



EARLY WARNING
REPORT ON
POLITICALLY-
MOTIVATED
HUMAN RIGHTS
AND FOOD-
SECURITY
RELATED
VIOLATIONS

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ACRONYMS	DENOTATION
BACOSI	Basic Commodities Supply Side Intervention
CIO	Central Intelligence Organisation
FBO	Faith Based Organisations
GMB	Grain Marketing Board
GSF	Government Subsidized Food
NGO	Non Governmental Organisations
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
MDC - T	Movement for Democratic Change - Tsvangirai
MDP	Malicious Damage to Property
WFP	World Food Programme
ZANU PF	Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front
ZTV	Zimbabwe Television

Glossary of Terms

TERM	DEFINITION
MURDER	Unlawful and intentional killing of another person.
RAPE	Intentional, unlawful sexual intercourse with a woman without her consent.
SEXUAL HARASSMENT	Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult or threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety, discomfort and /or the feeling of insecurity as a result of sexual differences.
ASSAULT	Unlawfully and intentionally (i) applying force to the person of another or (ii) inspiring a belief in that other person that force is immediately to be applied to them.
KIDNAPPING/ABDUCTION	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of a person of liberty of movement and/or his/her custodians of control.
MALICIOUS DAMAGE TO PROPERTY	Consists of both arson and what used to be termed Malicious Injury to Property (MIP) which is; unlawful setting an immovable structure on fire with intent to injure another and malicious and intentional damaging of property of another.
THEFT	Unlawful taking of another's property
TORTURE	Any act by which severe pain or suffering, whether physical or mental is intentionally inflicted on a person for such purposes as obtaining from them information or a confession.
HARASSMENT/INTIMIDATION	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unlawfully subjecting one to pressure, insult or threat with intent to cause him/her to suffer anxiety, discomfort and /or the feeling of insecurity • Duress
UNLAWFUL DETENTION	Unlawful and intentional deprivation of one's liberty of movement by a person or persons in positions of authority.
DISPLACEMENT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Act of unlawfully, intentionally and forcibly evicting or causing someone to vacate or leave his/her usual place of residence or settlement as a result of political differences. • Forced evictions

Overview

The report documents politically motivated human rights violations one month after the formation of the inclusive government, particularly focusing on the extent to which the formation of the inclusive government has impacted on inter-party violence and food distribution mal-practices at both the macro and micro levels of society. The Report is presented in two sections, the first part focusing on politically motivated human rights violations while the second part documents food-related human rights violations.

The report is presented against the background of the untimely death on 6 March of Susan Tsvangirai [wife to Morgan Tsvangirai, the Prime Minister] in a tragic road accident along the Harare-Masvingo highway. Given that this incident occurred at a time when the new inclusive government had just been formed, a slight political mishap on either of the leadership of the two main political parties could have sparked inter-party tension and conflicts across the country.

It is also encouraging to note that since the onset of the new political dispensation, some changes have started to show on the macro front. On the economic front, prices of some basic goods have been stabilising, supermarkets shelves filling up [although with mostly imported goods] while the speculative mindset that had gripped business practices in Zimbabwe is also fast retreating.

The political front has also been witness to some positive developments, among the most relevant ones being the release [though on stringent bail conditions] of most of the 30 political prisoners and human rights activists, among which were Jestina Mukoko, the Director of the Zimbabwe Peace Project and the other ZPP staffer, Broderick Takawira. However the continued detention of the remaining three political prisoners, seven with their whereabouts unknown- remain a cause for deep concern as it is against the spirit of the power sharing agreement signed between ZANU PF and the two MDC factions.

On the administrative front, a three-tier ministerial set up comprising ministers drawn from the ZANU PF and the two MDC factions has also been created to spearhead the implementation of the national healing process although delays in rolling out the programme to grassroots levels of society are becoming cause for concern given seething victim-perpetrator relations across the country.

Equally worrying, are perceived delays in clearing outstanding issues relating to the unilateral appointment of provincial governors, central bank governor, Attorney General and permanent secretaries by the President. The Zimbabwe Peace Project implores upon the powers that be to speedily clear these outstanding issues as continued delays on these fundamental matters may be interpreted as lack of sincerity on the implementation of the Global Political Agreement. These delays may also send wrong signals to micro/ grassroots politics.

At grassroots levels it is generally political business as usual. Political mindsets of the past and polarizations are visibly manifest and most communities are still to open space for inter-party participation. Traditional leadership structures [headmen, village heads and chiefs], the local ZANU PF political leadership [councillors and district chairpersons], war veteran structures and even School Development Associations [SDAs] are reportedly still openly showing reluctance to incorporate MDC members, councillors and MPs into community development/political initiatives. It is even distressing to note that in areas where MDC councillors were elected as local leaders, parallel structures ["appointed councillors"] have been hastily formed in order to circumvent formal authority structures. Cases where kraal-heads suspected to be MDC have been stripped of their powers by chiefs have also been reported with a disturbing frequency.

Barely a month after the formation of the inclusive government, fixation in grassroots politics has reportedly shifted to preparations for the forthcoming elections, developments that are likely to see the inclusive agenda sacrificed at the altar of electoral politics. Little is being done at grassroots levels to earnestly explain what is entailed in both the Global Political Agreement and the inclusive Government. In fact, in most outreach speeches, the inclusive government agenda is cast /projected in exclusively transitory terms and thus mistakenly viewed as a process that is secondary to forthcoming elections.

Also worrisome is that despite ZPP early warning exhortations on the need to urgently address issues relating to victim access to remedy, these potentially social threatening issues are yet to be accorded priority attention, scenarios that may see communities regressing into theatres of revenge conflicts. Particularly disconcerting are reports that some perpetrators [allegedly basking

under the protection of the partisan police] remain free, showing no remorse and even threatening to repeat their previous atrocities with brazen impunity. Feelings of dejection and rejection have set in among victims of violence, scenarios that may see some resorting to own means to get redress. *The Zimbabwe Peace Project recommends that well-thought out reconciliation processes be rolled out to replace fear by non-violence coexistence, love, forgiveness and trust within communities. As the nation treads on this delicate path, it is important to note that long-lasting reconciliation can hardly be achieved through amnesia, that is, an officially imposed form of forgetting.*

Some state structures are seemingly yet to recast their mindsets and modus operandi in tandem with the unfolding all inclusive government dispensation. Reports from the ten provinces show that the police continue to selectively apply the Public Order and Security Act [POSA] to curtail the rights to peaceful assembly and association of any organization or individual suspected of being MDC. The law continues to be used to persecute human rights defenders and political activists and discourage them from exercising their rights to bail, freedom of association and expression. The riot police unit of the ZRP continue to use excessive force to break up peaceful demonstrations by human rights defenders and government critics.

