

**THE ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT
MONTHLY MONITORING REPORT
JANUARY 2022**



Time's a quarter to X!

January is often a complex month. It is a time of reflection and planning.



The body of a leader of a machete artisanal mining gang in Shamva (name supplied) lies in the mud after he was murdered by his fellow gang members. This followed a disagreement over the sharing of mining proceeds. Violence in mining areas has gone unabated and this month, machete gangs contributed to just over two percent of all violations

January is often a complex month. It is a time of reflection and planning.

2021 was a tumultuous year and ZPP recorded over 2468 human rights violations and the entry into 2022 marked the beginning of heightened electoral activity.

It was the month when President Emmerson Mnangagwa proclaimed March 26 as the date for by-elections in constituencies and wards where elected representatives were recalled, or died.

This proclamation sent many political players into a fever as they sought to position themselves to participate.

This is the same month when Zanu PF prepared for and conducted its primary elections to select candidates that would contest on behalf of the party on March 26.

In the same month, Douglas Mwonozora, who had all along claimed to lead the MDC-T, announced that he was now leader of the MDC Alliance, ironically after he had led a recall of councillors and legislators for belonging to the Nelson Chamisa led MDC Alliance.

This turmoil in the opposition added to political tensions in the country and on 24 January, two days before the nomination court sat to register candidates for the March 26 by-elections, Chamisa announced he and his supporters were forming a new outfit, called the Citizens' Coalition for Change (CCC), and were dumping the name MDC Alliance.

The political bombshells did not stop there as Thokozani Khupe, Vice President to Mwonozora's MDC-T, announced a split of the party, and her taking over leadership of the other faction. In the same breath, though confusing many who watched the political game of takeovers, Dr Khupe's lawyers had written to Mwonozora after she had been suspended arguing, Mwonozora had expelled himself from the MDC-T when he claimed leadership of the MDC Alliance.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The namecalling and counter expulsion continued between Khupe and Mwonzora and the matter is now spilt into the courts where Khupe is claiming a share of the political parties funding that was directed and received by Mwonzora.

Meanwhile, the political environment remained edgy across the country, and the introduction of CCC, which adopted the colour yellow for its branding, saw scores of citizens and activists being harassed and arrested for associating with the party. Police on 28 January arrested and assaulted five CCC supporters, Emmanuel Gumbo, Erasmus Nyandoro, Prince Mutebuka and Tatenda Chigwada for wearing yellow CCC regalia.

The five were later accused of blocking a pavement and disturbing the flow of human traffic in central Harare and were released after paying ZW\$ 2000 (about US\$10) fines each. Across the country, there were scores of people being harassed and intimidated for wearing yellow in many parts of the country, raising concerns

about the low levels of political tolerance in the country.

Interestingly, the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) reclaimed the top position on the list of human rights violators in January and contributed to nearly 55 percent of all violations.

While it is not an achievement, Zanu PF, which had topped the list between September and December, went to second position at just over 27 percent compared to last month's 47 percent.

This remains a cause for grave concern considering that the ZRP is supposed to ensure the security of persons and property. Municipal police contributed to 10 percent of violations and machete gangs two percent.

The machete artisanal mining gangs caused this month's fatality when a clash between rival gangs over mining rights at Mavedzenge Mine Block 8 in Muzvezve turned violent. The gangs, who are often armed with machetes and axes and are all over across the country, often have political protection

as they are usually emissaries of known top politicians who use these gangs to mine precious minerals.

The Zimbabwe Peace Project has continued to call for the regularisation of mining operations and for an end to the politicisation of mining claims.

We believe that, based on history, machete gangs, if left unregulated, will be an arsenal for political violence ahead and during the campaign period for the 2023 election.

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Overall, January 2022 acted a springboard for heightened political activity that is likely to be witnessed ahead of the March 26 by-election and the 2023 harmonised elections.

In other words, election season is upon us and as usual, ZPP calls for tolerance, restraint, transparency and peaceful contestation.

