opposition.

To confirm the systematic nature of the closing down of space for the opposition, particularly the CCC, in another incident, Zanu PF Chairperson Takesure Kashesha told party supporters at Duku Business Centre in Ward 10, Murehwa North, to create a no-go zone for CCC supporters in the area.

Kashesha ordered youths to mount road blocks and burn any unknown or CCC vehicles attempting to enter Ward 10.

“Mota ichapinda muno yatisingazivi tichaipisa (You must burn any unidentified vehicle that attempts to drive into Ward 10),” he said. In Mashonaland West, a man was evicted from the butchery premises he was renting for hosting a CCC supporters’ braai at the butchery premises and in Murehwa South, a Zanu PF supporter made death threats to a woman who had observed elections under the Women’s Coalition of Zimbabwe.

One Ricky Chiwara told the female observer that by participating in elections, she was part of the regime change agenda by non-governmental organisations.

This unfortunate incident not only confirmed the toxicity of the political environment for women, but also highlighted the deep-seated attempt by the Zanu PF government to cripple the good work of Non-Governmental Organisations.



Food aid has been used as a tool for coercion in communities. Credit: BBC/EPA

Through the Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Bill (PVO Bill), government seeks to, among other things, stifle the work of civil society organisations which have so far done a great job holding authorities to account and supplementing government efforts through various community projects. As Zanu PF went into full election mode, its officials forced villagers to contribute to Independence Day celebrations or risk being ‘blacklisted as opposition supporters.’

At Dotito Township, at a meeting co-hosted by Zanu PF officials Edwin Sigudu and Mike Murasira Sigudu ordered village heads to collect money from villagers for the Independence Day celebrations.

“Make sure you write down the names of those who do not give you money so that we know our sell-outs.”

In Buhera West the legislator, Soul Dzuma of Zanu PF, while addressing a rally, said those in his constituency who did not attend Zanu PF meetings were going to be removed from the list of beneficiaries of government aid from the Department of Social Welfare (DSW).

ZPP spoke to an official from the DSW who confirmed the widespread manipulation of the aid processes.

The DSW has the mandate to work with local leadership to lead aid processes, but Zanu PF continually uses its influence in government to hijack the processes and use aid as a tool to reward their supporters and punish opposition political party supporters.

As has become an unfortunate formula, the Zimbabwe Republic Police was among the major perpetrators, being found wanting 151 times followed by machete gangs who were responsible for 26 incidents.

“

**WE WILL
BEAT TO
DEATH
ANYONE
WE SEE
WEARING
YELLOW**

**Councillor
Masimba
Gumira
(Zanu PF)**

”

OUR RECOMENDATIONS

In light of the developing situation ZPP makes the following observations and recommendations.

There is need for the strengthening of the Electoral Act to foster Multi Party Liason Committees to become a culture that promotes engagement among political stakeholders and not just spring into action at election time. The political temperatures are, with no doubt, not going to recede considering that Zimbabwe is due to hold elections next year. In that regard, ZPP makes strong recommendations for the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), through its Multi-Party Liaison Committee, to strengthen its ability to hold political parties to account without fear or favour.

This is because ZPP has observed that violence often happens for a period before elections and by the time candidates get nominated, communities will be living in fear already.

