

# FOUR WEEKS IN MARCH

THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT  
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT  
MARCH 2022



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**MIDDLE:**  
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**BBC**

# A LONG FOUR WEEKS

Zanu PF contributed to 73 percent of all human rights violations followed by the police, which contributed to nearly 16 percent



**Suspected Zanu PF youths in Chinake Village, Murehwa North on 8 March, set fire to a house belonging to a CCC supporter. Food, farming inputs and furniture were lost. PIC ZPPINFO**

It was a long four weeks in March of 2022 when Zimbabwe witnessed an unprecedented increase in politically motivated human rights violations designed to suppress campaigns by the newly formed Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) ahead of the by-elections held on March 26.

It was clear that President Emmerson Mnangagwa’s administration was not prepared or willing to ensure free, fair and open political and human rights friendly environment and was prepared to do anything – hook or crook – to take advantage of incumbency at election time.

Zanu PF spokesperson, Christopher Mutsvangwa confirmed this when he said while addressing a press conference early March, “I want to make it very clear, all over the world an incumbent party has an advantage of being in power to use the position of incumbency for campaigning,” he said.

Mutsvangwa added that those that felt the state broadcaster, the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation was not covering opposition political party rallies should form their own media houses.

This was a direct insult to the Constitution and the laws of the land.

Section 61 (4) of the 2013 Constitution implores state-controlled media to “afford fair opportunity for the presentation of divergent views and dissenting opinions”.

Section 160G of the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13] states that public broadcasters shall afford all political parties and independent candidates contesting an election such free access to their broadcasting services.

It was therefore not a surprise that the ruling Zanu PF contributed to 73 percent of all human rights violations the ZPP recorded in March followed by the Zimbabwe Republic Police, which contributed to nearly 16 percent of human rights violations.



An injured CCC supporter in Kwekwe. PIC newzimbabwe.com

In all this, general citizens, about 82 percent, were caught up as victims while about 15 percent are CCC supporters. We can only conclude that the state security agents, who banned three CCC rallies and used brute methods to disperse CCC supporters who had gathered for a rally in Gokwe, and arrested dozens of CCC supporters for simply wearing their party colours, were doing so in a way meant to give an advantage to Zanu PF. The ruling party continued to hold its political campaigns without the slightest hindrance, and with full police protection. Those in Zanu PF who perpetrated violence against CCC supporters got away with it. The impunity has been so shameless that suspects in

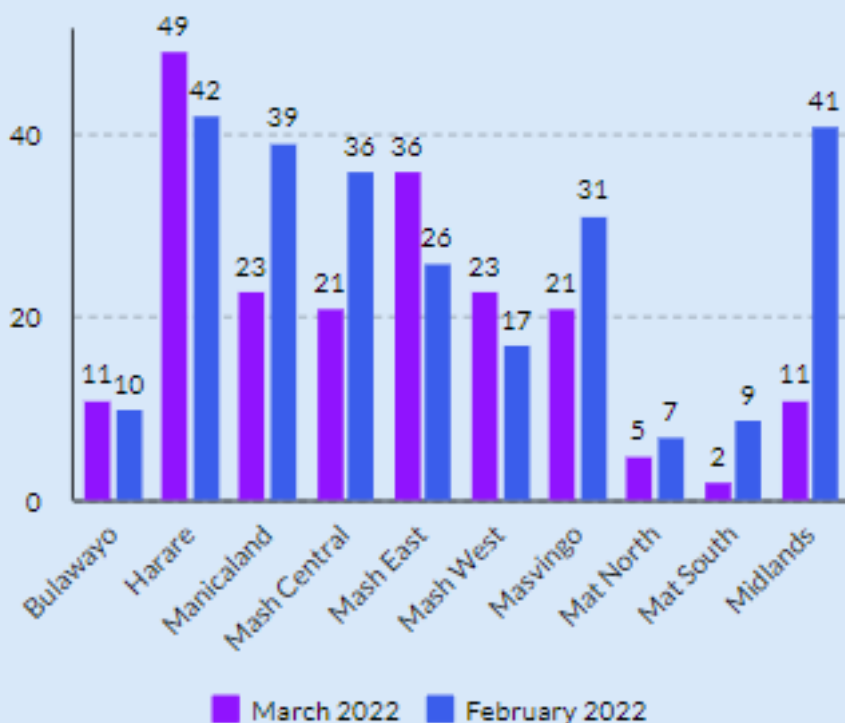
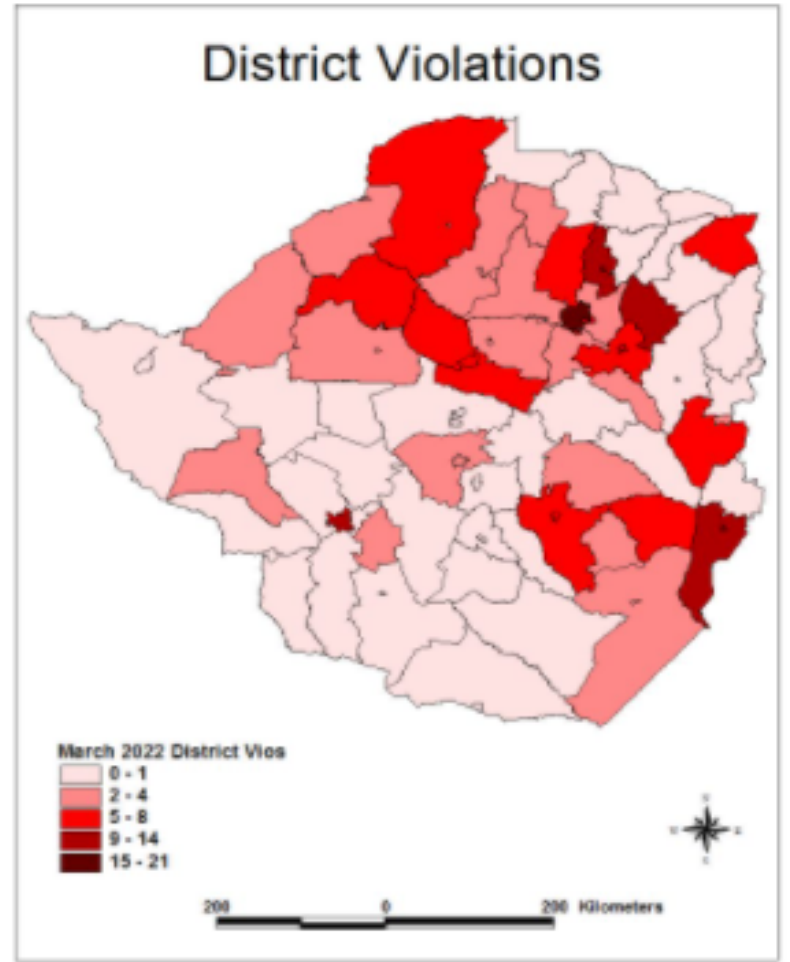
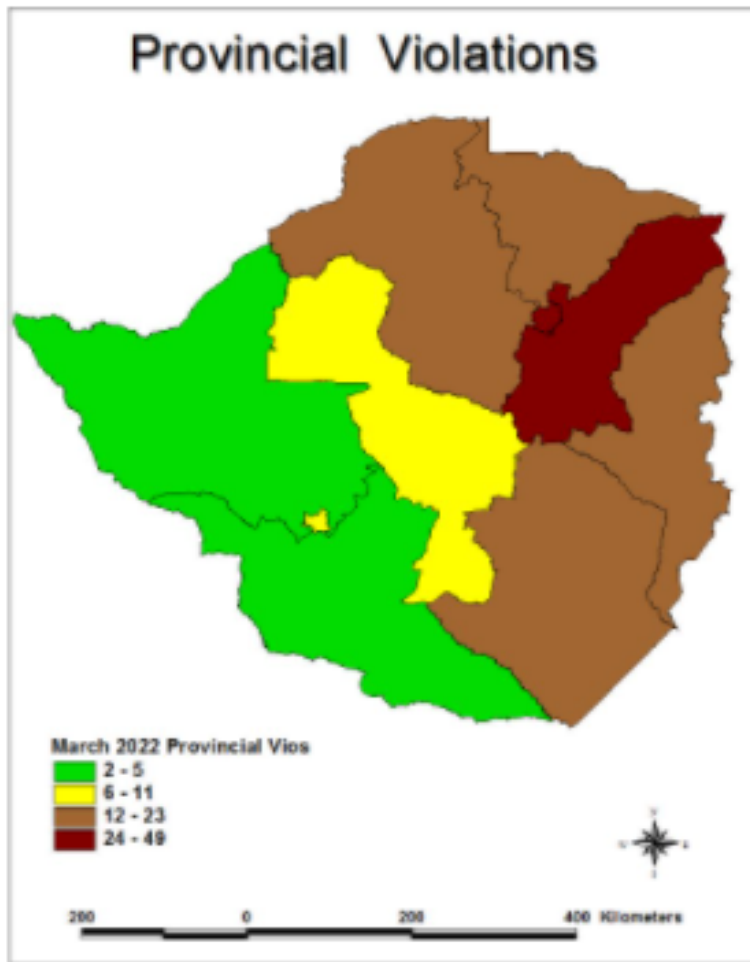
the gruesome murder of the Kwekwe CCC supporter, Mboneni Ncube, are reported to be on a rampage, threatening to kill witnesses lined up to testify against them in court. The Zanu PF activists also allegedly kidnapped Mboneni's sister, Judith on 31 March and threatened to kill her for continuing to demand justice. Ncube was stabbed with a spear at a CCC rally in Kwekwe in February and police in a leaked memo identified the perpetrators as Zanu PF members. So, it was within that uneven environment that Zimbabwe went to by-elections on March 26 and ZPP has continued to record unsettling incidents where Zanu PF activists are hounding those who supported the CCC in the run

