



3 September , 2025

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition

THE CRISIS IN ZIMBABWE COALITION COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEETING STATEMENT

On the 28th of August 2025, the Coordinating Committee of the Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (The Coalition) convened a virtual meeting. The Plenary of the Coalition's highest decision-making body in between the Coalition's Annual General Meeting and aimed to review and discuss comprehensive reports submitted by regional representatives, including a report presented on behalf of the Chairperson, Peter Mutasa, who highlighted critical issues affecting the Coalition's work.

The reports shed light on the current operating environment for civil society organizations in Zimbabwe, detailing the government's ongoing efforts to restrict civic participation and close down civic space. Specifically, the reports focused on the recent implementation of the Private Voluntary Organization (PVO) registration process, which has been manipulated by the state as a tool to undermine and dismantle civil society initiatives.

This approach not only jeopardizes the operational capacity of these organizations but also poses a direct threat to the fundamental rights of citizens to organize and represent their interests.

In response to these pressing challenges, the Coordinating Committee reaffirmed its overarching commitment to unite progressive forces dedicated to defending civic space. The members emphasized their long-held vision of achieving a democratic and economically prosperous Zimbabwe that fosters economic prosperity for all its citizens. The discussion also underscored the necessity for strategic collaboration and solidarity among civil society actors to combat the undemocratic practices enforced by the ruling government.

The outcomes of this Coordinating Committee meeting are pivotal for the Coalition, as they will guide the organization in mobilizing communities across various sites of struggle. The Coalition is determined not only to tackle the internal challenges posed by the current regime but also to extend its advocacy efforts beyond Zimbabwe's borders, recognizing the interconnected nature of democratic struggles across the region. By building a strong, unified movement, the Coalition aims to confront injustice, promote civic engagement, and protect the rights of all individuals in the pursuit of a more just and equitable society.

The Coalition membership noted the following:

PVO Registration and operating environment

Coordinating Committee expressed concerns regarding the numerous obstacles that organizations are encountering in the process of registering as Private Voluntary Organizations (PVOs).

It was noted that the interview sessions conducted by the authorities have become highly securitized, raising alarm on the sincerity of the authorities around this law. Many organizations reported that the nature of the questioning felt intrusive and often strayed far from topics pertinent to their areas of work, leading to an environment that resembled an interrogation rather than an assessment.

In response to these issues, the Coordinating Committee firmly reiterated the Coalition's position of non-compliance with the PVO Act, which has been described as draconian in its requirements and implications.

Instead of submitting to what the Coalition view as unjust regulations, the meeting resolved to actively challenge several provisions outlined in the PVO Act in the courts.

This strategic decision underscores the belief that standing up against this draconian law is essential not only for safeguarding of fundamental rights but also for preserving the integrity and effectiveness of civic engagement and humanitarian efforts within communities

2030 Agenda

The meeting acknowledged the intensified efforts by the ruling ZANU PF party to expedite the presidential term extension while bypassing the requirement for a referendum. In response, the Coalition will continue mobilizing communities across the country to build a constitutional defense movement aimed at safeguarding the constitution from regressive amendments.

As part of its resistance to these perceived constitutional changes, the Coalition has launched a campaign specifically designed to address the challenges arising from ongoing alterations to the constitution and the increasingly restrictive operational environment.

This campaign, titled “**Tinoida Yakadaro,**” “**Siyifuna injalo**” which translates to “we want it like that,” signals a strong stance against any tampering with the constitution, particularly regarding provisions that require a referendum.

The Coalition is encouraging its members and citizens in general to actively promote this campaign name, which will include both online and offline activities as they strengthen their opposition to the 2030 Agenda.

The Economy

The meeting highlighted the dire situation of the country's economy, attributing its poor performance to several critical factors, including widespread corruption and ineffective economic policies implemented by the ZANU PF government. The Coordinating Committee expressed deep concern over the rampant exploitation of the nation's natural resources, exacerbated by questionable partnerships with certain foreign mining companies that prioritize profits over community welfare and environmental sustainability.

The discussions revealed alarming instances of community displacement, alongside significant pollution and land degradation linked to ongoing mining explorations. These detrimental activities not only threaten the livelihoods of local populations but also compromise the ecological integrity of affected areas.

In response to these pressing issues, the Coordinating Committee emphasized the urgent need to mobilize communities to advocate for better governance of natural resources. A key recommendation was the incorporation of public interest litigation as a strategy to empower citizens and hold accountable those responsible for the mismanagement and exploitation of these valuable assets.

Regional Solidarity

The meeting praised the intensified efforts to build alliances at the regional level, which are essential to our developmental work. This recognition follows the successful convening of a regional conference on the state of civic space in Southern Africa, which included representatives from seven countries.

The Coordinating Committee noted the resolutions from the regional conference, which commended the Coalition for its timely show of solidarity with the people of SADC, as well as its ongoing efforts to engage regional stakeholders in countries facing humanitarian and democratic crises.

As a result, the Coalition accepted the responsibility for its regional office in South Africa to continue taking a leading role in unifying progressive forces and civil society actors within the region and beyond.

There was a unanimous consensus on the urgent need to broaden the Coalition's focus beyond Zimbabwe and to lead the establishment of a regional platform that empowers civil society to counter deepening authoritarianism, promote good governance, uphold the rule of law, and safeguard human rights.

ENDS//

Issued by: Marvelous Kumalo (Spokesperson)