



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**



TELLICOMP

Independently monitoring the constitution making process

Monthly Report

Shadowing the Outreach process

August 2010

1. Introduction

This monthly report reflects ongoing effort by ZZZICOMP to ensure that the ongoing outreach consultations in Zimbabwe remain within the provisions of Article V1 of the Global Political Agreement [GPA] which clearly states that “it is the fundamental right and duty of the Zimbabwean people to make a constitution by themselves and for themselves---and that the process must be owned and driven by the people and must be inclusive and democratic”. Also in resonance with ZZZICOMP information gathering approaches, the Report maintains its micro/grassroots focus, sniffing and analyzing outreach-related issues as they unfold in provinces.

2. Overview

Observed outreach inroads

Though still laden with logistical and financial glitches, the constitution making process is evidently making progress. By end of August, a total of 139 constituencies had been covered, 18 in June, 61 in July and 60 in August with even dates set for consultations in the two metropolitan provinces of Harare and Bulawayo announced.

Records of outreach meetings continue to increase on a monthly basis. August recorded a total of 1155 outreach meetings, pointing to a 95 % increase from the 591 meetings that were recorded in July.

The profile of meetings has also remained heavily slanted towards high attendance. A highly attended meeting is where at least a 100 people are in attendance. Of the total of 1155 outreach meetings recorded in August, 74 % [859] were highly attended while 24 % [296] were lowly attended. This trend was also apparent when records were analysed on a weekly basis.

Records of participants have been increasing cumulatively on a monthly basis since the onset of outreach consultations. By end of August, a total of 368 497 people had reportedly attended outreach consultations throughout the country, 13 % [47 101] in June, 37 % [135 395] in July and 50 % [186 001] in August. Review of the August record point to a 37 % quantum jump from the 135 395 participants recorded in July.

Equally positive was to note that the gender gap of participants has remained almost blurred since the inception of outreach consultations. Of the 186 001 recorded in the month under review, 51 % [94 529] were males while 49 % [91 472] were females, a trend that also obtained when participant records were analysed either on a weekly or provincial basis.

Observed challenges

In spite of these encouraging developments, ZZZICOMP notes with concern that while at macro level the climate is seemingly calm, unfolding scenarios at the outreach consultation fronts tell a different story. In rural communities, outreach violations remain systematically organized and are craftily committed through an array of hard-to detect-strategies that include ferrying of party supporters from one venue to another, posting party youths/supporters at outreach venues, grouping communities under their headmen and conducting of roll calls after meetings, allowing only known party supporters to contribute at meetings, using opening prayers to intimidate and outline party constitutional positions on Talking Points and booing of dissenting views, among others. ZZZICOMP provincial incident reports still refer to dotted incidents in which people were tightly organized along political parties and programmed to speak within defined parameters, with threats of retributive violence for those who stray from expectations.

The month under review recorded an outreach violation toll of 2359, pointing to an increase from the 1555 that were recorded in July. Of the August record, 30 % [699] were coaching incidents, 27 % [643] political interference, 32 % [547] freedom of speech violations, 20 % [461] harassment and 0.3 % [9] violence.

The fact that 699 incidents of coaching were recorded in August should be cause for national disquiet, since coaching is indeed many violations rolled in one. Within a single coaching incident are rudiments of harassment, political influence and abuse of freedom of speech. Coaching continues to be invidiously committed under the guise of political party campaigns and also continues to mislead society by creating illusions of “ consensus decisions” at outreach meetings when in reality these decisions do not reflect genuine community views. ZZZICOMP reports incessantly refer to scattered incidents in which people were either seen reading from prepared scripts at outreach meetings or presenting rehearsed and straightjacket responses, irrespective of questions being asked by COPAC teams.

Freedom of speech continues to be covertly suppressed through various means that include verbal threats, intimidation, coaching, assaults, presence of state security agents at outreach meetings, and by misinforming the public that recording equipment will be used to identify individuals who were making contributions that were contrary to declared party positions. The month under review recorded a total toll of 547, showing an increase by 73 % from the 317 recorded in July. Freedom of speech is a constitutional right of every Zimbabwean citizen which accords them the right of voice, that is, the freedom to think as they will and speak as they like, however without compromising other people's rights as private individuals

Cases of harassment have also remained disturbingly visible especially in the provinces of Mashonaland Central, Masvingo, Mashonaland West and Manicaland. The month under review recorded 461 cases, pointing to an increase from the 323 recorded in July. ZZZICOMP views these developments with grave concern because intimidation has a stalking or shadowing effect on the victim's conscience and is thus an undesirable form of persecution.

Equally disconcerting were continued reports of outreach meetings that are held even when less than 100 people are in attendance. ZZZICOMP reiterates that meetings held under these circumstances only serve to swell records of meetings while distorting outreach outcomes as decisions arrived at under such circumstances should not constitute majority proposals!

Youth participation levels remain on the low side especially in the provinces of Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Midlands. Of the total participants recorded in the period under review, youths accounted for only 22% [40 348], a trend that is consistent with monthly youth participant records since the start of outreach consultations which show 18 % [8 658] in June and 21 % [29 559] in July. Although monthly records suggest that youths participant records are picking up, this has to be viewed with restraint as this could have been inflated by the attendance of school children. This suspicion may not be far off the mark given that most of the high youths attendance records were encountered at venues located at schools and resettlement farming areas.

Equally disturbing to ZZZICOMP were reports of an increase in meetings that are either disrupted or called off, usually in very unclear circumstances. August recorded a total of 70 cancellations, pointing to an increase from the 55 that were recorded in July.

3. Analysis of outreach-related issues by provinces

Constituencies covered

The month under review saw outreach meetings being conducted in 60 constituencies, 15 in the first week, 23 in mid month and 22 in the closing week of the month. The 15 that were covered during the first week consist of Umzingwane in Matabeleland South province; Lupane East and Lupane West in Matabeleland North; Guruve South, Mazowe West and Guruve North in Mashonaland Central province; Ruwa and Seke in Mashonaland East; Mberengwa North and Mberengwa East in Midlands; Gutu East and Gutu Central in Masvingo, Chimanimani East in Manicaland province and Magunje and Hurungwe West in Mashonaland West.

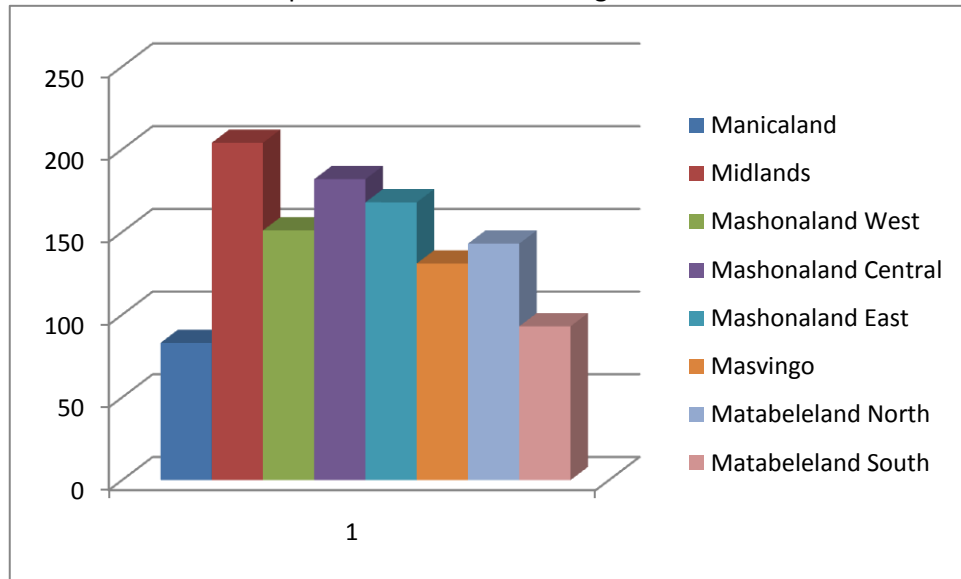
The 23 that were covered in mid August comprise Lupane East in Matabeleland North province; Chipinge West, Chipinge Central, Chipinge South and Musikavanhu in Manicaland province; Mbire, Guruve South and Guruve North in Mashonaland Central province; Hurungwe Central, Hurungwe North, Chegutu West and Hurungwe East in Mashonaland West province; Bikita South, Bikita West and Bikita East in Masvingo province; Matobo North and Matobo South in Matabeleland South province; Mberengwa South and Mberengwa East in Midlands province; Goromonzi North, Murehwa West, Murewa North in Mashonaland East province.