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

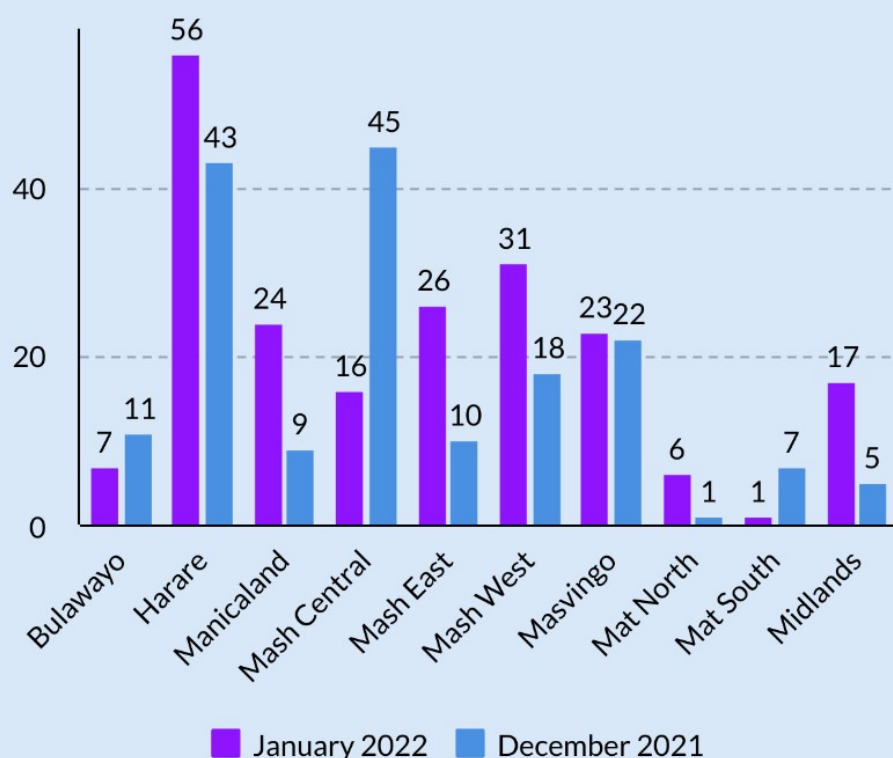
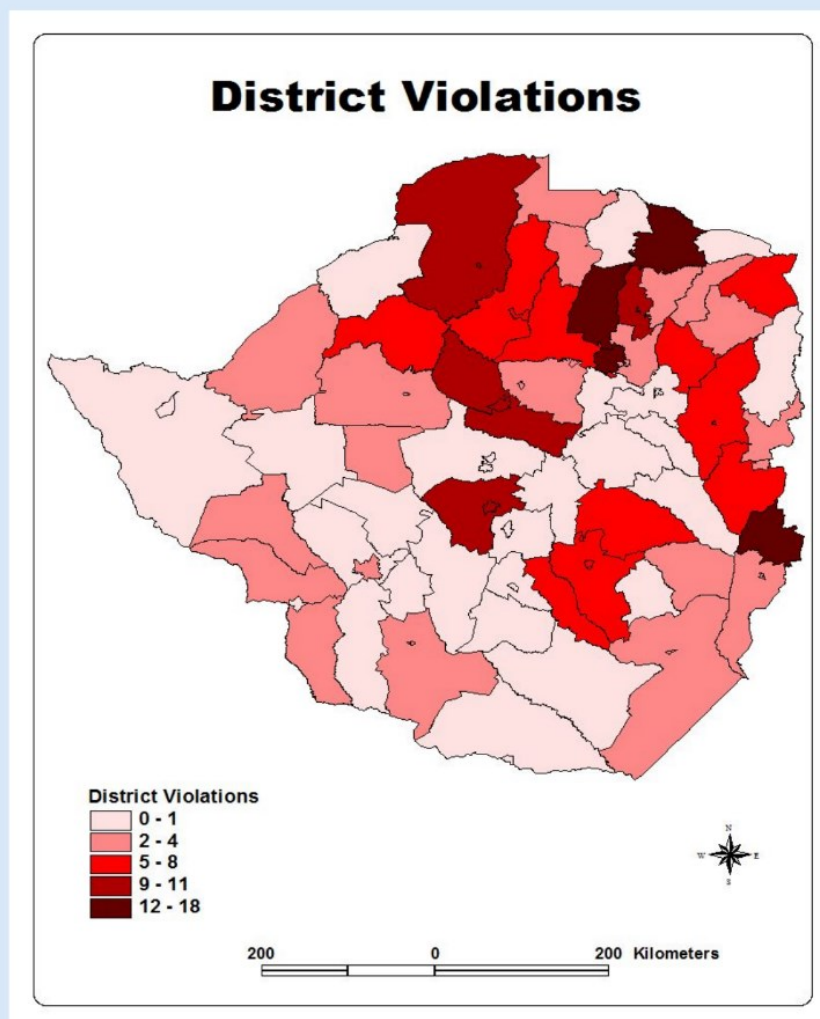
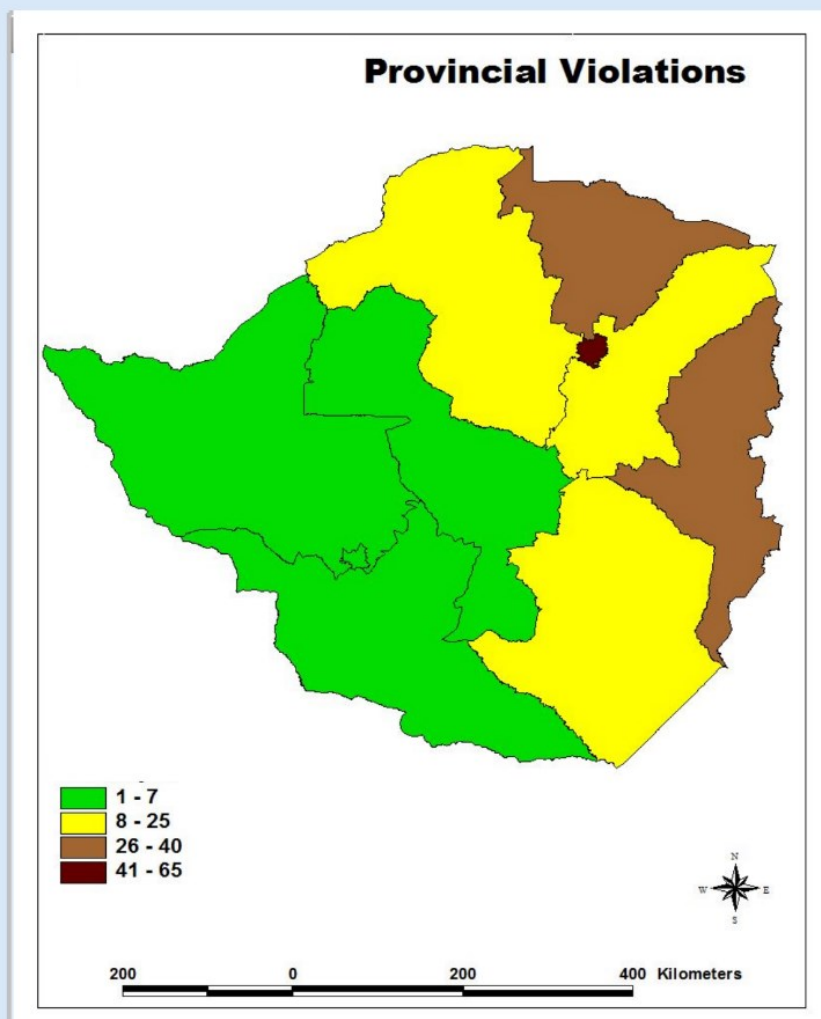
POWERED BY THE
ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT

The logo for SPECC, with the letters S, P, E, and C in green, yellow, red, and black respectively, and the final C in black.

