



TOXIZIM

Everything depends on which side do you belong



THE ZIMBABWE
PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY
MONITORING
REPORT
JULY 2022





THE ROUNDUP

SELECTIVE APPLICATION

In our round up this month, we note that Zanu PF has continued to dominate the list of human rights violators, at 50 percent, followed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP), which contributed to 24 percent, or 354, of all the violations ZPP recorded. The Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), was responsible for 29 (four percent) of all violations recorded while the Zimbabwe National Army was responsible for 12 violations.

For the ruling party, it has always been about its escalating thirst for domination ahead of the 2023 elections.

ZPP notes that the party has, since April, launched a systematic campaign to threaten and intimidate opposition supporters in rural areas such that by the time the official campaign period begins for the 2023 elections, villagers would have lost the little that remains of their voice and chance to choose leaders of their choice.

On the ZRP, it is so much about the police's continued use of archaic and selective methods of law enforcement. The ZRP continues to be an enforcer for the ruling party, ready to arrest those that do not agree with the ruling party, and prepared to look away when the ruling party is on the wrong side.

The CCC, which has remained on the receiving end of violence, with 196 of its members being victims in July, also contributes to human rights violations as internal fights surfaced in the party formed in January this year.

ZPP continues to express concern over the 31 cases of politicisation of food and other aid and the 138 cases of harassment and intimidation as well as the 18 cases of unlawful detention and 42 assaults recorded. This points to a situation where Zimbabweans have become more and more vulnerable to human rights violations without any form of protection or any source of recourse and law enforcement agents continue to prove to be either incapacitated, partisan or unaware of their mandate to protect Zimbabweans.