up to the by-elections. In Dangamvura-Chikanga and Bindura North, losing Zanu PF candidates went around demanding back the mealie-meal they doled out to people during the campaign period while in Kwekwe, some vendors have been evicted from their stalls. At Chikurubi Maximum Prison in Harare East, prison wardens are being victimised after Tendai Biti of the CCC got more votes than his losing rival, Mavis Gumbo. So, as March ended, the political tensions remained high, and with CCC having won the majority of the contested National Assembly seats, Zanu PF has begun its campaign for 2023 and this is likely to keep the country on election mode, which is of great concern.

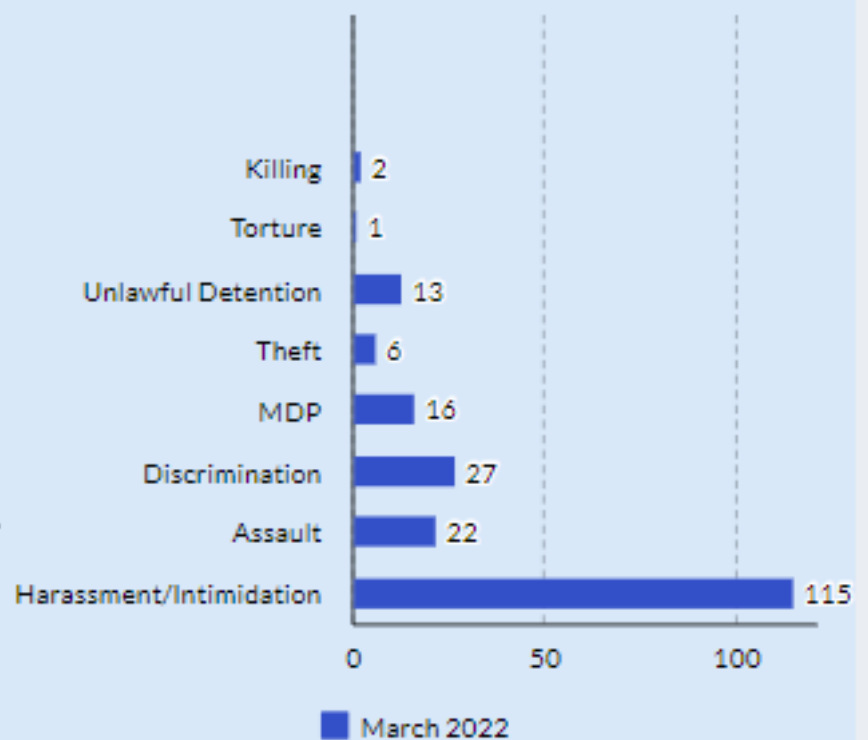
## Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Zimbabwe Peace Project