In white-owned commercial farms, alleged police and army-led farm invasions, unlawful detentions of white commercial farmers, issuance of 24-hour eviction deadlines to farm owners, looting of farm property, displacements of farm workers and general disruption of farming activities continue with the fury and lawlessness reminiscent of the *jambanja* era, police maintaining their hands-off trademark, the ZANU PF leadership generally in denial mode while plaintive calls to end these invasions mostly by the two MDC leadership have been reduced to solo cries of John the Baptist in the wilderness. Just in the month of March, farms such as New March and Umfuli Banks farms [in Chegutu East] as well as Chidza and Nesbitt farms [in Masvingo], among others, have been invaded.

Political tolerance score remain disturbingly low and fragile in most communities, reports generally pointing to cross country incidents in which members of the public were still harassed, assaulted or threatened with evictions for petty 'offences' such as different views on politics and the economy, wearing own regalia, listening to studio 7, attending own political party meetings, among others. Following the death of Susan Tsvangirai, reports from across the ten provinces pointed to incidents in which members of the public were harassed, assaulted or even threatened with evictions from their communities allegedly because they had either attended the funeral of Susan Tsvangirai or merely expressed grief in public over her death. In Buhera West [Manicland], inter-party violence between ZANU PF and MDC T supporters flared up immediately after the burial of Susan Tsvangirai leaving in its wake a trail of destruction in which around ten homes, and livestock reportedly belonging to known MDC supporters were razed to the ground.

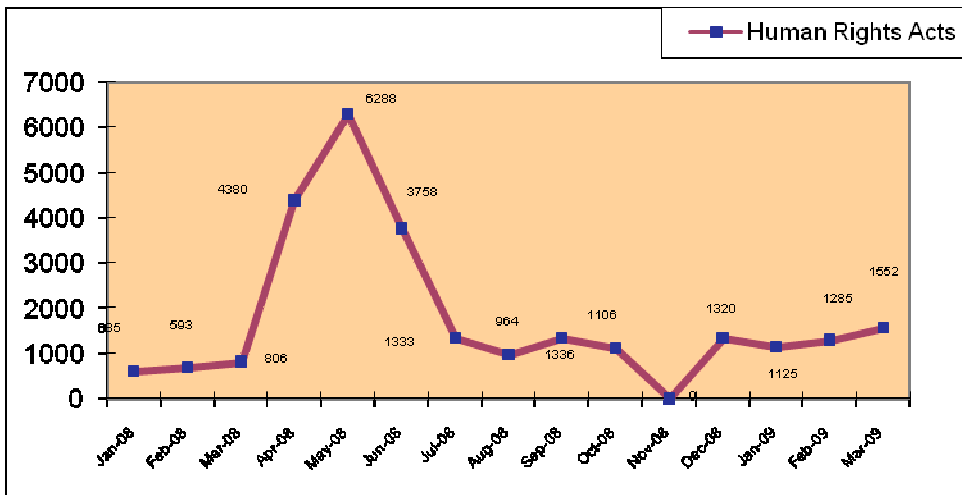
Against this background we note with deep concern that despite the formation of the inclusive government, human rights violations continue to surge with March recording 1552 from the February recording of 1285. As shown in the Acts Analysis Graph below, by end of March 2009, a cumulative toll of 26 529 had been recorded showing substantial cumulative increases from the January 2008 level of 585.

Cumulative Human Rights and Food-Related Politically-Motivated Violations

ACTS	2008	2009												TOTAL
		January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	
Murder	207	0	0	0										207
Rape	56	4	12	8										80
Kidnapping/abduction	496	21	20	17										554
Assault	4581	270	378	367										5596
Theft/looting	578	80	44	78										780
Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	979	40	29	28										1076
Torture	436	17	13	33										499
Unlawful Detention	487	37	41	35										600
Harassment/Intimidation	11954	553	658	787										13952
Displacement	2450	75	51	65										2641
Discrimination	306	28	39	134										507
Attempted Rape	23	0	0	0										23
Attempted Murder	14	0	0	0										14
TOTAL	22567	1125	1285	1552										26529

GRAPHIC DEPICTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Acts Analysis Graph



SECTION A PROVINCIAL INCIDENTS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Mashonaland West

Organized and overt forms of violence continued to decline, cases in which freedoms of expression, association and assembly are clandestinely curtailed were still reported at grassroots level. In most parts of the province there were reports of people being harassed for organizing, attending or publicly expressing grief over the death of Susan Tsvangirai, wife to Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. A threatening revenge mood remained in the air, perpetrators in most areas reportedly openly defiant to mounting demands for compensation for livestock and property looted in the run up to the 27 June elections. The national social healing outreach is yet to be felt in most parts of the province. The province also remained witness to continued invasions farms such as New March and Umfuli Banks farms in the Chegutu East constituency, looting of farm property, disruption of farming activities, displacement of farm workers and arrests, detentions and evictions of white commercial farmers with the police maintaining their traditional blind eye while some reports even point to police/army-escorted farm invasions. Inter-party participation is yet to be inculcated and nurtured at community level with most local structures reportedly openly expressing discomfiture at working with MDC leadership structures. The net impression is that grassroots politics is yet to open up to the spirit of inclusivity. In fact, the mood has since shifted to preparations for forthcoming elections.

Midlands

Some semblance of calm and stability continued to prevail in the province, people freely moving from one area to another without any restrictions. However while there were reports of MDC rallies in some areas, freedoms of expression, association and assembly are still covertly ring-fenced. Fear of retribution also remained a major albatross around people's political conscience, people still extremely cautious to express their political mind in public places. As reported in other provinces, there were pockets of inter-party tension and conflicts in several parts of the province following the tragic death of Susan Tsvangirai with even allegations of public harassment for attending or expressing grief over her death. Equally disconcerting were continued reports of people being either verbally or physically abused allegedly for commenting glowingly on both the inclusive Government and the USA\$100 voucher that was paid to civil servants as allowance since February. In Gweru Urban, several Midlands State University students were on 2nd March assaulted by the ZRP allegedly accused of encouraging other students to demonstrate outside the campus. In the same area, members of the public were reportedly assaulted by ZRP after they had been spotted putting up ZCTU posters informing people about the International women's day. Also as noted in other provinces, at local level, lines remained drawn between the two main political parties, village heads, chiefs, councillors and war veterans reportedly ordering community structures not to work with members of the MDC. The political leadership is yet to earnestly take the inclusive government outreach and the national healing program to the provinces.