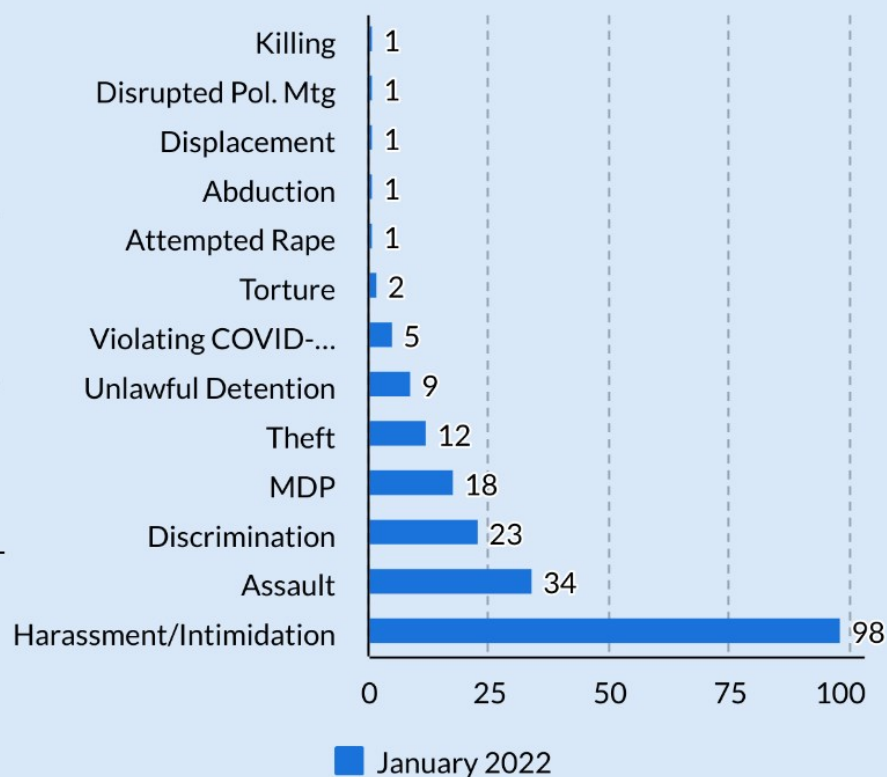
Human Rights Violations Monthly Dashboard

Report time frame: January, 2022

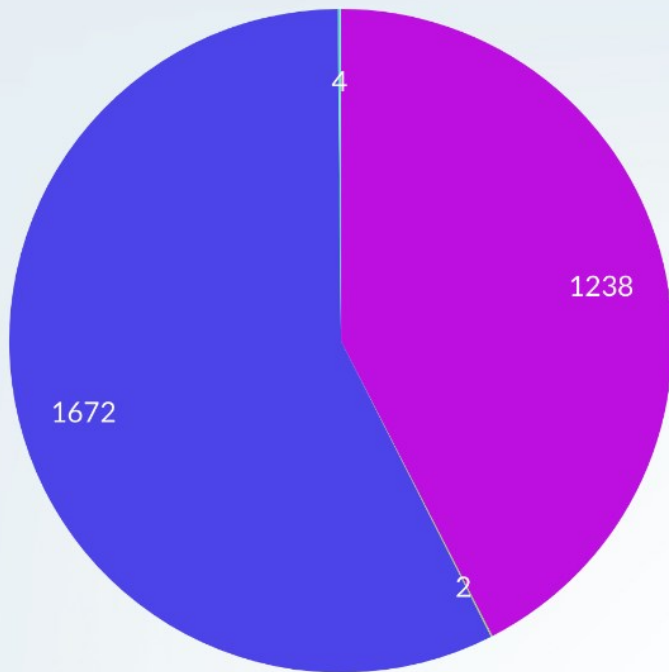
Zimbabwe Peace Project



Provincial Violations

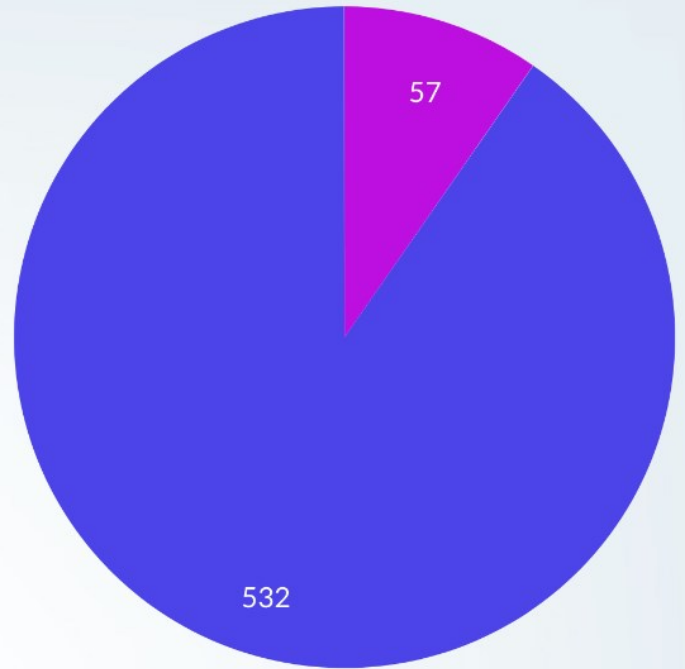


Types of Violations



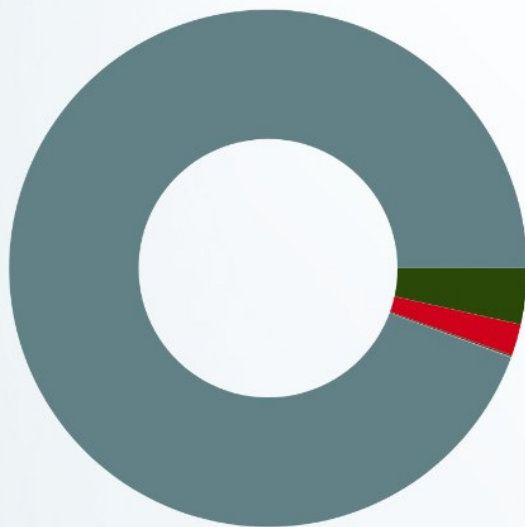
Female (42.46%) Female PWD (0.07%) Male (57.34%)
Male PWD (0.14%)