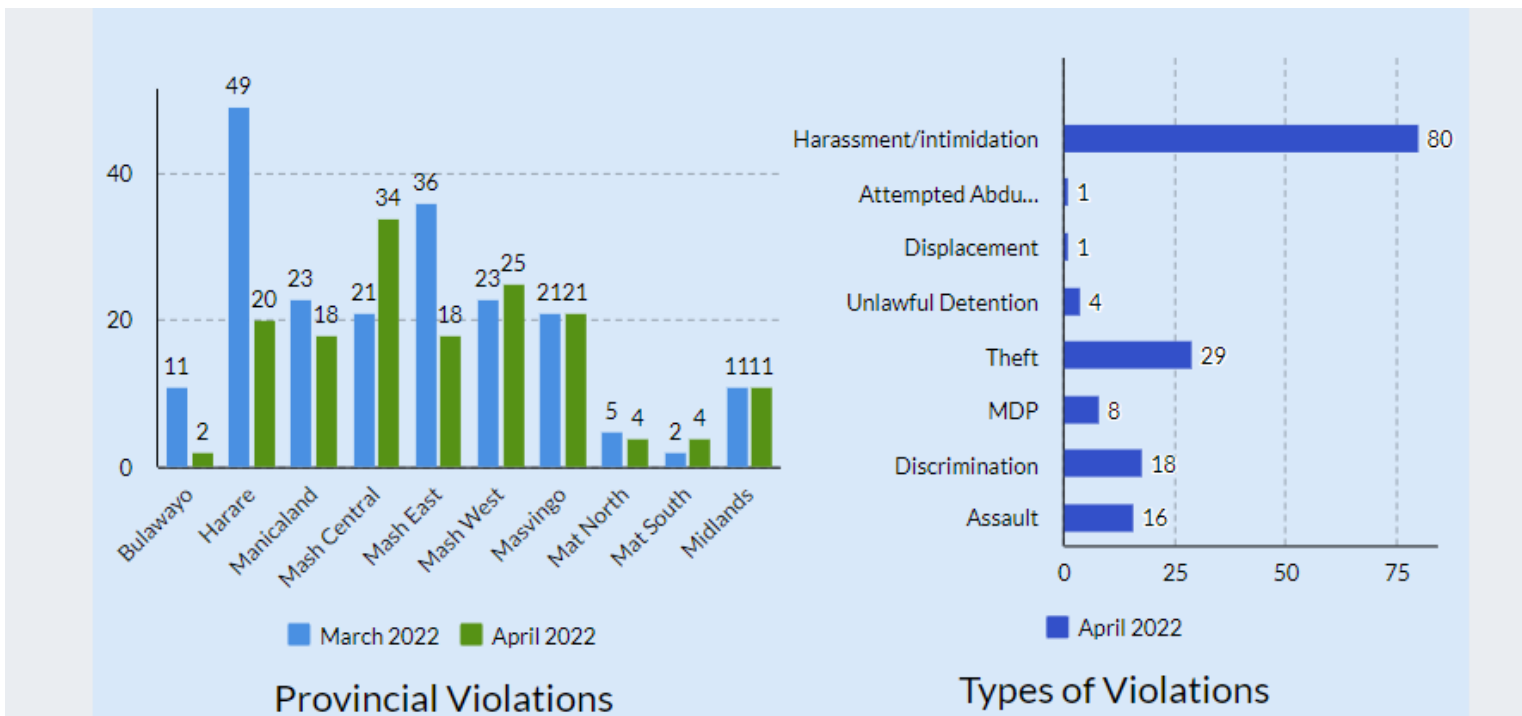
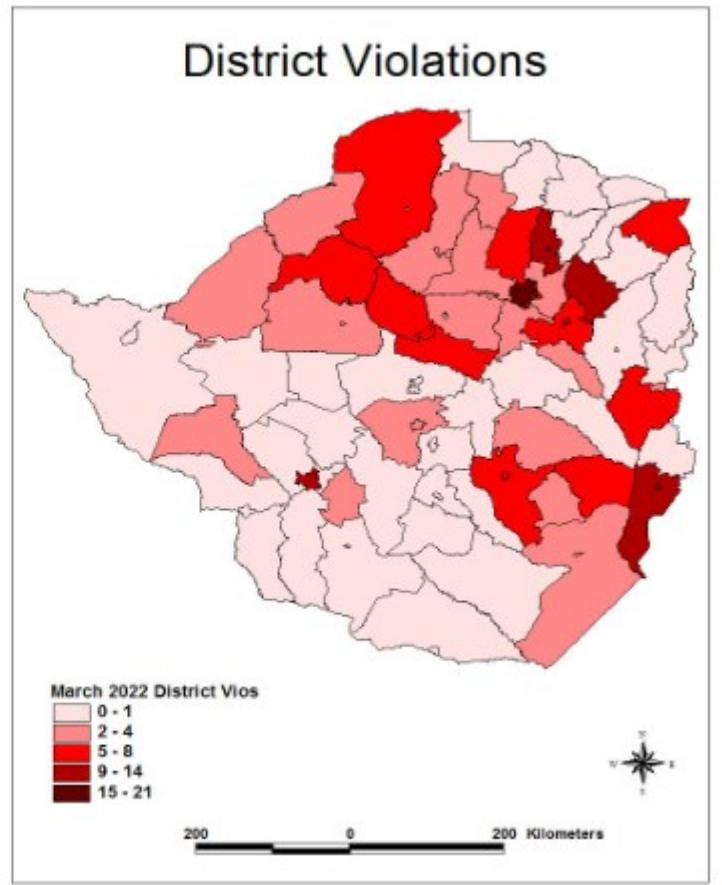
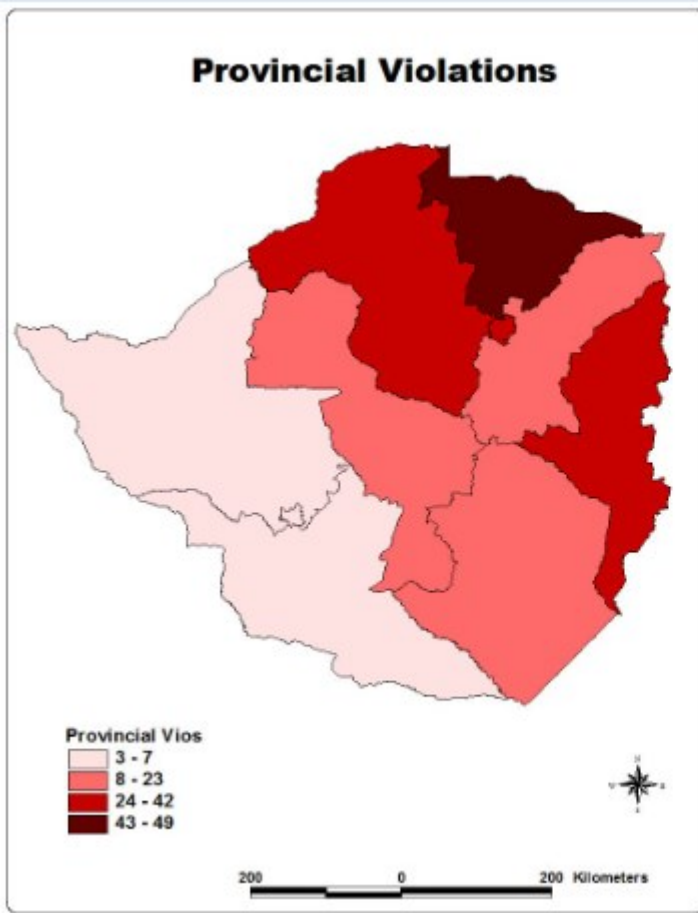
Currently, the committees spring into operation after the close of nomination of candidates, where ZEC appoints a national multiparty liaison committee for presidential and general elections, a multiparty liaison committee for each constituency where elections are contested and a multiparty liaison committee for each local authority (Electoral Act Chapter 2:13, 160B(1)).