Mashonaland Central

While reports of organized political violence have substantially dropped, fear of retribution remained deeply entrenched in the psyche of ordinary people. In areas such as Shamva South, Mt Darwin, Guruve North, Bindura, Muzarabani and Mbire, it was generally political business as usual with most known and suspected perpetrators of violence reportedly still moving around with impunity and even threatening their known victims with further retribution if they dare demand redress to past injustices. Most victims of violence are yet to access police assistance and protection in their efforts to seek remedy for past injustices. Micro political activities remained polarized, with most MDC feedback and community development meetings covertly restricted by the local leadership. Reports pointed to several incidents in which members of the MDC were publicly chastised as sell-outs while those who associate with MDC councillors and MPs or attend MDC feedback meetings are reportedly harassed. As reported in other provinces, incidents in which villagers were harassed and even threatened with eviction for attending or showing public grief over the funeral of Susan Tsvangirai were also received. Unfolding scenarios suggest that politics of inclusivity remains a

stranger in the grassroots politics of this province. Freedoms of association, assembly, expression and remedy remain clandestinely restricted. The national healing campaign was also yet to be felt in this province.

Masvingo

While there were some calls for zero-tolerance to political violence by the provincial leadership, grassroots politics remain a cauldron of polarity. Reports point to pronounced resistance to the idea of inclusive government especially within elements of the war veterans association. As was the case in other provinces, there were pockets of political turbulence following the death of Susan Tsvangirai, in some instances those who attended the funeral or were found mourning her death reportedly harassed. Inter-party political tension flared up when it was alleged that some ZANU PF youth militia and activists had received the US\$100 vouchers when they were not civil servants working in Government. The political climate remained charged with threats of revenge violence, victims claiming general lack of support from the police and other state structures when they seek remedy to past injustices. Grassroots politics in the province is yet to allow inter-party participation with some reports of field-days being blocked or disrupted allegedly because they were held at MDC councillors' homesteads, those intending to attend reportedly intimidated or threatened with eviction from their homesteads by their village heads and chiefs. This polarity is even manifest in school meetings with SDAs in most parts of the province reportedly refusing to work with elect MDC councillors, preferring to work with "appointed" councillors [who in the main are from the ZANU PF stable]. Cases in which kraal-heads suspected to be MDC have been stripped of village headship have also been reported.

Mashonaland East

While there has been a general wane in openly orchestrated inter-party violence, the province remained home to clandestine restrictions on individual freedoms of expression, association, assembly and remedy. Reports from areas such as Goromonzi North, Chikomba East, Mutoko South, Marondera West, Mudzi East and Murewa generally pointed to low levels of tolerance to MDC politics with incidents in which MDC feedback meetings were disrupted while some people mourning the death of Susan Tsvangirai or commenting positively about changes in the economy since the onset of the inclusive government were reportedly harassed. Also as observed in other provinces, revenge politics remained in the air, community relations generally strained, some perpetrators reportedly showing brazen impunity by going to the homesteads of their victims threatening them with further retribution. The net impression is that the political mindset of the past is still dominant in most areas, a development that may pose a potent threat to national healing efforts in the province.

Harare

The province's high density areas such as Kuwadzana, Harare South and Central, Chitungwiza, Mbare, Dzivarasekwa and Highfield West remained turbulence-prone areas, with even reports of inter-party clashes in Mufakose and Glen View following the death of Susan Tsvangirai. Reports still pointed to several incidents in which suspected elements within the police and army continue to harass or assault members of the public on streets or night-clubs. In several areas, vendors were reportedly threatened with eviction from their market stalls allegedly because they had attended the funeral of Susan Tsvangirai while others were forced to close shops and marketing stalls in order to attend the burial of retired army- General Vitalis Zvinvashe, at the national Heroes Acre on 14 March. Those who were evicted from Mbare flats during the countdown to the June presidential election run-off were still to access redress while in Harare Central, a reportedly peaceful march by 30 WOZA activists on 13 March against continued farm invasions was highhandedly disrupted by the police. An award-winning author and poet was reportedly arrested on the grounds that the poem [*My Uniform*] which he had recited to a large crowd gathered to celebrate World Poetry Day on 21 March on First street was offensive. The poem had highlighted queue-jumping by men in police and army uniform, using their uniforms to gain advantage over civilian members of society elbowing each other to buy scarce goods. The event had been organized by Zimbabwe Poets for Human Rights in collaboration with MISA. Unfolding scenarios in this province seem to suggest that while inter-party violence has declined, violence remains embedded within some state structures.

Manicaland

Although as observed across the country, overt party-orchestrated violence has visibly subsided, restrictions on individual freedoms of association, expression, assembly and remedy are still clandestinely ring-fenced. Also as witnessed in most provinces, there were several incidents in which those gathered to mourn the death of Susan Tsvangirai were ordered to disperse by suspected ZANU PF youths and war veterans. Retaliatory violence remained a threatening reality as victim access to remedy remained thwarted by perpetrators who were allegedly enjoying police protection. Despite the Prime Minister's press assurance that there would be no more land invasions, the province remained witness to continued spates of ZRP and ZNA-led farm invasions. At local level, yester political divide remained visible with MDC supporters reportedly being denied participation in village development committees.

Matebeleland North

As in the past, the province remained relatively politically calm however with some sporadic incidents of violence in areas such as Binga, Tshlotsho, Hwange and Umguza. Resistance to the ideals of the inclusive government remained pronounced within some elements of the war veterans association. Like in other provinces, pockets of unbridled political intolerance were experienced, supporters of the MDC reportedly either harassed or threatened with eviction allegedly for attending the burial of Susan Tsvangirai. Threats of revenge remained in the air with most victims experiencing hurdles when they approach former base commanders [mostly war veterans] demanding compensation for property and livestock looted in the run up to the 27 June elections. The net impression is that the fundamental principles on which the inclusive government was formed are yet to be incorporated into grassroots structures as most MDC meetings are reportedly disrupted by police mostly on the grounds that they have not been notified although ZANU PF meetings are reportedly conducted without any such restrictions. Prospects for a robust promotion of the ideals of inclusivity appear dim as the province is reportedly already in election mode with full scale party restructuring meetings across the province.