Gender of Victims



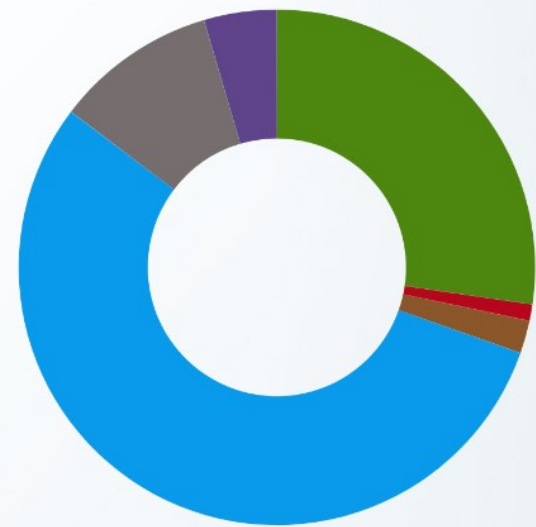
Female (9.68%) Male (90.32%)

Gender of Perpetrators



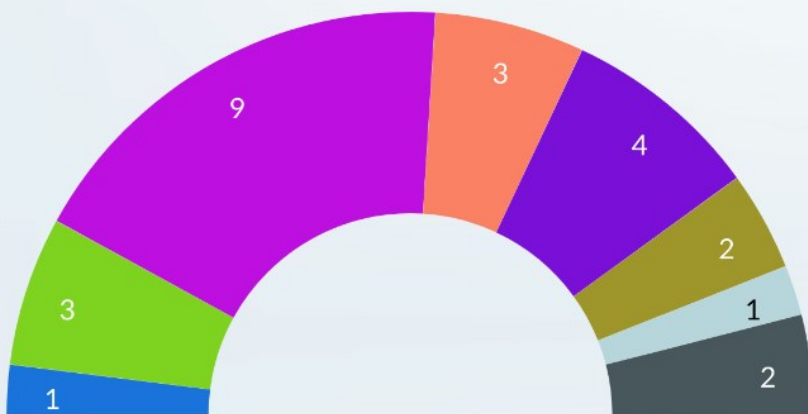
Zanu PF (3.5%) MDC Alliance/CCC (1.95%)
UZA (0.14%) Machete Gangs (0.03%)
General Citizens (94.38%)

Victims Affiliation



Zanu PF (27.31%) MDC-T (1.03%)
Machete Gangs (2.06%) ZRP (54.92%)
Municipal Police (10.13%) Unknown (4.55%)

Perpetrators Affiliation



Harare (4%) Manicaland (12%) Mash Central (36%)
Mash East (12%) Mash West (16%) Masvingo (8%)
Mat North (4%) Midlands (8%)

Food & Other Aid Violations



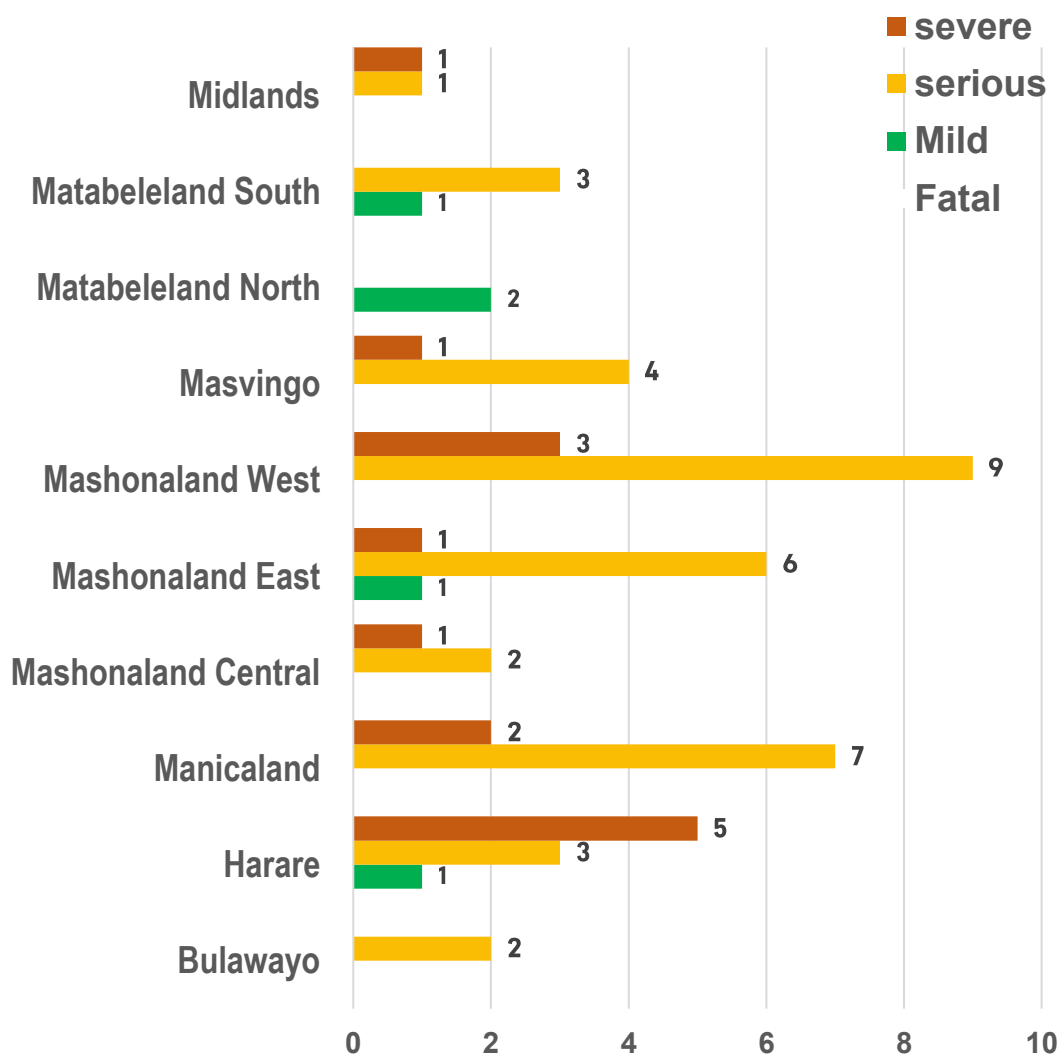
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Zanu PF

Intra Party Violence

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.

National Outlook



This is the fourth instalment of ZPP’s feature as part of its campaign 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. It is also designed to create active citizen participation in resisting, rejecting and reporting acts of political violence. 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.