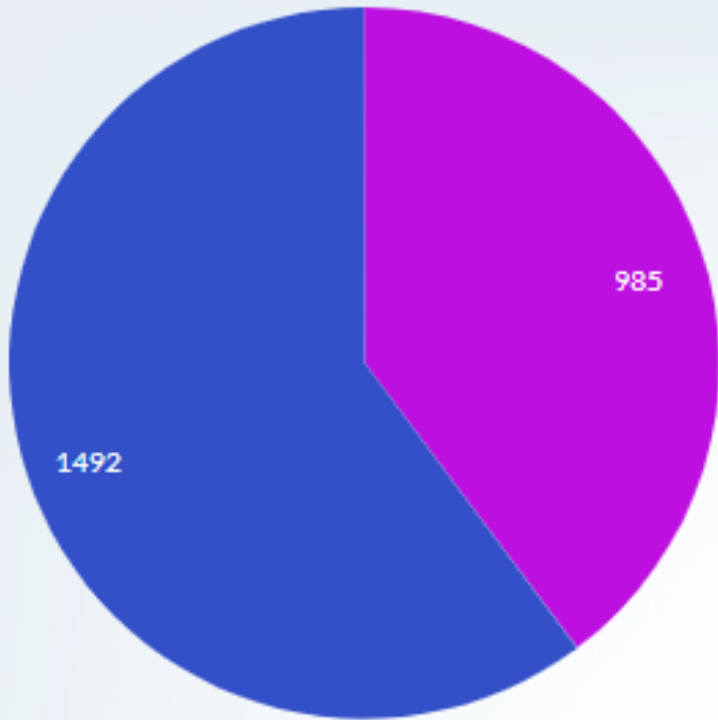
Report time frame: March, 2022



Provincial Violations

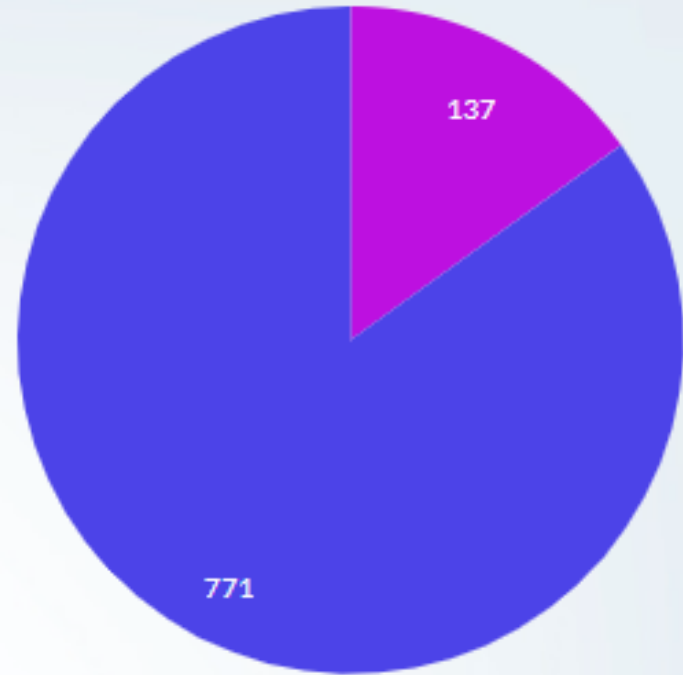


Types of Violations



Female (39.77%) Male (60.23%)

**Gender of Victims**



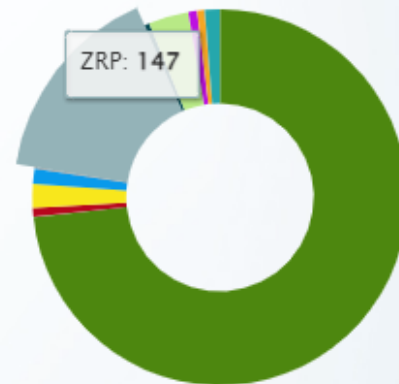
Female (15.09%) Male (84.91%)

**Gender of Perpetrators**



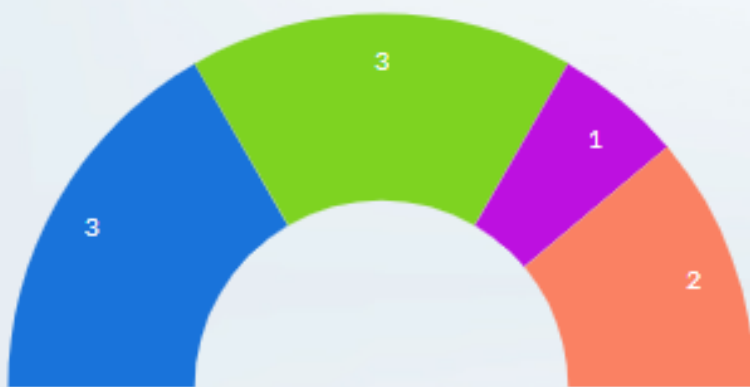
Zanu PF (1.61%) CCC (15.14%) Machete Gangs (0.04%)  
War Vet (0.28%) ZRP (0.4%) General Citizens (82.52%)

**Victims Affiliation**



Zanu PF (73.35%) MDC Alliance (0.76%)  
CCC (2.05%) Machete Gangs (1.29%)  
PF ZAPU (0.11%) ZRP (15.86%) ZNA (0.43%)  
Unknown (3.45%) Mthwakazi (0.76%)  
State agents (0.65%) War Veteran (1.29%)

**Perpetrators Affiliation**



Manicaland (33.33%) Mash East (33.33%)  
Mash West (11.11%) Masvingo (22.22%)

**Food & Other Aid Violations**



Zanu PF 2 CCC 2  
**Intra Party Violence**

## 2018 AND 2022: ARE WE IN A WORSE OFF SITUATION?

**The bans on rallies marked a fresh low in Zimbabwean politics and prove that in 2018, government just intended to window dress since it was fresh from a coup.**

On 13 April 2018, three months before the harmonised elections, Zanu PF National Commissar and leader of the war veterans, Victor Matemadanda said “ If (the then MDC Alliance leader and presidential election candidate) Chamisa wants a debate, maybe he can engage the Zanu PF youth league, that is his level. We can’t imagine the President taking time off serious bread and butter issues to respond to a goat that is scratching the walls from outside.”

Wind down to 2022 February, Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, while addressing Zanu PF supporters in Kwekwe, claimed that Chamisa, now leader of the newly formed CCC, and his supporters were like ‘little Goliaths’ that needed to be crushed with a huge stone like lice until nothing remained for the flies.

It is such pronouncements from political leaders that incite citizens into political violence and as the ZPP recorded in the 2018 elections and the just-ended 2022 by-elections, nothing much has changed and if at all, the political and human rights situation in Zimbabwe has gotten worse in the past four years and we illustrate this in this section.

In July 2018, a month before the national election, ZPP recorded 294 politically motivated human rights violations and in March 2022, the month when the country held by-elections in some 28 parliamentary constituencies and 108 council wards, ZPP recorded 240 human rights violations. The fact that the numbers nearly match point to the importance of the March 26 by-election and confirm that the by-elections were a litmus test for the 2023 harmonised elections. The political parties did not want to leave anything to chance and different from other by-elections the country has witnessed the presidents of the contesting parties led the campaigns.

The predominant human rights violations in July 2018 were intimidation and harassment and ZPP recorded 134 compared to 115 in March 2022. While some victims of intimidation and harassment do not suffer any visible scars the invisible scars they get determine the way they will act on election day including staying away from the ballot all together.

While in the run up to the 2018 election, the then biggest opposition party, MDC Alliance held its rallies without the police banning

them.

The situation was to change in 2022 when police banned five CCC rallies and at one of those, in Gokwe, they fired teargas and brutally descended on party supporters who had turned up for the rally. Out of the five two went ahead in Masvingo and Epworth when the party approached the courts. What was also baffling was the conditions set out for the CCC to hold rallies; they were not allowed to bus in their supporters while that condition never applied to Zanu PF where supporters were bussed in to all their rallies.