The functions of the committees are, among other things, to manage conflicts relating to the problems relating to the electoral process and non-compliance with the code of conduct (check Appendix 1) and to refer to the ZEC any problems relating to the electoral process. There are no mechanisms provided for to enforce these decisions, nor are there any penalties attached to violations of the code of conduct other than those established in ordinary law and this acts as a point of weakness as parties can violate the code of conduct with no consequence

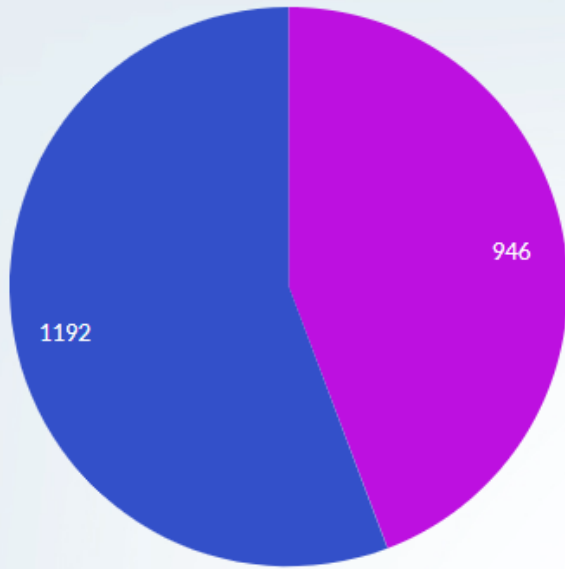
In relation to the clampdown on rights activists in communities and the continued pronouncements by top Zanu PF officials, it appears the Zanu PF government is determined to pass the PVO Amendment Bill and may fast track it so that it becomes a useful tool for repression ahead of the 2023 elections. In light of that, ZPP continues to urge for engagement to ensure that those pushing for the Bill to be passed into law understand the important and Constitutional role civil society organisations play towards development.

The politicization of aid is likely to continue and ZPP urges Zanu PF in particular to respect the role of the Department of Social Work in discharging its mandate to identify beneficiaries, and lead the distribution of government aid.

THE VIOLATIONS IN GRAPHICS

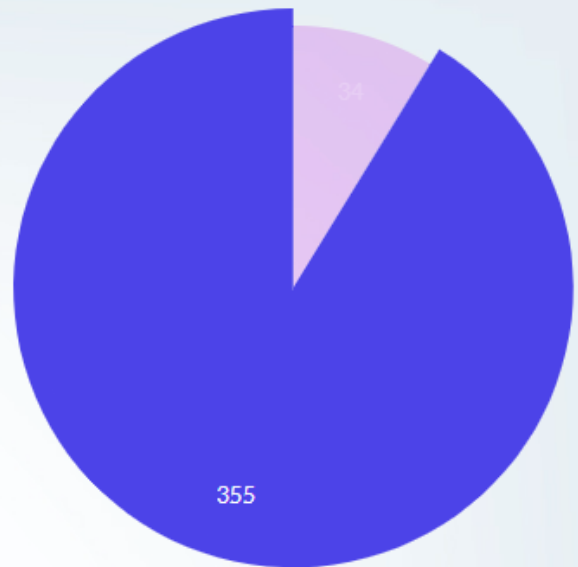


THE VIOLATIONS IN GRAPHICS



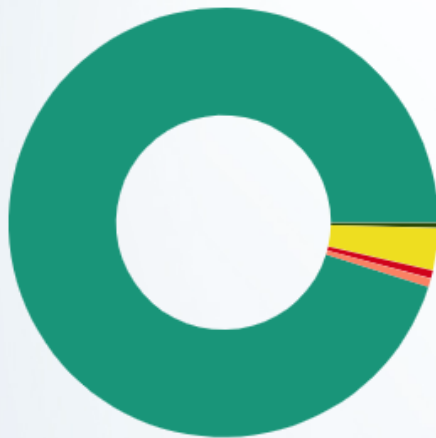
Female (44.25%) Male (55.75%)

Gender of Victims



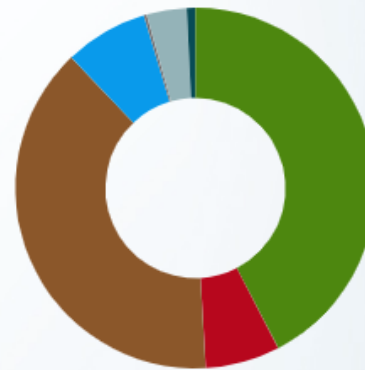
Female (8.74%) Male (91.26%)

Gender of Perpetrators



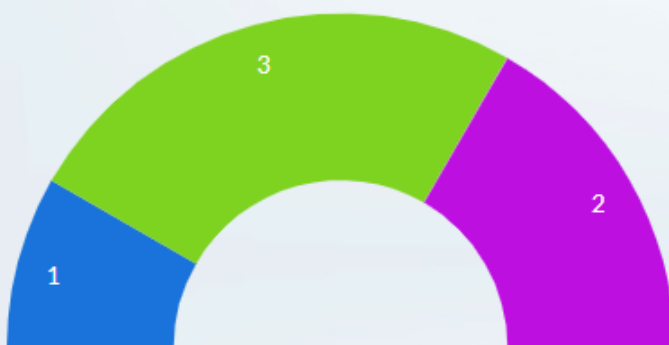
Zanu PF (0.42%) CCC (3.18%) Machete Gangs (0.61%)
War Vet (0.65%) General Citizens (95.14%)

Victims Affiliation



Zanu PF (42.42%) Machete Gangs (6.68%)
ZRP (38.82%) Unknown (7.46%)
Mthwakazi (0.26%) State agents (3.6%)
War Veteran (0.77%)

Perpetrators Affiliation



Manicaland (16.67%) Mash Central (50%)
Masvingo (33.33%)

Food & Other Aid Violations



Intra Party Violence

Zanu PF



IN SEARCH OF THE RIGHT TO BELONG

The Zimbabwe Peace Project welcomed the move by government to embark on a nationwide blitz to reach out to Zimbabweans who needed critical national documents like birth and death certificates and national Identity Documents (IDs).

The mobile process, which started on 1 April and runs until September 30, this year, was long overdue considering that since 2020, when the COVID -19 pandemic hit, there has been limited operation of the Registrar General's office, and there were restrictions of movements.

The move by the RG's department culminates from among other things, the concerns raised by ZPP in its research on access to documentation. A position paper was produced to analyse the inability of children born of irregular migrants to access birth certificates after their parents send them to Zimbabwe to be raised by their parents who are the grandparents of the children.