Matebeleland South

While inter-party conflicts are now rare occurrences, rights to association, expression, assembly and remedy are still stressed in most rural parts of the province. Also as experienced in other provinces, sporadic inter-party violence flared up following the death of Susan Tsvangirai, those who attended the funeral or found mourning her death were reportedly subjected to various forms of abuse. Incidents of intra-party factional violence were also reported, some MDC members reportedly being harassed by fellow MDC members for attending a rally addressed by an MP who belongs to another faction while in the Gwakwe village of Gwanda North, inter-party clashes between MDC [M] and MDC [T] erupted with MDC M as victims of harassment and intimidation. Also as in other provinces, at local level, the political divide remains very visible with MDC structures denied participation in community development programs.

Bulawayo

Although metropolitan Bulawayo was generally calm throughout the month, incidents which threaten freedoms of expression, association, assembly, and remedy were still experienced in several parts of the province. Propensity to violence also remained entrenched within state arms, mainly the police, army, prison, CIO as well as war veterans.

Below are detailed statistics of acts of violence in the ten provinces of Zimbabwe.

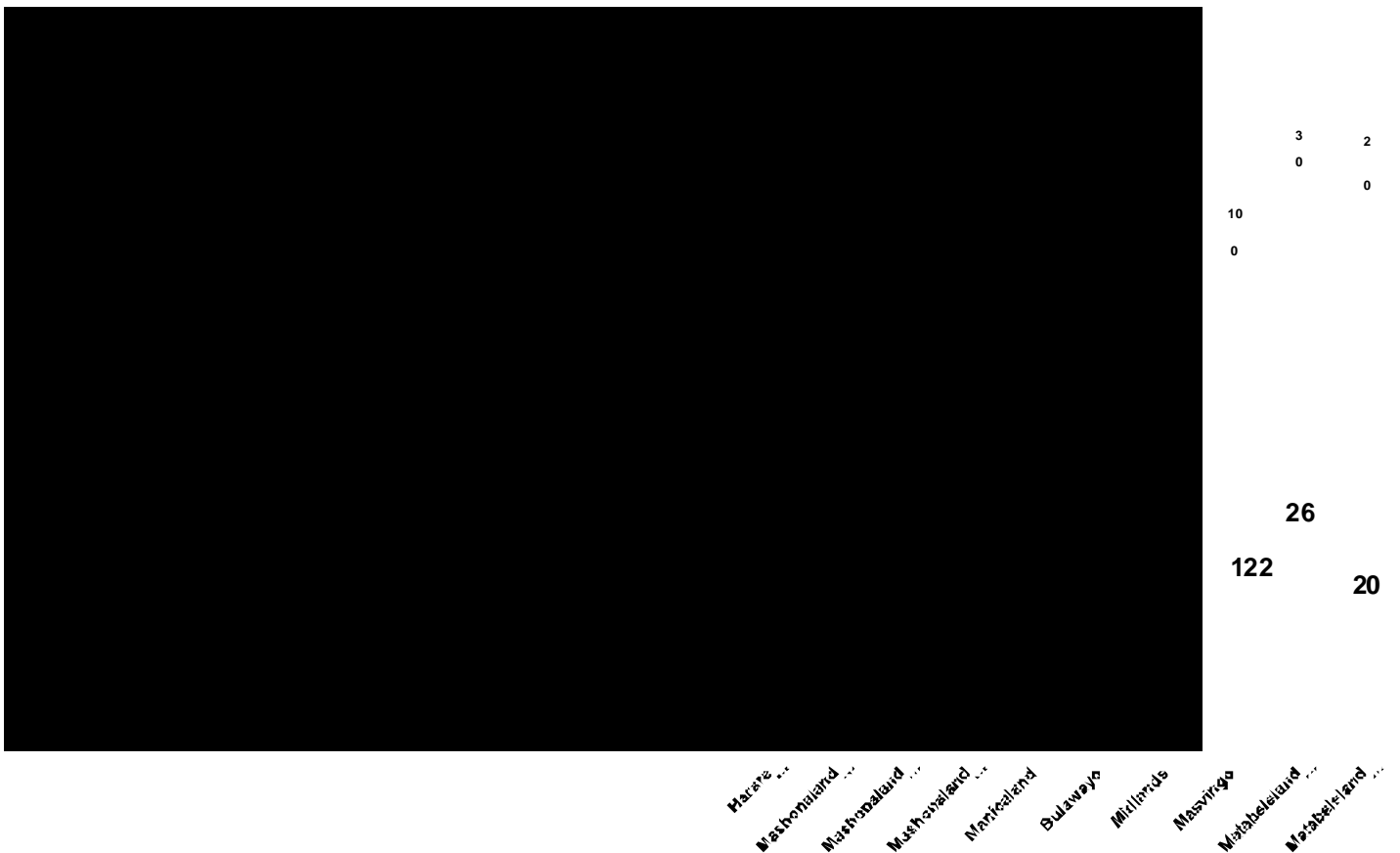
ANALYSIS OF STATISTICAL PROFILES OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BY PROVINCES

ACTS OF ANALYSIS TABLE

ACTS	Bulawayo	Mat. South	Mat. North	Midlands	Masvingo	Harare	Mash. East	Mash. West	Mash. Central	Manicaland	TOTAL
Murder	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Rape/Sexual Harassment	0	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	1	3	8
Kidnapping/abduction	0	2	0	2	1	3	5	0	0	4	17
Assault	2	13	3	70	31	67	46	41	16	78	367
Theft/looting	0	1	3	6	24	11	7	4	8	14	78
MDP	0	0	0	1	8	0	4	2	0	13	28
Torture	0	0	1	3	1	2	1	1	0	24	33
Unlawful Detention	0	2	0	3	9	5	0	0	2	14	35
Intimidation /harassment	31	20	26	86	122	111	67	97	64	163	787
Displacement	0	2	3	8	10	7	5	9	8	13	65
Discrimination	0	1	0	1	35	11	5	12	10	59	134
Total	33	41	36	183	241	217	141	166	109	385	1552

GRAPHIC DEPICTION OF ACTS

Graphically, scenarios were as shown below:

