



MAIN STORIES

**Alleged High-level
Corruption**

**Meeting on Debt
Clearance**

**Concerns over
ZimDollar**

United States

Impunity

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Freedom**

HIGHLIGHTS

- Al Jazeera has put a pause on a broadcast of a four-part investigation into official corruption in Zimbabwe without giving reasons. A trailer released by the news channel features President Emmerson Mnangagwa's appointed ambassador at large in 85 countries, Uebert Angel, who offers to launder 1.2 billion dollars of 'dirty cash' from China. Crime bosses also reveal that at the centre of it their operations is the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ). Another Mnangagwa associate, Ewan Macmillan, talks about how they smuggle gold, using private planes with the connivance of politicians and how they have RBZ Governor John Mangudya on speed dial. Angel was also filmed soliciting a "gift" of US\$200,000 for Mnangagwa.
- About 17 countries from the Paris Club of creditor nations attended the second structured dialogue platform meeting on its arrears clearance and debt resolution process, along with the World Bank, African Development Bank (AfDB) and European Investment Bank (EIB). Free and fair polls, good governance, observance of human rights and payments to former white farmers were called for in the meeting. A United States (US) representative told top government officials that unless the administration satisfied the Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act (ZIDERA) conditions, clearance of debt to international creditors would not guarantee access to fresh international capital.
- The Confederation of Zimbabwe Industries (CZI) implored authorities to explore all avenues to prevent the potential collapse of the Zimbabwe dollar.
- The Atlas of Impunity, which assessed 197 countries on unaccountable governance, abuse of human rights, economic exploitation, conflict and violence and environmental degradation on a 0-5 scale, with higher scores signifying more impunity, awarded Zimbabwe a score of 3.21 and it is ranked at 21.

ZIMBABWE



- The 2023 Index of Economic Freedom published by the Heritage Foundation ranks Zimbabwe at 172 out of 176 countries (176=worst; 1=best). Zimbabwe falls in the category of "Repressed" nations.
- According to the World Economic Forum (WEF's) Global Risks Report 2023, the top five risks identified by the Executive Opinion Survey (EOS) for Zimbabwe are: 1) Rapid and/or sustained inflation; 2) Cost-of-living crisis; 3) Goeconomic confrontation; 4) Collapse of services and public infrastructure; and 5) Severe commodity supply crises.
- Nelson Chamisa, leader of the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC), would garner 53% of ballots while his party would get 52% in a separate parliamentary vote, according to one of the first surveys to be released ahead of a vote expected from July 2023. The survey conducted by the SABI Strategy Group showed Mnangagwa and his ruling Zanu-PF would win 40% of the votes.
- Fitch Solutions said that while Zanu-PF would most likely retain power in the next general elections, the country's military would immediately start positioning Vice President Constantino Chiwenga to replace Mnangagwa after the polls.
- Lance Mambondiani is stepping down as managing director of BancABC after four years. Mambondiani allegedly violated policies relating to procurement where prices are said to have been inflated. Mambondiani is also accused of "management delinquency" and abuse of the bank's assets.
- Zimbabwe's consumer price inflation eased to 92.3% year-on-year in February 2023, down from the prior month's 229.8%. Zimbabwe will from now on measure inflation using a weighted average of items priced in Zimbabwean dollars and US dollars, the government said.



ZIMBABWE



- Zimbabwe is set to welcome the new eSwatini Air and Zambia Airways after the Civil Aviation Authority of Zimbabwe (CAAZ) granted them Foreign Operator Permits (FOP).
- China Natural Resources has agreed to acquire Williams Minerals, the operator of a lithium mine in Zimbabwe, from Feishang Group and Top Pacific (China).
- The Minister of Foreign Economic Relations of Russia's Sverdlovsk Region, Vyacheslav Yarin, said that the visit by his delegation to Zimbabwe served to indicate the strong bilateral relations that exist between the two countries. The Minister of Provincial Affairs and Devolution for Midlands Province, Larry Mavima, thanked Russia for supporting Zimbabwe against sanctions.
- US President Joseph Biden has extended by a year its sanctions against Zimbabwe.
- The European Union (EU) extended the two remaining sanctions measures against Zimbabwe for another year, namely the arms embargo and targeted assets freeze against Zimbabwe Defence Industries.



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