



MAIN STORIES

Budget 2022

UK Accused of Meddling in Zimbabwe's Affairs

US Meeting a Fantasy

Coronavirus

HIGHLIGHTS

- President Emmerson Mnangagwa reshuffled Politburo members, with Christopher Mutsvangwa being appointed as the party's Secretary for Information and First Lady Amai Auxillia Mnangagwa becoming the Secretary for Environment and Tourism.
- Lawyers representing Mnangagwa say a sitting president cannot be taken to court as he is protected by the country's constitution in response to a case in which Zanu-PF member, Sybeth Musengezi, is seeking the removal of the president from the post of Zanu-PF secretary. Mnangagwa and Zanu-PF have threatened to sue lawyers representing Musengezi unless he withdraws his case.
- Zanu-PF's plot to disrupt MDC Alliance leader Nelson Chamisa's ongoing rural outreach programme has been exposed after chats from a ruling party's WhatsApp group went viral, with members accusing each other of giving the opposition leader unwarranted "free passage" into Mashonaland Central province.
- Mnangagwa signed into law the controversial Cyber Security and Data Protection Bill, which passed through the Senate in July 2021 and was awaiting Presidential assent.
- There was a commotion at the Peoples Own Savings Bank (POSB) in Masvingo on 2 December when war veterans and government pensioners staged a demonstration over delays to pay them their 13th cheque in hard currency.
- Three security guards employed by Fawcett Security — Zimbabwe's leading security company — have been arrested for a stage-managed cash-in-transit heist.
- Owned by an ally of Zimbabwean tycoon Kudakwashe Tagwirei, a target of United States sanctions, the Fossil Group has won more than 15 public works contracts since June, collectively worth almost US\$45 million.

ZIMBABWE



- Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube on 25 November presented a Z \$927,3 billion budget from a revised Z\$509 billion estimated in 2021, with a GDP growth projection of 5.5% for 2022.
- As of 6 December 2021, Zimbabwe had registered 139,046 coronavirus cases 4,710 deaths and 128,868 recoveries.
- The government appears to have quietly abandoned a controversial plan to force all visitors and returning residents to take a Covid-19 polymerase chain reaction (PCR) test and quarantine for 10 days at their own cost.
- An International Monetary Fund (IMF) warned that it was precluded from providing financial support to Zimbabwe due to an unsustainable debt and official external arrears.
- Zimbabwe's annual consumer price inflation climbed for the third straight month to 58.4% in November 2021, from 54.5% in October.
- As of 18 November 2021, 188 301 tonnes of wheat had been delivered to the Grain Marketing Board (GMB), which represented a significant increase from 149 874 tonnes that had been delivered during the same period last year. However, farmers say that the price of wheat at \$55 000 per tonne is probably the worst price paid since the inception of land reform.
- Civil servants will this year be paid their bonuses in foreign currency up to a maximum of US\$700.
- Zimbabwean companies have until the end of 2021 to declare sales undertaken in foreign currency or risk rigorous audits and hefty fines - as dollarisation, which remains unmatched by foreign currency tax collections, intensifies across the economy.
- The government has dismissed claims that it has plans to introduce another currency saying that the only recognised local currency is the Zimbabwean dollar not cryptocurrency.
- Planes are reportedly landing at Robert Gabriel Mugabe International Airport in Harare without any radar systems to guide air traffic controllers.



ZIMBABWE



- Mining companies in Zimbabwe, including units of Impala Platinum and Anglo Platinum, are expecting no new external capitalisation as the industry battles power outages amid uncertainties with foreign currency.
- Zimbabwe has been elected vice chair for the World Kimberley Process for 2022.
- Mnangagwa said Government would institute full and thorough investigations into the United Kingdom (UK's) "interference in Zimbabwe's internal affairs" and the role of teachers' unions, in collaboration with the UK "to effect regime change."
- The United States (US) government poured cold water on Mnangagwa's claim that he held a crucial meeting with President Joe Biden at the Conference of Parties (COP 26) in Glasgow, Scotland, to discuss ways of removing sanctions against Harare. A US State Department spokesperson said the two leaders had a brief encounter during a reception.
- Biden excluded Zimbabwe, eSwatini and Tanzania from a historic democracy summit to which 100 heads of states from across the globe was invited.
- South Africa announced that Zimbabwe Exemption Permits (ZEP) will not be extended beyond 31 December. Holders of the ZEPs will be given a year to migrate to other permits, providing they are eligible.
- Mnangagwa, during the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Scotland, said the West should remove targeted sanctions imposed on the Zanu-PF elite, claiming that the restrictive measures are impeding the implementation of climate change programs.
- The Mines ministry has given notice to cancel Chinese mining company Heijin's certificates of registration by 6 December 2021, following protests by villagers who are set to be displaced by its mining activities.