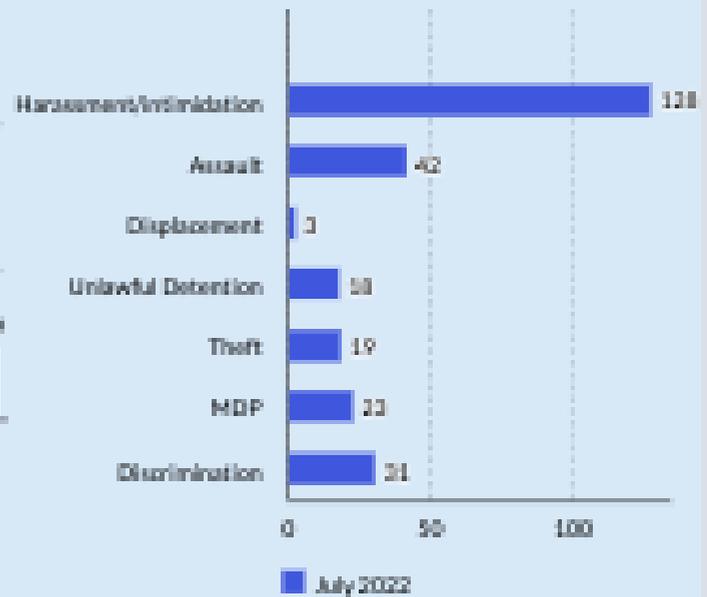
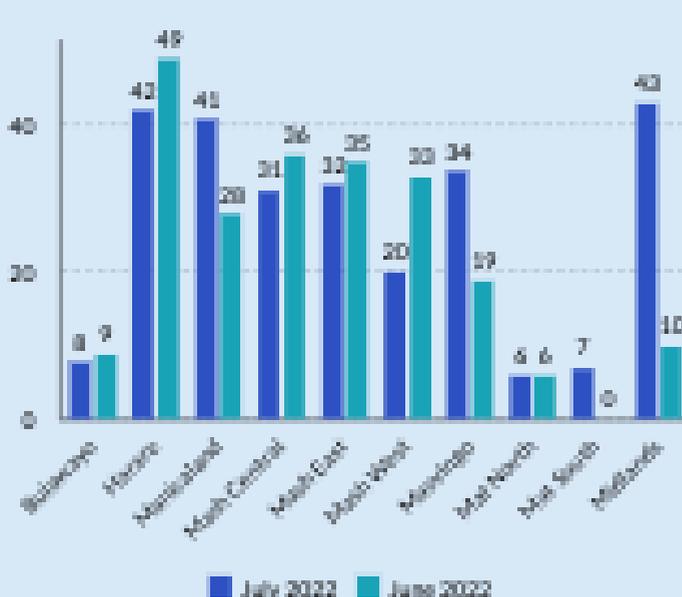
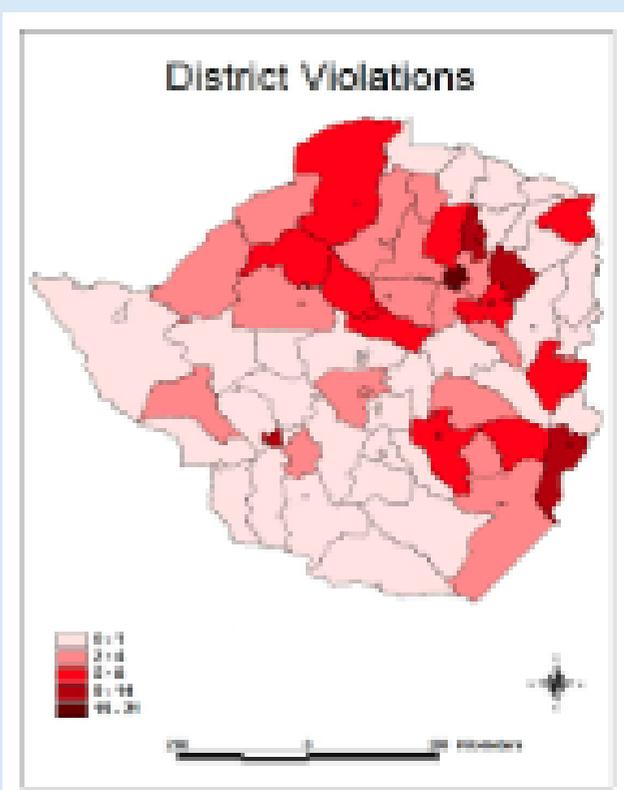
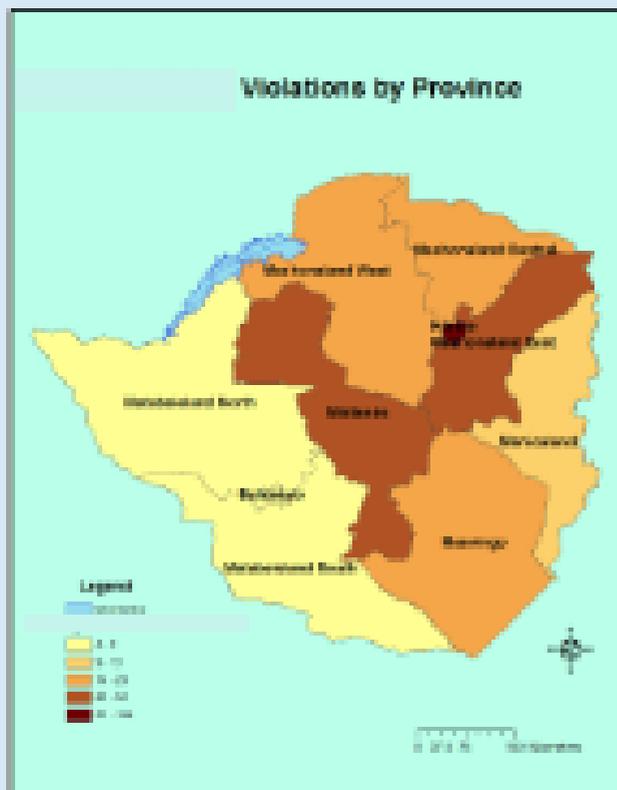
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THE VIOLATIONS IN GRAPHICS

Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Zimbabwe Peace Project

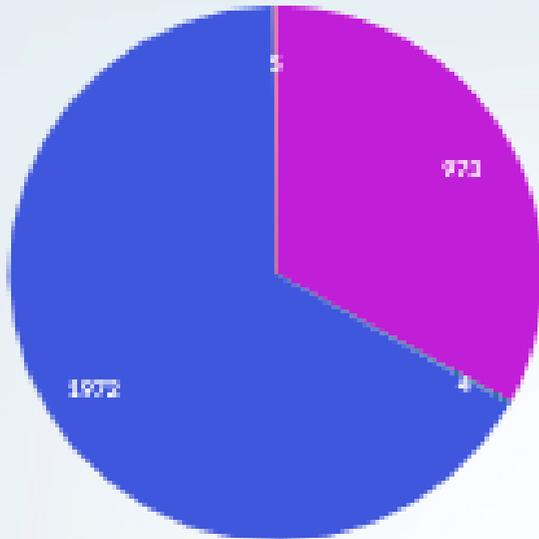
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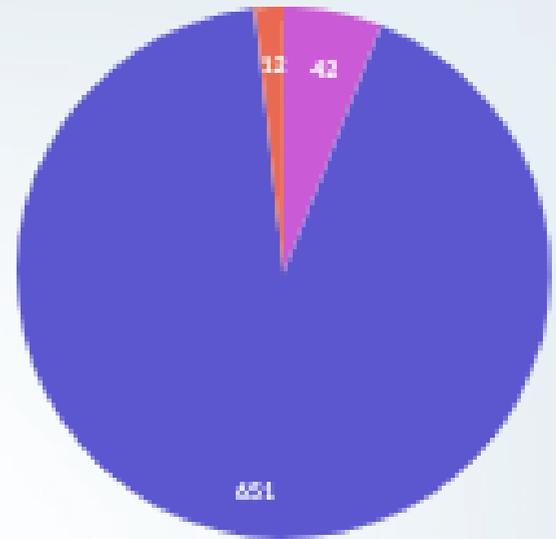
Provincial Violations

Types of Violations

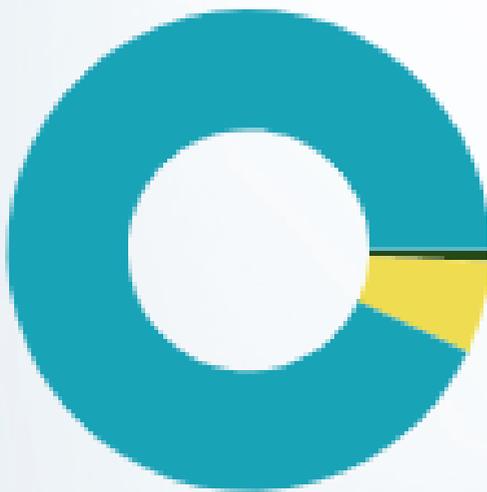
THE VIOLATIONS IN GRAPHICS



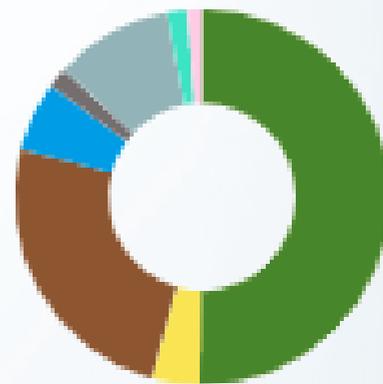
Gender of Victims



Gender of Perpetrators



Victims Affiliation



Perpetrators Affiliation



Food & Other Aid Violations



Intra Party Violence

During the month of July, the government of Zimbabwe revealed more and more its unwillingness to unite the country, as the levels of intolerance and selective and partisan application of the law continued unabated.

The highlight of the month was a video that went viral of one Abton Mashayanyika, an apostolic church bishop, who told Zanu PF supporters at a rally in Mberengwa that Advocate Nelson Chamisa and his family must be killed. He said this as he explained the meaning of the 'down with so and so' slogan. He said whenever this slogan was used against anyone it meant that that person had to die. He then chanted 'down with Chamisa' as someone in the crowd chipped in 'and his children'.

