



IN TRANSFORMATION  
INITIATIVE

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# MONTHLY UPDATE

## ZIMBABWE



### MAIN STORIES

**Zanu-PF Politics:  
Contradictions and  
Uncertainties**

**Sanctions**

**Mnangagwa and the  
Church**

## HIGHLIGHTS

- The United States (US) Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) on 4 March designated 11 individuals, including President Emmerson Mnangagwa and three entities for their involvement in corruption or serious human rights abuses. Speaking for the first time in public after the announcement by Washington, Mnangagwa said Zimbabwe would not accept anything less than a total removal of sanctions.
- It was alleged in March 2024 that ruling Zanu-PF structures are engaged in covert political manoeuvres to push for Mnangagwa's third term in office. However, it is now alleged that Mnangagwa plans to extend his second and final term by at least two years until 2030 after abandoning plans to abolish term limits.
- Controversial businessman, Wicknell Chivayo donated US\$1 million to the Zion Christian Church (ZCC) led by one of Mnangagwa's top allies, Bishop Nehemiah Mutendi.
- The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) said at the end of March that it recorded 188 cases of human rights violations in February, up from 154 registered in the previous month.
- Mnangagwa's appointment of Deputy Prosecutor General Michael Reza as new Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) chairperson to replace Justice Loice Matanda-Moyo, who is the new Prosecutor General, is unconstitutional, lawyers say. Reza is also accused of corruption.
- Zimbabwe Mining Federation president Henrietta Rushwaya has been arrested after allegedly conning Indian investors out of US\$1 million in a botched mining transaction.

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- Presenting the 2023 fourth quarter crime statistics report, ZimStat's Tinashe Mwadiwa said police recorded 221 596 offences over the period October to December 2023. This represents a 21,5% increase from 182 427 offences recorded in the third quarter.
- The annual inflation rate continued to climb in March 2024, hitting an over one-year high of 55.3%, up from 47.6% in February.
- From July 2024, Zimbabwe will allow duty-free imports of maize, rice and cooking oil, reversing a policy that introduced levies on imports, aimed at protecting local production.
- Mnangagwa appointed John Mushayavanhu as the new governor of the central bank on 28 March, almost a month before the end of John Mangudya's term of office.
- Zimbabwe is allowing a free fall in its currency that it is no longer keen to defend and is instead working on a new exchange rate potentially backed by gold
- The Famine Early Warning Systems Network (FEWS NET) said on 28 March that following the premature cessation of the rainy season around mid-January, significantly below-normal to failed harvests, high food and other commodity prices, and constrained access to markets are expected to continue to drive area-level Crisis (Integrated Food Security Phase Classification – IPC- Phase 3) outcomes.
- The US criticised the government after some US humanitarian workers and contractors were rounded up in Harare and allegedly harassed, detained and then deported by authorities.
- Zimbabwe's electoral commission sent a mission to Moscow to observe the Russian elections in which Vladimir Putin won another six-year term as president.



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- Russia donated 25,000 tons of grain and 23,000 tons of fertilizer to Zimbabwe to help combat the effects of El Nino-induced drought.
- Zambia and Zimbabwe are retendering the \$5 billion Batoka Gorge project to build a hydropower plant they previously awarded to General Electric (GE) and Power Construction Corp. of China and expect to select new bidders by September 2025.
- Secretary generals of southern African former liberation movements met in Victoria Falls, with deliberations on Western interference in the internal affairs of African nations taking centre stage.