The report, titled, 'Cursed with Statelessness: Consequences of Deprivation of National Identification Documents,' noted some of the following issues: The report found out that in areas near the borders of Zimbabwe, there was a high number of people migrating to neighbouring countries, leaving their children in the care of grandparents, who would not be able to acquire registration documents for them.

In other cases, people migrated to other countries but would not regularize their stay there. This made it impossible for them to register any children they bore while living illegally in a foreign country.

As a result, these illegal immigrants would send their children to Zimbabwe without any documentation.

This posed challenges as the relatives who assume the care of those children did not have the capacity to acquire birth certificates for them.

The other issue discovered is that of unregistered citizens born within Zimbabwe that were born to victims of Gukurahundi massacres.

The findings were identified in Matobo districts, other areas of Matabeleland, and parts of Midlands provinces and in these areas, unregistered citizens appeared in two sub-groups, namely children of Gukurahundi victims and grandchildren of victims of post-Gukurahundi massacres.

The study unearthed that though some of their parents are still alive, their national identity documents were burnt when their belongings were set on fire during Gukurahundi.

"The other category is those citizens whose parents were killed or subject to enforced disappearances during Gukurahundi and did not have death certificates to assist in getting birth certificates for children of the deceased or disappeared parents," reads part of the ZPP report.

The lack of birth and national documents prevent the affected from accessing a number of services.

Unregistered individuals are also left with no right to vote or assume political leadership positions which all depend on a birth certificate that is inaccessible to them.

The provisions of the Birth and Death Registration (BDR) Act and the regulations of the DRG require citizens to bring proof of death certificates of their parents, which is impossible for children of victims of Gukurahundi.

ZPP indicated that the BDR Act is prohibitive, discriminatory, and disenfranchising as "it is impossible to produce a death certificate of a victim of Gukurahundi massacres and enforced disappearance."

Although the state has offered grace to the victims of Gukurahundi to register free of charge, the victims are afraid and intimidated as noted in the ZPP report.



SPECIAL FOCUS

OUR

FINDINGS

Resource limitations

The Department of the Registrar General (DRG), is constrained by limited resources such that it is not capable of fully implementing its mandate of getting every Zimbabwean registered. As a result of the challenges in resources, officials from the DRG who have been deployed to some areas, do not have the required equipment and materials. For instance in Ward 23 of Buhera Central, the office was issuing IDs without photos. At Chirozva, they issued 360 IDs while at Machiragwama Primary they issued 280 IDs, all without photos. An official from the department said they did not get enough films to process the photos for the long national ID's known as waiting passes. This will result in people failing to register to vote as the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission will require a national ID with a photo in order for one to get registered. In more ways than one, a national ID without a photo is just but a useless document. What it means is that rather than the process being finalized during the mobile exercise the affected have to make another visit to get the issue of photographs on IDs sorted out. The shortages of equipment and materials is present across the entire country and at Harare's Budiro Community Hall, ZPP interviewed citizens who said that they were sleeping at Budiro community hall in an effort to access national documents as the department was issuing only 30 documents a day.



HIGHLIGHTS FROM MATOBO

ZPP reached out to communities in Matobo and they confirmed that the national registration blitz was generally going on well. A brighter side was how the officials were able to attend to special cases of people who did not have parents as witnesses.

There were however, some challenges and ZPP continues to urge the DRG to correct some of the anomalies noted in the process.

Below are some of findings:

Matobo Ward 9: Cllr Otto Sikhosana

The access to documentation in Matobo district is going on well. I had the privilege to visit two sites where citizens were able to procure the documents. The following is what I saw:

- Some citizens were able to procure birth certificates/IDs although it was very difficult during the first days as they required witnesses. Citizens cooperated very well and provided all the necessary requirements for them to procure birth certificates. In the event where there was no witness within the family, the registry then requires a witness in form of a village head.
- The registry staff strived to attend to each and every one who had a challenge and understood their plight. If one had a difficult scenario, a higher authority was engaged to best help the person.
- Each and every day, the registry had a complaints desks where citizens were allowed to register their challenges and complaints.

Challenges

- One major problem experienced was an issue of children who intended to procure birth certificates and yet living with their grandparents or guardians. Some managed to procure and yet others failed as situations differed based on the presented scenarios.
- There were also complaints by citizens that although the officers were friendly, some used the Shona language when many wanted to be served in ChiKalanga or IsiNdebele. One incident was registered where a citizen complained that his name had been misspelt. He had to undergo the same process but eventually was successful.





OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

SPECIAL FOCUS

- ZPP strongly recommends that government provides the DRG enabling tools, equipment and other resources in order to make the current mobile exercise serve its full purpose of ensuring that every citizen has access to documentation.
- It would be a waste of resources to continue deploying offices of the Registrar into communities without giving them all the necessary resources.
- ZPP urges government to enable the RG's department to issue plastic IDs in communities because the green waiting passes of the colonial era are no longer accepted by many institutions, including some government departments.
- As the mobile exercise to access documentation continues, ZPP strongly urges further decentralization of the DRG's office to empower those deployed into communities to be able to make decisions on special cases so as to avoid people being referred to district or provincial offices.

With SPECC, a purely Zimbabwean Android App, you can report human rights violations in real time

POWERED BY THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT

“GOVERNMENT WILL NOT STAND BY AND WATCH WHILE HARD-EARNED INCOMES OF OUR WORKERS ARE BEING STOLEN BY MUSHIKASHIKA AND MAKORONYERA.

NO!”

PRESIDENT EMMERSON MNANGAGWA



INSIDE Zimbabwe's troubled public transport sector

When President Mnangagwa made a statement reversing his earlier order to ban private transport operators through a police operation, it was a welcome move considering that the government owned Zupco, which had held a monopoly on public transport for three years, had failed to cater for the daily needs of commuters.

This came after people had died, unfortunately.

In the last week of April, the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), working in conjunction with the Zimbabwe National Roads Authority, and local authorities, began a special operation to arrest and impound private and unregistered vehicles that were illegally transporting the commuting public.

Only the government operated Zupco buses were allowed to operate in line with a law issued by government in 2019.

