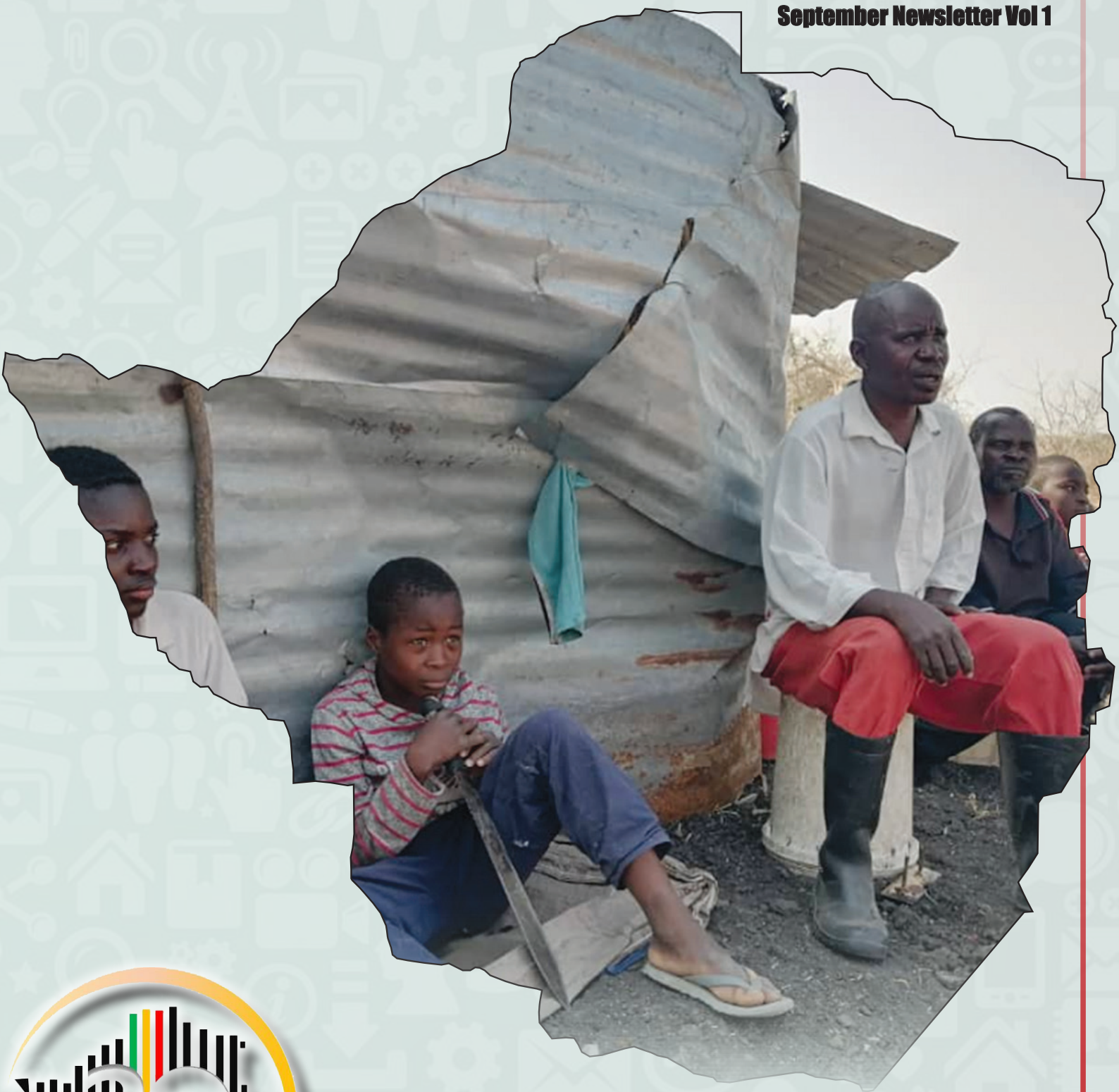


# Crisis Report

September Newsletter Vol 1



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# Displacements: Villagers feel betrayed by govt

**V**ILLAGERS in Chisumbanje and Chin-yamukwakwa villages feel let down by the government of Zimbabwe following continuous displacements from their ancestral lands.

Pleas for the government to interene and stop the dispalcements by Green Fuel (Pvt) Ltd, owned by businessman, Billy Rautenbach have failed to bear fruit amid reports that some of the displaced families have re-settled in Mozambique.

Rautenbach has a close relationship with the ruling Zanu PF party, with the government owning a 10% stake in Green Fuel (Pvt) Ltd.