Just when one expected the law to take its course by arresting Mashayanyika, nothing has happened.

It was only after renowned human rights lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa wrote a letter demanding that the law enforcement agents investigate the bishop that the police responded by saying they had launched investigations into the matter.

To this day (at time of print), Mashayanyika, who is a well-known individual, is yet to be arrested despite the overwhelming evidence. One just imagines what would have happened if such a slogan and its explanations was chanted by a member of the main opposition the CCC. This is happening at a time when opposition leaders and activists and human and workers rights defenders are being persecuted and detained, simply because they speak out against government and the ruling party's excesses.

President of the Amalgamated Rural Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe (Artuz), Obert Masaraure has been in remand prison for more than a month on a charge of obstruction of justice. It is the state case that he committed the crime when he tweeted about the situation of one of his colleagues who had been arrested. This after Masaraure had been granted bail on another case in which he is accused of murder. Ironically this is a case from 2016 when a colleague of his fell to his death after which an inquest into the death pronounced there was no foul play. Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) legislators Job Sikhala, Godfrey Sithole and 11 other activists have remained incarcerated, charged with inciting violence and obstructing the course of the law since early June when there were violent skirmishes in Nyatsime following the disappearance and the callous murder of Moreblessing Ali, a well-known CCC activist in Nyatsime.

In other disturbing reports the Director of Centre for Natural Resources Governance (CNRG) Farai Maguwu received death threats from Zanu PF Chegutu West Legislator Dexter Nduna on Twitter following the publication of a report titled 'Zimbabwe's Disappearing Gold; Case of Mazowe and Penhalonga.' In the report the CNRG details illicit financial flows zooming in on leakages of some 3 tonnes of gold valued at USD157million a month or USD1.9billion per year. Speaking to ZPP about the threats 'I was taken aback and surprised that someone would make death threats like that on twitter. When it comes to issues of natural resources we will not be intimidated', said Maguwu.

Opposition Zimbabwe Transformative Party (ZTP) leader Parere Kunyenzura was arrested during a prayer walk activity.

All this is happening as Zanu PF has accelerated its crackdown on opposition supporters in rural areas and targeting CSO leaders nationwide.

A few examples include, but are not limited to the following.

In Bikita South, one Masakadze, a Ward 2 councillor and a teacher at Zindove Primary School forced people to attend Zanu PF meetings in the area and said that if people did not vote for Zanu PF the party was going to unleash violence.

In Tsholotsho South, it was reported Zanu PF Vice President Kembo Mohadi met village heads and told them that in addition to voting for Zanu PF in the 2023 elections, they were supposed to use their influence to close the operating space for opposition parties when the campaigns officially start.

"You are supposed to work to ensure that no one in the opposition gets a chance to campaign in this area," he said.

On 23 July, at Rukau Business Centre Ward 16 in Mutoko East, Zanu PF supporters attacked CCC activists who had gathered for their planning meeting for the memorial service of their late CCC colleague. A mob of Zanu PF activists came from nowhere and started beating up people who were attending a CCC meeting leaving three injured and hospitalised at All Souls Mission Hospital. No arrests were made despite the cases being reported to the police and the names of the attackers being known.

A Chivhu councillor, Tafadzwa Mukandi, declared that: "If we see that you have gone against the ideologies of the party, we will definitely come for you. This party is the very party that enhanced the land reform programme from which you have benefitted. When we then see that you are working against the gains of the liberation struggle, we will not tolerate that and we will definitely come for you ... Some people died for this country, yet you want us to tolerate sell-outs."

SPECIAL
FOCUS

STOKING POLARISATION



SPECIAL
FOCUS

STOKING POLARISATION

Our Analysis

The ruling party, which has effectively erased the state-party divide, has become so intolerant to opposing views that as the 2023 elections approach, the contempt for any opposition or dissent has now become so acute it is bordering on hatred. Ruling party functionaries at all levels have continued to publicly state that Zanu PF and state security agents are prepared to launch an all-out war against civil rights activists and opposition political players and this is a sure sign that the country's 2023 elections are set to have a premeditated outcome in favour of the ruling party. What is so very disconcerting is that the country's police appear utterly oblivious to the threat to peace, harmony and unity the utterances by those in Zanu PF are posing. To the ruling party, anyone who does not agree is a sell-out, there are no grey areas. It is such language that is so dangerous that if untamed, can lead to the country degenerating into chaos and violence and the ruling party should set itself back to the ethos of democracy, tolerance and good governance.