The 22 that were covered in the closing week embrace Chegutu East, Mhondoro Mubaira and Chegutu West in Mashonaland West province; Muzarabani South and Muzarabani North in Mashonaland Central province; Mutoko North and Mutoko East in Mashonaland East; Nkayi North and Nkayi South in Matabeleland North province; Masvingo Central, Masvingo South, Masvingo Urban and Masvingo West in Masvingo province; Zhombe, Kwekwe Rural, Redcliff, Silobela and Zivagwe Chirumanzu; Mangwe, Umzingwane and Matobo North in Matabeleland South province.

Meetings conducted

A total of 1155 outreach meetings were reportedly conducted in the month under review with a provincial spread of 18 % [204] in Midlands province, 16 % [182] in Mashonaland Central province, 15 % [168] in Mashonaland East province, 13 % [151] in Mashonaland West province, 12 % [143] in Matabeleland North province, 11 % in Masvingo province, 8 % [93] in Matabeleland South province and 7 % [83] in Manicaland province. Below is a graphic spread of outreach meetings by provinces:

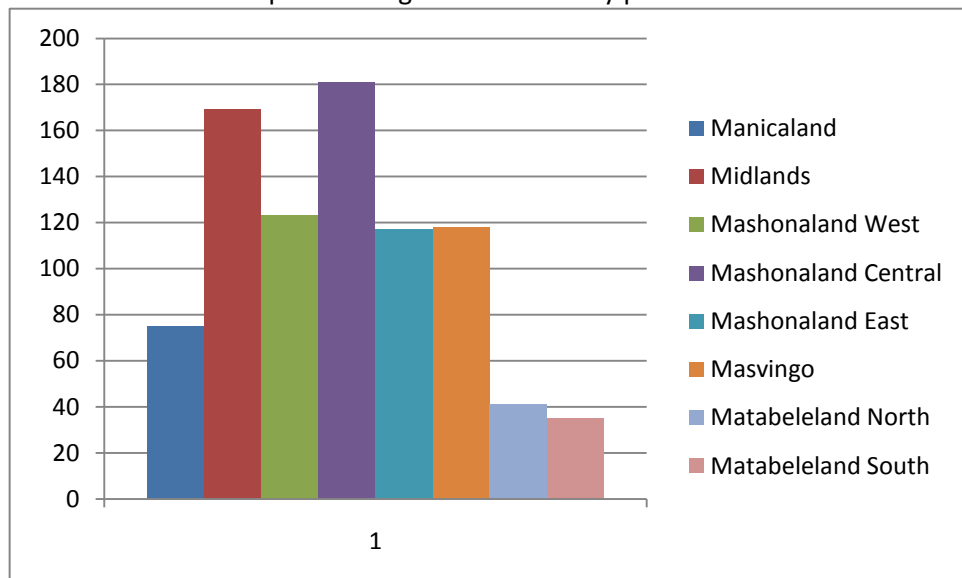
Figure 1
Spread of outreach meetings



Attendance structure

Attendance structure remained heavily skewed towards high attendances which accounted for 74 % [859] of the 1155 outreach meetings recorded in the month under review. Provincial distribution showed that 21 % [182] were recorded in Mashonaland Central, 20 % [169] in Midlands, 14 % [123] in Mashonaland West, 14 % [118] in Masvingo province, 14 % [117] in Mashonaland East province, 9 % [75] in Manicaland province, 5 % in Matabeleland North and 4 % [35] in Matabeleland South. This statistical spread is as graphically captured below:

Figure 2
Spread of high attendances by provinces



However, close analysis of ZZZICOMP incident sheets show that the bulk of cases that were recorded as “high attendance” cases were low fringe zone cases, ranging between 100 and 150. Also ringing warning bells is the coincidence of having high records of highly attended meetings in provinces that are highly prone to exclusive politics. The probability that they may have been a result of forced attendance cannot be ruled out.

Sampled Cases

In Mashonaland Central province, reported outstanding cases of high attendance included meetings that were held on 4 August at Makaera Primary School in Ward 4 of Guruve South where 646 people reportedly attended; on 5 August at Chipangura Secondary School in Ward 5 of Guruve North where 600 people reportedly turned up; on 13 August at Makombe Farm in Ward 21 of Guruve North where 759 people were in attendance and also on 24 August at Muzarabani Growth Point in Ward 8 where 1 700 people were in attendance.

Reported notable cases in Masvingo province included meetings that were held on 23 August at Machitenda Primary School in Ward 17 of Masvingo Central where 638 people attended and also on 27 August at Nyamhindi Primary School in Ward 28 of Masvingo South where 707 people turned up.

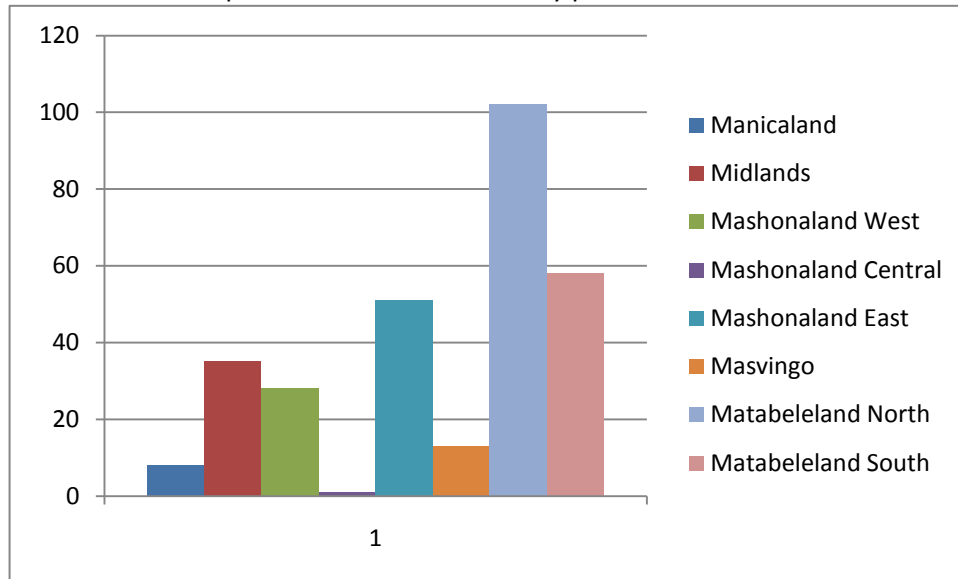
In Manicaland province, visible cases included a meeting that was held on 16 August at Tanganda Primary School in Ward 4 of Chipinge West where 490 people were in attendance; a meeting that was held on 16 August at Garahwa Primary School in Ward 29 of Chipinge South where 618 people turned up; a meeting that was held on 17 August at Mooiplatts Primary School in Ward 6 of Chipinge Central where 1400 turned up and also another one that was held on 18 August at Christina Primary School in Ward 6 of Chipinge Central where 550 people turned up.

In Matabeleland South, reported cases included meetings that were held on 4 August at Kambudzi Business Centre in Ward 12 of Umzingwane where 400 people reportedly turned up and also on 5 August at Bayethe in Ward 14 of Umzingwane constituency where 280 people reportedly attended.