Below, the **Crisis Report** brings to you a presentation by Platform for Youth and Community Development (PYCD) director, Claris Madhuku, over the issue.

PYCD is fighting to halt the displacements in Chisumbanje and Chinyamukwakwa.

"Communities in Chisumbanje and Chinyamukwakwa in Chipinge South constituency are worried that the government of Zimbabwe, in particular President Emmerson Mnangagwa, is not responding in resolving the myriad of problems that are affecting the communities as a result of a long-standing dispute between these communities and Green Fuel Private Limited.

"The challenge at stake started in 2009 and in 2012, 11 Cabinet ministers were sent to Chisumbanje for a fact-finding mission in a bid to try and

resolve the issues that existed between the community and the company .

"The Mutambara report provided a raft of recommendations that involved the establishment of a popular stakeholder forum called the District Plan Implementation Committee, which was supposed to resolve issues at the community level, but that platform was destroyed by politicians who are linked to Zanu PF.

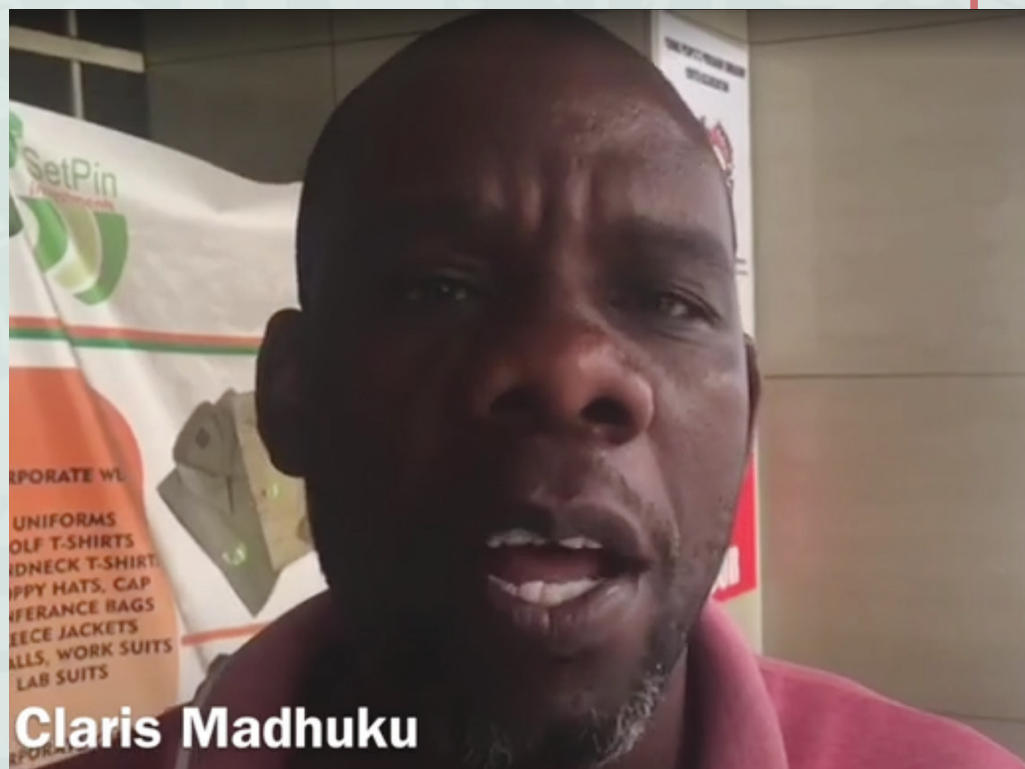
"In 2015, there was another committee comprising 22 Members of Parliament, which visited Chisumbanje and Chin-yamukwakwa to establish why the conflict had not been resolved despite recommendations towards resolving the conflict having been provided.

"As we speak now in 2021, all these recommendations have

gathered dust. Recently, from the 8th of July (2021), the company came to the community to destroy crops belonging to the community and crops that were destroyed included maize, cotton and sesame .

"All this shows that the community is being neglected by their own government. They have been made vulnerable and have to depend on their community leaders who are sometimes intimidated or incarcerated.

"As it stands, the conflict is escalating because some villagers have decided to go Mozambique. Some villagers continue to fight and others have accepted defeat. So this is a very worrying development considering that the President failed to stand for the people and his claims of zero tolerance to corruption seem not to be followed by action."



THE Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) has expressed concern over the concerted efforts by the government to recentralise local governance against the spirit of devolution.

In an interview with the **Crisis Report**, CHRA programmes manager Reuben Akili said the state was bulldozing its way into local government affairs hence derailing devolution progress.