Our Recommendations

It is high time President Emmerson Mnangagwa, who has promised, and so far, failed, to deliver a democratic, economically prosperous Zimbabwe, pressed the reset button and work towards ensuring that Zimbabweans enjoy the freedoms guaranteed by the Constitution.

It is not a favour, but a constitutional obligation for government to create an environment of freedom and by acceding to stand as the President of Zimbabwe, Mnangagwa signed a contract with the people of Zimbabwe that he was going to abide by the Constitution, and he should simply just do so!



ROAD TO 2023

AS NOTED IN THE GRAPH, MIDLANDS PROVINCE HAS THE HIGHEST NUMBER OF POLITICALLY MOTIVATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS WITH A TOTAL OF 17 POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLATIONS, 15 OF WHICH ARE SERIOUS.

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

This is part of the ZPP campaign to have citizens 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.

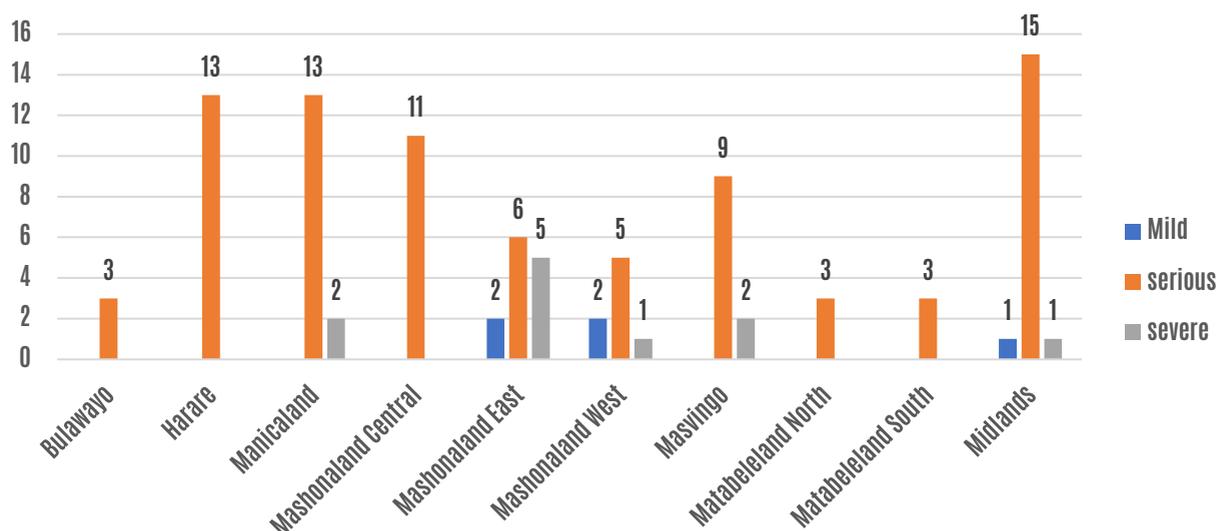
This is because ZPP has noted how community members are used to mete out violence against each other and the moment they unite against violence, peaceful contestation is likely to prevail. So the #RRRV2023 campaign, separates politically motivated human rights violations from all other forms of violations, 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, Midlands province has the highest number of politically motivated human rights violations with a total of 17 politically motivated violations, 15 of which are serious. The province took over from Harare, which had the highest of 22 political motivated human rights violations in June. On the heels of the Midlands is Manicaland which has 15 politically motivated human rights violations.

The prevalence of politically motivated violence in Midlands, Manicaland and Mashonaland East, is a result of the continued manoeuvres by Zanu PF to shut down space for the opposition ahead of the official campaigning period for the 2023 elections.