The result of this was, as expected, a massive shortage of transport that left commuters, especially in Harare, spending hours in queues.

The few private transporters that managed to evade the police increased their fares by as much as 400 percent, to US\$2 per trip, up from the normal US50 cents.

For a week, government remained bold such that in his address on Workers Day, President Mnangagwa vowed his government would continue its clampdown on private operators, known as mushikashika.

“Government will not stand by and watch while hard-earned incomes of our workers are being stolen by mushikashika and makoronyera. No!” he said in a pre-recorded speech.

“You, as our workers, deserve an efficient and affordable transport system so that production time as well as your family time is not lost in transport queues. During peak hours, workers must be transported with the greatest ease.”

Ironically, President Mnangagwa’s message was in stark contrast to the situation on the ground, where the majority of the Zupco buses are in bad shape, and the 340 buses that have been imported by Mnangagwa are hardly adequate to meet the huge demand for public transport.

A large number of the transport operators, who had joined the Zupco franchise withdrew their vehicles, citing poor management, late payment for their service and incessant fuel shortages.

NOT EASY

To make the situation worse for passengers, police have been authorized by a 2021 High Court order, to use spikes on moving vehicles, the smashing of windscreens and throwing of teargas into illegal taxi operators and commuter omnibuses deemed undesirable on the country's roads.

As a result, people have been killed or injured due to the accidents caused by the police's archaic methods of enforcing Mnangagwa's directive.

In the first week of May, four people died in Mutare when a commuter omnibus overturned after a police officer threw spikes. There has been an attempt to cover up the issue with police purporting to carry out investigations.

So far no arrests have been made.

So, when President Mnangagwa finally said his government was going to allow private operators back on the road, it might have been a little too late.

At the same time, since Zupco buses will remain on the road, ZPP will continue to make the same recommendations it has made for the past three years when Zupco had the monopoly.

This is because access to safe, reliable, efficient and disability friendly transport is an entitlement to every citizen of Zimbabwe

ACCESS TO SAFE,
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TRANSPORT IS
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ZIMBABWE



OUR POSITION

For the past two years, ZPP has documented the same challenges in the transport sector and has proffered recommendations to Zupco and government and unfortunately, most of the organisation's suggestions have fallen on deaf ears, and the situation has continued to get worse.

We once again, repeat our recommendations to government.

ZPP believes that the challenges in the public transport sector are not limited to the shortages of buses. The challenges are linked to a myriad of issues, the first being the attempts by government to create a monopoly which has promoted bureaucracy, mismanagement, inefficiencies and corruption in the transport sector.

ZPP, which has continually monitored the public transport situation, has flagged various human rights issues, which include but are not limited to the disregard for persons with disability, sexual and other forms of harassment of women, loss of income for members of the public who get delayed due to the transport crisis, among other things.

So, even as private public transport is set to return, the outstanding issues regarding the longstanding mismanagement of Zupco still remain and these cannot just be swept under the carpet as the public deserve to know.

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Government announced in January 2019 that Zupco was to engage private operators to be part of its subsidy programme. Under this, private operators were to get subsidized by government in order for them to operate. However, this has happened without any transparency. Firstly, there has not been a clear criterion of who qualifies to be on the programme and this has compromised the quality and standards of Zupco buses.

Secondly, government has not publicly disclosed the terms of engagement with the private operators. In December 2019, 11 months after its inception, Parliament heard that the subsidy system had cost the taxpayer ZWL\$51 million. A lack of transparency is the reason why the country has had an unabated, continuous public transport crisis for nearly two years now. Once again, ZPP calls for transparency in the nature of subsidies with private operators. ZPP also urges Zupco to ensure they enter into partnership with operators who have roadworthy, disability friendly facilities and equipment. This is because some of the buses under the Zupco program are just but ramshackles that just got dusted up to enable the operators to benefit.

OUR POSITION



ZPP calls on Zupco to effect a disability-friendly public transport system. Persons with disability have continually endured having to pay extra for their assistive devices like wheelchairs and Zupco buses and terminuses do not have ramps while the staff have not been trained to be of assistance to persons with disability during boarding and alighting of buses. This means persons with disability have to fork out extra money to accommodate their assistive devices, and their movement.

BUS DOUBLE ROUTES WILL IT WORK?

Recently, government announced that among the measures it would take to alleviate the transport crisis, long distance buses would be required to take local intra-city routes before and after their usual routes.

We demonstrate how this plan is not effective and we strongly urge government and the relevant department to look at the issues we raise below as we believe that passenger safety comes first:



1. DRIVER FATIGUE

Having drivers ply extra distances can add further physical and mental strain on them, which can have fatal consequences.

Only last year, Transport minister Felix Mhona said public transporters were notorious for setting outrageous targets for their bus crews, a development that often results in disregard for timetables and speeding

"Operators are also strongly urged to desist from the habit of over-working their drivers which results in driver fatigue," Mhona said.



2. DAILY BUS CHECKS

Buses normally need to be checked before and after a long journey. This requires time and getting them to ply extra routes sacrifices this critical process, which is essential to passenger safety



3. LOGISTICAL ISSUES

Creating double routes for buses will likely create logistical requirements that will delay that will inconvenience the equally important long distance travellers.

CENSUS Govt could do better

From April 21 to 30, the government of Zimbabwe, through the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStat) conducted a National Population and Housing Census.

ZimStat is responsible for administering the conducting of the census, whose results provide key information that informs policy formulation and development plans. For the first time, the census was focusing on socio-economic and demographic characteristics of households, for example, race, the age groups they belong to, the levels of education, the category of work they do, whether they own the home, the sort of fuel used in their kitchen among other issues.

STATE SECURITY AGENTS, ZANU PF YOUTHS ENLISTED

The selection of enumerators was not transparent, with allegations that soldiers, police officers, members of the Central Intelligence Organisation and Zanu PF youths were enlisted to do some of the work. Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency spokesperson Mercy Chidemo confirmed that 20% of the enumerators were drawn from unemployed youths, with the Public Service Commission (PSC) co-ordinators conducting the recruitment.