"The devolution that the state is trying to implement is not the devolution that citizens envisaged as provided for by Section 264 of the constitution. If you look at bills that were gazetted you will

# RAs express concern over devolution implementation

find out that they fall far short of our expectations; especially the Provincial Metropolitan Councils Bill which is very confusing and not worth of being called a Bill.

"In practice, we have seen the government taking re-

sponsibility of duties of local authorities which again is against the principles devolution. We were hoping the government will capacitate local authorities but we have seen recentralisation of governance.

"We have seen the increase of the presence of the state in local governance which is a bit challenging. We have seen the provincial development co-ordinator interfering in the affairs of local authorities and this is a big challenge," said Akili.

He added that it was unfortunate that the government has embarked on a mission to exclude elected officials from managing local authorities.

Akili also lamented that there are funds meant for devolution that have not been properly disbursed.

Masvingo United Residents and Ratepayers Alliance spokesperson, Godfrey Mtimba bemoaned that there has been a deliberate exclusionary plan by the council to exclude the residents and citizens from the devolution process.

Mtimba also noted that citizens were not consulted by council on the nature of projects to be implemented as part of the devolution process adding that there are concerns on lack of transparency in the handling of the devolution funds.



CHRA programmes manager Reuben Akili

GENDER inequality remains one of the obstacles to development and worldwide.

Zimbabwe tops among other African countries whose levels of women's participation and representation is way below 50% despite gender equality targets of 50/50 as articulated in various regional and global instruments aimed at the advancement of women across sectors.

In Zimbabwe, the 2013 Constitution provides for gender equality and non-discrimination.

It also clearly provides for the rights of women including participation and representation in socio-economic and political life.

Building on longtime calls and efforts by young women, and various women's rights and civil society organisations for policy and legislative frameworks to implement the constitutional provisions, the Institute for Young Women Development (IYWD) and Women and Law in Southern Africa (WLSA) have upped the pressure on the government to enact a Gender Equality Law by drafting and presenting a Model Gender Equality Bill (MGEB) to lawmakers.

Speaking during a stakeholder meeting to deliberate on the MGEB and seek input from various sectors of society including Women's rights and community-based organisations, activists, representatives from independent commissions and lawmakers, IYWD team leader, Glanis Changachirere, emphasised that MGEB is just a model, not the actual law, as the lawmaking process resides with the Ministry of Women's Affairs, Small and Medium Enterprises.

Member of Parliament and

# Womens' organisations pressure govt to implement the constitution by enacting a Gender Equality Law

Gender Portfolio Committee Member Honourable Priscilla Misihairambwi Mushonga commended the organisations for their efforts.

She said it was good to see that women's organisations had upped their game by talking to the relevant policymakers by providing such a progressive template as opposed to talking to themselves without offering practical alternatives.

The Model Gender Equality Bill provides expansive provisions for representation of women, young women and people living with disabilities among other groups who are structurally discriminated.

It also provides for frameworks for inclusion of women in government institutions and in the private sector by recommending establishment of gender units.

The drafting of the MGEB comes timely as the Ministry of Women's Affairs has embarked on consultative processes to inform direction

and scope for gender equality laws.

With strategic organising, the women's movement's is poised for some revolutionary wins in this area as per the aspirations of the Beijing Platform for Action.

The MGEB, is an advocacy and mobilisation tool which is available for use by all organisations and sectors wishing to see the institutionalisation of gender equality.

This will address a lot of historical discriminatory practices, norms and beliefs and make sure no one is left behind as per the United Nations principle towards on Sustainable Development Goals.

IN late July 2021, President Emmerson Mnangagwa handed over 19 state-of-the-art vehicles to leaders of fringe political parties that participated in the 2018 harmonised elections.

The vehicles were handed over to political party leaders under the Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD).

The move to create POLAD was largely seen as part of a desperate attempt by President Mnangagwa to gain loyalty and buy legitimacy following the disputed 2018 elections which largely failed the credibility test.

Following the move to hand over the vehicles to POLAD, a cross section of Zimbabweans protested that Mnangagwa was wasting taxpayers' money at a time government was failing to fund key sectors such as health and education. Concern was raised over Mnangagwa's preoccupation with consolidating political power at the expense of everything.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition member, the Youth Alliance for Democracy (YAD) has amplified the concerns of ordinary Zimbabweans in a letter to Finance minister Mthuli Ncube.

The letter seeks to push Ncube to explain the source of the funds used to purchase the POLAD vehicles.

As the Coalition, we stand in solidarity with YAD and reiterate that Ncube owes Zimbabweans an explanation on the source of the funds used to buy the 19 state of the art vehicles.