The bans on rallies marked a fresh low in Zimbabwean politics and prove that in 2018, government just intended to window dress since it was fresh from a coup. What this also means is that in the run up to the 2023 elections, the environment is likely to be marked by more State interference into campaigns of the opposition parties, especially the CCC, which has put up a good show in the March by-elections by winning 19 out of the 28 contested.

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It is unfortunate that in the run up to the 2018 elections, there were no recorded fatalities, but in 2018, ZPP recorded three deaths in Chegutu, Chaona, and in Kwekwe.

On March 6, at Peak Stone mine in Chegutu, an artisanal miner was killed during a fight over gold ore. William Banda succumbed to knife wounds after his mining gang clashed with another group aligned to Zanu PF and is led by a man only identified as Baba Mishy or Kuda.

In Mazowe North constituency, Mashonaland Central, a Zanu PF central committee member, John Nhamburo, allegedly deliberately ran over CCC activist Shelton Zongoro with his vehicle killing him on the spot. Zongoro was returning from casting his vote in Chaona. In Kwekwe, Mboneni Ncube succumbed to stab wounds after Zanu PF youths attacked a rally that Chamisa was addressing end of February. Many other activists suffered serious injuries.

ZPP noted that the campaign trail turned nasty ahead of the March 26 by-elections as the police banned some rallies organised by the CCC party in Marondera, Gokwe and Binga under unclear circumstances.

Across the provinces, ZPP recorded an increase in politically motivated human rights violations with mostly the CCC supporters being targeted by either state security agents or Zanu PF activists.

The MDC Alliance, did not win a single parliamentary or council seat despite a hyped campaign,

and the CCC and Zanu PF retained most of the seats, with Zanu PF snatching two constituencies – Epworth and Mutasa South that had been in the hands of the opposition. This pattern of results, has set the tone for more political tension and ZPP continues to record isolated incidents of people being targeted for having supported CCC in the run up to the election.

In Dangamvura-Chikanga and Bindura North, losing Zanu PF candidates went around demanding back the mealie-meal they doled out to people during the campaign period while in Kwekwe, some vendors have been evicted from their stalls after Judith Tobaiwa of the CCC romped to victory in Kwekwe Central National Assembly election.

At Chikurubi Maximum Prison in Harare East, prison wardens are being victimised after Tendai Biti of the CCC got more votes than his losing rival, Mavis Gumbo in votes cast in the camp polling station. With the 2023 elections less than 18 months away, the campaign period has continued post by-elections as Zanu PF and CCC get down to consolidate their support based on how they fared on March 26.

As ZPP had predicted, the March 26 elections are proving to be the litmus test for the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and political parties.

For ZEC, the allegations that the voters roll was tampered with and high number of voters being turned away with up to 25 people at some polling

stations indeed prove that the electoral body needs to be more transparent and efficient in managing the roll.

The allegations that ZEC denied access to the voters roll to the CCC and provided one with pictures and all the biometrics to Zanu PF shows how the electoral body is not impartial and ahead of 2023, there is need for the organisation to treat all political parties equally. The reports that ZPP captured of ZEC officers training only Zanu PF polling agents for the first two days of training polling agents in Mwenezi are an indictment on the electoral body.

In two incidents, in Kadoma and Mutare, Zanu PF activists were singing party songs near polling stations and nothing happened to them, exposing the partisan nature of the police who did not make the necessary arrests.

In Mutare Central, Zanu PF supporters and their candidates were milling near polling stations wearing Zanu PF regalia chanting party slogans, a day before the March 26 elections.

One Bepete a Mutare Central Ward 4 Zanu PF candidate and one Mudembe a Zanu PF member for Mutare Central Ward 5, allegedly ganged up and went around all polling stations threatening to destroy ballot boxes in the presence of police officers.

In Kadoma as well on election day eve, Zanu PF supporters were singing all night as they went around polling stations the Ward 13 where a council election was due to be held.



# THE ELECTION DAY

ZPP noted that on the day of voting, ZEC officials ensured that only those with their names appearing on the voters' roll proceeded to vote, and officials crossed out the names of those who would have voted.

There was, however some concern about the indelible ink used by ZEC to mark the fingers of those who would have voted. In some polling stations people felt that the ink was not indelible and would be easily removed posing a risk for the voting process to be taken advantage of by those wanting to try their luck at voting twice.

ZPP recorded situations where some citizens had erased the ink without much effort. The organisation, however, did not record any incidents of double voting. Where people attempted to use another person's national identity card, ZEC officials detected it and took appropriate action.

Elizabeth Chinyoka and Tafadzwa Mupanguri are currently before the

courts, charged with violating the Electoral Act.

Chinyoka of Mufakose went to Crowborough Sewage Works polling station vote using her sister's ID.

An hour later, her sister went to the same polling station to attempt to vote and that is when the offence was discovered, leading to Elizabeth's arrest.

Mupanguri, of Highfield, allegedly went to Mbizi Primary School, Ward 25 in Highfield East to cast his vote.

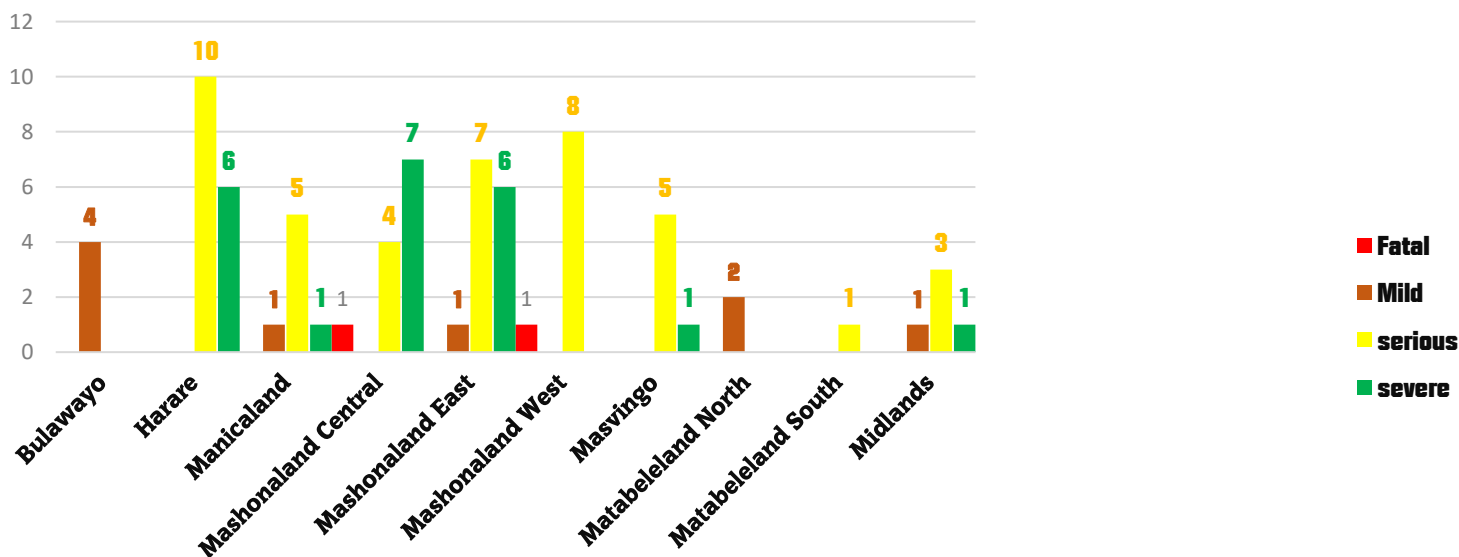
He then produced a national identity card in the name of Zvikomborero Mupanguri. A polling officer told him that the ID belonged to Zvikomborero Mapanguri, but he insisted that he was the owner of the identity card. He was taken to the police where he was found with a birth certificate with his actual name, Tafadzwa Mupanguri. There was a high number of people being turned away because their names

