

# MONTHLY UPDATE

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INITIATIVE

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## ZIMBABWE



### MAIN STORIES

**Mnangagwa's Sikhala Problem**

**China and Mining**

**US Sanctions**

**Masisi Cozying up to Mnangagwa**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- President Emmerson Mnangagwa has been urged to set aside political differences with some opposition parties and end the incarceration of Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) legislators Job Sikhala and Godfrey Sithole as well as 14 other party activists. Over 48 000 Zimbabweans, including those in the diaspora signed a petition calling for the release of Sikhala, Sithole and the Nyatsime 14.
- Mnangagwa urged war veterans to scale up campaigns to ensure the ruling Zanu-PF party romps to victory in the 2023 polls. Mnangagwa also warned people against insulting him and his party in public and went on to say those who praise his regime would “have longer lives.”
- Zimbabwe and Chinese investors, Hong Kong Eagle International Investment Holdings and Pacific Goal Investment, signed a deal to build an expensive battery metals industrial park that will process metals including lithium, platinum and nickel.
- The United States (US) administration will use its upcoming Africa summit to try to chart a new path forward with Zimbabwe as the country was invited to attend. Ahead of the summit, the US Treasury Department lifted sanctions on 11 Zimbabwean officials while adding deputy police commissioner for administration Stephen Mutamba for his role in “undermining Zimbabwe’s democratic processes and institutions.”
- President Cyril Ramaphosa told President Joe Biden that sanctions on Zimbabwe affected other countries in the region. The US insisted that sanctions would be maintained as long as there “is a lack of democracy in Zimbabwe.”

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- Dates for Zanu-PF Central Committee elections are expected to be announced soon. The internal elections will be held ahead of the Zanu-PF's 7th National People's Congress set for 26 to 29 October in Harare.
- The CCC launched a seven-pillar electoral blueprint which includes the right to vote; credibility of the voters roll; and a real-time and credible results management and transmission system.
- The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) said in its August Monthly Monitoring Report, published on 14 September that it had documented 257 human rights violations, with 3,321 victims identified. The majority of human rights cases were perpetrated by Zanu-PF.
- A company awarded the controversial 30-year Pomona waste management deal in Harare, Geogenix BV, may have pocketed at least US\$6 million since March from the national government as the City of Harare refused to pay. Geogenix BV, which is linked to Mnangawa's sons, is blacklisted in Europe.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said that after rising to about 7% in 2021, real GDP growth is expected to decline to about 3.5% in 2022.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) met on 23 September 2022 and decided to maintain the Bank policy rate and medium-term lending rate at current levels of 200% and 100%, respectively.
- Month-on-month inflation fell from 12.4% in August 2022 to 3.47% in September 2022.
- Zimbabwe's exports grew by 31% to US\$3.3 billion between January and June 2022 compared to US\$2.52 billion during the same period last year.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2022 Human Development Report (HDR) shows that Zimbabwe's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2021 is 0.593. This leaves the country in the medium human development category, positioning it at 146 out of 189 countries and territories.



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- The Latest World Bank food security report indicated Zimbabwe was leading the world's top ten countries worst affected by domestic food price inflation.
- Zimbabwe wants gold, diamond and platinum miners to pay half of their royalties to the government in the commodities themselves and the rest in cash, as the country seeks to build its mineral reserves.
- Anglo American Platinum's unit in Zimbabwe asked the high court to intervene in a bid by the Zimbabwe Revenue Authority (Zimra) to seize \$24 million in a dispute over royalties.
- Russian miner Alrosa PSJC discovered 22 new diamond deposits in Zimbabwe, according to Mnangagwa.
- A major power blackout that hit Zimbabwe on 27 and 28 September was reportedly a result of an explosion at Hwange Power Station.
- The government will pay wheat farmers in US dollars, according to Minister of Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development, Anxious Masuka.
- Zanu-PF wants the country to revert to using the local currency as its sole means of exchange.
- While the Zimbabwe dollar is the world's worst-performing currency this year, slumping more than 80% against the greenback, the even-larger collapse of its value on the street has reversed. The latest interbank rate is Z\$604 per dollar. That brings it in line with the parallel market spread of between Z\$650 and Z\$700 per greenback.
- South Africa's Home Affairs Minister, Aaron Motsoaledi, extended the validity of Zimbabwean Exemption Permits (ZEP) to 30 June 2023.
- Speaker of the National Assembly, Jacob Mudenda and his delegation paid a visit to Moscow. Mudenda in his address to the State Duma, said the 'special military operation' in Ukraine should be considered as a "pre-emptive defensive step against the enemy."



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- Those close to Mnangagwa are demanding a thorough investigation into the importation of a wrong consignment of weapons and a subsequent attempted cover-up, military sources say.
- Southern African Development Community (SADC) chair and Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) president, Felix Tshisekedi, called on the United Nations “to do everything possible to achieve the immediate lifting of sanctions against the Republic of Zimbabwe and its people.”
- Botswana’s President Mokgweetsi Masisi called for the unconditional removal of sanctions imposed on Zimbabwe.



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