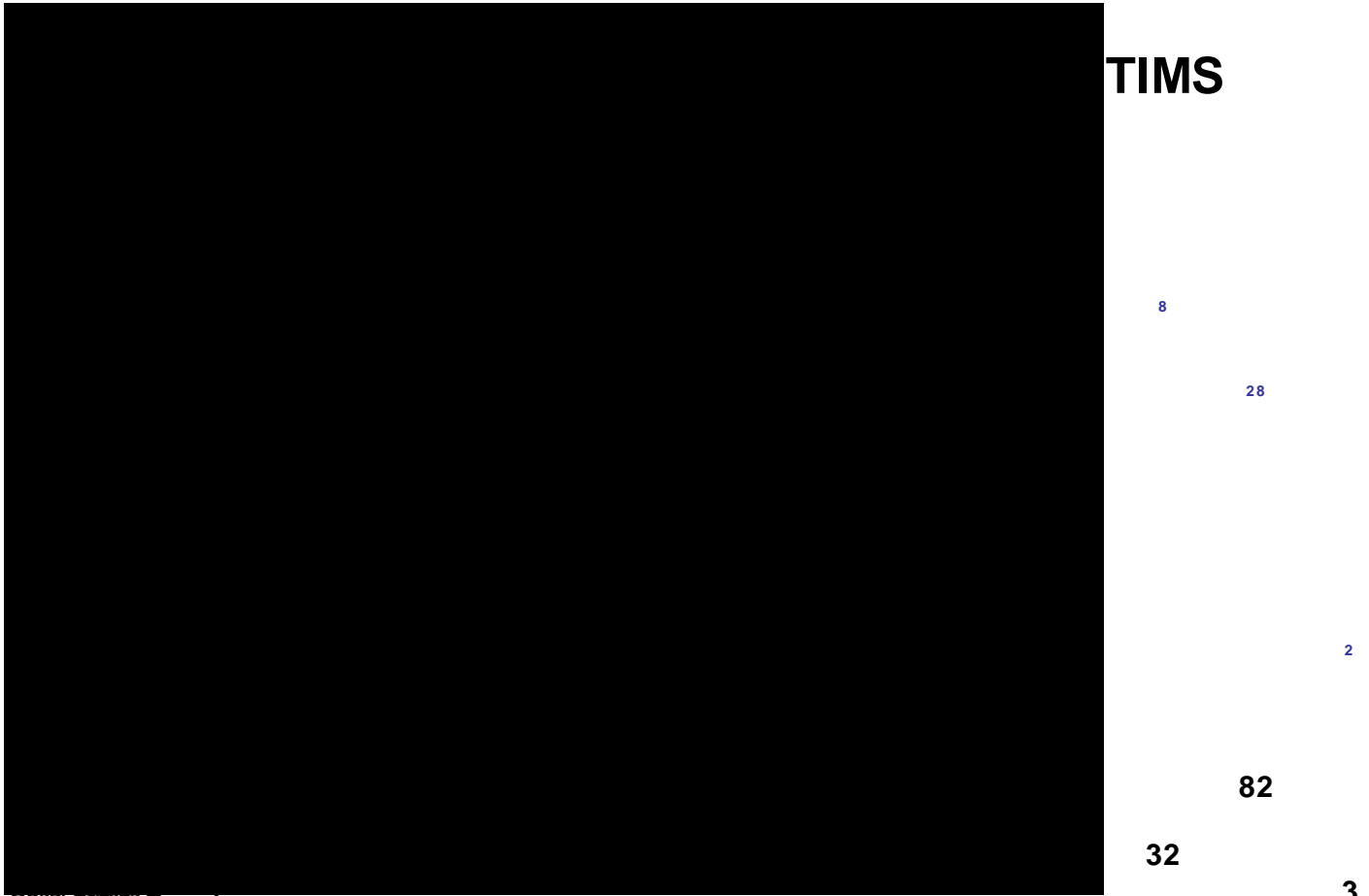


Observations

- A gross acts toll of 1552 cases was recorded in March showing an increase from their February level of 1285.
- Toll density was concentrated in Manicaland [385], Masvingo [241], Harare [217], Midlands [183] and Mashonaland West [166] while the whole of Matebeleland region [Bulawayo [33], Matebeleland South [41] and Matebeleland North [36] remained in the least density zones.
- As in the past, harassments and assaults remained the most commonly committed offences.

Concluding Remarks
 Human rights violations continue to increase despite the formation of the inclusive government on 13 March. Respect for human rights appears to be still on the low side in grassroots communities. The need for multi-party driven zero- tolerance -to- violence campaigns remains overdue.

GENDER-VICTIMS ANALYSIS GRAPH



MDC-Female

- A total victim toll of 1423 was recorded showing a sharp increase from the February toll of 899.
- Of the total, 941 were male while 482 were female showing increases from their February levels of 465 and 361, respectively.
- Unknowns remained the main victims of violence in both ZANU PF and MDC, however, with the number of MDC female victims [237] almost twice that of the ZANU PF male victim toll of 554.
- MDC-T Female, the Unknown victim toll at 303 remained disturbingly high suggesting possibility of indiscriminate violence.

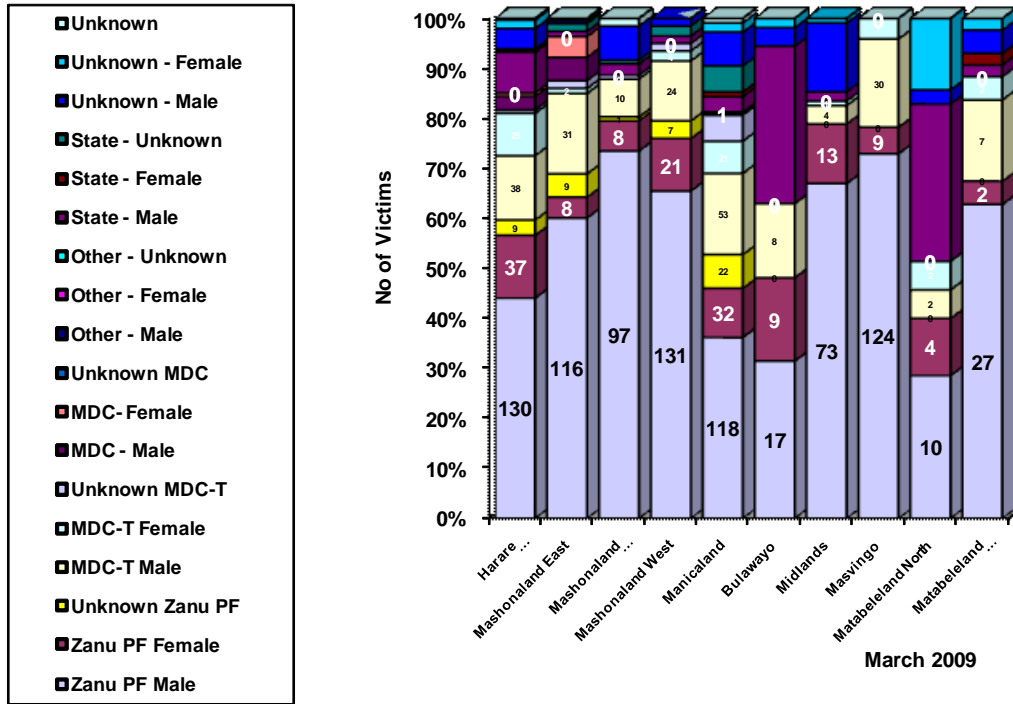
MDC-T - Male

Concluding Remarks

The month of March witnessed a significant rise in victim toll with the MDC victim still on the disturbingly high side. Male victim toll remain high in both the MDC and ZANU PF.