did not appear at polling stations, they voted at in 2018. According to the Zimbabwe Election Support Network, in some instances, over 25 persons were turned away at some polling stations, adding to the fears that the voters roll had been tampered with as has been revealed by the pressure group, Pachedu.

In our campaign, code named Resist, Reject and Report Violence (RRRV), which seeks to end political violence as we trudge towards the 2023 harmonised elections, we document cases of politically motivated human rights violations and separate them from the rest of the human rights violations.

So, as seen in the graph below, there was an increase in the number of politically motivated human rights violations at 82, up from 70 in February and we have recorded two fatalities, in Mashonaland West and Central provinces.

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.



# VOTER TURNOUT

The low voter turnout: 2018 and 2022, a brief analysis

There was a general low voter turnout in the March 26 by-election and this is typical of such elections.

Reference can be drawn from the 2000 parliamentary results in Highfields in 2000 when Munyaradzi Gwisai of the MDC polled 12,616 votes against Ida Mashonganyika of Zanu PF, who had 3,234 votes.

In the 2003 by-elections to replace Gwisai who had been recalled, MDC won by 8,759 votes to Zanu PF's 4,844.

So, it is in essence that the March 26, 2022 by-elections attracted fewer voters for instance, in Highfields, the winning CCC candidates Happymore Chidziva and Eric Murai polled just 4 592 in Highfield West and 5 610 in Highfield East respectively.

In 2018, Chidziva won by 11 515 votes and Murai got 13 079 votes.

In the March 26 by-elections Zanu PF won by bigger margins in rural constituencies compared to the CCC in urban areas.

For example, in Murehwa South, Zanu PF won by 11 125 compared to the CCC's 1 729 while in Chivi South, Zanu PF polled 6 832 votes against the CCC's 1 414.

In Mwenezi East, Zanu PF won by 12 177 compared to the CCC's 1 573.

In comparison, in urban constituencies, the CCC - Zanu PF margin was much smaller. For example, in Mbizo, CCC won by 7 146 compared to Zanu PF's 3 232 votes and in Mkoba Amos Chibaya of the CCC won by 6 809 against Zanu PF's 2 613.

The pattern is the same in Binga, Harare's Highfield East, West, Kuwadzana and Kuwadzana East, where CCC won, but the margins of victory were quite narrow.

In Mutasa South and Epworth, where Zanu PF narrowly won, low voter turnout was a huge factor considering that in 2018, the winning candidate in Epworth Ethrage Kureva got 26 082 votes, followed by Zanu PF's Damson Kudakwashe who got 16149. Zalerah Makari, who stood as an independent, got 10745 votes. Makari stood on a

Zanu PF ticket in the March 26 by-elections and won by getting 10 246 votes compared to Kureva's 8 283 votes.

In Mutasa South, Regai Tsunga won by 14 783 votes in 2018 compared to Zanu PF's Misheck Mugadza who polled 12 736 votes.

In the March 26 2022 by-elections, Tsunga lost by 5 269 compared to the winner Mugadza's 5 818 votes.

There were allegations in Mutasa South of village heads forcing people to be assisted to vote for Zanu PF.

Among other factors, the low turnout of voters may be attributed to lack of trust in the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. What is also clear is that the electorate is motivated more to participate in elections where there is a presidential contest.

According to ZEC, the voter turnout, was 35%.

According to Afrobarometer, trust in ZEC is at an all-time low of 42 percent as of the last survey in 2021 compared to the highest ever of 48 percent.

# Time to take health sector out of ICU

Backyard midwives have become popular as formal public health institutions are either too expensive, or are too underequipped to cater for expecting mothers.

Is it not such a shock that one cannot get basic items such like gloves, bandages, and pain killers like Paracetamol in local hospitals?

This is what ZPP found out when the organization carried out a survey on clinics and hospitals around the country, and while some had such consumables, health practitioners were demanding a fee in order to dispense them.

What is even more shocking is that this has become so much like an acceptable situation, and when people go to public health institutions, they have gotten used to the idea that all they get is consultation, and when it comes to getting necessary items like medication, and sometimes bed linen, they have to source that themselves.

We have a situation where backyard midwives have become popular as formal public health institutions are either too expensive for the increasingly vulnerable populations, or are too underequipped to cater for expecting mothers.

Home deliveries are risky as pregnant women need services to support pregnancy and prevention of mother-to-child transmission of sexually transmitted infections, among other risks.

Mortality rate, infant, mother (per 1,000 live births) in Zimbabwe was reported at 33.6 % in 2020.

This is against a backdrop of a government that has continued to brag about how it has improved the lives of Zimbabweans.

And the state of the health sector is a clear indicator of the government's commitment to its people, because it is where the line between living and dead is drawn.

Underfunding and lack of prioritization of the health sector have remained the biggest challenges and last year Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said government was meant to spend ZW\$927,3 billion towards the health sector.

With inflation ravaging the Zimbabwe dollar, ZW\$117 billion was equivalent to about USD78 million at the prevailing parallel market rate.

Today, ZW\$117 billion is equivalent to about USD43 million.

This amount is clearly inadequate to fund the entire health sector, which is in dire need of equipment and infrastructure. Health authorities have also raised an alarm over staff shortages because of an exodus of healthcare workers. Nurses take home less than US\$200 a month.

According to the Health Services Board, 2 000 Zimbabwean healthcare workers left the country for countries like the United Kingdom, United States

and Australia in 2021. Related to this, those that providing first aid care training are raking in huge dividends as those emigrating are supposed to have certificates of this basis training.

Instead of working on improving the working conditions of healthcare workers and investing in proper infrastructure, government is attempting to, once again, use the law to suppress the rights of health professionals.

Through the Health Services Amendment Bill, government seeks to criminalise health workers who speak out or protest against poor wages and working conditions.