The involvement of members of the security sector in the population census raised fears of it being a calculated move by the Zanu PF government to manipulate the results ahead of the 2023 elections. The outcomes from the Census and the Voter Registration statistics are expected to inform the delimitation exercise ahead of 2023.

RESOURCE LIMITATIONS

The population census was marred by a serious resource shortage, and some enumerators did not manage to start their work on time due to transport limitations, unavailability of the enabling tablets as well as lack of connectivity. In most rural areas, enumerators had to walk very long distances and crossed flooded rivers to access some villages and this hugely impacted on their efficiency. Some of the enumerators that spoke to ZPP said ZimStat did not provide adequate protective clothing such as raincoats and material to shelter their ICT gadgets given the prevailing bad weather conditions.

In Masvingo's Mwenezi district, the census failed to start on time due to failure by ZimStats to provide enumerators with tablets, and it was only during the last three days when enumerators started work.

IN A TWITTER POLL, ZPP
ASKED ZIMBABWEANS IF
CENSUS PEOPLE HAD
VISITED THEIR
RESIDENCY AND 34
PERCENT SAID THEY HAD
NOT BEEN VISITED BY
ZIMSTAT OFFICIALS.



PEOPLE LEFT OUT

ZPP continues to express concern about the huge possibility of people having been left out of the counting process. In a Twitter poll, ZPP asked Zimbabweans if census people had visited their residency and 34 percent said they had not been visited by ZimStat officials.

This presents what is likely to be a huge gap in the number of people counted and will likely cause a distortion of the outcome of the census. This is because the outcome of a census is supposed to inform policies for the next ten years, so using inaccurate information will likely lead to the implementation of irrelevant policies.

POST ELECTION POSITIONING

THE PREVALENCE
OF VIOLENCE IN
MASH CENTRAL
AND EAST IS
BECAUSE OF THE
REPRISALS
TARGETING THOSE
WHO SUPPORTED
THE CCC IN THE
LAST BY-ELECTION

In this section, we analyse the trends of politically motivated human rights violations across the country.

This is part of the ZPP campaign encouraging citizens to resist, reject and report violence ahead of the 2023 election.

The campaign, #RRRV2023 is specifically designed as an early warning system of political violence with the view that relevant agents can adopt preventive measures.

This is because ZPP has noted how community members are used to mete out violence against each other and the moment they unite against violence, peaceful contestation is likely to prevail. So, the #RRRV2023 campaign, separates politically motivated human rights violations from all the other forms of violations, and using a highly sophisticated data analysis tool, ZPP maps the severity of the violations to give an indication of the political volatility of each province.

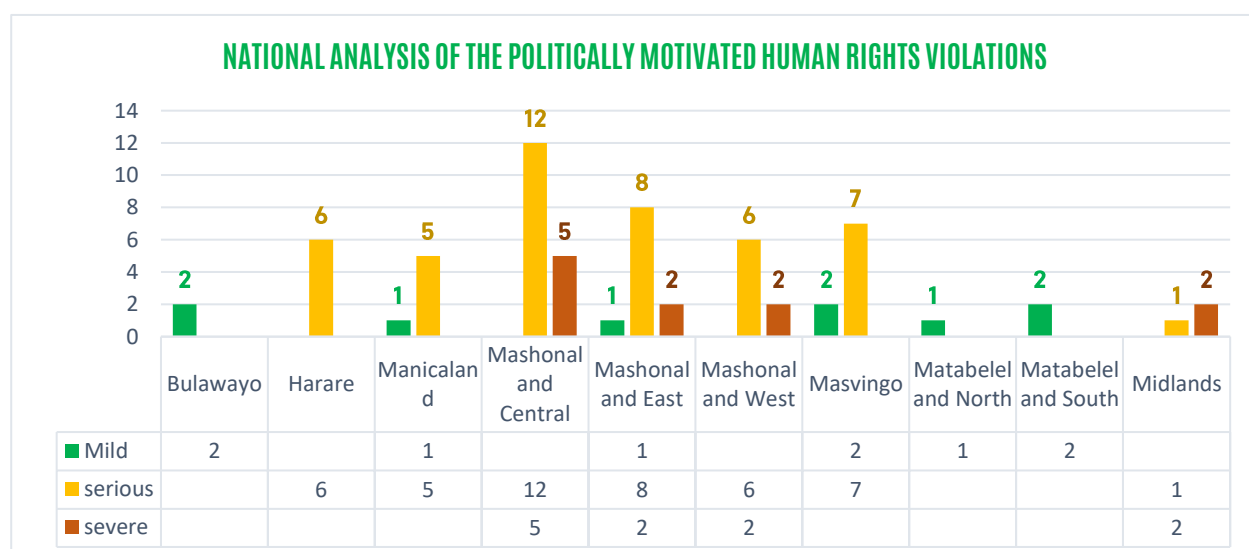
As noted in the graph, Mashonaland Central province has the highest number of politically motivated human rights violations with a total of 17 politically motivated violations, 12 of which are serious and five are severe.

Following Mashonaland Central is Mashonaland East, which has 11 politically motivated human rights violations.

It is interesting to note that in all the provinces, there were pronounced incidents of political activity by Zanu PF and CCC, with supporters of CCC being the majority of the victims.

As noted earlier in this report, the prevalence of violence in Mashonaland Central and East is because of the reprisals targeting those who supported the CCC in the last by-election and it is an attempt by Zanu PF to create an environment of fear ahead of the 2023 elections.

Using a highly sophisticated data analysis tool, ZPP maps the severity of the violations to give an indication of the political volatility of each province.



MASH EAST

“YOU MUST
BURN ANY
UNIDENTIFIED
VEHICLE THAT
ATTEMPTS TO
DRIVE INTO
MUREHWA
NORTH
WARD 10”

ZANU PF
CHAIRPERSON
TAKESURE
KASHESHA

The month of April marked the immediate post-election period and in Mashonaland East, there was widespread targeting of CCC members and any citizens wearing the CCC brand colour, yellow.

