



MAIN STORIES

Controversial Zanu-PF Provincial Elections

Spat over South Africa's Withdrawal of Exemption Permits

Coronavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- Zanu-PF National Political Commissar Mike Bimha warned party members against celebrating the provincial election results as the outcome of the polls was yet to be confirmed by the Politburo in the first week of January 2022. Zanu-PF held its provincial elections amid reports of vote-buying, violence and rigging. In some provinces, riot police had to be called in.
- South Africa's Minister of Home Affairs, Aaron Motsoaledi, welcomed the decision of the High Court (Gauteng) to struck from the roll the urgent applications by Zimbabwe Exemption Permits (ZEP) holders. In a bid to overturn the decision taken by the Minister of Home Affairs, supported by Cabinet, not to renew the ZEP, various interest groups took the matter to court.
- Chief Murinye of Masvingo, a die-hard Zanu-PF supporter, has accused "criminals" surrounding President Emmerson Mnangagwa, including his sons, allies, Zanu-PF leaders and top government officials, of corruption and looting gold ore in the Masvingo province. Following his comments, Mnangagwa reportedly summoned traditional chiefs to Harare to issue a warning to them to stop criticism of the government.
- Tyson Wabantu, a social movement, is pushing for the election of former local government minister and member of the beleaguered ruling party faction Generation 40 (G40), Saviour Kasukuwere, popularly known as Tyson, to replace Mnangagwa as the country's leader in the 2023 presidential elections.
- The latest campaign to raise funds for MDC Alliance leader, Nelson Chamisa's bulletproof vehicle via the crowd-funding platform, GoFundme, has reportedly been successful. The initiative aimed at raising \$120,000 has so far reached \$122,000 with the money coming mostly from the diaspora.

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- By-elections will take place in April 2022. There are 28 National Assembly and 105 local authority seats vacant.
- The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (Zec) revealed that it had registered only 2 000 new voters in 2021, a drop in the ocean in the face of various campaigns by political parties and civic groups to register first-time voters.
- The government is reportedly using Israel spy technology which exploits loopholes in the telecommunications system to access private information.
- People must report any member of the Zimbabwe Defence Forces (ZDF) engaging in criminal activities or unbecoming behaviour, the ZDF said in a statement after seven people died in three shootings involving members of the security forces, including a robbery.
- Mnangagwa threatened to implement a shoot-to-kill policy to deal with the growing threat of armed robberies, saying it was a threat to national security.
- The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) chairperson Loice Matanda-Moyo accused local banks of colluding with corrupt individuals to clean up ill-gotten wealth.
- ZACC is developing a local corruption perception index (CPI) after global rankings by anti-occupation watchdogs showed that graft was endemic in the country.
- The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) bemoaned the involvement of police officers in stock-theft cases in Midlands Province, with reports suggesting they are being paid as little as US\$10 in bribes to facilitate cattle rustling.
- As of 4 January 2021, Zimbabwe had registered 216,087 coronavirus cases 5,047 deaths and 185,594 recoveries. In mid-December, President Mnangagwa announced an extension of measures, including a curfew, to combat what he called an Omicron-induced fourth wave. In his New Year address, Mnangagwa announced that his administration had resolved to extend the current level two lockdown by two weeks until 15 January 2022.



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- Zimbabwe's annual consumer price inflation surged for the fourth straight month to 60.7% in December 2021, from 58.4% in November.
- Mnangagwa has bemoaned the lack of funding for various infrastructure projects, admitting that investors were shunning his administration.
- Minister Ncube said the government would continue to extend incentives to local industry to drive "domestication of value chains while diversifying the export revenue basket." Ncube said the plans would see the "financial capacitation" of the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC).
- The government is engaging the United Nations in an attempt to recover millions of dollars from countries that have recruited the nation's health workers.
- A huge exodus of health professionals amid the COVID-19 pandemic is hitting Zimbabwe hard with more than 2,200 leaving to take jobs in the US, UK, Australia and neighbouring states in 2021.
- China's Zhejiang Huayou Cobalt will pay a total \$422 million to acquire the Arcadia hard-rock lithium mine in Zimbabwe from Australia-listed Prospect Resources.
- Government described the underground seam fires in Hwange, Matabeleland North Province as a "ticking atomic bomb" after a picture of one of the smouldering fires that cracked open a tarred road went viral.
- According to a survey by the Chamber of Mines of Zimbabwe (CoMZ), 52% of respondents project that their businesses' profitability would improve in 2022.
- Global System for Mobile Communications Association (GSMA), an association of mobile telecoms from across the world, ranked Zimbabwe top of the Southern African Development Community (SADC)'s 16 member states in terms of mobile money penetration.



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- The chairperson of Zanu-PF's Sandton branch, Simba Chitando, proposed a 'pollution levy' as a response to South Africa's alleged inaction against attacks on Zimbabweans. The proposal advocates the introduction of a "Dr Motsoaledi Aviation Bill," which would impose a pollution levy on all air traffic travelling over Zimbabwe either arriving or departing from South Africa. The Zimbabwean Embassy in Pretoria subsequently issued a statement distancing themselves from Chitando.
- The United States (US) questioned the Zimbabwean government's failure to implement recommendations of the Motlanthe Commission, which conducted an inquiry into the gunning down of several people in Harare soon after the 2018 general elections.
- Four United Nations special rapporteurs have added their voice to the chorus of disapproval of the Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Bill, 2021 which seeks to bar NGOs from receiving external funding, or involvement in "partisan politics."