If passed into law, the Bill is likely to create an unconducive work environment which could trigger mass resignations as health professionals leave for greener pastures where their services get the due remuneration.

Government should simply do the logical thing of withdrawing the Bill and work towards improving the remuneration of health workers.

Healthcare workers have rights which the employer must recognise as is guaranteed in section 65 of the Constitution.

It should not end there as there should be massive investment in new and existing health care facilities.

## HARARE

Harare had the highest number of national assembly seats that were being contested for in the by-elections held on March 26 making the province a hotspot for political violence. This is why the province had 16 cases of politically motivated violations, the highest across all provinces. The campaign trail turned nasty as members of CCC were the targets of Zanu PF and the police. Wearing the CCC yellow colours became a crime as police went on to arrest dozens of CCC supporters in March as yellow became the new red.

After being arrested, the CCC activists were accused of a litany of dubious crimes, among them, holding car rallies, or disorderly conduct. The highlight of the month in Harare was the arrest and assault by police of popular CCC activist Godfrey Karembera popularly known as Madzibaba Veshanduko.

Other cases recorded in Harare include the following:

The Douglas Mwonzora led MDC-T barred and harassed journalists who were trying to access the party's rally venue at the Zimbabwe Grounds on 13 March.

Journalists told ZPP the party's security teams kept journalists outside the venue for hours and when they were eventually let in, the security teams went on to further bar the journalists from taking images.

Zanu PF youths led by Den Judge Marufu of Section 3, Kambuzuma went around Kambuzuma in Zanu PF party regalia defacing CCC posters and replacing them with their own.

Former Harare mayor Herbert Gomba who was reported missing for two days walked into a police station on 15 March and was arrested on charges of violating the electoral law. Gomba is being accused of registering 12 people at his parents' Glen Norah home and he spent two days in detention before getting bailed out. The charges come after a pressure group, Pachedu, exposed the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission of moving voters from their polling stations without their consent and knowledge as is required by law. This is likely to be a cover up to the embarrassing expose.

Police arrested Chitungwiza Ward 15 CCC candidate Jabulani Mtunzi

at the behest of his Zanu PF rival candidate in the ward. Mtunzi was accused of pasting his campaign posters near an open space where the Zanu PF candidate does brick moulding. At the time of the arrest, CCC Vice Chairperson and Job Sikhala tweeted that he had 'never come across such an offense'.

Zanu PF Political Commissar Mike Bimha said the opposition CCC would not access the State broadcaster and should utilize social media to campaign. His statements were in contradiction to the Electoral Act, which dictates that all political players should have equal access to State media.

Three Zanu PF youths in Chitungwiza, led by one Master P assaulted a CCC activist until he lost consciousness. His crime, was that he was wearing yellow CCC regalia. The 39-year-old victim, who was beaten up at about 10 p.m., only regained consciousness at 4 a.m. and crawled home in the rain. He spent days unable to talk or walk. The ZPP spoke to his mother who narrated the ordeal his son went through.

## MASHONALAND CENTRAL

Mashonaland Central province remained a political hotspot of human rights violations. There was an increase in the targeting of opposition supporters ahead of the March 26 by-elections in Bindura, Mazowe and Muzarabani. In Bindura South, suspected Zanu PF youths burned a house belonging to a

CCC Ward 18 aspiring councillor Oswald Shambare. In Mazowe North CCC chief by-election agent for Ward 2, Andrew Makome and his wife were attacked at Chaona Shopping Centre by suspected Zanu PF supporters. The perpetrators reportedly used logs and axes.

Bizarrely, after the by-elections, Zanu PF's Estina Bunu, who contested Ward 10 Bindura North by-elections, on March 26 night, went door to door demanding mealie meal she had doled out to voters. She lost to Cecilia Tsaura of the CCC.

## MASHONALAND EAST

In Mashonaland East CCC supporters were also the main target for political persecution. The major highlight was in Murehwa North where suspected Zanu PF youths torched the house of a family whose head was accused for participating in the previous elections as an MDC Alliance election observer. In Murehwa South individuals known to be CCC supporters were denied government inputs and they were told that they should get their inputs from Nelson Chamisa, the CCC leader. During the preparations for the by-elections, traditional leaders denied suspected opposition CCC supporters government inputs. In Marondera, the police ban on a CCC rally turned out to be the highest point of intolerance by government and state security agents. The situation could have easily turned ugly if the CCC supporters did not exercise restraint. Their numbers would have easily overpowered the number of police officers who formed the chain to prevent access into the stadium. In Wedza a CCC member sustained injuries after being assaulted for wearing his yellow party regalia.

## MASHONALAND WEST

In Mashonaland West a 21-year-old year old artisanal miner died after being attacked in a machete gang war at Peak Stone Mine in Chegutu. There has been a rise in incidents of machete gangs in gold mines in Mashonaland West. Machete gangs contributed to 1.29 percent of human rights violations, mostly in Mashonaland West and this is largely due to the politicization of gold mining in Zimbabwe. The violence by machete wielding gangs has to continue to be watched in the run up to the elections and those concerned about political and /or electoral violence have to devise means of preventing the violence perpetrated by these gangs. Between January and March at least one artisanal miner died in the province. In Kadoma, police arrested CCC members as they conducted rallies ahead of the March 26 by-elections. Zanu PF members conducting similar meetings but were not arrested.

## BULAWAYO

In Bulawayo, there was intra-party violence between the supporters of the two CCC candidates who stood for Ward 26. Supporters of Norman Hlabano and Mpumelelo Moyo clashed following the party's failure to handle the double candidature. In another incident, a Mthwakazi activist identified as Victor Mahlangu, threatened citizens with violence if they voted for anyone with a Shona surname in Bulawayo. In Makhokhoba, a Zapu activist Gerald Dube assaulted a citizen who had criticized Zapu and labelled it a 'dead horse' The case was later reported to the police and Dube was arrested.

## MATEBELALAND SOUTH

At Umzingwane, a group of Zanu PF activists led by one Shaba surrounded the homestead of a CCC ward candidate, Thokozile Dube with the aim to intimidate. They went on to destroy Dube's property. On 6 March, a Zanu PF activist identified as Siyabonga intimidated citizens during a village assembly and said that all those found wearing yellow regalia would be dealt with.

## MANICALAND

In Manicaland, there were reports that in Mutare Central, Zanu PF supporters and their candidates were milling near polling stations wearing Zanu PF regalia chanting party slogans, a day before the March 26 elections. One Bepete a Mutare Central Ward 4 Zanu PF candidate and one Mudembe a Zanu PF member for Mutare Central Ward 5, allegedly ganged up and went around all polling stations attempting to tamper with ballot boxes in the presence of police officers. They also promised to assault CCC polling agents and some of the Zanu PF supporters, in a drunk stupor, went around Ward 4 and 5 allegedly threatening to kill people if they voted for CCC. Sadly, no arrests were made and despite polling day having gone ahead without incident, such threats, which are meant to instil fear into the people, undermine the integrity of electoral processes in Zimbabwe. This is a bad sign ahead of the 2023 national harmonized elections.