Incidents of low attendance

Although at 296, the low attendance record remains far less than that of high attendances, analysis of their provincial distribution show that low attendance is still a visible challenge across the country with Matabeleland North, Matabeleland South and Mashonaland East among the most affected. Of the 296 recorded cases, 34 % [102] were recorded in Matabeleland North, 20 % [58] in Matabeleland South, 17 % [51] in Mashonaland East province, 12 % [35] in Midlands, 9 % [28] in Mashonaland West, 4 % [13] in Masvingo, 3 % [8] in Manicaland and 0.3% [1] in Mashonaland Central. This statistical spread by provinces is as graphically shown below:

Figure 4
Spread of low attendances by provinces



Although factors accounting for the prevalence of low attendance cases are difficult to pinpoint, issues of apathy, poor publicity, fear of reprisals, misinformation and lack of information on actual dates and venues – remain among the most commonly cited factors. Incident reports refer to cases where individuals or groups whose views on the constitution were viewed with suspicion were reportedly told in plain terms to keep away from outreach meetings.

Sampled Cases

In Matabeleland North province where the highest figure of 102 low attendance cases was reported, sampled extreme cases included meetings that were held on 6 August at Thokozo Primary School in Ward 24 of Lupane West where 35 people were in attendance; on 7 August at Sichongo Primary School in Ward 25 of Lupane constituency where 45 people were in attendance; on 14 August at Gandangula in Ward 19 of Lupane East reportedly went ahead when only 21 people turned up; on 24 August at Jengwe Primary School in Ward 2 of Nkayi North where 37 people attended and also on 25 August at Khethive in Ward 13 of Nkayi South where 25 people attended.

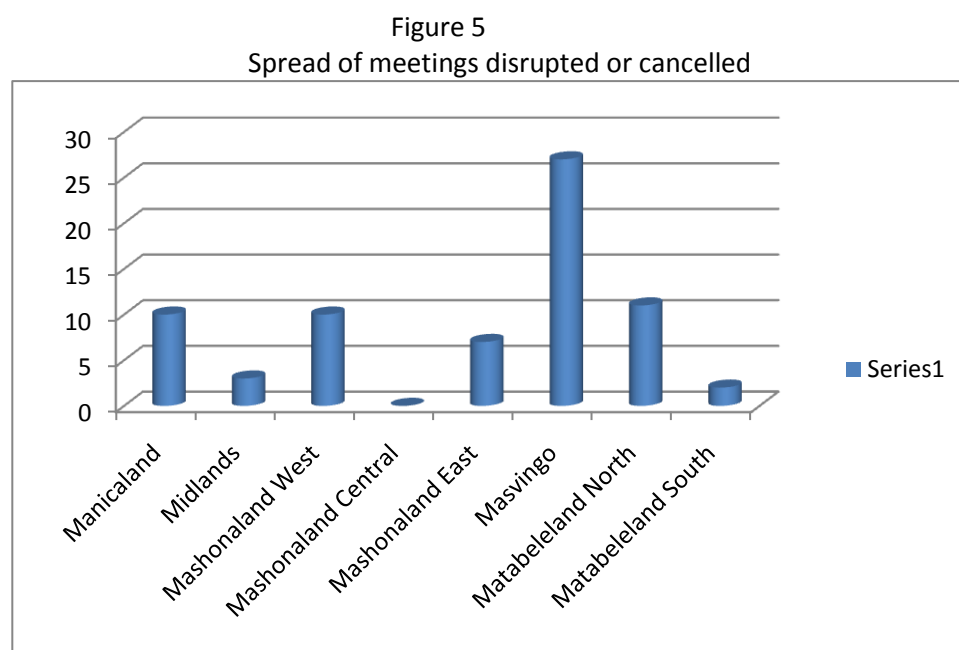
In Matabeleland South province, which had the second highest record of 58 low attendance cases, cited cases included meetings that were held on 16 August at Makasa Dam in Ward 10 of Matobo South which reportedly went ahead when only 28 people were in attendance; a meeting that was held on 5 August at Irisvale Secondary School in Ward 13 of Umzingwane where outreach consultations reportedly went ahead with only 58 people in attendance; on 25 August at New Dawn Primary School in Ward 17 of Mangwe where 39 people attended; on 25 August at Matokonye Primary School in Ward 10 of Mangwe where 30 people attended and also on 25 August at Hobhodo Primary School in Ward 16 of Mangwe where 35 people attended.

Those reported in Mashonaland East province included meetings that were held on 2 August at Ruwa Workshop in Ward 4 of Ruwa constituency where 36 people were in attendance; on 4 August at Zimre Park Primary School in Ward 8 where 50 people attended; on 23 August at Katsukunyu in Ward 5 of Mutoko North where only 50 people were in attendance and also on 25 August at Musvaire in Nyamukope Ward of Mutoko North where 55 people attended.

Among the sampled ones in Midlands province, were meetings that were held on 7 August at Pamushana Primary School in Ward 12 of Mberengwa North where 64 people were in attendance; on 25 August at Somalala Primary School in Ward 10 of Zhombe where 32 people attended and also on 27 August at Dendera Primary School in Ward 16 of Zhombe where 48 people were in attendance.

Cancellation of meetings

August witnessed a surprising resurgence in the record of cancelled meetings. A total of 70 cancellations were recorded with an unsettling spread of 27 in Masvingo province, 11 in Matabeleland North province, 10 each in Manicaland and Mashonaland West provinces, 7 in Mashonaland East province, 3 in Midlands's province, 2 in Matabeleland South province and a zero record in Mashonaland Central. Though records are seemingly on the low side, this record remains cause for concern given that the outreach program is drawing to a close. The statistical spread is as graphically shown below:



Sampled Cases

In Mashonaland East, cases of cancellations included a meeting that was scheduled to be held on 3 August at Mandedza in Ward 2 of Seke constituency, which was reportedly called off after people failed to turn up for the meeting and COPAC teams were told that people had gone for food collection at Dema Growth; on 4 August at Dizha Business Centre in Ward 6 of Seke constituency which was reportedly called off after the COPAC team had failed to turn up.

Cases reported in Midlands province included a meeting that was scheduled to be held on 6 August at Chamawanga in Ward 9 of Mberengwa North constituency which was reportedly called off when villagers gathered on the top of the mountain which interestingly was inaccessible to COPAC teams; a meeting that was pencilled for 25 August at Sorikaya Primary School in Ward 11 in Zhombe which was called off after only 21 people had turned up and also a meeting that was scheduled for 28 August at Jena Primary School in Ward 20 of Silobela which failed to take off because only 9 people had turned up.

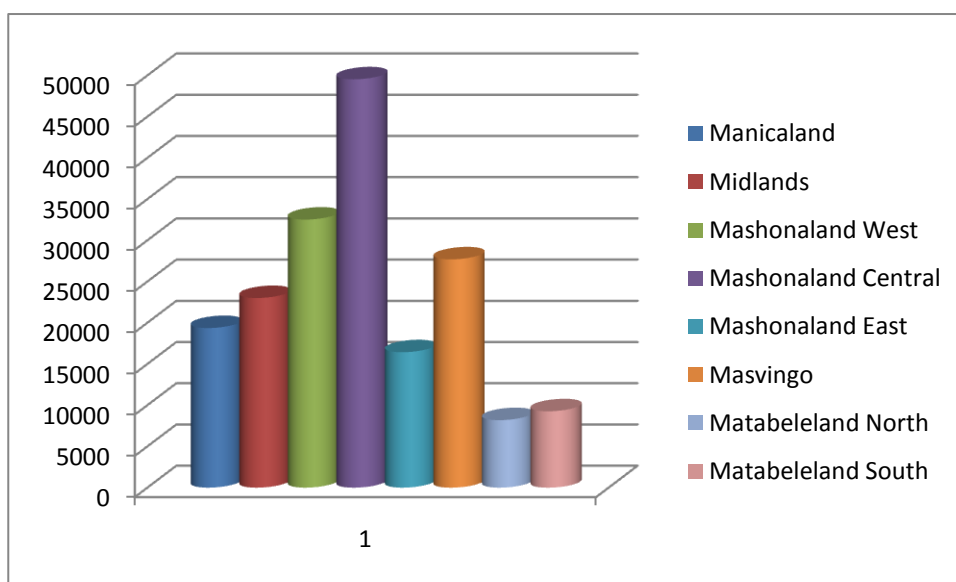
In Manicaland province, cases included a meeting that was scheduled to be held on 18 August at Rattleshoek Primary in Ward 8 of Chipinge Central which was abandoned when the first contributor who was suspected to be a supporter of the MDC party suggested that atrocities perpetrated during Gukurahundi and Murambatswina should be recognized in the constitution in the same manner given to the liberation struggle that brought independence. The contribution was reportedly received with boos and verbal threats from the majority who were suspected to be mainly ZANU PF supporters who had been ferried from estates outside the Ward 8. Chaos ensued for more than an hour during which the participant who had earlier contributed was assaulted, calling for police intervention. According to the ZZZICOMP observer who witnessed the incident, prior to the arrival of COPAC teams, suspected ZANU PF supporters had been heard singing revolutionary songs, those suspected to be MDC supporters reportedly being chased away.