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 West province has the highest number of politically motivated human rights violations with a total of 12 politically motivated violations, 9 of which are serious and three are severe. This is the province where Zanu PF activists in Banket assaulted and used a hammer

to crush the fingers of an opposition political supporter. Following Mashonaland West is Manicaland, which 9 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 the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), with the former conducting primary elections for candidates to represent it in the March 26 elections. It was during the preparations of these primary elections that Zanu PF aspiring candidates used methods like intimidation, harassment, vote-buying and discrimination.

On the other hand, the main opposition parties, the CCC and the MDC-T were bogged down in a fight over names, a situation that was exacerbated by the announcement of the by-election date.

The announcement by Mwonzora that his party was to run in by-elections as the MDC Alliance, a name that the Nelson Chamisa outfit had used all along, upped the tension and contributed to some of the clashes between Mwonzora and Chamisa's supporters, and subsequently, the MDC-T contributed to a little over one percent of all violations, and this is due to incidents where Chamisa's supporters were violated for supporting the newly formed CCC.

OUR CONCLUSION:

It can be concluded that by indicating that his party was to contest as MDC Alliance,

Mwonzora sought to further diminish the chances of a thriving opposition in Zimbabwe. It must be noted that according to the Constitution of Zimbabwe, citizens have the freedom to associate with any political party they so wish to.

It was therefore of great concern for the State and ruling party to be seen to coalesce and take sides with a faction of the main opposition political party to undermine political party of the main opposition. Evidence of this is seen in the nearly 24 months by the manner in which activities of the main political party were met with the heavy hand of the police resulting in many members of this outfit being in the courts. It seemed however activities of Zanu PF and the Mwonzora outfit went unnoticed. The events of

January confirm that the recall of MDC Alliance MPs from Parliament was not just a political move that cost the taxpayer who now has to shoulder the expense of by-elections, but was also part of a grand scheme by the ruling party to destroy the opposition. What is of great concern is that with such a situation, the credibility of the election is put into doubt considering the coalescence between some politicians, the ruling party and some government institutions that are expected to be independent. We continue to call for impartiality by the relevant institutions charged with the responsibility to ensure a free, fair and credible election and that the will of the people eventually prevails.



Pic: ZPPINFO

This used to be a tarred road in Budiro, Harare



Politricks at play

“If Zanu PF ever loses, expect us to chop your arms off. We will not get arrested since the police belong to us the Zanu PF people”

In January, Zanu PF local leaders forced villagers to attend the party's meetings ahead of the primary elections to select Zanu PF candidates to contest in the March 26 by-elections.

Zanu PF ward and district leaders used the same methods of harassment, intimidation and assault.

The party has for long abused its influence in government to manipulate aid distribution processes to deny aid to deserving beneficiaries who do not support the party.

As the party drew towards the primary elections, it held several meetings in the respective wards and constituencies to mobilise those who were to choose the party's candidates for the March 26 by-election.

Zanu PF once again used its coercive methods to mobilise people, and during the meetings, officials threatened attendees – especially in rural areas- that if they failed to vote Zanu PF they would be removed from social welfare and agricultural inputs lists of beneficiaries.

This happened under circumstances where those who chose not to support Zanu PF in the past had been denied agricultural inputs support under the government's Pfumvudza agricultural inputs scheme.

At one of the meetings, held on 16 January at Siyawamwaya Business Centre in Murehwa North, a Zanu PF 'coordinator',

Munyaradzi Munetsi allegedly threatened other supporters with violence, if the Nelson Chamisa led opposition party, now known as the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) was to win the council seat for Murehwa North Ward 8.

Reminding people of the 2008 state and Zanu PF-sponsored wave of political violence, where over 200 opposition supporters were killed and thousands injured and tens of thousands displaced, Munetsi told supporters at a meeting his party would go on an orgy of violence where they would chop off the hands of those who would have voted for the opposition.

“Zanu PF ikangodyiwa tarisirai ma long and ma short sleeves, isu hatisungwi nekuti mapurisa ndeedu isu maZanu (If Zanu PF ever loses, expect us to chop your arms off. We will not get arrested since the police belong to us the Zanu PF people”

It should be noted however that in 2008, while the long and short sleeve methods were spoken about no single victim presented with such

Such threats cannot be taken lightly for a number of reasons, the first one being that indeed, in 2008, following the loss of the then Zanu PF leader Robert Mugabe to the now late opposition leader Morgan Tsvangirai, those suspected to have voted for the opposition

suffered gross acts of violence. Secondly, the police and other state security agents have continued to fail to display impartiality and having a Zanu PF official confirming that the police are in their pocket should be condemned, and the police should come out in public to exonerate themselves from such reckless claims meant to intimidate citizens and scare them from making their political choices freely in accordance with the Constitution of Zimbabwe, which in Section 58, states that every person has the right to freedom of assembly and association, and the right not to assemble or associate with others and that no person may be compelled to belong to an association or to attend a meeting or gathering.

In addition to intimidation and harassment, the party employed subtle coercive vote buying using government-issued agricultural inputs.

For example, on 20 January, a Zanu PF Ward Chairperson Reny Manyara, after forcing villagers to convene at Mubaira Growth Point in Mhondoro, he reportedly doled out government input scheme fertilizer and said it was in 'appreciation for their coming' and asked for votes in return.

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“Murikuzowana ma fertilisers asi ndodawo one favour yerutsigiro rwenyu pama elections, fertilizer yabva kuna President wedu so mose monyoresa mazita ne number dzezvitupa (You will get fertilisers but I need one favour; vote for me in the election. (This fertiliser came from our President (Mnangagwa) so you must all get your names and ID numbers written down)”. Manyara said before adding that if he and President Mnangagwa did not get votes in future elections, no one would to get inputs and other government relief aid. Even in areas where there are no by-elections, there was widespread politicisation of aid. Examples are in Mazowe South at Rujeko shopping centre in ward 33 where Zanu PF councilor Mitche Kasere and a farmer Florence Makiwa, reportedly denied villagers fertilizers from the government and in Bindura South at Nekati village ward 12, where during a community distribution of fertilizer, a Zanu PF Chairperson Abraham Mhembe said all opposition political party supporters should not benefit from any government schemes.

