

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

8 FEBRUARY • NO 2/2021

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MAIN STORIES

UK Sanctions

ANC 'Tired of Zanu-PF'

Coronavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- The United Kingdom (UK) Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab announced that four Zimbabwean security sector chiefs responsible for serious human rights violations have been designated under the UK's new autonomous sanctions regime.
- Zanu-PF information director Tafadzwa Mugwadi has alleged that African National Congress (ANC) secretary general Ace Magashule asked for Zanu-PF's help to dislodge South African President Cyril Ramaphosa. ANC chairman Gwede Mantashe said in reaction that the relationship between his party and Zanu-PF was "filled with blackmail and threats".
- Head of the ANC subcommittee on international relations, Minister Lindiwe Zulu, said Zimbabwe's increasing closeness to Israel has emerged as one of the stumbling blocks in South Africa's attempts to improve relations with its neighbour.
- Government spokesman, Nick Mangwana, who called doctors in the country "medical assassins" apologised. In comments posted to Twitter, Mangwana had suggested that four cabinet ministers who died in recent months of coronavirus had in fact been "eliminated".
- The government reportedly "deleted" an amendment to the Finance Act which had given it the power to control at least 51% ownership in mining entities.
- The opposition MDC Alliance said it is ready to begin talks with Zanu-PF to find lasting political and economic solutions for Zimbabwe.
- The Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU's) 2020 Democracy Index ranks Zimbabwe 127 out of 165 countries (1=best; 165=worst) with a score

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of 3.16 (1=worst; 10=best), the same as in 2019, putting it in the category of an “Authoritarian Regime”.

- Zimbabwe is ranked 157 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2020 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI: 1=clean; 180=highly corrupt).
- As of 8 February 2021, Zimbabwe had registered 34 552 coronavirus cases, 1 326 deaths and 28 551 recoveries. Official records show that more than 52% of the country's coronavirus infections are from January 2021 alone.
- Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said the 7.4% growth projection for 2021 still stands, but the Zimbabwe National Chamber of Commerce (ZNCC) projects GDP to plummet by between 8 and 12%.

