

MONTHLY UPDATE

IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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MAIN STORIES

**Nelson Chamisa:
Zimbabwe Agenda
2021 Presidential
Address**

Coronavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- MDC Alliance president, Nelson Chamisa said in his Presidential Address that rising authoritarianism had rendered the State unstable. He called on Zimbabweans to unite and peacefully resist Zanu-PF's oppression. Zanu-PF lobbied for Chamisa's arrest, accusing him of calling for the unconstitutional removal of President Emmerson Mnangagwa from office.
- Addressing Zanu-PF's Mashonaland West provincial coordinating committee, Zanu-PF's secretary for security, Lovemore Matuke alleged that the United States National Democratic Institute (NDI), in January 2021, held a meeting with "hostile" civil society organisations (CSOs) and pledged to provide funding towards programmes to "fuel anarchy" in a bid to overthrow Mnangagwa's administration.
- The MDC Alliance has resolved to roll out countrywide mass demonstrations dubbed "winter protests" against Mnangagwa's administration.
- Zanu-PF is resisting calls to amend its constitution to re-introduce a woman as one of the party's vice presidents – as the race to replace former State Vice President Kembo Mohadi heats up.
- President Emmerson Mnangagwa is set to sign Constitutional Amendment No. 1 Bill into an Act after it sailed through Senate by 70 votes to one. The amendments give the president powers to appoint the chief justice, deputy chief justice and the judge president.
- Six legislators, including former finance minister Tendai Biti, were expelled from parliament after being "recalled" by the MDC-T faction. Biti believes his "recall" from parliament by the MDC-T is a ruse engineered by Zanu-PF to prevent him from exposing massive state corruption.

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- As of 12 April 2021, Zimbabwe had registered 37 288 coronavirus cases, 1 538 deaths and 34 873 recoveries. Mnangagwa took his first shot of the Sinovac vaccine to launch the second phase of the vaccination programme.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its April 2021 World Economic Outlook (WEO) that the economy will grow by 3.1% in 2021, down from its forecast of 4.2% in its October 2020 WEO.
- According to the African Development Bank (AfDB) the economy is envisaged to grow by 4.2% in 2021. The AfDB previously projected 5.6% growth.
- Vice President Constantine Chiwenga said that the continued imposition of “illegal sanctions” would not stop Zimbabwe’s economic transformation as the country “is building robust internal capacities to create wealth and expand job opportunities”.
- Zimbabwe expects sales of tobacco, its biggest agricultural export, to increase by 8.7% this year after the country received its highest rainfall in three years.
- Zimbabwe has banned the importation of vehicles older than 10 years in a move that is meant to revitalise the local motor industry, reduce the import bill and cut greenhouse emissions.
- The Displacement Tracking Matrix (DTM) of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) conducted a socio-economic survey to determine the impact of COVID-19 on returning migrants in Zimbabwe. The findings of the survey show of all the returnees, 55% indicated that they intended to go to back to their “host” countries.
- Hunger in Zimbabwe’s urban areas has increased over the past year with 2.4 million people now struggling to meet their basic food needs, according to the Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment Committee (ZimVAC) report.

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- The United States Department of State said in its 2020 Country Reports on Human Rights Practices that there were serious human rights violations in Zimbabwe, which included unlawful or arbitrary killings of civilians by security forces; torture; and arbitrary detention by security forces.
- The United States said Zanu-PF was misusing the levers of government to silence critics, neutralise opposition, and entrench its political power over the Zimbabwean people.
- Amnesty international said in its 2020/21 report that the authorities used COVID-19 regulations to justify severe restrictions on the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly.