OUR RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the political developments spelt out in this report, we believe that before we belong to any political party, we are Zimbabwean First and as we go to the by-elections on March 26, we reiterate the following recommendations, which we believe can create an environment for free, fair and credible elections in 2022 and beyond.

- We implore ZEC to strengthen the Multi Party Liaison Committee to make it inclusive and capacitated to deal with cases of political violence.
- State media is supposed to serve the interests of every Zimbabwean and is expected to accord all political contestants an equal chance to be heard
- ZPP expects that aid should not be used as a tool for political coercion or vote buying and no political party should interfere in govt aid processes as these are meant to benefit those deserving regardless of their political affiliation
- ZPP further urges the ruling party to respect the line between the party and the government, and to ensure that all citizens enjoy their Constitutionally guaranteed right to participate in the electoral processes without coercion.

· We believe that holding different political views is not a reason for anyone to be discriminated against, arrested, criminalised, intimidated or harassed as has been seen in the past year. It is our hope that these values are respected.

- Traditional leaders should be apolitical and should not use their influence to coerce citizens to vote for any political party.
- Without tolerance and harmony the lasting peace cannot be maintained. Lack of tolerance leads to fighting, violence, and finally it destroys the peace and security of our country.
- The most fundamental principle defining credible elections is that they must reflect the free expression of the will of the people. To achieve this, elections should be transparent, inclusive, and accountable, and there must be equitable opportunities to campaign.
- Peace is the cornerstone of our nation's development as it comes along with unity, positive thinking, and collaboration for the common good of all. There is need for citizens to decide on a set of collective values that they will live by and nurture for the next generation. Without tolerance and harmony, the lasting peace of societies cannot be maintained.

**BEFORE WE BELONG TO A
POLITICAL PARTY**

We Are *Zimbabwean* First

**#TOLERANCE
MARCH26**



Poverty from the ordinary man's eyes

“Government also notes with grave concern that some sections of our youths are under siege from the scourge of drug and substance abuse.”
President Emmerson Mnangagwa.
October 2021



Pic: NewsDay



A lone star shines in the partially cloudy sky as darkness fell to mark the end of yet another day at Gazaland, Highfields.

Gazaland is a scrappy home industry located west of Harare city centre.

From an aerial view Gazaland is one dark patch scattered with metal, scrap and old colonial era buildings, all huddled together into an ever-busy, loud, dusty and muddy home industry - complete with beerhalls, general dealer and motor spare parts shops, and garages.

Here, all forms of trade happen - from metal craftsmanship, auto mechanics, carpentry, car-breaking, scrap metal dealership, upholstery, coach-building,

outdoor catering to sex work.

Gazaland draws hundreds of its workers and clients from across Harare and beyond, making it the biggest competitor to Magaba home industry in Mbare.

Truckloads of scrap metal, some headed for South Africa, drive out of Gazaland each day and some of the biggest wholesalers of window frames, door frames, scotch-carts and aluminum pots buy from Gazaland.

A little economic zone of its own, Gazaland has vendors selling chilled borehole water in reused PET bottles for as little as ZWL\$10.00 and meals for \$US0.50.

Throughout the day, people selling clothes and shoes - new

and used - snacks, and anything, pass through Gazaland to try their luck. Like every other place in Zimbabwe, Gazaland is home to young people who have taken up substance abuse and sex work in the face of an unforgivingly toughening economy.

For many in that spot, tomorrow is not obvious and death is a certainty and living through to the next day is luck.

The story of Gazaland is a reminder of the reality of the Zimbabwean society, where government has neglected its responsibility, leaving communities to be on their own..

We take a look at some of the forms of neglect:

Demolitions

The informal traders at Gazaland and other such places often face the threat of demolition and eviction, with the latest having been in January when Harare City Council – on a rainy afternoon – destroyed vending stalls in Mbare.

Government has never been sincere, consistent, or transparent in its handling of the informal sector.

Firstly, there has been an acknowledgement that the country's economy is now dominated by the informal sector, which contributes a significant amount of money to the Treasury and employs up to nearly 80 percent of Zimbabweans.

Yet, government has not provided the necessary facilities such as the basic things like proper infrastructure for informal sector workers to use.

All attempts to construct spaces for the informal sector have been half-baked.

Each day, police carry out raids on informal traders' spaces, leaving them in positions of more vulnerability.

We strongly recommend that government, in liaison with local authorities, should come up with a strategy to genuinely formalize informal industries, not just for revenue collection, but for them to be able to have security, certainty and proper operating facilities. Raiding their vending sites and destroying their operating sites an unfortunate form of denial by government and local authorities that informal industry is here to stay.

Zero Social protection

Zimbabweans have had to make-do without any government-funded social services. With private medical cover being beyond the reach of many, including those that operate at Gazaland, and the country's public health institutions collapsing, many now resort to backyard medication, which is dangerous.

Vendors selling various prescription tablets – often smuggled into the country through our porous borders – have become a common sight, especially in spaces like Gazaland.

Citizens find themselves having to buy these cheaper medications since they cannot afford private healthcare, or the cost of having to go to a public hospital and having to wait for a doctor for a week while not getting any medication.

This is the extent of the collapse of the health sector and it is upon government to go back to the drawing board and realise that it needs to reset its priorities with the ordinary man and woman in mind.

Talk is Cheap

Still on social services, many young people are finding themselves resorting to substance abuse and this is a story that, unfortunately, has become a monotony, and yet, nothing has been done at central government level to deal with it.

All that there has been are 'calls' and 'campaigns' to end substance abuse without any concrete action.

ZPP was concerned to observe that an increasing number of young people are being arraigned before the courts on petty crimes resulting from their need to feed their addiction to substances.

In some cases, as observed by ZPP at the magistrates' court in Harare, courts are handing over the suspects to their families since government does not have adequate rehabilitation facilities.

However, as soon as the addicts get back to the environment that drove them into addiction, they find themselves back to their habits again.

To show the lack of commitment, the government said in October 2020 that it was 'prioritising the treatment and rehabilitation of people suffering from alcohol and substance use disorders as part of efforts to mould a healthy society to drive the attainment of a prosperous economy.'

