



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

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MONTHLY UPDATE

ZIMBABWE



MAIN STORIES

Road to Elections: Current State of Play

HIGHLIGHTS

- Eleven candidates will contest for the presidency, down from 23 in 2018, after 11 hopefuls were disqualified for failing to raise the US\$20,000 needed to appear on the ballot, up from US\$1,000 in 2018.
- ZANU-PF and the Citizen's Coalition for Change (CCC) are the only parties which will field candidates in all parliamentary constituencies.
- ZANU-PF has already won 92 council seats uncontested after the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) received nominations for the wards only from the ruling party, up from 51 in 2018.
- Self-exiled Saviour Kasukuwere, a former minister in Robert Mugabe's cabinet, will run as an independent candidate, which could split the ZANU-PF vote.
- President Emmerson Mnangagwa launched his official election campaign on 24 June, calling for peaceful elections, while at a later rally he said that ZANU-PF was unstoppable and that it was the only party that could "protect Zimbabwe's independence."
- Nelson Chamisa launched his presidential election campaign in late June in South Africa. He asked his supporters to convince at least five of their relatives to vote for him. At a rally in Zimbabwe, Chamisa advised his supporters to attend ZANU-PF campaign rallies for their safety but vote the party out on 23 August.
- The government has invited 46 countries, including Russia, Belarus, the United Kingdom (UK) and United States (US) as well as 17 continental and regional bodies to observe the elections.
- The European Union (EU) signed an administrative agreement with the government to deploy observers.

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- Afrobarometer said on 24 June that survey results show that only four in 10 Zimbabweans (41%) “approve” or “strongly approve” of the president’s job performance over the past 12 months, up from 35% in 2021. Survey results also show that more than seven in 10 citizens (72%) believe the country is going in “the wrong direction.” Only about two in 10 citizens (22%) are optimistic that the country’s economy will improve over the next 12 months.
- Zimbabwe has been ranked as the 124th most peaceful country in the world (1=most peaceful; 163=least peaceful) by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in its Global Peace Index (GPI), published in June 2023, rating its state of peace as medium.
- According to the United States (US) 2023 trafficking in persons report, the Government of Zimbabwe does not fully meet the minimum standards for the elimination of trafficking but is making significant efforts to do so; therefore, Zimbabwe was upgraded to Tier 2.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (the MPC) of the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) decided to increase the Bank policy rate from 140% to 150% per annum.
- Zimbabwe's annual consumer price inflation skyrocketed to 175.8% in June 2023, up from 86.5% in the prior month.
- Mnangagwa blamed what he calls the country’s detractors for runaway inflation and the collapse of the Zimbabwe dollar against other currencies.
- The Pretoria High Court set aside Home Affairs Minister Aaron Motsoaledi’s decision to terminate the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit (ZEP) programme as unconstitutional and procedurally unfair. Motsoaledi said his department will appeal the ruling.



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- Russian mercenary group Wagner Group has been implicated in illicit gold mining dealings in Zimbabwe, according to the Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED).
- Mnangagwa said there were machinations by Washington to try and persuade Harare to pick a side in the ongoing conflict between Russian and Ukraine. He said Russia and Zimbabwe are both victims of United States sanctions and if Harare was to take sides, it would “obviously support a fellow victim.”