In Chipinge Central, Ward 4, Zanu PF activists were going door to door advising people that they must feign illiteracy on the voting day so that they would be assisted so that the party would know they voted for Zanu PF. This instilled fear in most people in the area.

## MATABELELAND NORTH

At Dombo village in Tsholotsho South, a Zanu PF activist only identified as Moses Nyathi and crew were going door to door forcing citizens to register under their cell group exercise. It was also noted that the crew was warning citizens not to support the national assembly candidate for CCC party Tapson Sibanda and further said they would unleash violence if Sibanda won.

In Tsholotsho, a Zanu PF activist Mbongeni Ndlovu forced vendors to board hired Zupco buses so as to attend the party's rally in Tsholotsho at Tshefunye. One of the traditional leaders known as Chief Saba of Saba village in Binga has been consistent in openly campaigning for Zanu PF and threatening opposition members with unspecified action. He has been recorded twice in our ZPP MMR as a perpetrator since February. It was reported that Chief Saba of ward 9 Saba village, instructed all village heads not to wear any yellow regalia. It is said he warned that if any of them is found wearing such a regalia they would be dismissed from working as a village head. Saba went on to instruct village heads to write down names of citizens who supported CCC so that they would be dealt with.

*Dear Citizens  
With SPECC App for  
Android you can  
report human rights  
violations in real time*



**SPECC**



## MASVINGO

Headman Nyange, born Boas Zevezai Gomba a known Zanu PF member and father to the 26 March 2022 by-election Zanu PF council candidate for ward 21 Court Zevezai reportedly stripped Danda Gundidza (75) who is a CCC member of his yellow t-shirt. The headman met Danda on his way to a CCC meeting. The headman stopped his lorry, grabbed the victim and forcibly stripped him. A police report was made, but no arrests were made.

On 21 March 2022, at Negari Primary School, in Ward 2, Mwenenzi district in Masvingo a Presiding officer identified as Mrs A. Moyo was training Polling Officers and only Zanu PF polling agents were allowed into the training.

When villagers queried why this was so, Moyo, who had run the training for two days while barring CCC polling agents, then gave in and allowed every other political party representative into the meeting.

Midlands

On 7 March the ward 28 councillor in Gokwe Kabuyuni, Matsika Mabhande, went to Matunguru Primary. He was accompanied by a

delegation of Zanu PF members namely Mai Chinhurume of Shamumhuyenhazva village, Mai Mazarire of Copper village, traditional village heads namely Mr Maware, Mr Nzombe and Mr Kashiri. They were also accompanied by the SDC members comprising of Mr Kashiri (chairperson), Mrs Mareya. The social welfare department was also there represented by a Mr Madhuyu and Mr Ngwenya. On arrival they demanded to hold a meeting with all teachers. They accused three members of the staff of participating in active opposition politics.

They accused one teacher of showing learners footage from CCC rallies on his mobile phone. They threatened the teachers with unspecified action. On 9 March 2022 another delegation came again to the school in a Zanu PF vehicle full of people. The delegation was now led by the MP Leonard Chikomba other Zanu PF members were councillor Matsika Mabhande, Muguti (computer technician at Madzivazvido clinic), a villager known as Mandima, Zanu PF Youth leader Bura Magumbezi, Masikwiti

councillor and others. When they approached the school gates, they started to sing Zanu PF songs "pano paita mutengesi (there is a sell-out here!)". They were later silenced by the MP. They then proceeded to the school head's office where they accused him of harbouring teachers who supported the CCC. They told the headmaster that they came with the intention of evicting the three teachers. On 11 March they held a meeting at Cooper Business Centre. The meeting had the youth and all Zanu PF members including the councillors and MPs. One of the agenda items at the meeting was to list down names of teachers who allegedly participated in politics. All staff members at Matunguru primary which has about 25 teachers were listed as opposition members who should be dealt with together with other civil servants in the Agritex and health departments. At the meeting, the MP publicly instructed the youth chair to repeat what happened in 2008. In 2008, after losing to the then MDC-T, Zanu PF unleashed an orgy of violence that left over 200 dead and thousands injured.

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## Mashonaland Central

### *We can kill and get away with it*

The majority of the human rights violations recorded in Mashonaland Central involved the discrimination of those who do not support Zanu PF from aid processes.

This is because in Mashonaland Central, there is only one by-election in March.

What ZPP can conclude is that the ruling party, using its control in government is creating an uneven environment ahead of the 2023 harmonized elections.

By denying aid to people who do not support Zanu PF, the goal is to abuse the people's vulnerability for political gain, which is unfortunate and against the law.

In addition, to politicising aid, Zanu PF politicians in Mashonaland Central held meetings where they issued threats to villagers who did not support the party.

Some of the cases of politicization of aid and intimidation include those in Chihoko and Kandigi villages, where people were summoned to attend a Zanu PF meeting at Chihoko primary school in Mt Darwin East ward 14.

Zanu PF District members Mike Murasira, Rivert Dhidhimu, Bhebhai Mujeri and a veteran of Zimbabwe's liberation struggle, Samson Hundi made intimidatory remarks to the villagers and gave everyone a week to surrender their membership to the opposition CCC.

"We are giving you up to Wednesday (next week) to come and surrender so that you can be spared, when we start dealing with sellouts," said Murasira, "we can kill and get away with it because

sellouts do not deserve to live. Some of you can be abducted and your relatives will not find you forever."

Mujeri added "Do not force us to do the unthinkable, let us all rally behind our tried and tested, the one and only Cde Emmerson Mnangagwa so that there won't be any bloodshed"

Hundi concluded the meeting by saying, "go and tell everyone that there is no opposition in Mt Darwin."

At Vonabo Famin in Glendale, Mazowe South constituency, Zanu PF district chairperson John Saidi forced villagers to attend a meeting where he threatened to evict from the farm compound all those who did not show allegiance to the ruling party.

CCC supporters who spoke to ZPP said they were forced to sing and chant Zanu PF songs and slogans and they had to do so for fear of reprisals.

In another case, on 2 February, at an occasion to hand out fertilizers at Muonwe Township in Bindura South, first preference was given Zanu PF district members and ruling party supporters, while CCC supporters were denied access.

Zanu PF district chairperson Abraham Mhembere who was in charge of the distribution told the victims to go and benefit from the CCC.

ZPP believes that in order for the electoral playing field to be even, Zanu PF should not abuse its incumbency for political gain.

## Bulawayo

### *Targeting the informals*

There were fewer people registering to vote and this was largely

attributed to the fact that the Registrar's General department has in the past couple of years, struggled to issue national registration documents, a situation that will likely disenfranchise many first-time voters.

Zanu PF continued with its intimidatory methods and this time they were targeting vendors.

