



### MAIN STORIES

Budget 2025

Taxes and Duties

Debt Restructuring  
Meeting

Botswana

## HIGHLIGHTS

- Zanu-PF embarked on a nationwide campaign, holding inter-district meetings across the country to drum up support for the contentious push for Emmerson Mnangagwa's stay in office until 2030.
- The Office of the President and Cabinet expressed concern over a story published by News Day, which claimed Mnangagwa was using parallel structures to remain in office beyond 2028. News Day wrote that Mnangagwa turned to parallel structures because of growing opposition within the party and military command to the push to extend his term.
- Finance Minister Mthuli Ncube delivered his budget speech on 28 November 2024. The 2025 budget provides for overall expenditures of ZiG276.4 billion or 20.1% of GDP. He projected that the economy would grow by 6% in 2025 from a projected 2% in 2024. Total public debt stood at US\$21.1 billion, as at end September 2024.
- Ncube announced a new 0.5% tax on fast foods and a 10% withholding tax on sports betting gross winnings, set to take effect on 1 January 2025 and introduce a 20% plastic carrier bag tax on the sale value.
- Addressing the 6th Structural Dialogue of the process for arrears clearance and debt resolution, President Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe was ready for an International Monetary Fund (IMF) staff monitored programme (SMP) to start in January 2025. In a statement, the United States (US), which returned to the platform, said recently released independent assessments of the dialogue's governance indicators demonstrated that much work remained to be done.

# ZIMBABWE



- Zimbabwe's monthly consumer inflation eased to 11.7% in November 2024, down from 37.2% in October.
- Teachers are threatening to strike over the non-payment of the local currency, Zimbabwe Gold (ZiG), component of salaries and November 2024 bonuses.
- Choppies intends to sell the business operations of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Nanavac (Pty) Ltd, trading as Choppies Zimbabwe. Choppies said over the past two years, Zimbabwe's formal retail sector had experienced a significant decline in customer footfall.
- Zambia and Zimbabwe experienced widespread blackouts on 24 November, with outages occurring at approximately the same time in both countries.
- Speaking at the inaugural Zimbabwe-Zambia Energy Projects Summit, officials from both countries said depending so heavily on hydropower leaves them vulnerable to lengthy lapses in electricity. Vice President Constantino Chiwenga said Zimbabwe and Zambia are well-positioned to benefit from solar and wind power.
- Zimbabwe stands ready to work with the United States and its people to build a better, more prosperous and more peaceful world, Mnangagwa said in a congratulatory message to US President-elect Donald Trump.
- Mnangagwa, former Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) leader Nelson Chamisa and activist and former MP, Job Sikhala, attended the inauguration of Duma Boko as Botswana's new president. Mnangagwa was reportedly booed when his name was read out during the ceremony while Chamisa and Sikhala were warmly received.
- Mnangagwa used the platform of the regional World Children's Day commemoration in Victoria Falls to hold a meeting with Boko. The two leaders reportedly discussed bilateral cooperation in areas such as trade, border management, security, and economic collaboration.



# ZIMBABWE



- Former Botswana President Ian Khama issued a call for the Southern African Development Community (SADC) to expel Zimbabwe if it was found to have meddled in other countries' elections.
- South Africa's Minister of Home Affairs, Leon Schreiber, announced the extension of the validity of the Zimbabwean Exemption Permit (ZEP) until 28 November 2025.
- Most Southern African Development Community (SADC) heads of state snubbed the bloc's extraordinary summit in Harare, chaired by Mnangagwa, instead sending representatives.
- According to the High Commissioner of the Southern Africa Human Rights Lawyers, Talent Rusere, there is evidence that Zanu-PF and Mnangagwa interfered in Mozambique's elections.
- Russia and Zimbabwe commenced talks about sending Zimbabweans to Russia to work in construction.
- Zimbabwe and the European Union (EU) at the Zimbabwe-EU Partnership Dialogue expressed a shared commitment to restore their relationship.
- Zimbabwe's bid for readmission to the Commonwealth has hit a major roadblock as the United Kingdom (UK's) Labour government signaled it would not support the move.