In Masvingo province, cases included a meeting that was scheduled for 24 August at Bondolfi Mission and Muchenurwa Primary School in Ward 10 of Masvingo West which was reportedly called off after the COPAC team had failed to pitch up; a meeting that was planned for 27 August at Magudu Secondary School in Ward 21 of Masvingo South which reportedly failed to take off allegedly because people had been given two conflicting venues [Magudu and Nyamandi] resulting in no participants turning up at Magudu, the official venue. Another meeting that was listed for 28 August at Runyararo Primary in Masvingo Urban was purportedly abandoned after rowdy and drunken youths stormed and disrupted the meeting.

Outreach Participants

A total of 186 001 people reportedly turned up for outreach consultations in the month under review showing an overall 37 % upswing from the 135 395 recorded in July, however with 46 % of the participants accounted for by Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West while the provinces of Matabeleland North and Matabeleland accounted for 9 %. See graph below for details on the spread of participants by provinces:

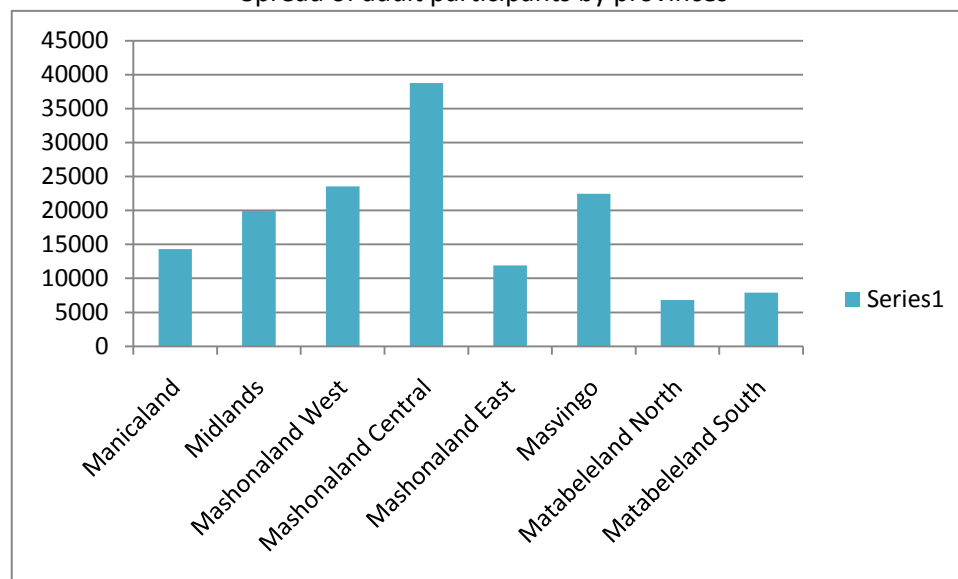
Figure 6
Spread of participants by provinces



Participant spread by Age

Analysis of the spread of participants by age reveals a heavy slant towards adults. Of the 186 001 participants recorded in the month under review, 78 % [145 653] were adults while 22 % [40 348] were youths. A cursory review of adult participant records since the start of the outreach meetings show this ascendancy, adult participants accounting for 82 % in June, 78 % in July and 78 % in August. Further review of adult participant spread by provinces in the month under review also show that 58 % of adult participants were accounted for by the three provinces of Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland West and Masvingo while Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South had lowest records, accounting for only 10 %. Below is a graphic illustration of adult participant spread by provinces:

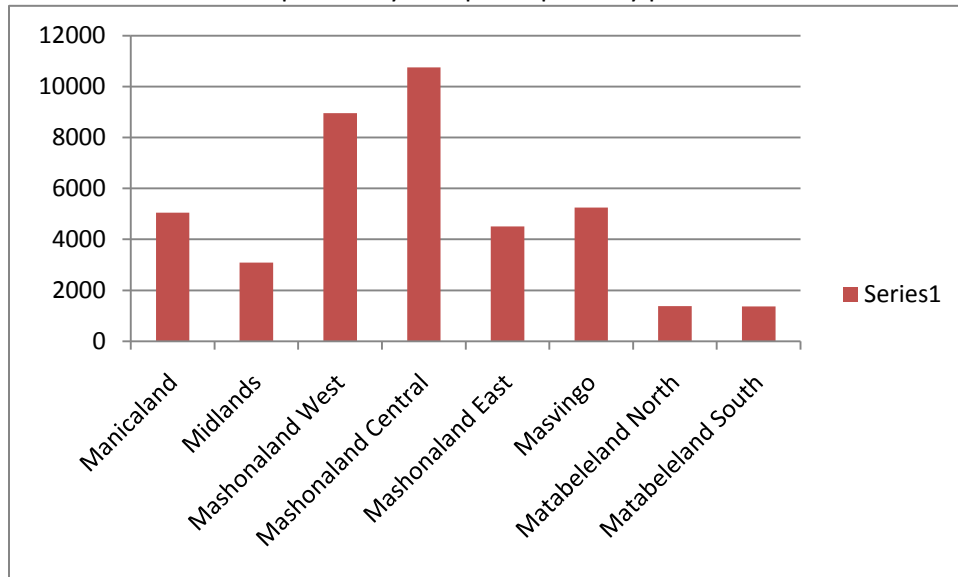
Figure 7
Spread of adult participants by provinces



Youths Participants

August youth participation record of 40 348 when viewed in comparison of the adults, suggests that mobilization of youths for outreach consultations remains a major challenge for COPAC. This is particularly worrying given that this has been the observed trend since the onset of the outreach programme. In June, youth participation records were 18 % of the gross total while in July they were and 22 % of the total participants. Analysis of youth participant spread by province also point to a disturbing uneven distribution in which Matabeleland North province and Matabeleland South province accounted for only 6 % while Mashonaland Central province and Mashonaland West province accounted for 48 %; scenarios that are generally consistent with observed trends in weekly reports of the three months that have been under observation. See graph below for the spread of youth participants by provinces:

Figure 8
Spread of youth participants by provinces



Sampled Cases

In Matabeleland North province, reported extreme cases of low youth attendance include meetings that were held on 14 August at Zvangendaba High School in Ward 19 where 2 out of the 72 people in attendance were youths; on 24 August at Mtshabi Primary School in Ward 1 of Nkayi North where 5 out of the 57 people in attendance were youths; on 25 August at Mthorise Primary School in Ward 13 of Nkayi South where 3 out of the 76 people in attendance were youths and also on 26 August at Skopo Business Centre in Ward 15 of Nkayi South where 2 out of the 37 people in attendance were youths.