For example, on 7 February, a Zanu PF activist identified as Kuda Chamboko went around Mkambo Market forcing vendors to buy new Zanu PF cards or risk losing their stands at the market.

In another case, a Zanu PF activist, Japhet Dube, led party youths to force informal traders to attend a Zanu PF rally addressed by disgraced former Vice President Kembo Mohadi.

Political intolerance remained high and in one incident, at Mountain View Shops three Mthwakazi Republic Party (MRP) youths led by Marvel Sithole defaced posters of Zanu PF and CCC candidates for the March 26 by-elections. It is said that the trio went on a rampage to deface the campaign posters citing that they were not fit for anything.

At KoZitha, suspected MRP activists assaulted and tore the clothes of a CCC member for wearing the CCC yellow colours, accusing him of supporting 'a Shona-led political party'.

The tension over the MDC-T Vice President Thokozani Khupe's intention to rejoin the CCC, following her fallout with MDC-T leader Douglas Mwonzora, escalated, leading to a tribal outburst on and offline.

The tension in the CCC over Khupe is likely to result in political violence.



## Matabeleland North

### *Intra-party confrontations*

Intra-party violence rocked the province in February when Zanu PF youths in Binga North allegedly burnt to ashes a branded Zanu PF Women's League vehicle allocated to Veronica Munkuli. The youths accuse Munkuli of being against the appointment of the current shadow MP Kudakwashe. While the matter was reported to the police, no arrests had been made at the time of writing this report.

Harassment and intimidation of opposition supporters continued and Chief Saba was at it again, in Siansundu when he threatened to expel all opposition political party supporters from his area, if they continued to defy his calls for everyone to join the ruling party. Saba made the threats during community meetings where he further asked community members to be on the lookout for and report to him anyone who wore any clothes with the yellow colour that the CCC has adopted since its formation in January.

## Masvingo

### *Vote buying*

In Masvingo Province, in a case of vote buying in contravention of the Electoral Act, Zanu PF candidate for Bikita East by-election Court Zevezai who is also a businessperson, brought more than 800 bags of fertilizer which he distributed at three centers in the ward. People got the fertilizer after pledging to vote for him in the March 26 by-election.

In Mwenezi East and Gutu North, the right to freedom of assembly was under the spotlight and at Masaswe Centre, a Zanu PF chairperson Tavonga Maparanga, Councillor Takura Mudavose, and an Agricultural Extension officer Edington Shamhuyashe Mapuranga presided over a government fertilizer distribution process, where Maparanga allegedly ordered

people to chant Zanu PF slogans and misrepresented to the beneficiaries that the fertilizer was from the Zanu PF party and not government.

He added that the fertilizer was to be distributed according to one's level of commitment to Zanu PF and this would be determined by attending the party's meetings. In Gutu opposition CCC members had their meeting disrupted by village head security aides who ordered the CCC members to disperse and never convene an opposition meeting in the area.

## Mashonaland East

### *No more yellow*

There was a general increase in cases of intimidation and politicization of aid and individuals who showed support for the newly formed opposition CCC were targeted.

While in the past, wearing anything with the colour red during election time was not the safest thing to do, as it was associated with the MDC formations, it appears the colour yellow is the new red. Fresh from rejoining Zanu PF, former war veterans leader and terror architect Jabulani Sibanda convened a meeting in Murehwa with war veterans and Zanu PF supporters and ordered them to contribute money that would be used to fund the Zanu PF youths to disrupt CCC campaigns in the province.

In Mudzi, Zanu PF activists have effectively barred villagers from wearing yellow and those that do so face threats, harassment and assault while in Murehwa, Zanu PF activists are reportedly barring CCC members from mobilizing and engaging with supporters.

In one of the cases at Masenda Village in Mudzi a Zanu PF Ward secretary, Elizabeth Jiru, threatened to kill a CCC member who was conducting door to door campaigns. Jiru also threatened to

burn the houses of CCC supporters.

These threats cannot be taken lightly as during the heat of previous election periods, opposition supporters have been killed and some have had their houses burnt down.

In Mudzi South in Makaha area, Mapombo Ward, Chinese gold mining companies are allegedly grabbing villagers' land and turning it into dump sites. This is being done without any consultation with the affected. About ten villagers have been affected.

## Mashonaland West

Zanu PF activists and artisanal miners contributed to 12 of the total 17 human rights violations reported in Mashonaland West while traditional leaders forced villagers to attend Zanu PF meetings.

As the country prepares for elections, artisanal mining syndicates are on a resurgence and because of their association with Zanu PF, there is a chance they will be used for terror in the run up to the 2023 elections and so far, this month, they were engaged in acts of intimidating opposition supporters especially in Kadoma and Muzveve areas.

In Muzveve, Zanu PF youths, most of whom are artisanal miners, went on a door to door campaign forcing villagers to join Zanu PF structures and threatened those intending to vote for the opposition with eviction from their farms.

In another case, in Rimuka, Kadoma, Zanu PF supporters led by Denford Gwezuva popularly known as Bambo, went around the area defacing CCC campaign posters. Zanu PF aspiring councillor Mavata is allegedly behind the violence..



## **Matabeleland South**

### *More intimidation*

The intimidation of villagers and the politicization of aid continued and in one case at Sun Yet Sen a Zanu PF activist Muziwakhe Mlalazi threatened to invite the Zanu PF aligned National Youth Service (NYS) militia to the community to beat up CCC supporters.

He further said that CCC should not be allowed to hold any meeting in the area.

This case was similar to the one recorded at Coleen Bawn, in Gwanda Central where a group of four unidentified people assaulted a CCC supporter for wearing the party's regalia.

In another case, on 25 February, at Sanzukwi a Zanu PF activist Amos Dube denied food aid to an MRP member. After turning away the MRP member, Dube later misrepresented to those who had benefitted that the

food, which was from the government's Department of Social Welfare, was from the Zanu PF party and therefore anyone who supported other political parties was supposed to receive aid from that party.

## **Manicaland**

### *Looting of inputs*

In Manicaland Province, just as in Mashonaland Central, politicization of aid dominated the list of human rights violations in the province, with the most cases happening in Buhera and Nyanga districts, where only two House of Assembly seats - Dangamvura/Chikanga and Mutasa South. - are being contested.

One example is in Zvinavashe village 7 and Mtaurwa village 9, where Zanu PF local leadership tampered with the list of households supposed to benefit

from inputs and while the government employees, that is, the Agricultural Extension officers, noted the omission of some names, they referred to village secretaries who indicated they had included anyone.

It was only discovered that perceived opposition supporters were the ones omitted after Zanu PF local leaders hijacked the process.

There was a similar case at Baron Downs Farm in Nyanga South, where farm inputs were allegedly looted by Agricultural Extension Officers Caroline Mandikonza and Joseph Nzara and a Zanu PF area chairperson Slay Mhandu.

