



MAIN STORIES

Chamisa Forms New Party

MDC - T In Disarray

State Security Minister Dismissed

Kasukuwere to the Fore

By-Elections

Controversial Tongaat Deal

China

HIGHLIGHTS

- Opposition leader Nelson Chamisa has formed a new political party, the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC). Chamisa abandoned the MDC Alliance (MDC-A) name after MDC-T leader Douglas Mwonzora claimed he was in charge of the MDC Alliance ahead of by-elections on 26 March to fill 28 parliamentary and 105 local authority seats.
- The CCC opted to crowdsource for its electoral campaigns after the government allegedly disbursed \$500 million (about US\$1.3 million at the official exchange rate) through the Political Parties Finance Act to Zanu-PF and the MDC-T.
- Zanu-PF has demanded that the CCC be barred from using the colour yellow. Zanu-PF's acting Youth League Secretary, Tendai Chirau, said when the liberation struggle was fought, it was Zanu-PF that mobilised the masses and one of the 'key fundamentals' was the fight for mineral resources and that is why Zanu-PF chose yellow as one of its colours.
- On 20 January, the MDC-T suspended its First Vice President, Thokozani Khupe, with immediate effect. Khupe subsequently declared herself as the new MDC-T president and the leader of the opposition in the National Assembly.
- On 10 January, President Emmerson Mnangagwa dismissed State Security Minister Owen Ncube, one of his closest allies, "for instigating violence" in the Midlands.
- President Mnangagwa issued a warning to ruling party bigwigs allegedly plotting to unseat him and threatened to destroy them before the December elective congress.

ZIMBABWE



- Former Local Government Minister, Saviour Kasukuwere, in exile in South Africa along with other members of the Zanu-PF G40 faction, who had coalesced around the former first family, said that it was time something was done regarding the treatment that had been meted out by Zanu-PF to fellow comrades.
- Human Rights Watch (HRW) said in its 2022 World Report that the administration of President Mnangagwa failed to take meaningful steps to uphold human rights and ensure justice for serious abuses primarily committed by security forces in 2021.
- Sixteen leaders and members of the Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) were arrested on 12 January during an anti-government protest held in Harare. They were demonstrating over poor salaries.
- On 17 January, a Zanu-PF provincial coordinating committee meeting in Masvingo had to be aborted after rival youths clashed, resulting in one person being injured.
- Police in Harare on 27 January arrested five CCC activists on a charge of public nuisance but they claimed they were nabbed for wearing their party's yellow T-shirts
- Zimbabwe is ranked 157 out of 180 countries in Transparency International's 2021 Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI: 1=clean; 180=highly corrupt), the same as in 2020.
- Minority shareholders and activists in Tongaat Hulett are mounting a fightback against a proposed R2 billion sale of new shares by sugar group Tongaat Hulett to the Zimbabwean Rudland family, accused of building their fortune on ties to Zanu-PF and questionable cigarette sales, amid fears the transaction could become a channel into the legitimate economy for dodgy cash.



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- Scores of Standard Chartered senior managers have been implicated as accomplices who assisted the bank's suspended chief executive, Ralph Watungwa in abusing the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) foreign exchange auction facility.
- The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (Zacc) accused parastatal and state enterprises bosses of systematically siphoning off huge amounts of funds under the pretext of donations.
- As of 2 February 2022, Zimbabwe had registered 229,851 coronavirus cases 5,350 deaths and 219,776 recoveries.
- The World Bank said in its January 2022 Global Economic Prospects (GEP) that the economy is projected to grow by 4.3% in 2022, down from 5.1% predicted in June 2021.
- Fitch Solutions said in January that Zimbabwe's current account surplus is expected to narrow to 1.4% of GDP in 2022 from 2.4% in 2021 as demand for consumer and industrial imports strengthens amid an uptick in economic activities.
- The inflation rate decreased to 60.60% in January 2022 from 60.70% in December 2021.
- Zimbabwe's tax receipts and other income in the fourth quarter were 49% above target despite disruptions in business operations from another coronavirus surge.
- Zimbabwe owes South African Airways (SAA) and other international airlines a total of US\$177.6 million in funds that could not be repatriated.
- Zimbabwe entered into a public-private partnership agreement with Daedalus World Limited of Tortola, British Virgin Islands, in terms of which Daedalus World Limited will assist Zimbabwe by providing a revenue collection service through taxing E-commerce and cryptocurrency transactions amongst others.
- The heavy rain in the main coal-producing region is hampering the country's efforts to address electricity needs.



ZIMBABWE



- Chinese company, Freestone Mines, is facing litigation for embarking on quarry mining activities in the Dangamvura Mountain before obtaining an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA).
- A group of 26 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) criticised Chinese investments in Zimbabwe urging China to place ordinary citizens at the centre of its development in Africa. The Chinese embassy said the “dubious” NGOs’ combative claim “stinks of a hideous agenda from groups that make a living from political advocacy.”
- Zanu-PF spokesperson, Chris Mutsvangwa, denounced the “Western-funded” Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) for singling out Chinese investors for criticism.
- Zimbabwean and other foreign students who studied at South African universities and colleges will no longer have the automatic permanent residency privilege, Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi said.
- The US is piling pressure on Mnangagwa to implement electoral reforms as the country prepares for by-elections in March.
- Zanu-PF finance secretary Patrick Chinamasa and former ambassador to Belgium, Ethiopia, South Africa and Zambia, Andrew Mtetwa, have been appointed to the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Panel of Elders and Mediation Group.