Those reported in Mashonaland Central province included meetings that were held on 11 August at Nyamangwe Business Centre in Ward 15 of Guruve South where 9 out of the 260 participants were youths and on 12 August at Village 31 in Ward 26 of Bikita South where 8 out of the 240 people in attendance were youths.

In Mashonaland Central province, cases included meetings that were held on 25 August at Dunsberry Farm in Ward 12 of Muzarabani North where 13 out of the 320 people in attendance were youths; on 27 August at Mutemakungu village in Ward 18 of Muzarabani South where 17 out of 393 people in attendance were youths and also on 28 August at Huni village in Ward 22 of Muzarabani North where 10 out of the 302 people in attendance were youths. On 28 August at Kairezi Primary School in Ward 22 of Muzarabani South where 15 out of 430 people in attendance were youths.

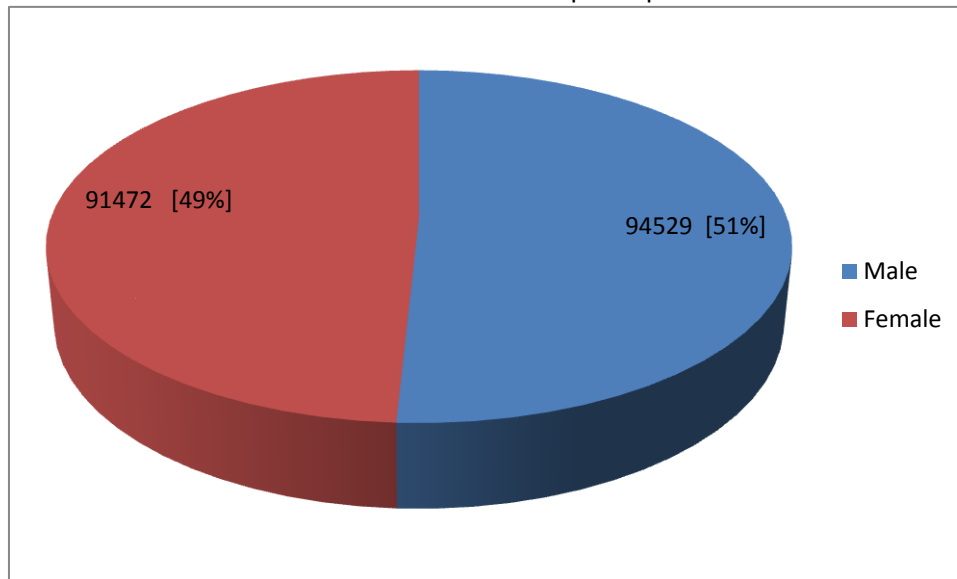
In Mashonaland West province, extreme low youth attendance cases were observed at a meeting that was held on 12 August at Nyangona Clinic in Ward 6 where 9 out of the 163 people in attendance were youths and on 24 August at Bandamakara in Ward 8 of Mutoko North where 9 out of the 117 people in attendance were youths.

In Midlands province, reported cases included meetings that were held on 4 August at Zijena Village in Ward 3 of Mberengwa East where 7 out of the 358 people in attendance were youths while in Masvingo province, reported extreme high attendance case included meetings that were held on 3 August at Aleight Mission in Ward 39 of Gutu East in Masvingo province where 500 of the 850 in attendance were youths.

Spread of participants by gender

A gender analysis of participant records of the month under review exhibit a slight slant towards male participants with 51 % [94 529] of the recorded 186 001 participants being males while 49 % [91 472] were females. This has been the trend in all the weekly serials of the month under review, with 48 % females and 52 % males in the first week, 49 % females and 51 % males in mid month and 49 % females and 51 % males in the closing week of the month. This gender distribution was also manifest when participant records were analyzed by provinces. All provinces save Mashonaland Central and Masvingo reflect more males than females. See the pie chart below:

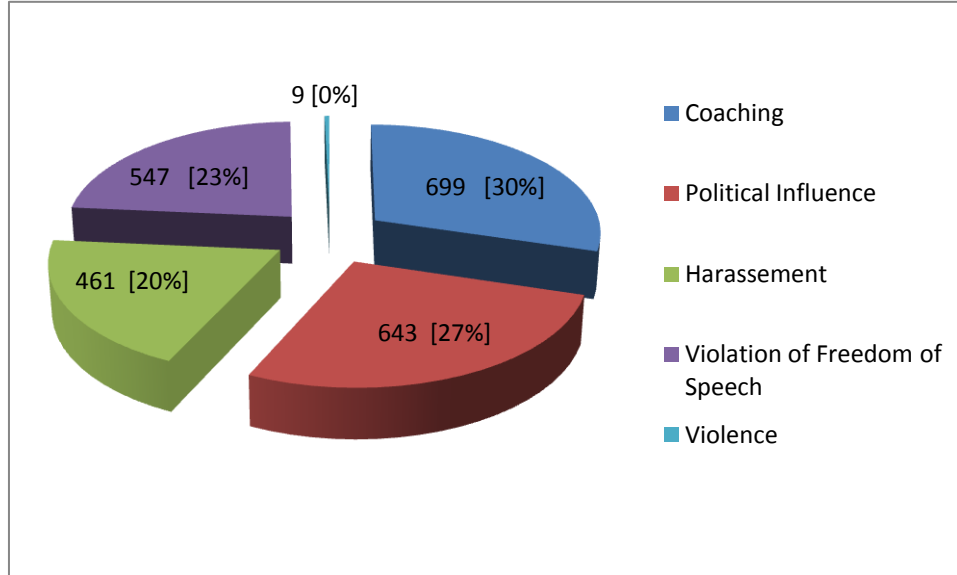
Figure 9
Gender distribution of participants



4. Outreach-related violations

A cursory review of ZZZICOMP provincial incident reports point to an operational environment that is politically challenged, especially at micro level. The month under review recorded a total of 2359 cases which had a threatening profile of 30 % [699] cases of coaching, 27 % [643] cases of political interference, 32 % [547] cases of freedom of speech violations, 20 % [461] cases of harassment, and 0.3 % [9] cases of violence. See the pie chart below:

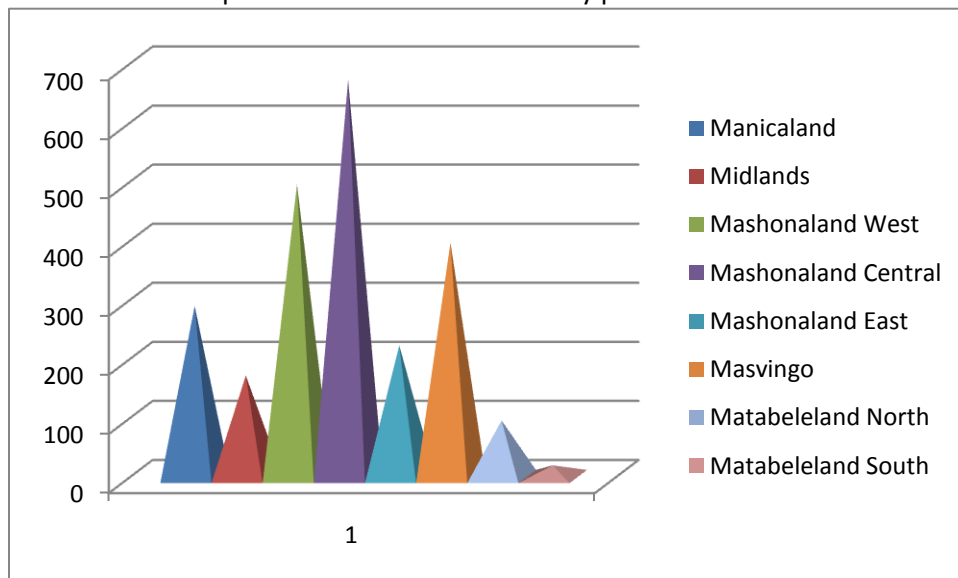
Figure 10
Distribution of outreach violations



