



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

OCTOBER • No 10/2021

ZIMBABWE



MAIN STORIES

Infighting in Zanu-PF

Billy Rautenbach's
Hidden Financial
Fronts

Coronavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- Zanu-PF has endorsed President Emmerson Mnangagwa as its 2023 presidential candidate.
- Mnangagwa's Midlands and Masvingo power bases are reportedly in turmoil due to growing internal strife. In September, an extraordinary Zanu-PF Politburo meeting suspended provincial elections amid infighting, claiming it wanted to pave way for structures to prepare for the annual conference set to be held from 25-30 October. There were 'bloody fights' in Harare, Manicaland, Mashonaland West and Midlands provinces.
- Zanu-PF Information Director Tafadzwa Mugwadi said the ruling party would not hesitate to unleash 'Taliban-style terror' to win the 2023 general election.
- Leaked documents show how Singapore-based trust specialist Asiaciti helped Zimbabwean businessman and Zanu-PF ally Billy Rautenbach and his family create a complex offshore trust fund while he was still under sanctions.
- The opposition MDC Alliance said it was not bothered by the formation of a new political party that appeared to have hijacked the party's social media mobilisation slogan. Earlier, Mnangagwa's spokesman George Charamba posted a screenshot of a letter still being typed and addressed to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), announcing the formation of the Citizens Convergence for Change (CCC) party.
- MDC Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa moved to reward some of his loyalists with key positions in the MDC Alliance's national executive to strengthen his team in preparation for elections. MDC Alliance spokesperson Fadzayi Mahere said the opposition party was gunning for six million votes in 2023.
- More than three-quarters (77%) of Zimbabweans say the government is performing badly in terms of addressing young people's needs, according to Afrobarometer.

ZIMBABWE



- Two-thirds (66%) of Zimbabweans "agree" or "strongly agree" that the main opposition political parties should be brought into government.
- According to Freedom House's 2021 Freedom of the Net report, Zimbabwe is rated as party free with a score of 46 out of 100. Scores are based on a scale of 0 (least free) to 100 (most free).
- Nineteen people, including 10 journalists, were arrested on 30 September, as the MDC Alliance staged a protest at being excluded from preparations for the next elections.
- The "State of Cyber Security in Kenya, South Africa and Zimbabwe 2021" report, released by information technology services multinational Liquid Intelligent Technologies (LIT) shows that 82% of companies in Zimbabwe indicated that they had experienced an uptick in cyber security threats over the past year.
- The 2021 Basel Anti-Money Laundering (AML) Index, released in September 2021, ranks Zimbabwe in 12th position out of 110 countries (1=high risk; 110=low risk).
- The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) said in a statement it had identified 30 people abusing mobile telecommunication services and other social media platforms for illegal foreign exchange transactions and money laundering. Their accounts were frozen and they are now banned from banking for two years.
- A joint investigation by the Bureau of Investigative Journalism, BBC Panorama and the University of Bath revealed that British American Tobacco (BAT) could have paid between \$300,000 and \$500,000 to Zanu-PF in bribes.
- As of 4 October 2021, Zimbabwe had registered 131,129 coronavirus cases 4,627 deaths and 123,787 recoveries.
- On 22 September, Mnangagwa extended Level 2 Covid-19 lockdown restrictions by another two weeks.
- Zimbabwe published a rule that gives state employees until mid-October to be fully vaccinated against the coronavirus, failing which they will be banned from workplaces without pay.



ZIMBABWE



- Zanu-PF made far-reaching proposals that will see foreign nationals barred from operating businesses in some sectors of the economy while allowing local citizens to participate in what the ruling party calls "grassroots empowerment."
- Inflation increased to 51.55% in September from 50.24% in August of 2021.
- Zimbabwe last year imported goods worth ZW\$324.6 billion (about R12.8 billion) from South Africa, making up 47.1% of the country's imports.
- According to Zimbabwe's Second Crop and Livestock Assessment report and the US Department of Agriculture, the estimated maize production for 2021 stands at 2.7 million tons. This maize yield is estimated to be triple the 2020 harvest.
- The Dubai Gold & Commodities Exchange (DGCX) and Zimbabwe's Victoria Falls Stock Exchange (VFEX) signed a memorandum of understanding that may lead to the establishment of a gold market in Zimbabwe.
- Zimbabwe allowed the export of 200,000 tonnes of excess coal because of limited intake at its biggest coal-fired power plant, which is beset by frequent breakdowns. Meanwhile, Zimbabwe has asked Mozambique and Zambia to supply it with more electricity as it tries to fill a power shortfall that has led to outages of 12 hours a day.
- Foreign Affairs and International Trade Minister, Ambassador Frederick Shava, has embarked on an 'engagement and re-engagement' mission to Europe that will see him interact with Foreign Ministers of France, Belgium, Italy and Serbia.
- The United States continues to take a firm stand against Harare's delay in holding by-elections, reiterating that Mnangagwa's administration should respect the Constitution and should urgently conduct outstanding local council and parliamentary by-elections.



ZIMBABWE



- British ambassador to Zimbabwe, Melanie Robinson, paid a courtesy call on Mnangagwa where the latter's impending visit to the United Kingdom was discussed. Mnangagwa will join other world leaders for the climate change conference (COP 26).
- Russia and Zimbabwe will cooperate in the peaceful use of nuclear energy. Russian nuclear state corporation Rosatom and the Ministry of Energy and Power Development of Zimbabwe signed a relevant memorandum of understanding.
- Zanu-PF secretary for administration Obert Mpofu has dismissed reports that his party is 'attacking' the new Zambian administration led by President Hakainde Hichilema.
- Botswana set up a commission of official inquiry into livestock theft on its border with Zimbabwe as tension grows among communities living along the two countries' borders.