See Provincial outlook below.

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**


Cases of intimidation escalated in Mashonaland East Province. The majority of the cases were targeting CCC members by individuals aligned to Zanu PF in Murehwa, Mudzi and Mutoko. In Mutoko three CCC members were badly injured after being attacked by Zanu PF activists. Although the case was reported to the police and the perpetrators are known no arrests have been made. In Murehwa, Zanu PF activists bragged that their affiliation to the ruling party puts them above the law. At Ruwa Business Centre in Goromonzi North, the local council demolished structures, vending stalls and buildings at the business centre. The demolitions affected almost 70 small shops, furniture dealers, and vendors. It is suspected that the shop owners affected were accused of being opposition supporters.


**MASH
WEST**


In Mashonaland West cases involving the violation of political rights and freedom of assembly and association also escalated during the month of July. Zanu PF legislator Mary Chikoko Mliswa was involved in two violations in which she forced villagers to convene. On 16 July, in Chinokopota village under chief Nyamhunga Ward 17 in Hurungwe West, Chikoko Mliswa forced villagers to chant Zanu PF slogans during what is supposed to be a non-partisan Ward Development Co-ordinating meeting. A CCC member who had refused to chant the slogans was told to leave the meeting.

On 23 July, at Yomba Farm in Ward 3 of Zvimba East, Zanu PF Zvimba District Coordinating Committee (DCC) officials Goodluck Mbiri and Spencer Murumahoko convened a meeting with about 80 A1 farmers. During the meeting, Mbiri and Marumahoko told the farmers that it was the intention of the party to repartition the farm to allocate some land to some Zanu PF supporters. The farmers reportedly became violent threatening to torch the DCC car resulting in the two fleeing.


MIDLANDS


In the Midlands there was heightened vote-buying in Gokwe Kabuyuni ahead of the by-election scheduled following the death of former legislator Leonard Chikomba in June 2022. With Zanu PF and CCC gunning for the seat, there was vote buying, harassment and intimidation. For example, the aspiring ruling party candidates Mukuli, Spencer and Mukahla reportedly dished out money, soccer balls and party t-shirts to supporters. After the closing of the nomination court only Zanu PF and CCC will battle it out on August 27, 2022 the date proclaimed by the president for the elections.

HARARE

ARTUZ President Obert Masaraure, CCC legislators Job Sikhala, Godfrey Sithole and 11 CCC activists remained detained for the better part of the month and at the time of writing this report they were still detained. Masaraure was arrested on 8 July for inciting public violence after he allegedly posted on Twitter urging teachers to demand the release of his colleague, Robson Chere, who was in jail by that time. Masaraure was apprehended on charges of obstructing and defeating the course of justice.

CCC leader Nelson Chamisa was denied entry into Chikurubi Maximum Security Prison where he sought to visit Sikhala, Godfrey Sithole, and 11 other party activists. Chamisa was made to wait for three hours before being told that he is a high-profile political leader, he was supposed to seek clearance first from officials of the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services (ZPCS). Officers of the ZPCS at Chikurubi Maximum prison made Hon Tendai Biti of the CCC to wait several hours when he sought to visit the party colleagues in prison. He was also directed to seek permission from the Commissioner General of the ZPCS. A few weeks before these incidents Roselyn Hanzi had also been barred from visiting her clients. The matter had to be resolved by the courts.

On 16 July Parere Kunyenzura, the leader of the Zimbabwe Transformative Party (ZTP), and some of his party's leadership were arrested in Harare's central business district during what a party official said was a prayer walk. On 12 July, the police hauled Sikhala out of Chikurubi to press more charges following his arrest in connection with the Nyatsime violence. They charged him with obstructing or defeating the course of justice using the same circumstances as the first charge. It is alleged that Sikhala was barred from seeking medical attention at Chikurubi Maximum Prison.