Provincial spread of outreach violations

Analysis of the spread of violations by provinces show a spread of 28 % [672] in Mashonaland Central province, 21 % [495] in Mashonaland West province, 17 % [396] in Masvingo province, 12 % [289] in Manicaland province, 9 % [222] in Mashonaland East, 4 % [95] in Matabeleland North and 0.8% [19] in Matabeleland South. Consistent with monthly trends in June and July, the provinces of Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland West remain most prone to violations while Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South had lowest violation tolls. See graph below:

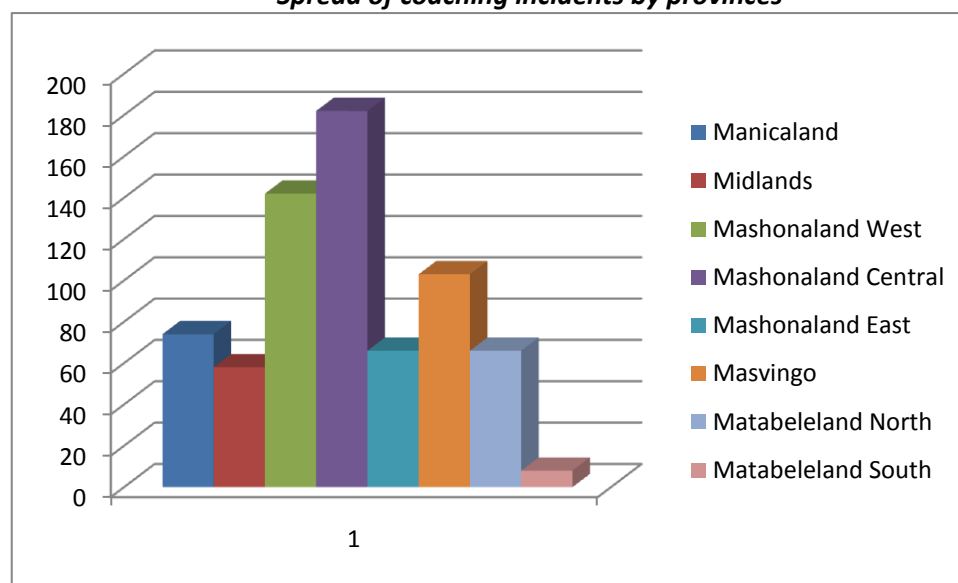
Figure 11
Spread of outreach violations by provinces



Coaching

A total of 699 coaching incidents were reported in the month under review with 26 % [181] in Mashonaland Central province, 20 % [142] in Mashonaland West province, 15 % [103] in Masvingo, 11 % [74] in Manicaland, 9 % [66] in Matabeleland North, 9 % [66] in Mashonaland East, 8 % [58] in Midlands and 1 % [8] in Matabeleland South. ZZZICOMP reports still make frequent reference to cases of people reading from prepared scripts, people simply providing rehearsed and uniform responses irrespective of questions being asked, scenarios where the majority of people were not speaking but simply nodding, whistling and ululating to contributions by the few.

Figure 12
Spread of coaching incidents by provinces



Sampled Cases

In Mashonaland Central province, reported cases included meetings that were held on 11 August at Chihwe Primary School in Ward 14 of Guruve South where the ZANU PF leadership in the area was reported to have gathered villagers before the arrival of COPAC teams and drilled them on what to say in response to the Talking Points before issuing threats to all who may be tempted to stray from drilled party positions. Again on 24 August at Muzarabani Growth Point in Ward 8 of Muzarabani where people were reportedly force marched to the Growth Point a day before the scheduled meeting drilled on what to say and how to answer the questions on Talking Points and also on 26 August at Archford Farm in Ward 14 of Muzarabani South, people were reportedly called together by the local ZANU PF chairman and councillor and told that only those selected to speak will be allowed to speak.

Those recorded in Mashonaland West province included meetings that were held in Hurungwe East on 13 August at Tengwe Business Centre in Ward 2 and on 12 August at Bakura Business Centre in Ward 22 where war veterans reportedly mobilized people to gather and coached them on party constitutional positions.

Among the sampled cases reported in Mashonaland East were meetings which were held on 3 August at Dzandura Primary School in Ward 4 of Seke constituency where ZZZICOMP observers claimed to have seen people being trained by their political parties before the COPAC meeting and also warned that only those selected were going to contribute.

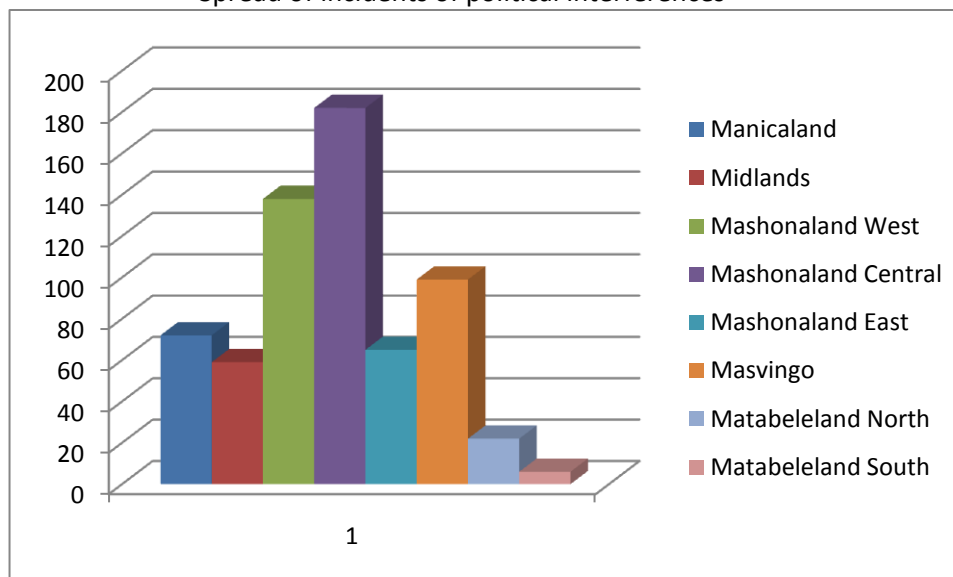
In Matabeleland South province, sampled coaching cases included meetings that were held on 4 August at Impala School in Ward 11 of Umzingwane where members of both ZANU PF and MDC T were observed drilling party member's supporters on how they should respond to the Talking Points while those reported in Masvingo province included meetings that were held on 28 August at Tokwe-Mukosi Dam in Ward 30 where villagers were reportedly forced to attend ZANU PF meetings from 23 August to 27 August at which they were reportedly issued with pamphlets outlining the party constitutional position while at another meeting that was held on 28 August at Tokwane Ngundu in Ward 23 of Masvingo South, war veterans reportedly gathered communities before the arrival of COPAC teams whom they allegedly drilled on what to say on Talking Points before ordering them to sing Chimurenga songs for two hours.

In Mashonaland West province, reported cases included meetings that were held on 26 August at Gadzana Primary School in Ward 21 of Chegutu West where people were openly presenting rehearsed answers and also on 29 August at Musinami clinic in Ward 3 of Chegutu East where the local political leaders of ZANU PF, chiefs and headmen reportedly held a meeting before the arrival of COPAC teams in which people were coached on what to say to COPAC officials.