**Below, we publish the YAD letter to Ncube;**

**Att: Honorable Mthuli Ncube  
Minister of Finance and Economic Development**

# Finance minister Mthuli Ncube must account to Zimbabweans

Government of Zimbabwe

## **RE: REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON FUNDING FOR POLITICAL ACTORS DIALOGUE (POLAD) VEHICLES**

Reference is made to the above in response to vehicles allocated to political parties under the banner of POLAD.

We kindly request information on where funding for vehicles allocated to POLAD principles was drawn from. By making this request we are guided by Section 62(1) & (2) of the 2013 Constitution of Zimbabwe which states that "every Zimbabwean citizen or permanent resident, including juristic person's ... has the right of access to any information held by the State or by any institution or agency of government at every level, in so far as the information is required in the interests of public accountability and for the exercise or protection of a right. The information required is meant to promote public accountability and protection of access to information as a human right. Section 68 accords every person the right to administrative conduct that is lawful, prompt, efficient, reasonable, proportionate, impartial and both substantively and procedurally fair.

Section 194 provide for basic values and principles governing public administration. Section 194(1)(a), (b), (c), (d), (f) and (h) provides that pub-

lic administration in all tiers of government, including institutions and agencies of the State and government-controlled entities and other public enterprises, must be governed by the democratic values and principles enshrined in the Constitution, including the following principles: (1) promoting and maintaining high standard of professional ethics; (2) efficient and economical use of resources; (3) development-oriented public administration (4) provision of services impartially, fairly, equitably and without bias; (5) accountability to Parliament and the people (6) fostering transparency through timely provision of accessible and accurate information to the public. Chapter 17 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe lays out financial management system, authorisation of expenditure and safeguarding of public funds and property.

By making this request we are guided by Section 194(1) (e) which states that people's needs must be responded to within a reasonable time.

We look forward to hear from you.

For further information do not hesitate to contact the undersigned.

Yours faithfully,

T Masiyambiri,

Director

PRIOR to the Zimbabwe's 2018 harmonised elections, there were bold pronouncements from Zanu PF heavyweights that President Emerson Mnangagwa is a soldier who stands ready to shoot for power.

Given the fact that Mnangagwa had ascended to power through a military coup in November 2017, there were fears of bloodshed ahead of the 2018 elections.

True to the word of his Zanu PF proxies, heavily armed soldiers were deployed against unarmed civilians protesting against electoral theft in July 2018.

Six civilians were killed in cold blood and what followed was a series of human rights violations that were perpetrated by the army.

Cases of abduction, rape, torture and arbitrary arrests were reported.

The military proved to be Mnangagwa's greatest weapon to cling to power against the wishes of the electorate.

Recently, there was a declaration from the Deputy Chief Secretary, Presidential Communications, George Charamba, that the military would not allow opposition rule in the country.

This is not the first time that we have heard such declarations from Zanu PF politicians.

Charamba's declaration came following the electoral victory by Zambia's opposition party, the United Party for National Development (UPND), led by Hakainde Hichilema, and the smooth handover of power after former President, Edgar Lungu conceded defeat.

To add on to this, Mnangagwa was to later declare that thinking that what happened

# Zambia elections: Mnangagwa exposes hypocrisy

in Zambia would happen in Zimbabwe was a case of day dreaming.

The declarations attracted widespread condemnation and in an effort to correct the damage, Mnangagwa was to later acknowledge that SADC states should emulate what happened in Zambia- smooth handover of power.

This was damage control by Mnangagwa ahead of the inauguration of Zambia's new President, Hichilema.

But the damage had already been done.

Mnangagwa probably knew very well he had to retract his statement ahead of the inauguration ceremony in Zambia, where he was invited to witness a smooth transition that he had vowed would not happen in Zimbabwe.

Given the manner in which he ascended to power through a military coup, the militarisation of key state institutions in Zimbabwe, shrinking of the democratic space, weaponisation of the Judiciary, draconian legislation among other dictatorial tendencies, Mnangagwa is the least qualified person to talk about a smooth handover of power and respect for the people's will.

His was a last-minute effort to undo the damage that resulted from pronouncements that exposed himself and his proxies for what they really are.

After Mnangagwa's retraction, Charamba was to later on label Hichilema a "sellout", and the discord between Charamba and his boss leaves a lot to be desired.

The pronouncements by Mnangagwa and his proxies should serve as a reminder to SADC and pro democracy forces within the region that Zimbabwe remains under a military state in which there is no regard for fundamental rights and the will of the people — including election outcomes.

It is thus incumbent upon SADC and pro-democracy forces within the region to continuously keep an eye on the Zimbabwean crisis.