

STOP CRIMINALISING NGOS

Persecuting CSOs can only serve to further alienate Zim from International Community

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Henrietta Rushwaya who was recently arrested for gold smuggling meets President Mnangagwa, VP Mohadi, Finance and Mines Minister

By Crisis Report

THE Zimbabwean government continues to blame 'sanctions' for the country's economic woes yet it remains crystal clear that corruption and looting of national resources have largely contributed to the economic crisis in the country.

President Emmerson Mnangagwa's administration has apparently failed to walk the talk in the fight against corruption with his cronies being implicated in high level corruption scandals.

This brief seeks to expose some of the massive corruption cases by top Mnangagwa allies, political heavyweights as well as individuals with connections to the ruling party, Zanu (PF).

The brief covers some of the corruption cases since the coming in of the 'new dispensation' following the ascendancy of Mnangagwa to power through a military coup in November 2017.

The brief therefore excludes the Billions of United States Dollars (Including the US\$15 Billion from Marange Diamonds) looted during the Mugabe era.

Current facts, as also confirmed by the Zimbabwe Anti Corruption Commission (ZACC) show that Zimbabwe is losing an estimated US\$2 Billion yearly due to corruption.

It is logical to conclude that the cases contained in this brief are just but a tip of the iceberg in as far as the deep rooted corruption in Zimbabwe is concerned.

1. <https://www.newzimbabwe.com/zanu-pf-youths-turn-up-the-heat-on-corrupt-mnangagwa-chiwengally/>

In February 2020, the Zanu PF Youth League accused one of Mnangagwa's key allies, Kuda Tagwirei of being behind the economic havoc in Zimbabwe adding that

he was among a cartel of corrupt business people in the country. Tagwirei was accused of sponsoring underhand dealings in the fuel, gold, pharmaceutical and agriculture sectors.

In response to the claims by members of the Youth League, who had also threatened to name and shame corrupt Zanu PF bigwigs whom they blamed for the country's economic woes, Mnangagwa fired the Youth League Secretary, Pupurai Togarepi and also the deputy Youth League Secretary, Lewis Matutu as well as the Youth League Political Commissar, Godfrey Tsenengamu.

2. <https://www.theindependent.co.zw/2020/03/27/zanu-pf-benefactor-in-murky-zupco-bus-deal/>

After Mnangagwa dismissed the Zanu PF Youth League leaders for implicating his ally, Kuda Tagwirei in corruption scandals in February 2020, Tagwirei was to be implicated in yet another top corruption scandal.

Tagwirei was reported to be acquiring buses for the Zimbabwe United Passenger Company (ZUPCO) through his company Landela Investments in what was described as a murky deal.

In September 2019, the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) had frozen Landela Investment's account due to illegal foreign currency trading only for the freeze to

be lifted under unclear circumstances.



Delish Nguwaya with the First Lady Auxilia Mnangagwa

Reports indicated that Landela Investments was contracted to purchase 500 buses for mass public transportation at a unit price of US\$58 900 and then sell to the government at US\$212 962 each.

Tagwirei's oil company, Sakunda Holdings has also been implicated in the misappropriation of US\$3 Billion during the controversial Command Agriculture scheme. **...Continued on page 3...**

<https://www.theindependent.co.zw/2019/07/26/missing-us3bn-an-indictment-on-mnangagwas-government/>

3. <https://www.iol.co.za/the-star/news/mnangagwas-son-and-bodyguard-at-the-centre-of-zims-ppe-scandal-48851268>

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Persecuting CSOs can only serve to further alienate Zim from International Community

By Crisis Reporter

RECENT events have proved that if anything, promises of a new dispensation in Zimbabwe remain a pipe dream as the government continues to work flat out to shrink the democratic space in Zimbabwe especially through criminalisation of civic society work and clampdown on dissent. It has to be noted that the Mnangagwa administration unleashed the army against citizens protesting against electoral theft in August 2018 and about 7 civilians were shot and in January 2019, about 12 civilians were shot again while protesting against fuel price hikes. Following this, several civic society and opposition activists went into hiding as Mnangagwa unleashed state security agents and the army on them.

On October 22, 2020 President Mnangagwa while delivering a State of the Nation Address (SONA) threatened to shut down Civic Society Organisations (CSOs) critical to the government. He added that the Third Session of the 9th Parliament of Zimbabwe will seek to tighten operations of Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) through the Private Voluntary Organisations Amendment Bill. In this brief, CiZC highlights how the Mnangagwa administration, since assuming power through a military coup in November 2017, has been working to silence dissenting voices and further shrink the democratic space.

1. <https://www.voanews.com/africa/zimbabwe-make-foreign-contacts-allegations-torture-abduction-illegal>

On October 27, 2020, the government of Zimbabwe announced that amendments to the Criminal Law Act would seek to criminalize 'unauthorised communication' with foreign governments as well as protests during international events.