Deputy Minister of Health and Child Care, Dr John Mangwiro said this as he launched the Zimbabwe Drug Master Plan and the Treatment and Rehabilitation Guidelines on Alcohol and Substance Use Disorders.

However, The Herald newspaper reported that between August and October 2021, Harare's courts handled over 100 cases of people involved in substance abuse.

Harare has only two psychiatric institutions meant to deal with mental health cases

including substance abuse.

According to The Herald, Parirenyatwa Hospital alone attends to about 800 mental health patients monthly with most of the ailments being related to drugs.

Like every other health institution, it is incapacitated from shortage of resources and admission is only for those with 'serious cases and the rest get therapy from home, which further exposes them to the environment which encourages substance abuse.

Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals spokesperson Mr Linos Dhire told The Herald that there was need for extensive nursing interventions and manpower to deal with such cases. Since the youths are now abusing new forms of substances such as crystal meth, Broncleer (known as Broncho on the streets) and other emerging drugs, there is pressure on the part of practitioners to urgently fill the knowledge gap on how to handle these new forms of drug and substance abuse," said Dhire..

Government should do more than cheap talk and implement a robust intervention to decentralise rehabilitation services for those in substance abuse. Government should also address the root cause of mental health issues by creating employment and income generating opportunities for young people. On the whole scale, government should fix the country's ailing economy through an inclusive approach



Pic: ZPPINFO

234th Street in Highfields Harare. This streets represents the states of the majority of roads in Harare, which have been long neglected.



In this region, SADC, the RTG (sic) our RTGS currency, is the strongest in the region..."

President Emmerson Mnangagwa on Friday June 14, 2019.

Before it's too late

Our call on government to fix the ZW\$ decline before its too late

Since being appointed Finance and Economic Development minister in 2018, Mthuli Ncube has brought about some radical policies that have impacted on the exchange rate and market confidence in the local currency.

After reintroducing the Zimbabwe dollar in June 2019 at \$USD1.00 to ZW\$3.00, Treasury and the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has maintained the move has been a success despite the Zimbabwe dollar having slid to an informal market rate of US\$1 to over ZW\$200.

At the time of writing this report, the official exchange rate, which has always been tightly controlled, was ZW\$112.00 to the US dollar.

In January, Gift Mugano, executive director at Africa Economic Development Strategies, a Harare-based consultancy said the Zimbabwe dollar "will be in the graveyard" by June and that it will be largely obsolete by the end of the year.

The story of the Zimbabwe dollar has been mired by government's insistence on people using the local currency, arrests of business people

defying the RBZ's exchange rate, manipulation of the RBZ's US dollar auction process.

Yet, 44 percent of transactions, according to RBZ figures, are conducted in US dollars.

When the Zimbabwe dollar was reintroduced in 2019, President Mnangagwa said it was a return 'to normalcy' and what followed was a crackdown on any citizens who continued to demand US dollars for any transactions.

The whole situation, however, points to a government that is detached from its people; a government that disregards the voices and experiences of the ordinary people.

It does not need an economist to conclude that the Zimbabwean dollar has had a major deficit of confidence and government's denial has cost many Zimbabweans, whose incomes continue to get eroded.

A significant number of employees still earn their money in Zimbabwe dollars and this puts them at a disadvantage as they have to either buy goods at very high prices or have to sell their Zimbabwe dollars at very high rates..

We believe this has had a great

impact on the social well-being of citizens whose quality of life has continually gone down.

With Zimbabwe having a history where people have lost all their savings and income due to currency problems, we urge government to ensure citizens get protected and it takes open-mindedness, inclusivity and sincerity in order for the financial authority and government to start to do the right thing to create an environment where Zimbabweans regain trust and confidence.

President Mnangagwa has an obligation to ensure that Zimbabweans enjoy a stable economy as he pledged in his oath to devote his attention to the well-being of Zimbabwe and its people.

According to the Constitution, the President should promote unity and peace in the nation for the benefit and well-being of all the people of Zimbabwe, and ZPP believes this includes ensuring that the social and economic status of the country promotes the well-being of citizens.

Mashonaland East

Rape has been used as tool for political coercion in Zimbabwe's elections and on 4 January, a 28-year-old Zanu PF youth (name supplied) at Goso Village in Ward 5 of Murehwa North, attempted to rape a 70-year-old woman.

The Zanu PF youth reportedly sneaked into the woman's house at night and attempted to rape her before she raised alarm.

The assailant sneaked out, but part of his clothes remained, leading to his identification. Villagers reported the matter to the police but no arrests were made at the time of writing of this report.

Meanwhile, as Zanu PF conducted its preparations for primary elections, villagers in some parts of the province were coerced to be part of the processes, and Zanu PF officials promised to unleash violence on those who intended to vote for other political parties.

This is one of the worrying trends in Mashonaland East Province, which has been the bedrock of political suppression since 2000.

For example, on 25 January in Mutoko South at Kushinga Business Centre Ward 26, a Zanu PF ward councillor only identified as Musakwa forced villagers to convene to receive Pfumvudza fertilizers and Zanu PF activists hijacked the process and instead dished out only to party supporters, leaving the rest.

Mashonaland West

Political activity remained pronounced in the province and with it came some violations.

The major highlight was in Banket, where Zanu PF activists assaulted an activist of the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), Sosana Churu as she worked in her field at Trilona Farm in Banket. The assailants reportedly used a hammer to crush Sosana Churu's fingers and according to her, the crime was her support for the opposition. In Chinhoyi, the Zanu PF primary elections were

reportedly conducted in a disorderly manner. On 25 January during the Zanu PF primary elections held in Chinhoyi at Chinhoyi Primary School, it is alleged that, voting at Chinhoyi Primary School started around 1pm as the process was delayed by some skirmishes. Around 11 in the morning Simon Mkondo a tout reportedly brought about 20 other touts at the polling station and forcefully took and tore all ward and cell structure sheets as he wanted to impose Ignatius Zvigadza a fellow tout for the local authority position. The Police were then engaged and restored order. New sheets were then printed and voting commenced. No arrests or injuries were reported.