GENDER-PERPETRATOR ANALYSIS GRAPH

GENDER ANALYSIS FOR PERPETRATORS



Observations

- There was a very substantial increase in the perpetrator toll from 680 in February to 1557 by March. Of this total toll, 1228 were males while 242 were females with a small fraction of the unknowns.
- As in the past, the main perpetrators remained ZANU PF members with a total record of 843 perpetrators, a figure that is almost 7 times higher than the MDC perpetrator toll of 207.
- MDC-M perpetrator figures in both the male and female stable remain on the insignificant side.
- The ZANU PF perpetrator toll remains higher on both sexes with the ZANU PF female perpetrator toll [143] almost equal to the total MDC T perpetrator toll of 207.
- There was also an increase in state perpetrator toll from 22 in February to 78, a trend that could be partly accounted by allegations of police and army involvement in farm invasions, unlawful detentions and disruption of public demonstrations.
- Perpetrator density remained concentrated in Manicaland, Masvingo and Mashonaland East with low perpetrator densities in all the provinces of Matabeleland.

Concluding Remarks

While there was a sharp rise in gross perpetrator toll with the bulk being ZANU PF perpetrators across both sexes. The need to embark on a robust multi-party zero political tolerance campaign remains critical.

SECTION B

REPORT ON FOOD DISTRIBUTION AND HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

While most provinces experienced an improvement in food supply with most rural dwellers turning early to their fields for the greens to augment their fragile food situation, livelihood food security in the country remains severely challenged. Food fragility vary from province to province and from one district to another with some areas seemingly out of the food danger zone while others expect very little or nothing from their fields. Continued food aid provision is needed to augment the fragile food situation in most provinces. While NGO food interventions can be scaled down in some areas, whole withdrawal/suspension spells a food security disaster for the nation.

Vetting, registration, and distribution of food/inputs/medical supplies remain fraught with malpractices of the past politically motivated de-registrations, lack of transparency, food politicization, looting and scorched earth tactics where donors are deliberately diverted from known or suspected political opponents, scenarios that have relegated distribution processes to cauldrons of polarity and conflicts

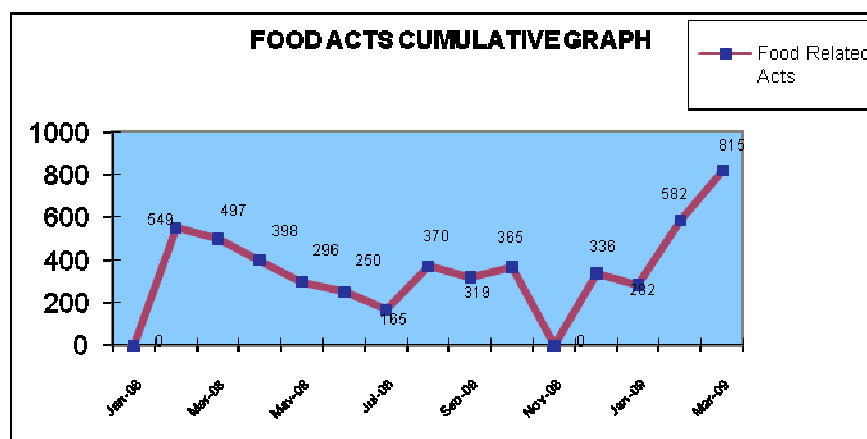
FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Since January 2008, a cumulative toll of 5597 cases of food-related human rights violations had been recorded, 815 of which were recorded in March. Of this cumulative toll [5597], 3659 were cases of discrimination, 99 cases of violence and 1839 cases of harassment.

Cumulative Food-Related Acts

2008 TOTAL	2009	Food-Related Violations			
		HARASSMENT	VIOLENCE	DISCRIMINATION	TOTAL
	Jan - Dec 2008	1365	39	2514	3918
549	January	46	6	230	282
497	February	68	16	498	582
398	March	360	38	417	815
296	April				
250	May				
165	June				
370	July				
319	August				
365	September				
376	October				
0	November				
336	December				
3921	TOTAL	1839	99	3659	5597

GRAPHIC SPREAD OF FOOD -RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS
Food Acts Cumulative Graph



Food-related human rights violations continue to increase cumulatively from 262 in January, 582 in February to 815 by end of March, a worrisome trend given the dire food situation in the country.

PROVINCIAL FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

Mashonaland West

Although food access has improved with some villagers turning to their fields for food relief and maize meal readily available in most urban shops, the food security situation remain fragile in this province. Partisan distribution, looting, late provision and politically motivated internal displacements from homesteads combined to deny rural and peri-urban farmers access to maize seeds, fertilizer and draught power. Most farmers are reportedly facing low or no crop harvest situations. There is therefore need for continued supplementary efforts by both local and international food aid agencies. Vetting, registrations and distribution of food, agricultural inputs and medical suppliers were reportedly still subjected to political interference, with most government officials [especially Arex officers and army officers manning Maguta] generally accused of being overtly pro-ZANU PF. The net impression is that distribution processes are still pro-ZANU PF members, opaque and shorn of inter-party involvement

Manicaland

Use of food as a political tool to demand loyalty in both rural and urban areas remained prevalent and clandestinely executed through a network of traditional leaders and local ZANU PF activists working in cahoots with an allegedly coterie of partisan government officers. Elected MDC councillors were still denied participation in processes involving mobilization, registration and distribution of food/inputs and ARVs. Incidents of de-listings on political grounds, looted and turning away of donors viewed as pro-MDC remain recurring issues in most reports. Although by end of March some areas were experiencing reduced food stress, most areas [for reasons as observed in Mashonaland West] remain vulnerable and requiring continued food aid supplementary interventions. Also as observed in other provinces, ideals of inclusivity are yet to be internalized as guiding principles in food distribution systems.

