

# MONTHLY UPDATE

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## ZIMBABWE



### MAIN STORIES

**Zanu-PF Congress**

**Violent By-Elections**

**Sanctions**

### HIGHLIGHTS

- Zanu-PF's 7th National People's Congress elected President Emmerson Mnangagwa as first secretary and its candidate in the 2023 presidential election and retained the old guard by re-appointing his two deputies, Constantino Chiwenga and Kembo Mohadi.
- The Zanu-PF Central Committee (CC) report to Congress stated that rising inflation, deepening poverty and internal party divisions are the major threats to Zanu-PF. The party also expressed fear that the opposition Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) is penetrating Zanu-PF's rural strongholds.
- Zanu-PF on 22 October won five of the six contested Rural District Council seats in Matabeleland, Manicaland and Mashonaland Central, amid some of the most serious violence this year.
- President Cyril Ramaphosa called for the lifting of sanctions on Zimbabwe, saying they exert "enormous pressure" on South Africa. United States (US) Senate Foreign Relations Committee member Jim Risch responded, blaming South Africa for failing to provide leadership in the region.
- Government has taken delivery of a specialised medical helicopter and an ambulance from Russia.
- Belarus' President Alexander Lukashenko is expected to make an official visit to Zimbabwe in December 2022.
- The United Kingdom (UK) Parliament is concerned that there is no sign that Zimbabwe will hold free and fair elections next year following political violence during recent by-elections.
- Chinese enterprises operating in Zimbabwe, in collaboration with Stanbic Bank, pledged to create more and better-quality jobs towards boosting economic growth and alleviating poverty.

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- According to Freedom House's 2022 Freedom of the Net report, Zimbabwe is rated as partly free with a score of 49 out of 100, up from 46 in 2021.
- 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.



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- 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.
- The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) said in its August Monthly Monitoring Report, published in mid-October, that it had documented a total of 272 human rights violations, an increase from August's 257.
- Authorities arrested three out of 13 suspects of an armed attack on a gold convoy in southern Zimbabwe, in which 11.6 kilograms of gold worth US\$650,000 were stolen.
- The World Bank October 2022 Macro Poverty Outlook states that Real GDP growth is projected to slow to 3.4% in 2022 from 5.8% in 2021. Real GDP growth is expected at 3.6% in 2023 and 2024.
- The World Bank said that Zimbabwe needs 9% annual growth to attain upper-middle-income status by 2030.
- Zimbabwe will keep the world's highest benchmark interest rate of 200% into next year as it "prioritises economic stability ahead of high growth rates", Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said.
- Zimbabwe's annual consumer price inflation eased to 268.8% in October 2022, from 280.4% in the prior month.
- The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) said any banking institution whose strategy did not focus on micro-small-and-medium enterprises (MSME), rural farmers, and youths, "is suffocating financial inclusion."
- The RBZ said the exodus of correspondent banks out of Zimbabwe was behind payment gridlocks confronting exporters and importers.



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- Government accused Zimbabwean banks of charging prohibitive bank levies which it claimed was eroding public confidence in the sector.
- Zimbabwe is drawing lessons from Nigeria as it pursues plans for its own central bank digital currency.
- Zimbabwe is close to reaching its largest-ever wheat harvest. Agriculture deputy minister Vangelis Haritatos said the harvest should produce 380,000 tonnes, an 80,000-tonne increase from 2021.
- Oil and gas explorer Invictus Energy bolstered the potential prospective resource of its Cabora Bassa project in Zimbabwe to over 5.5 billion barrels of oil equivalent (boe).



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