



MAIN STORIES

By-Elections Results

Chamisa Talking to the MDC

More Revelations on Tagwirei's Corruption

IMF Assessment

HIGHLIGHTS

- The opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) led by Nelson Chamisa won 19 out of 28 parliamentary seats and 75 out of 122 local council seats contested in by-elections held on 26 March 2022. The MDC Alliance led by Douglas Mwonzora did not win any seats. Overall turnout was low, with only 35% of eligible voters casting their ballots.
- Chamisa and his rival MDC Alliance leader Douglas Mwonzora allegedly pledged to form a coalition ahead of the 2023 elections. MDC-T leader Thokozani Khupe said that the outcome of the by-elections was a clear indication that Chamisa would romp to victory and form the next government in 2023. Khupe said her decision to support Chamisa emanated from talks between the two parties.
- Zanu-PF will hold its national congress in October 2022 ahead of the 2023 harmonised elections.
- Chamisa said he was ready to engage President Emmerson Mnangagwa in dialogue on the 2023 election roadmap.
- According to the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) February report, police and Zanu-PF top the list of human rights violators, mainly targeted at CCC supporters and ordinary citizens.
- The Sentry, a US-based anti-corruption watchdog, revealed in a new report, “Legal Tender? The Role of Sakunda and the RBZ in Command Agriculture,” that President Mnangagwa’s ally, Kudakwashe Tagwirei, made about \$90 million in possibly unlawful payments from the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) while running the controversial Command Agriculture programme.
- Petrotrade internal audit manager Erisha Bokoro has been implicated in corruption at the state-owned oil company with revelations that management at the institution has been operating a ‘corruption syndicate.’

ZIMBABWE



- As of 4 April 2022, Zimbabwe had registered 246,525 coronavirus cases, 5,446 deaths and 238,705 recoveries. Government further relaxed COVID-19 restrictions and lifted the mandatory requirement of negative polymerase chain reaction (PCR) tests from travelers entering the country.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) concluded the Article IV Consultation with Zimbabwe on 21 March 2022. The IMF said that Real GDP rose by 6.3% in 2021 with growth projected at about 3.5% in 2022 and 3% over the medium term.
- Zimbabwe's annual consumer price inflation climbed to 72.7% in March 2022, from 66.1% in the prior month.
- The Grain Millers Association of Zimbabwe (GMAZ), which expects to import 155,000 tonnes of wheat this year through October, announced a 15% increase in the price of mealie meal and bread flour. GMAZ chair Tafadzwa Musarara said the increase was the result of the Russia/Ukraine war and warned that prices might rise further. Discussions are currently underway to secure 180 000 tonnes of wheat from alternative markets.
- Disruptions to international markets related to the conflict in Ukraine have caused significant fuel price fluctuations in Zimbabwe in March. In March, the Zimbabwe Energy Regulatory Authority (Zera) increased fuel prices twice in one week.
- Former Finance Minister Tendai Biti said the government must shut down the RBZ, arguing it has become "a rogue and unnecessary institution." He blamed RBZ governor John Mangudya for the country's spiraling debt which he claimed was ballooning as a result of the government's purchases of weapons from "questionable states" for use against the country's citizens.



ZIMBABWE



- Zimbabwe Consolidated Diamond Co. CEO, Mark Mabhudhu, sees Russia's invasion of Ukraine triggering far-reaching consequences for the global gem industry and possibly lifting demand for its own stones.
- The United States (US) extended its sanctions on Zimbabwe, a month after the European Union (EU) did the same.
- Mozambique's publicly-owned electricity company, EDM, and the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) renewed the bilateral agreement for power supply over the next three years, under which EDM will provide 50 megawatts of energy to Zimbabwe.
- The RBZ released US\$100 million to clear the backlog of foreign currency allocations at the RBZ's weekly auctions, according to Governor John Mangudya.
- Since January, the auction market completed a total of 11 sessions and the average weekly loss in the value of the Zimdollar over the period came in at 2,5%. Cumulatively the Zimdollar lost 27,4% since the beginning of the year.
- Zimbabwe's dollar-only stock exchange, established almost two years ago in Victoria Falls, is struggling to win over foreign investors haunted by previous struggles to repatriate hard currency.
- Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said the introduction of the United States dollars in 2009 led to the collapse of industry as it meant imports grew, outweighing exports. Ncube claimed government's decision to reintroduce the Zimbabwean dollar in 2019 was bearing fruit.