Incidents of political interference

Cases of political interference remain recurring issues in ZZZICOMP provincial incidents sheets, the month under review recording a violations toll of 643 with a spread of 28 % [182] in Mashonaland Central province, 21 % [138] in Mashonaland West province, 15 % [99] in Masvingo province, 11 % [72] in Manicaland province, 10 % [65] in Mashonaland East province, 3 % [22] in Matabeleland North province and 0.9 % [6] in Matabeleland South province. Details of the provincial spread of violations of political interference were as shown below:

Figure 13
Spread of incidents of political interferences



Sampled Cases

Among the cases reported in Mashonaland Central province were meetings that were held on 5 August at Kugotsi Secondary School in Ward 7 of Guruve South where ZANU PF reportedly expressed their views through slogans; on 11 August at Nyamangove Business Centre in Ward 15 of Guruve South where

known CIO operatives were reportedly observed sitting in front of participants, allegedly, closely monitoring proceedings at the meeting; on 12 August at Mucheni Farm in Ward 17 of Guruve North where the ZANU PF leadership in the area reportedly deployed suspected intelligence officers from various districts to beef up its contributions on topics relating to land, executive powers and war veterans and also on 14 August at Mushongahende Business Centre in Ward 24 of Guruve North where a white Isuzu KB [registration numbers withheld] was reportedly observed bussing people from Guruve who were later seen dominating discussions at the outreach meeting. Those reported in the closing week of August include meetings that were held on 26 August at Oban Farm in Ward 14 of Muzarabani South where members of the two main political parties, ZANU PF and MDC were openly challenging each while at another meeting that was held on 27 August at Shiri village in Ward 18 of Muzarabani South, unidentified war veterans reportedly gathered communities before the arrival of COPAC teams and issues directives that they were to stick to what they had been taught or risk being dealt with.

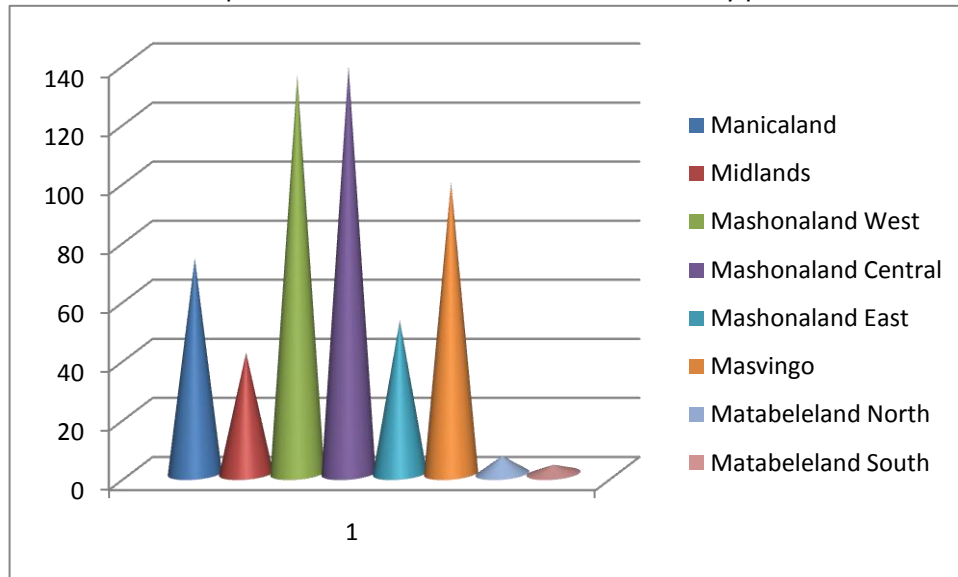
Cases reported in Mashonaland West province included meetings that were held on 8 August at Chishamba Primary School in Ward 10 of Magunje constituency where ZANU PF youths were observed moving around, issuing threats to those they suspected to be members of other political parties; on 13 August at Tambawadya Primary School in Ward 1 of Hurungwe Central where people were reportedly seen being ferried into the venue from farms by suspected war veterans.

In Mashonaland East province, cited cases included meetings that were held on 6 July at Kerry Primary School in Ward 12 of Seke constituency where ZANU PF reportedly forced people to attend its party coaching sessions while in Matabeleland South reported cases included meetings that were held on 5 August at Bayethe in Ward 14 of Umzingwane where proceedings were so tightly structured that only those selected by their political parties were the only ones who contributed.

Violations of freedom of speech

Verbal threats, intimidation, coaching, assaults, presence of state security agents at outreach meetings, perceptions that recording equipment will be used to identify individuals making contributions, among others continue to restrict citizen voice at outreach meetings. A total of 547 cases of violations of freedom of speech were reported in the month under review with provincial tolls of 25 % [138] in Mashonaland Central, 25 % [135] in Mashonaland West province, 18 % [99] in Masvingo province, 13 % [73] in Manicaland, 10 % [52] in Mashonaland East, 1 % [6] in Matabeleland North and 0.5 % [3] in Matabeleland South. Below is the provincial spread of these violations:

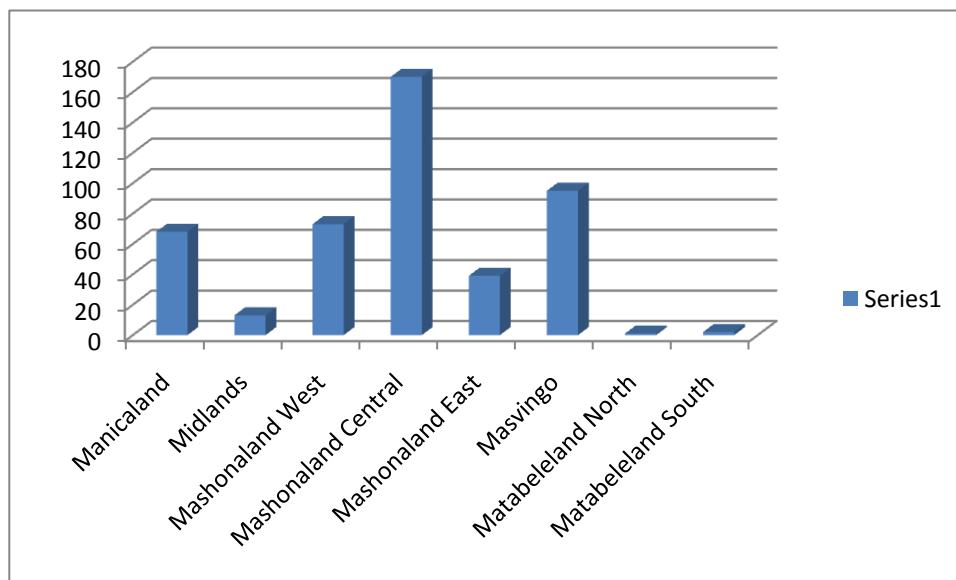
Figure 16
Spread of incidents of freedom violations by provinces



Incidents of harassment

Harassment or intimidation induce fear into its victims and in this way deter them from expressing their feelings at outreach meetings. Harassment is therefore an invidious form of persecution. The month under review recorded 461 cases of harassment with disturbing provincial spread of 37 % [170] in Mashonaland Central, 21 % [95] in Masvingo, 16 % [73] in Mashonaland West, 15 % [68] in Manicaland, 8 % [39] in Mashonaland East, 3 % [13] in Midlands and below one percent in Matabeleland North and Matabeleland South. See the graph below for detail on harassment spread by provinces.

Figure 15
Spread of incidents of harassments



Sampled Cases

In Mashonaland Central province, cases included experiences at meetings that were held on 2 August at Horseshoe Primary School in Ward 1 of Guruve North where people were reportedly not free to express themselves because of the presence of suspected members of the CIO.

Cases reported in Masvingo province, included experiences at meetings that were held on 3 August at Bhasera Business Centre in Ward 39 of Gutu East where people were reportedly intimidated by ZANU PF supporters and also at another meeting that was held on 2 August at Makombo Ground in Ward 34 of Gutu Central where a suspected MDC-T party youth was reportedly threatened by suspected ZANU PF member allegedly because he had criticised his views on Talking Points.