The amendments will also see victims of torture and abductions being challenged to provide evidence to prove that they were indeed abducted failure of which they will face a jail term.

This is a well orchestrated plan to clampdown on civil liberties as well as to try to criminalize civic society work while at the same time criminalising efforts by concerned Zimbabweans to seek external mediation in the country's multi-faceted crisis.

2. <https://263chat.com/patriotic-bill-irk-pro-democracy-campaigners/>

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition takes great exception to the Patriotic Bill which seeks to criminalise anyone who speaks negatively about the country. The Patriotic Bill is in essence, a plot to silence dissenting voices while criminalising calls for external mediation in the Zimbabwean crisis.

3. <https://www.newzimbabwe.com/mnangagwa-threatens-to-deregister-meddlesome-ngos-confirms-fresh-lockdown-plans/>

In July 2020, Mnangagwa, while addressing a Zanu PF Politburo meeting threatened to deregister CSOs 'meddling in the country's politics'. This was yet another attempt to intimidate CSOs that have largely been instrumental in exposing human rights violations and other heinous acts by the government.

4. <https://www.trtworld.com/magazine/zimbabwean-government-extends-crackdown-to-aid-groups-24450>

Following the January 2019 protests over fuel hikes President Mnangagwa in February 2019 threatened to clamp down on lawyers and doctors whom he accused of offering legal and medical support to protesters.

5. <https://nehandaradio.com/2020/03/06/mnangagwa-threatens-to-arrest-people-with-cockroaches-in-their-homes/>

In March 2020, Mnangagwa threatened a clampdown on people with 'cockroaches in their homes'. The phrase was used in apparent reference to opposition supporters.



#Zimbabwe7



Seven CSO leaders who were recently under trial for participating in a May 2019 Peace Building Workshop in Maldives

6. <https://duta.in/news/2019/10/17/zctu-blames-govt-for-threats-on-leaders-lives-8ca140c0-f09f-11e9-8ab0-0e01fb08e4103637579.html>

The President of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU) received numerous threats from alleged state security agents after he rallied workers to protest against the country's economic crisis. Mutasa has also been arrested on numerous occasions.

Teacher Unions' leaders in Zimbabwe have also been targets of arbitrary arrests, torture and abductions.

In July 2020, State security agents raided the residence of Amalgamated Rural Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (ARTUZ) President, Obert Masaraure and abducted his wife whom they threatened with death for failing to reveal Masaraure's whereabouts. Masaraure himself has been abducted and tortured on several occasions.

<http://kubatana.net/2020/07/17/artuz-presidents-place-of-residence-raided-by-state-security-agents/>

7. <https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-news-sc-national-byo-142550.html>

In May 2018, Zanu PF bigwig, Josiah Hungwe revealed that Mnangagwa was a soldier who was ready to shoot for power and events that unfolded later during the August (2018) and January (2019) army shootings served as clear testimony to Hungwe's utterances.

CiZC Position on attempts to criminalise CSOs

work and shrink the democratic space; Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Spokesperson, Marvelous Khumalo highlighted that Zanu PF was merely seeking to close the democratic space while pushing their political interests through draconian legislation.

"It is sad that the government of Zimbabwe continues to abuse the constitution by promulgating laws that are aimed at restricting the work of NGOs. It is unfortunate that these Acts they are trying to come up with are not in tandem with the constitution.

What they seek to achieve is to curtail human freedoms and close the democratic space so that people in the country will not be able to share their experiences with the global village so that Zimbabweans can get regional and international solidarity

What we see is a deliberate attempt by Zanu PF to target a number of progressive NGOs and this is very bad. As Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition, we condemn such acts of abusing the constitution," said Khumalo.

#ZimbabweLivesMatter

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From left...1. Mnangagwa's son, Sean flaunting his wealth,



2. Delish Nguwaya with Mnangagwa's son Collins.

In June 2020, Mnangagwa's son, Collins was implicated in a US\$1 Million tender scandal for the supply of COVID 19 equipment to the Ministry of Health. Mnangagwa's son won the tender without going through due process amid indications the COVID 19 equipment was to be supplied to the government at highly inflated prices,

bwe had received 4,499 test kits from Namibia. **Mutsvangwa's revelations raised eyebrows:** Namibia does not manufacture Covid-19 test kits. The country was also receiving donations and struggling to roll out mass testing because of a shortage of test kits.