Midlands

While the food situation has slightly improved with both urban and rural dwellers reportedly resorting to premature harvests, both rural and urban livelihood food security situation remains stressed. In most rural areas, villagers [for combination of lack of draught power, lack of seed maize and fertilizer, too much rainfall and politically-motivated displacements from homesteads] were said to be facing prospects of extremely low or no harvests at all while in urban

areas maize meal prices were generally dropping, access remains a major restricting factor. While some had access to urban farming, only a few had access to these opportunities. Under these circumstances, reports that some food aid agencies intend to fold up by April is indeed sad news to the province. It is indeed sad news because existent food distribution systems were reportedly still fraught with allegations of partisanship and incidents of de-listings under circumstances that smack of political interference.

Mashonaland Central

The food security situation in the province looks fragile although by March food stress [in both rural and urban areas] had slightly improved. As observed in other provinces, food stability scenarios vary from district to district with some almost out of the danger zone while others were said to be facing little or no harvests at all. It was therefore with much relief to note that NGOs such as Christian Care, Farm Community Trust Zimbabwe, Red Cross and World Food Program maintained their operational visibility in the province. As observed in other provinces, distribution systems remain reportedly subject to political interferences, in some cases NGOs suspected of being pro-MDC reportedly forced to withdraw from areas while in other cases, false information was provided to food aid agencies in order to deny target villages access to inputs, fertilizer and medical services. The province is thus still home to partisan and corrupt distribution systems. The politics of inclusivity is yet to be felt at grassroots food distribution points. Elected MDC councillors are yet to be accorded partnership status in the food distribution systems of the province.

Masvingo

While by end of March most people [in both rural and urban areas] were reportedly augmenting their fragile food reserves with early harvests, Masvingo remain food-stressed and suitable candidate for continued supplementary food aid. However while NGO food relief interventions were still visible, most previous allegations of food politics, corruption and looting still dog distribution processes. A survey on food distribution by World Food Program and Care International in Chivi North in early March pointed to cases of food politicization and bribery in areas such as Chigaipa, Utsinda, Vuravhi and Takavarasha. The net impression is that inter-party partnerships are yet to grace food distribution processes in most parts of the province.

Mashonaland East

Access to food in both rural and urban areas remained a major challenge although as observed in other provinces, the situation has slightly improved as people could now supplement their reserves with grain harvested from their fields. Allegations of use of food as a political tool to either punish political opponents or reward political supporters remained echoed in most reports. Food distributions, be they state or non state are either directly or clandestinely controlled by ZANU PF, scenarios that have seen most people being discriminated against on grounds that are suspected to be politically motivated.

Harare

While food supply has visibly improved as most food varieties are now readily available and people can also augment this with urban agriculture, access remains the main challenge for the bulk of the population. This fragile food situation was reportedly worsened by the fact that vetting, registrations for and distribution of food/inputs/ medical supplies remained fraught with allegations of politically motivated discriminations. On the whole, unfolding scenarios strongly suggest that values of inclusivity, impartiality and transparency are still to creep into food distribution processes.

Matabeleland North

Access to food remained a major challenge with some people [in both rural and urban areas] reportedly relying on greens from their fields to augment their severely emaciated food reserves. Continued NGO food aid intervention is needed to prop up the fragile food situation in most parts of the province as most areas are expecting extremely low

harvests due to late access to seed maize and fertilizer as well as shortage of drought power. Political violence also contributed as most of the displaced villagers were still afraid to return to their village before the political situation had stabilized. Most of the earlier noted politically -motivated food discrimination malpractices are still visible. Grassroots food distribution systems are yet to reflect ideals of inclusivity enshrined in the Global Political Agreement.

Matebeleland South

As reported in Matebeleland North, the food security situation remains critical with most villagers generally facing prospects of low crop harvests. While most villagers are currently resorting to premature crop harvests to augment their food reserves, their food plight is set to worsen if food aid agencies suspend or scale down their operations in the next few months. Reports from most areas generally depict an uncertain food security situation as most of their crops did not do well due to excessive rainfall and shortage fertiliser.

Bulawayo

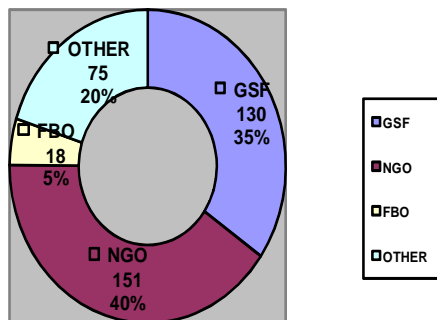
While food supply in most shops has visibly improved, as in metropolitan Harare, access remained a recurring challenge. Continued efforts by both local and international NGOs are welcome to avert a possible deterioration in livelihood food security. The food security situation in metropolitan Bulawayo is particularly dire because its catchment areas are drought prone. Transparent and partisan distribution systems should be put in place to ward off alleged political interferences.

SPREAD OF FOOD-RELATED HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES BY PROVINCES

HARASSMENT	Hara re	Manical and	Mash East	Mash West	Mash Central	Bulaw ayo	Mat Nort h	Mat South	Masvin go	Midlan ds	TOT AL
Forced to attend political meetings	4	1	3	0	1	0	0	0	1	6	16
Ordered to produce party card	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	9
Ordered to take off party regalia	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	0	0	8	14
Forced to chant party slogans	2	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	4
Ordered to denounce one's party	15	25	19	36	20	0	5	3	0	37	160
Summoned to meeting	1	2	0	2	1	0	0	0	2	6	14
Other	31	44	12	33	7	6	2	1	0	13	143
TOTAL	56	74	34	75	30	1	8	6	4	72	360
VIOLENCE											
Abduction/unlawful detention	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Sexual violence	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1