MASH CENTRAL

In the province, Zanu PF supporters continued to threaten to unleash violence if the ruling party loses the 2023 elections. For example, former Zanu PF Chairperson Kufa Gwingwizha has been going around intimidating opposition supporters in Mazowe Central, Chiweshe at Chaona Business Centre ward 3. Gwingwizha is inciting villagers to kill opposition supporters ahead of the 2023 elections. On 23 July he reportedly addressed a village meeting in ward 3 saying that all CCC supporters deserve to die. He said these words in full view of community members and chastised villagers to clap hands for him. The widespread violence is going to affect the environment in the run up to the elections unless something is done and done urgently to deescalate the tensions.



SCAN ME



MASVINGO



Zanu PF continued to force traditional leaders to use their influence to coerce villages to support and vote for Zanu PF in the 2023 elections in Manicaland province.

In addition, there was increased intimidation and harassment of suspected opposition supporters.

In Ward 18 of Zaka Central, village head Philip Munjanja continued to issue threats and harassment targeting members of his village. At a meeting Munjanja is said to have sent death threats to all opposition CCC supporters in the area. He also went on further to state that he was promised monetary reward if Zanu PF won in Ward 18. The meeting was also attended by Erick Makadho. And Imagine Mazivira both Zanu PF loyalists.



BULAWAYO



Zanu PF continued with its crusade of forcing citizens to join the party's cell groups at Sizinda Shops. One Vumani Moyo walked around with a Zanu PF register, forcing people to sign in their names or risk losing their operating licences.

At the Mpompini of Cowdry Park in Luveve, a Zanu PF activist, Mazwi Mloyi, denied a number of citizens access to water at a local borehole sunk by government, allowing only Zanu PF members. We urge an investigation into this politicisation of water.

ZIPRA affiliated war veterans through the ZIPRA Veterans Trust got arrested after demonstrating in Bulawayo. The veterans were demanding their properties and documents that were expropriated as a result of the Unity Accord which brought together Zanu and Zapu to give birth to Zanu PF. ZIPRA was the Zapu military wing during the liberation struggle. Part of their demands were that the state should return their properties and even their historical documents that were expropriated at their offices by the military police.



MAT NORTH



Zanu PF Vice-President Kembo Mohadi embarked on a mission to force traditional leaders to vote and campaign for Zanu PF. This is despite the Constitution stating that traditional leaders should be apolitical. In Nkayi South, Mohadi met village heads and told them that in addition to voting for Zanu PF in the 2023 elections, they should bar any opposition parties from visiting their areas of jurisdiction.

In Lupane West constituency, a Zanu PF DCC member, only identified as Mrs. Sithole, summoned all village heads to attend a closed door Zanu PF meeting where Mohadi was the guest of honor. The village heads were forced to put on Zanu PF regalia and in that meeting, it is said that Mohadi told village heads to vote for Zanu PF and to never allow opposition parties the space to campaign. In turn, Mohadi promised, government was going to increase their payouts. Mohadi went on to do the same in Tsholotsho South.

MANICALAND

In ward 17 of Chipinge East, there was partisan issuance of National Identity Documents by Civil Registry staff stationed at Chikore High School, who worked closely with the local Zanu PF leaders who provided a priority list of party members who needed to get National IDs ahead of everyone else. Members of the local community not affiliated to Zanu PF remained worried that ordinary people were not going to get a chance to get national documents. The abuse of traditional leaders in most parts of Manicaland continued. Zanu PF, as has always been the case during elections, turned to traditional leaders to lead the campaigns for the party ahead of the 2023 elections.

MAT SOUTH

Just as in Matabeleland North, Mohadi travelled around Matabeleland South, where he convened meetings with traditional leaders, telling them they need to vote for and campaign for Zanu PF.

In Bulilima West a Zanu PF activist, Cletus Moyo told villagers to register under her party cell group or risk being removed from the food aid distribution. Moyo warned that come 2023, Zanu PF would be the only party in Zimbabwe.

A Zanu PF ward member in Bulilima West, identified only as Black Jack, told community members that the newly vetted war veterans should vote for Zanu PF in order for them to receive their benefits. Throughout the country, Zanu PF continues to dangle the promise of compensation to newly vetted war veterans and war collaborators.