Namibian Health Minister Kalumbi Shangula denied any knowledge of the donation when contacted by

The government also has been threatening as well as detaining journalists for exposing high level corruption. <https://bulawayo24.com/index-id-opinion-sc-columnist-byo-187975.html>
7. <https://www.newzimbabwe.com/government-books-in-shambles-auditor-general/>
In August 2019, Auditor General, Mildred Chiri revealed that government books were in shambles adding this



From left....Scott Sakupwanya shows off his US\$5 million, 2. Scott Sakupwanya hows off his gold, 3. Scott Sakupwanya shows off gold and cash while clad in ZANU PF regalia

4. <https://www.newzimbabwe.com/mnangagwa-links-to-drax-international-emerge-president-begged-for-60m-from-dodgy-firm/>

In June 2020, it emerged that Drax International, a company which was behind a Covid 19 kit US\$60 Million tender scam had links to Mnangagwa after videos and pictures of the Zimbabwean leader interacting with the company's representatives emerged. Drax International was set to supply ND5 face masks at a cost of US\$28 when the price in local pharmacies is US\$4.

The company is fronted by Delish Nguwaya whose pictures with the First Family also went viral. Nguwaya also has close connections with Mnangagwa's son, Collins. Following the expose, Zanu PF Spokesperson, Patrick Chinamasa warned the media against reporting on the issue.

<https://www.theindependent.co.zw/2020/06/05/drax-scam-new-indictment-on-mnangagwas-regime/>

<https://www.theafricareport.com/30676/zimbabwe-covid-19-drugs-scandal-lays-bare-the-rot-in-the-system/>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2020/6/20/zimbabwes-health-minister-granted-bail-in-60m-corruption-case>

<https://gga.org/c-19-zimbabwe-and-the-rule-of-law/>

In another embarrassing procurement scandal, the Zimbabwean government confused citizens by claiming it had received testing kits from Namibia. On 21 April, Information Minister Monica Mutsvangwa said Zimba-

the *Namibian Sun*. Shangula asked: "Where would we get those tests from? How can we donate when we don't have enough?"

Clearly, one of the parties here wasn't being honest. Questions, therefore, continued to be asked in both countries, prompting Namibia's Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation to issue a formal statement on 26 June flatly denying the donation and revealing that Zimbabwe's authorities had apologised, saying that the "allegations" of the donation had been "unfounded and erroneous". Senior figures in the government in Harare were left with egg on their faces.

Official government documents have exposed that the kits in question had in fact been supplied by a Namibian-registered company, Jaji Investments, linked to Mnangagwa's aide. Jaji Investments sourced the kits in China, before supplying Zimbabwe at huge cost. Garikai Mushininga, a medical doctor based in Namibia, who said he was the managing director of Jaji Investments, confirmed to the *Zimbabwe Independent* that he bought the kits in China before they were flown to Zimbabwe by DHL. Credit: Owen Gagare

5. <https://www.thezimbabwemail.com/main/zimbabwe-gold-smuggling-scandal-hits-the-office-of-the-president/>

A top Mnangagwa aide was fingered in the case of Zimbabwe Miners Federation President, Henrietta Rushwaya who was apprehended at the Robert Mugabe International Airport while trying to smuggle 6.09kg of gold to Dubai. The gold was valued at US\$333 000.

6. <https://anticorruptiondigest.com/2020/06/08/zimbabwes-mnangagwa-govt-engulfed-in-corruption-scandals/#axzz6cFbUfpjl>

The Mnangagwa administration has also come under fire for failing to deal with high level corruption cases amid indications the government is playing a catch and release strategy.

created fertile ground for corrupt activities in various government departments. She also highlighted that there was no accuracy in terms of expenditure patterns at government departments.

Chiri however remains a lone voice in the fight against corruption with the government failing to act on her findings and recommendations. Mnangagwa's fight against corruption is weird- <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2020/10/eds-weird-fight-against-corruption/>

8. <https://www.theindependent.co.zw/2020/01/24/us2bn-lost-to-graft-annually/>

In January 2020, the head of the Zimbabwe Anti Corruption Commission (ZACC), Justice Loice Matanda Moyo said Zimbabwe was losing nearly US\$2 Billion annually due to corruption and expressed frustration with the manner in which the government was tackling corruption.

This comes at a time the Special Anti Corruption Unit in Mnangagwa's office has been accused of acting as an extortion vehicle that has fuelled rather than acted to eradicate corruption.

9. <https://www.herald.co.zw/president-praises-young-philanthropists/>

In August 2020, Mnangagwa while speaking at a function at State House, praised 'philanthropist' Scott Sakupwanya for being 'patriotic and determined'. Sakupwanya went on to make the headlines when in one of his pictures (on social media) he was showing off US\$5 Million cash while in the other pictures he was showing off bars of gold and cash as well.

#tipoftheiceberg

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is a broad based civil society network of over 72 active members comprising churches, women's groups, social movements, residents associations, labour unions, human rights lawyers, and health professionals. It was formed in August of 2001 to focus on democracy, human rights, good governance and sustainable development issues – working locally, regionally and internationally.