



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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MONTHLY UPDATE

ZIMBABWE



MAIN STORIES

Statutory Instrument
127 of 2021

Views on Corruption

Gold Smuggling

Coronavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- President Emmerson Mnangagwa published penalties for companies and individuals to prevent what the government describes as profiteering from selling hard currency it makes available at auctions. Statutory Instrument 127 of 2021 stipulates companies and individuals will be liable for a penalty of Z\$50,000 if they refuse to accept payment in local currency at the official exchange rate of Z\$84 per US dollar. The Statutory Instrument further stipulates that it is now an offence for goods and services to be charged only in US dollars.
- Lawyer Obey Shava filed a Constitutional Court application to have Statutory Instrument 127 of 2021 set aside and declared unconstitutional. The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) also called for the immediate suspension of Statutory Instrument 127 of 2021 as it could stoke hyperinflation.
- A report, titled, “Illicit Gold Markets in East and Southern Africa,” published by the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organised Crime, estimates that over 70% of the country's gold output has found its way illegally into international markets.
- The ambassador of the Democratic Republic of Congo to Zimbabwe, Mawampanga Mwana Nanga has been listed as a top beneficiary of foreign currency sold at the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) foreign currency auction system.
- Zanu-PF officials said that the party was in election mode hence the removal of Victor Matemadanda as political commissar and his replacement with Patrick Chinamasa.
- The Supreme Court acquitted two members of the MDC Alliance after they were wrongly convicted of murdering a policeman 10 years ago.

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- A government investigation exposed rampant corruption at the Ministry of Lands, Agriculture, Water and Rural Resettlement, which derailed government's projects and prejudiced the fiscus of revenue.
- Zimbabwe Revenue Authority's whistle-blower fund is reportedly being looted by senior officials in cahoots with a corrupt network of informants acting on insider information.
- As of 7 June 2021, Zimbabwe had registered 39,189 coronavirus cases, 1,606 deaths and 36,728 recoveries. The government said on 4 June 2021 that citizens should not panic because it had enough COVID-19 vaccines for those needing a second shot after some centres ran out of doses and turned people away.
- Zimbabwe banned maize imports with immediate effect, the country's agricultural marketing authority said on 19 May, citing an expected big harvest of the staple crop in 2021.
- Zimbabweans should not expect wholesale state enterprises and parastatals (SEPs) reforms anytime soon as the plans continue to face strong resistance and frustration from line ministries.
- Zimbabwe's new foreign minister Frederick Shava visited South Africa and met with International Relations and Cooperation Minister Naledi Pandor. She reiterated that sanctions must be removed on Zimbabwe for the country to progress like its peers.
- The four-year Zimbabwe Exemption Permit (ZEP) lapses in December and the South African government has not yet indicated if it will renew it.
- Zimbabwe and Mozambique agreed to revive their Joint Permanent Commission (JPC). It has been inactive for about eight years.