Bulawayo

Following the announcement that by-elections were to be held on March 26, several political parties became more visible preparing the stage for campaigns and the nomination court process. Zanu PF conducted its primary elections for national assembly and local government seats. Although, there was no violence across the process, there were reports of vote buying and other manipulative processes and there is a genuine worry that such malpractices might be witnessed in the by-elections and the 2023 harmonized elections. Police brutality remained high despite a relaxation of lockdown measures. There were renewed tribalistic undertones as some organizations and individuals have been on the crusade, denouncing anyone without a Ndebele surname. While there are some tribal imbalances that need addressing, it remains a human rights violation to discriminate one based on tribe, culture and religion among other things. We call on the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission to act according to their mandate and ensure that the situation is resolved.

Matabeleland North and South Provinces

The formation of the new party, CCC party resulted in some conflict among opposition supporters. In Ward 9 of Binga North, one Japhet Siansipa of the MDC-T threatened to organize thugs to beat supporters of CCC and it appears the split between Mwonzora and Khupe over the leadership of the MDC-T, and the CCC is spilling to the grassroots, where supporters are engaging in violence.

ZPP has always called for peaceful contestation and continues to urge the three opposition leaders, Chamisa, Mwonzora and Khupe to urge their supporters in the province and beyond to disagree peacefully.

Meanwhile on 8 January, in ward 4 of Binga North, Zanu PF activists identified as Sizani Ngulube, Prisca Ndlovu, Sithulile Mpofu and Tegu Ngulube seized the official beneficiary lists from the local VIDCO officials, intending to manipulate the process and favour Zanu PF supporters. Police had to intervene and they ordered the truck to go back without offloading the aid, resulting in all failing to benefit.

The police should have maintained order and allowed for the distribution of aid using the official lists held by the VIDCO officials.

Across the two provinces, there was general intimidation of opposition supporters and in Siyangaya village, a Zanu PF activist, Mandla Lifa, while donning Zanu PF regalia, intimidated villagers at the local shops and said community members are supposed to vote for Zanu PF and those that fail to participate in the forthcoming activities of the party would be dealt with and removed from the farming input scheme. It is held that Lifa said all this wearing party regalia and even emphasizing his points carrying cell group books.

Harare

Pro-democracy campaigner Makomborero Haruzivishe who spent months in incarcerated in prison for standing up for human rights was finally granted a bail which saw him out of prison. On 7 January the High Court ended Haruzivishe's several months of detention. The court ordered Haruzivishe to pay ZWL 20000 bail, reside at his given address and report twice a week at the Police Law and Order section. However, despite being granted bail, there were delays in his release resulting in his anxious friends and fellow party members protesting at the Remand prison. He had to spend another night in prison with prison officials stating that there was an error on his release papers. He was finally released the following day.

Manicaland

In Mutare Central, the tensions that followed the disputed Zanu PF provincial elections remained high. In one of the incidents, Zanu PF supporters threatened to vote for CCC leader Nelson Chamisa in the 2023 elections in protest against irregularities witnessed in the provincial polls.

In the recent polls, Mike Madiro retained the provincial chairpersonship and Happiness Nyakuedwa won in the women's league and Stanely Sakupwanya the youth league.

The losing candidates lodged their complaints with the party's supreme decision making body, the Politburo claiming the voting process was rigged.

In addition to the squabbles in Zanu PF, partisan distribution of food and other aid continued in Nyanga South and Chipinge East. As has become an unfortunate trend, opposition supporters were denied aid by the Zanu PF officials who, like everywhere else, have taken over the distribution processes.

In ward 17, Chipinge East, a Zanu

PF youth secretary, Barlex Chirinzepe, allegedly stole food aid from the government's Department of Social Welfare meant for an entire village, and no action was taken by the local leadership. Chirinzepe allegedly took nine 50kg bags of maize and used names of his family members to sign for the food, in the process depriving a whole village.

Masvingo

In Gutu West, Chatsworth Chief Serima (born Vengai Rushwaya) and the Zanu PF MP John Paradza allegedly ordered a teacher at Serima High School in Gutu West, Chatsworth, to find another school as he was considered a "security threat" at his current school. The traditional leader and Paradza allegedly enlisted the services of state security agents from the Intelligence Department to have Ngugama forced out of the school after labelling him a security threat for his labour activism with the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ).

Said ARTUZ of the issue, "While we are pushing for the revival of the classroom. State actors & ZANU PF cadres are escalating victimization of trs further suffocating the classroom.

MP Paradza in Gutu is deploying thugs & State agents to haunt a teacher at Serima High accusing him of not supporting Zanu PF."

The chief claimed ARTUZ was an appendage of the opposition CCC. Lawyers representing the teacher then wrote a letter to Gutu District Schools Inspector (DSI), Ronald Muganhu complaining against his active involvement in the matter. In another case, at Nyika Growth Point in Bikita West, assailants in an unmarked vehicle abducted John Mupanduki on 8 January at around 2 a.m. He was found dumped in Mashava the following day tortured and disoriented. Mupanduki later made an official

report at Bikita Police Station Law and Order after an initial report at Nyika Police Base.

Midlands

In the Midlands province, Zanu PF intra-party squabbles were the highlights of the month. These squabbles are resulting from the party's provincial polls conducted in December 2021. .

The volatility in the province intensified after President Mnangagwa fired former state security minister Owen Ncube. Ncube is alleged to be the leader of a vigilante group in Midlands, Al-Shabaab, which is known for terrorizing residents and party supporters. The intra-party tensions remain high as Ncube seeks to maintain control of some parts of the province.

Mashonaland Central

Zanu PF factional disputes continued in Mashonaland Central with senior party activists vowing to make the province ungovernable following the disputed provincial elections in which Kazembe Kazembe was re-elected as the provincial chairperson for Mashonaland Central.

Kazembe Kazembe who was reportedly trailing behind Tafadzwa Musarara, eventually won the elections when votes from Mbire and Guruve overturned Musarara's lead.

This led to growing tensions with allegations that Kazembe doctored the Guruve results and used 'ghost voters' to win.

The disputed elections results were challenged and a complaint was raised by war veterans in Mashonaland to the Zanu PF politburo to give a final say on the issue.

The tension in Zanu PF will continue to keep the province a political hotspot ahead of the 2023 elections.