



MAIN STORIES

Zimbabwe's Gold-backed Currency (ZiG)

Kenya

HIGHLIGHTS

- Zimbabwe's new gold-backed currency Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG) was launched electronically on 8 April after Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) Governor John Mushayavanhu announced its introduction on 5 April. The ZiG is set to an exchange rate of 13.56 to the US dollar. Zimbabwe, on 30 April, started circulating ZiG banknotes and coins. The ZiG is reportedly backed by 2.5 tons of gold and \$100 million in foreign currency reserves, for a total value of \$285 million.
- President Emmerson Mnangagwa said he does not have intentions to run for a third term in office.
- Zanu-PF spokesperson Christopher Mutsvangwa said the party is willing to consider a proposal from the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) ‘led by Welshman Ncube’ to form a coalition government and postpone the 2028 elections to 2030.
- Mnangagwa re-appointed Winston Chitando as mines minister, a post he previously held. Chitando replaced Zhemu Soda.
- Opposition stalwart Tendai Biti left the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) saying he is quitting active politics.
- Amnesty International said in its 2023/24 annual report that the rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly were severely restricted, particularly during the election period.
- The International Monetary Fund (IMF) said in its April 2024 World Economic Outlook (WEO), that the economy will grow by 3.2% in 2024. It predicts growth of 3.2% in 2025 and 3.0% in 2029.
- The World Bank April 2024 Macro Poverty Outlook states that real GDP growth is projected to slow to 3.3% in 2024.
- The Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) of the RBZ on 26 April 2024 decided to maintain the current Bank Policy rate at 20% per annum and an interest rate corridor of 11-25%.

ZIMBABWE



- The annual inflation rate increased to 57.5% in April 2024, up from 55.3% in the previous month.
- The Food Poverty Line (FPL) for one person rose by 51.31% to ZiG 424,95 in April. According to the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZimStat), the March FPL translates to ZiG 280,49 per person.
- According to ZimStats, the March 2024 trade deficit for goods was US\$184.3 million, translating to a 117.8% increase from a deficit of US\$84.6 million recorded in February 2024.
- Zimbabwe declared a national disaster over a drought caused by El Niño and Mnangagwa said the country needs \$2 billion in aid to help millions of people who are going hungry. Due to poor rains, more than 2.7 million people will not have enough food.
- Governor Mushayavanhu said the central bank would not print money to fund quasi-fiscal operations. He also stated that when he investigated, he found that the RBZ was not, contrary to popular perceptions, a piggybank for government.
- Mushayavanhu vowed to restore confidence in the RBZ that has repeatedly failed to stabilise prices and the nation's currency. The RBZ is rolling out a "Back to Basics" plan that will initially focus on consolidating the introduction of the ZiG.
- Zimbabwe asked the United States (US) to remind banks that Washington had recently eased some of its sanctions, Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube said.
- The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) 2023/24 Human Development Report (HDR), updated in March 2024, said that CAR's Human Development Index (HDI) value for 2022 is 0.550, which put the country in the
- 'Medium' human development category, positioning it at 159 out of 193 countries and territories.



ZIMBABWE



- Kenya's President William Ruto opened the 64th edition of the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF) and called for the unconditional removal of all "illegal economic sanctions" that Western countries had imposed on Zimbabwe. Ruto furthermore declared Kenya's support for Zimbabwe's readmission to the Commonwealth. Zimbabwe in turn will be backing Nairobi's bid to get veteran opposition leader Raila Odinga elected as African Union Commission chairperson next year.
- China has written off an unspecified amount of Zimbabwe's interest-free loans and pledged to help the country find a way out of its debt crisis.
- Vice President Constantino Chiwenga met with Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi during a closed-door meeting on the sidelines of the Iran-Africa International Economic Conference in Tehran. Chiwenga said after the meeting that Zimbabwe and Iran are seeking to expedite the implementation of the 12 economic cooperation agreements signed last year when Raisi visited Zimbabwe.
- Pakistan Aeronautical Complex finalised a deal to supply Zimbabwe with 12 Super Mushshak trainer aircraft.