Malicious Damage to Property (MDP)	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	5	0	6
Physical Attack	1	2	1	4	0	0	0	0	16	3	26
Grievous bodily harm	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4
TOTAL	1	3	1	4	0	0	1	0	21	7	38
DISCRIMINATION											
Denied access to GSF	0	1	3	16	24	0	6	3	0	45	98
Denied seeds & fertiliser	0	14	14	8	5	0	2	2	3	8	56
Denied tillage support	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	7
Denied Agricultural Credit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied Food Loan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Denied Food Relief	32	31	17	72	16	2	3	1	22	33	234
Denied Irrigation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Denied Education Assistance	0	4	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5
Denied Medical Assistance	0	8	0	1	0	0	0	0	2	2	13
Other	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TOTAL	32	95	37	106	46	2	11	7	31	95	417
O VERRALL TOTAL	89	123	72	185	76	3	20	13	56	174	815

FOOD SOURCES CHART



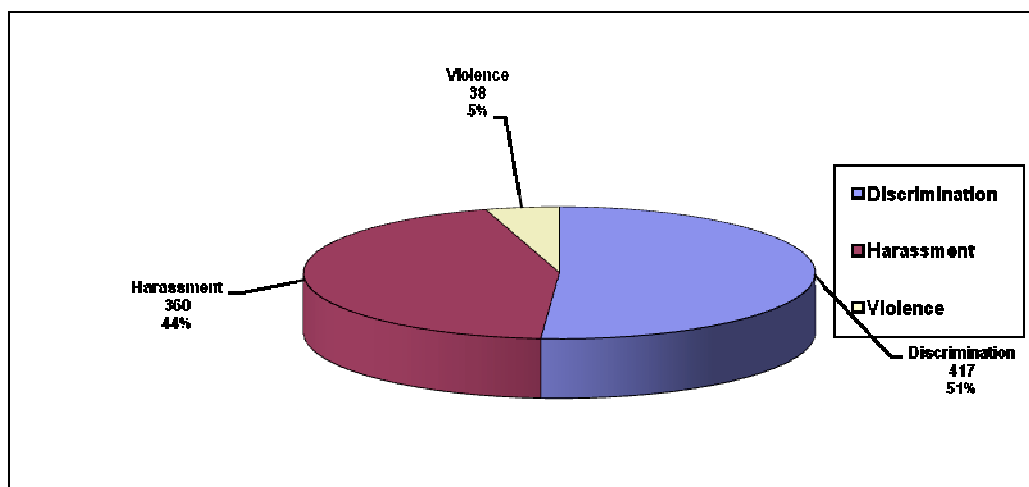
Observations on Sources of Food

- GSF, NGOs, FBOs remain the main sources of food with other sources also maintaining their visible contribution.
- 65% of the food is sourced from non state sources while 40 % from state sources.

Remarks

Non state sources remain the main source of food, constituting for 65% of the food.

PREVALENCE OF VIOLATIONS CHART



Observations on Prevalence of Food-Related Human Rights Abuses

Discriminations

- Discrimination was the most prevalent violation, constituting 51% of the gross prevalence score of 815.
- Discrimination was most prevalent in Mashonaland West, Midlands and Manicaland while Bulawayo and Matebeleland South had least prevalence tolls.
- The bulk of these discriminations took the form of denials of food relief, access to GSF and seeds and fertiliser.

Harassments

- Harassment was the second most prevalent form of violation, constituting 44 % of the gross prevalence toll.
- Harassments were most prevalent in Mashonaland West, Manicaland and Midlands with most harassments being for failure to denounce one's party, among others.

Violence

- Violence prevalence increased from its February level of 3% to 5 % by end of March, the bulk of violations being physical and MDPs.

Concluding Remarks

Politicisation of food remains prevalent, interfering with fairness in the distribution of food, inputs and medical supplies. Discrimination was the most prevalent form of violation. The need for non-partisan and transparent food distribution systems in which all parties to the inclusive government have a role to play remains on the high side.

EMERGING ISSUES AND THE WAY FORWARD

Despite the formation of the inclusive government, human rights violations remain on an upward surge while the previous era mindset remain embedded with some elements of the political leadership, police, army, war veterans and state prosecutors.

While a three-tier ministerial set up comprising ministers drawn from the ZANU PF and the two MDC factions has been created to spearhead the implementation of the national healing process, its outreach is yet to be felt at grassroots level of society. This delay is particularly worrying given that victims of violence are seething with anger at being denied access to remedy. A well-thought reconciliation process should be rolled out to replace fear by non-violence coexistence and build confidence and trust within communities. As the nation treads on this delicate path, it is also important to note that long-lasting reconciliation can hardly be achieved through amnesia, an officially imposed form of forgetting.

While reports from the ten provinces point to a substantial retreat in inter-party violence, the ideals of the inclusive government are yet to filter down to grassroots levels of society with most communities yet to open up to inter-party participation. Practices where parallel structures ["appointed councillors"] are created to sideline elected councillors is hardly in the interest of positive inter-party relations.

Ongoing fresh farm invasions are hardly in the interest of national socioeconomic recovery. The leadership must take a common stand on this issue and stop them forthwith. Besides promoting lawlessness, they constitute a banal breach of the Global Political Agreement to which the three principals are signatory.

While most provinces experienced an improvement in food supply with most rural dwellers turning early to their fields for the greens to augment their fragile food situation, food security in the country remains severely stressed. Continued food aid provision is needed to augment the fragile food situation in most provinces. While NGO food interventions can be scaled down in some areas, whole withdrawal/suspension spells a food security disaster for the nation.

Vetting, registration, and distribution of food/inputs/medical supplies remain fraught with past malpractices of politically motivated de-registrations, lack of transparency, food politicization, looting and scorched earth tactics where donors are deliberately diverted from known or suspected political opponents, scenarios that have relegated distribution processes to cauldrons of polarity and conflicts. More space should be given to food aid NGOs to freely undertake their food relief efforts.

BACKGROUND & FORMATION



The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) was conceived shortly after 2000 by a group of Churches and NGOs working or interested in human rights and peace-building initiatives, and was to become a vehicle for civic interventions in a time of political crisis. In particular ZPP sought to monitor and document incidents of human rights violations and politically-motivated breaches of the peace e.g. violence.

Today, ZPP's member organisations include, Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators' Platform, Zimbabwe Civic Education Trust, ZimRights, Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET).

VISION

To see Zimbabwe transform into a society that cherishes the pursuit and realisation of justice, freedom, peace, human dignity and development.

MISSION

ZPP is a community based Trust that promotes peace through documenting human rights violations and disseminating them to stakeholders and policy makers.

GOAL

To reduce violence and human rights violations through community-based and national monitoring, documentation of cases of human rights abuses, and making partnerships and alliances that tap the expertise and assets of local communities and local and regional organisations that will help the attainment of sustainable peace and democracy in Zimbabwe.

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