In one of the incidents, which happened on 23 April, Zanu PF supporters convened a meeting at Duku Business Centre in Murehwa North and the party’s Chairperson Takesure Kashesha allegedly told Zanu PF supporters that he was not happy with CCC activities that were being done in the Ward. He ordered youths to mount road blocks to ensure that CCC vehicles do not enter Ward 10. “Mota ichapinda muno yatisingazivi tichaipisa (You must burn any unidentified vehicle that attempts to drive into Ward 10).

In another incident, at Chitate Primary School Ward 8 in Murehwa North, a Zanu PF Councillor Masimba Gumira gathered villagers to celebrate his victory in the 26 March by-elections. During the celebrations Gumira told villagers to desist from wearing yellow clothes. “Watichaona akapfeka hembe dzeyellow tichamuita kafira mberi (We will beat to death anyone we see wearing yellow)”.

At Mug Farm in Macheke on 4 April, Zanu PF activist Ricky Chiwara went around threatening those who had participated in the March by-election as observers. He accused the observers of pushing a regime change agenda. In addition to the targeting of CCC supporters, the Chinese have continued to encroach into a significant number of communities in Mutoko.

A number of families, whose lives are hinged on agriculture, are at risk of losing their land as village heads are parcelling out land to Chinese Black Granite Companies.

In one of the cases, at Gwenambira Village in Ward 10 of Mutoko North, one Loveness Mungate had her farming land pegged by the Chinese owned mining company. The Village head, one Gwenambira reportedly received USD 20 from the Chinese company, leading him to parcel out part of Mungate’s farming land.

ZPP has continued to advocate against the seizure of land for the use of mining activities.

This not only takes away the villagers’ access to their land, but it also impacts negatively on the environment. The situation is made worse by the fact that the foreign owned mining companies do nothing to recoup their huge export earnings back to the land where the granite is extracted.

MASH WEST

IN KADOMA
CENTRAL, AT
TANDARA SHOPPING
CENTRE, A
BUTCHERY
OPERATOR, WAS
REPORTEDLY
EVICTED FROM A
RENTED PREMISE
FOR ALLEGEDLY
HOSTING CCC
ACTIVISTS.



Mashonaland West witnessed an increase in cases of violation of property rights and intra-party violence. During the ongoing mobile national identity documents exercise, traditional leaders in some parts of the province forced villagers to contribute money and livestock in return for proof of residence required when applying for national documents.

This April, the Registrar General's Department began its six-month countrywide mobile exercise to issue critical national documents like birth and death certificates, and national identity cards.

In Chinhoyi there were cases of intra-party violence during a Zanu PF Youth election and in the process, rival factions traded threats and blows.

In Kadoma, there were politically motivated clashes involving artisanal miners. The rival members of artisanal mining gangs, who all had vehicles bearing President Mnangagwa and Zanu PF branding, attacked each other with machetes and knives. Police were called to the scene to contain the situation but they refused to attend when they realized the clashes were political. An armed unit of the anti-riot police had to be called in.

In Kadoma Central, at Tandara Shopping Centre, a butchery operator, was reportedly evicted from a rented premise for allegedly hosting CCC activists.

In Chegutu West's Ward 9, the March by-election Zanu PF losing candidate Mitchel Chiyanike was assaulted by fellow party supporters led by one Primrose Makore, who accused Chiyanike of stealing and unfairly distributing regalia.

HARARE

WHAT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A NATIONAL CONVERGENCE DAY FOR ALL CITIZENS TURNED-OUT TO BE A ZANU PF PARTY PROGRAM

On 18 April 2022, Zimbabwe commemorated 42 years of independence. In Harare, the government commissioned Zupco buses to ferry Zanu PF supporters to show-grounds where the commemorations were held. Hundreds of Zanu PF supporters clad in party regalia from Glenview, Epworth, Hopely, Mufakose and other communities received Zupco transport to and from the commemorations. Most of the information on independence was not communicated publicly but indirectly through Zanu PF party structures where mobilisation of youths was taking place. What was supposed to be a national convergence day for all citizens turned-out to be a Zanu PF party program/rally graced by members of the security sector which therefore discouraged many citizens from attending. In a disturbing case, CitizenS Coalition for Change (CCC) youth assembly member Makomborero Haruzivishe was nearly abducted by suspected state security agents on Independence Day. Haruzivishe narrowly escaped abduction and sustained bruises on his hands. The unidentified men driving suspicious vehicles failed to achieve their mission and drove off at high speed.

MASH CENTRAL

ON 16 APRIL 2022, VILLAGERS IN MAZOWE SOUTH AT PROTEA FARM (WARD 16) WERE FORCED TO CONTRIBUTE CASH TOWARDS THE INDEPENDENCE DAY COMMEMORATIONS.

The Independence Day commemorations in Mashonaland Central province were conducted at district and constituency level. The major challenge citizens encountered during the commemorations were forced contributions by Zanu PF and traditional leaders. There was a disturbing trend of violations where people were forced to contribute in cash and in kind towards the celebrations.

This trend has been notable since year 2000 to date and Zanu PF has been at the centre of all actions by traditional leaders forcing civil servants (teachers, nurses) and villagers to contribute against their will. In Mazowe South Glendale Zanu PF district members came up with an ambitious list of food and non-food items which they went around demanding from the business fraternity, individuals and house holds. Below are some of the incidents.

On 16 April 2022, villagers in Mazowe South at Protea farm (Ward 16) were forced to contribute cash towards the Independence Day commemorations. Zanu PF Youth Chairperson Mcdonald Chagaka and Youth Secretary Jealous Franciso went around the farm compounds collecting \$1.00 USD contributions per household.

