



IN TRANSFORMATION
INITIATIVE

AUGUST • No 8/2024

MONTHLY UPDATE

ZIMBABWE



MAIN STORIES

SADC Summit
Preparations

Mid-Term Budget
Review

HIGHLIGHTS

- During the 44th Southern African Development Community (SADC) Summit to be held on 17 and 18 August 2024 in Harare, President Emmerson Mnangagwa will take over the chairpersonship from Angolan President João Lourenço. A large amount of state funds has been spent to give Harare and its satellite town, Mount Hampden, a facelift.
- The government is accusing an unnamed foreign diplomat, religious leaders, civil society and opposition activists of an attempt to make the country ungovernable ahead of the summit.
- Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) commander, Lt. General Sanyatwe, said that the army would employ “command voting” in elections and that Zanu-PF would “rule forever.”
- Mnangagwa again, at the end of July, said that he would retire in 2028. His insistence that he will step down was reportedly prompted by mounting military pressure. Sanyatwe, loyal to Vice President Constantino Chiwenga, is consolidating military influence for the post-2028 era.
- Police arrested 18 political activists and hauled some of them off a plane. On 31 July, four civil society activists were forcibly removed from a domestic flight at the Robert Mugabe International Airport and held incommunicado for eight hours by state security agents while they were allegedly tortured. They protested for the release of 78 activists held since 16 June for taking part in what police said was an illegal gathering.
- According to the latest report from the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), between January and June, there were 3 137 victims of political violence in the country. Zanu-PF instigated more than 65% of the violence.

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- The Mutapa Investment Fund (MIF) reportedly paid a “grossly inflated” \$1.6 billion to a set of unknown private individuals to buy their shares in Kuvimba Mining House previously linked to Kudakwashe Tagwirei, a controversial presidential adviser and ruling party donor accused of corruption.
- A report by the acting Auditor General (AG), Rhea Kujinga Kujinga said that misgovernance had nearly doubled in State-owned enterprises (SoEs) and parastatals in 2023.
- The Minister of Finance, Mthuli Ncube, presented his 2024 midterm budget on 25 July. The economy is now projected to grow by 2% in 2024, down from the 2024 National Budget projection of 3.5%.
- The country’s stock of debt as at end of June 2024 amounted to ZiG287.2 billion, comprising of external debt of ZiG168.5 billion and domestic debt of ZiG118.7 billion.
- The Indigenisation and Empowerment Act will be amended to provide for additional sectors which include haulage and logistics, customs clearing, shipping & forwarding, borehole drilling, brick manufacturing and pharmaceutical retailing.
- The food security situation across most of the country was estimated to have deteriorated to IPC Phase 3 (Crisis) as a result of poor to no harvest from the 2023/24 cropping season according to the Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWSNET).
- The country sold 1,9 million metric tonnes (mt) of minerals (excluding gold and silver), valued at US\$1,5 billion, falling short of its target of two million mt valued at US\$2,03 billion.
- Hwange Colliery Company Limited (HCCL) inked a US\$50 million joint venture (JV) deal with China-domiciled Zhong Jiani Investments (ZJI) to develop a 1,2 million tonne per year underground mine.



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- State-owned Kuvimba Mining House signed a \$310 million deal with a consortium of British and Chinese investors for the construction of a lithium concentrator.
- Mnangagwa said that once the ZiG currency was stable and widespread, he would fully implement de-dollarisation. Finance, Economic Development and Investment Promotion deputy minister David Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe needs over US\$2,5 billion in foreign currency reserves to be able to fully de-dollarise. RBZ Governor John Mushayavanhu said at the end of July that the ZiG was now used in 30% of all transactions, compared with 15% on April 5.
- The newly appointed United States (US) Ambassador to Zimbabwe, Pamela Marie Tremont, urged Zimbabwe to prioritise human rights and democracy. In reaction the Minister of Information Publicity and Broadcasting Services Jenfan Muswere said the remarks were undiplomatic as her country has no right to meddle in the affairs of a sovereign state.
- The government deported two Chinese miners accused of torturing two Zimbabwean mine employees as punishment for stealing at Makanga Mine in Bindura.
- Zambian President Hichilema Hakainde boycotted a three-nation wildlife conservation summit in Harare in his continuing diplomatic spat with Mnangagwa. Hakainde was expected to attend the signing ceremony for the establishment of the new Zimbabwe-Mozambique-Zambia Transfrontier Park.