Those reported in Mashonaland West province included meetings that were held on 4 August at Dzimbwe Business Centre in Ward 13 of Magunje where outreach consultations were reportedly abused by political party members such that people in attendance were evidently deterred from expressing own views and on 7 August at Nyangwizhu Primary School in Ward 16 of Hurungwe West where people in attendance were reportedly verbally threatened by ZANU PF leaders and forced to be silent throughout the outreach deliberations

In Manicaland province, reported cases included those reported on 13 August at Gaza “O” Open Space in Ward 2 of Chipinge Central where ZANU PF leaders in the areas reportedly sent party youths to the homes of suspected MDC supporters to warn them against participating at outreach meetings in the area; on 18 August at Taona village in Ward 3 of Chipinge West where suspected party supporters were reportedly threatening and pointing fingers at participants whose views were contrary to those of their party and also on 18 August at Mooiplatts Primary School in Ward 6 of Chipinge Central where proceedings at the meeting resembled those of a political party rally with all contributions going unchallenged. ZZZICOMP reports further claim that at a meeting that had been held earlier at this venue, six [6] MDC supporters had reportedly been manhandled and beaten up by suspected ZANU PF members.

Among those reported in Masvingo province were experiences at a meeting that was held on 25 August at Gunikuni Primary School in Ward 22 of Masvingo South where headmen reportedly ordered people to stand behind them before conducting roll calls; on 26 August at Madamukuru Secondary School in Ward 24 of Masvingo South where ZANU PF supporters were reportedly organized along party lines and booing at contributions made by MDC supporters and on 28 August at Building Brigades in Ward 5 of Masvingo Urban where soldiers were reportedly among the participants, reportedly intimidating people who were giving their views.

In Mashonaland Central province, reported cases included those on 24 August at Muzarabani Growth Point in Ward 8 of Muzarabani constituency where people were forced to march and attend a meeting at the Growth Point a day before the scheduled outreach meeting and also on 26 August at Oban Farm in Ward 14 of Muzarabani South, ZANU PF security agents and youths militias were reportedly moving around intimidating people they suspected would express views linked to MDC party.

Cases reported in Mashonaland West province included meetings that were held on 20 August at Vhurukazi Primary School in Ward 20 of Mhondoro Mubaira, opening and closing prayers were used to express hate language.

Incidents of Violence

The month under review also expressed an increase in cases of violence. A total of 9 cases of violence were reported, 7 in Mashonaland West and 2 in Manicaland. In Mashonaland West, reported cases included one at Selous Business Centre in Ward 11 where suspected MDC supporters were reportedly chased from the venue by suspected ZANU PF youths, who as alleged, had been ferried in by a truck without registration numbers.

At another meeting that was held on 20 August, a headmaster at Bryden Primary School in Mashonaland West and some teachers who had attended the COPAC meeting at Grange, a farming community in Chegutu, were reportedly chased away from the meeting after they requested the COPAC team leaders to also pose the questions in English rather than asking them in Shona language only.

In the same province, a meeting that was held on 21 August at Imojeni Farm in Ward 12 in Chegutu West, some MDC-T officials who are part of the COPAC team leaders voted with their feet as they boycotted attending meetings in the province in protest against the confiscation of a vehicle belonging to the party provincial officials who had also been assaulted.

The MDC officials, the Chegutu district chairperson, the party's provincial driver and an unnamed member of the province's executive were assaulted at a meeting held at Imojeni Farm after being accused of ferrying MDC-T members to COPAC meetings. The vehicle had its windows broken and tyres punctured while the driver of the MDC-T vehicle went missing. A meeting which was promptly organised to quell the situation on Saturday afternoon failed to yield anything as COPAC team members aligned to the MDC-T presented a plethora of problems ranging from unilateral changes of venues and dates for scheduled meetings done by a member of the ZANU PF Provincial committee, the Provincial Administrator and the District Administrators whom they accused of being biased towards ZANU PF.

MDC-T members also accused ZANU PF officials who are leading the COPAC outreach teams of bringing in untrained youths in the COPAC teams through the back door to replace non militant members.

5. Recurring Constitutional Issues

Manicaland

- **That the First and Second Chimurenga, Murambatswina, Gukurahundi and 2008 Genocide should be commemorated on specific declared public days**
- **President and Prime Minister**
- **Devolved State**
- **Freedom of assembly, choice and worship**
- **Right of education, life, health and shelter**

Mashonaland Central

- **Peaceful country where there is respect for human rights**
- **Unitary State and retention of 10 provinces**
- **Youths should be between 18 to 35 years**
- **Disabled people must be given a parliamentary seat.**

Mashonaland East

- **Provincial Governors should be elected by people**
- **People in the diaspora should be allowed to vote**
- **An elected President who has powers to appoint ministers**
- **Land should be given to those who want to use it**
- **Traditional leaders must be apolitical.**

Midlands

- Youths between 15 to 30 years
- Unitary State
- A set up where there is a President and Prime Minister sharing power.

Masvingo

- Unitary State with 10 provinces
- Parliamentary seat for disabled people
- Respect for human rights
- President and Prime Minister
- Youths between 15-30 years

Mashonaland West

- Executive President with two Vice president, president elected for a minimum of two terms only each of five years.
- Executive President as Head of State, Government and Commander in Chief of the Defence Force
- Unitary State with ten [10] provinces to remain
- Provincial Governors should be elected by the people
- Church should not be involved in politics

Matabeleland South

- Respect should be accorded to the national anthem.
- One president and one vice president. President should have limited powers.
- War veterans should be apolitical
- Provincial governors must be elected by the people
- There should be ten [10] provinces.
- Devolved State

Matabeleland South

- Want both President and Prime Minister
- One President and one vice President
- Devolved State

6. Conclusions and Recommendations

Outreach consultations are still conducted under a visibly politically compromised operational framework. Outreach malpractices in the form sloganeering at meetings, ferrying party supporters from one venue to another, posting party youths/supporters at outreach venues, instructing people to stand behind their headmen, calling of roll calls, allowing only known party supporters to contribute at meetings, using opening prayers to outline expected responses on Talking Points, among others.

Verbal threats, intimidation, coaching, assaults, presence of state security agents at outreach meetings, perceptions that recording equipment will be used to identify individuals making contributions, among others continue to restrict citizen voice at outreach meetings.

In the main, outreach consultations appear to have been reduced to a contest between ZANU PF and MDC T, scenarios that are likely to skew constitutional outcomes towards declared party positions and in the process sidelining views of other stakeholders. This should be viewed with utmost concern as party interests usually have a short-term perspective rather than the inter-generational focus expected in constitution making process. If these scenarios go on unchecked there is high risk of producing a constitution that panders to the short term interests of political parties. Let the people freely express their personal views.

Cases in which ZANU PF local leaderships in various provinces resort to using opening prayer sessions to covertly discourage participants from expressing personal views during outreach consultations continue to be reported, with indications that this malpractice is spreading to other provinces.

Reports of incidents in which venues were changed by the local political leadership without notice as well as ferrying of people from other wards in a bid to neutralize views of other parties is highly deplorable as it leads to a recycling of already said views and at the same time robbing locals of the once-in-life opportunity to express their views on how they and the future generation should be governed.

Youth attendance at outreach meetings especially in Midlands and the two provinces of Matabeleland remain disturbingly on the low side. COPAC should urgently look into this matter. Also in need of urgent redress are cases of low attendances among the vulnerable segment of society.

Reports of meetings that are held when less than twenty people are in attendance, need urgent investigation as proposals reached under such circumstances hardly constitute collective community decisions.

Coaching is now a common practice among members of the two main political parties, the MDC T and ZANU PF, developments that are likely to see individual expression sacrificed at the altar of political party views. With these partisan approaches to outreach consultations, the risk of sidelining the views of other stakeholders looms high.

There is also a growing perception that in urban settings, COPAC teams have a tendency of rushing through Talking Points, in some cases taking no time to explain issues. ZZZICOMP deplores such practices as they constitute subtle denials to citizen rights to information on Talking Points.

The seven [7]minutes that are allocated for each thematic area is proving to be too limited to allow meaningful debates, scenarios that result in COPAC teams rushing through Talking Points in order to cover all thematic areas within the limited time allocated.