In Bindura South ward 12 at Muonwe Township Zanu PF chairperson Abraham Mhembere, coerced villagers to contribute cash towards the Independence Day commemorations. Villagers were made to contribute a \$1.00 USD per household and Mhembere claimed the ruling party, Zanu PF, was fundraising money to purchase a cow for the celebrations



MASVINGO

A VILLAGE HEAD AT RUKOMBA DRAGGED HIS BROTHER TO COURT, ACCUSING HIM OF WEARING A CCC PARTY T-SHIRT ON INDEPENDENCE DAY

Political persecution continued in Masvingo province with CCC supporters being targeted by both Zanu PF supporters and traditional leaders. In one of the cases in Masvingo Central, the village head at Rukomba allegedly summoned his brother to the traditional court, where he was accused of wearing a CCC party t-shirt on Independence Day. The village head went on to demand a fine in the form a goat from his brother, and if he failed to pay, the village head would seize part of his communal land. This practice goes against the law, which is clear that traditional leaders should not be affiliated to any political party. ZPP continues to urge the leadership of the traditional leaders, the Chief's Council to foster non-partisanship among traditional leaders who often use their influence to intimidate and harass members of the opposition

BULAWAYO

ZANU PF ACTIVISTS FORCED VENDORS TO ATTEND THE INDEPENDENCE DAY EVENT

Bulawayo hosted the main activities for the commemorations of independence. This was the first ever independence celebrations since 1980. To make the event a success, Zanu PF structures unfortunately forced people to make contributions to what was supposed to be a national event. On the eve of the independence celebrations, Zanu PF activists Mpumelelo Moyo and one Admire forced vendors to attend the Independence Day event at Barbourfields Stadium. It is said the duo also warned the vendors that on the day they needed to shut down the Mkambo market and take part in the celebrations and anyone found selling risked losing their vending stall.

MAT NORTH

IN GWANDA NORTH SOME OPPOSITION CITIZENS WERE DENIED A CHANCE TO BE VETTED AS WAR COLLABORATORS

The vetting program of the war collaborators across the nation is still underway. In Lupane West at Jotsholo, it was noted that even those born towards the war end have been registered, raising suspicions, the programme is meant to be a rallying point for Zanu PF ahead of the 2023 elections. In Manama in Gwanda North, one Bernard Nyoni discriminated some opposition citizens who had gathered to be vetted as war collaborators. It is said that Nyoni told the gathered that the program was meant to boost electoral numbers for Zanu PF in the forthcoming elections and therefore it was meant to only benefit members of the ruling party.

MANICALAND

HE SAID ZANU PF WOULD UNLEASH VIOLENCE LIKE WHAT HAPPENED IN 2008 WHEN OVER 200 OPPOSITION SUPPORTERS WERE KILLED FOLLOWING AN OPPOSITION ELECTORAL VICTORY.

In Manicaland, the systematic harassment, intimidation and discrimination of opposition political supporters continued, and the major perpetrators were Zanu PF officials, supporters and activists as well as traditional and local leaders.

For example, in Ward 5 of Buhera West, the legislator Soul Dzuma told villagers at a rally that those who were not attending Zanu PF meetings were not going to be allocated any share of the food aid that was to be distributed in the areas. In Ward 17 of Chipinge East, village head Chiororo called for a meeting and told villagers that if they did not support or vote Zanu PF in the 2023 elections, the party would unleash violence like what happened in 2008 when over 200 opposition supporters were killed following an opposition electoral victory.

These and the other 18 cases recorded in the province point to an escalation in intimidation tactics ahead of the 2023 election

MAT SOUTH

MRP ACTIVISTS TOLD VILLAGERS NOT TO VOTE FOR SHONA LED POLITICAL PARTIES

Following the death of Zimbabwean Elvis Nyathi who was burnt to death in South Africa's xenophobic attacks, a Mthwakazi Republic Party (MRP) activists led by Zwelani Nleya reportedly carried out a door-to-door campaign where he and other MRP activists told villagers not to vote for Shona led political parties as they are 'responsible' for the mass exodus of the Zimbabweans to South Africa. The activists further went on to say their party would not tolerate any campaigns by Shona-led political parties in Matabeleland provinces.



APPENDIX 1 THE ELECTORAL ACT CODE OF CONDUCT

The Code lays out as its objective "to promote conditions that are conducive to free and fair elections and a climate of tolerance in which electioneering activity may take place without fear or coercion, intimidation or reprisals" (Fourth Schedule, 1). Its provisions apply to parties, candidates, party members and supporters and candidates' agents (Fourth Schedule, 2).

Political parties must instruct its candidates, office bearers and representatives, members and supporters to adhere to the Code and electoral laws (Fourth Schedule, 3(a)).

Candidates must likewise instruct representatives and supporters to comply with the Code and with electoral laws (Fourth Schedule, 3(b)). Parties and candidates are expected to enforce compliance (Fourth Schedule, 3(c)).

Parties and candidates are expected to publicise the Code and their commitment to it, to publicly condemn behaviour that undermines free and fair elections, to accept the results of the elections or to challenge them by legal means and to publicly affirm the right of all to (Fourth Schedule, 4):

- Freely express their political beliefs and opinions.
- Challenge and debate the political beliefs and opinions of others.
- Canvass freely for membership and support.
- Attend public meetings convened by others.
- Distribute campaign material.
- Political parties and candidates are expected to cooperate with (Fourth Schedule, 5):

Other parties to minimise conflict, especially by not calling public events that conflict with those organised by other parties or candidates.

ZEC officials to "protect and enhance their role to supervise and administer elections".

Police officers in maintaining peace.

Political parties and candidates as well as members and supporters are prohibited from (Fourth Schedule, 5):

- Harming or threatening others.
- Language or deeds that provoke violence or intimidation.
- Publishing defamatory allegations about other participants.
- Discriminating on the basis of race, ethnicity, sex, gender, class or religion.
- Damaging property, including posters, banners or other material.
- Preventing or inhibiting access to meetings or to voters during campaigning.
- Carrying weapons at public political events.
- Bribing or threatening voters.
- Coercing voters to reveal whom they voted for.
- Disrupting the work of election officials.
- Campaigning within 200 metres of a polling station or counting centre.