



States in Transition Observatory

GNU Watch Zimbabwe April 2009

This document is not meant to be a comprehensive report on the state of the interim government of Zimbabwe. Rather it is aimed at giving an overview, month by month, of political developments under the terms set out in the Global Political Agreement (GPA). The sections profiled in monthly outputs may vary depending on events and issues raised in that particular report. Where possible, the relevant article as stipulated in the GPA has been provided. As this documentation begins in April, there may at times be references to activities or events that took place in previous months.

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Bullet logos are as follows

- ✓ Positive steps towards compliance with the GPA
- ? Outcome still to be decided.
- ✗ Violation of the GPA

Action taken in relation to the relevant article is on average:

In the direction of compliance with the GPA

Shows no conclusive action towards compliance with or contravention of the GPA

In contravention of the principles laid out in the GPA



[Please Click Here](#) to download the Global Political Agreement (GPA) against which this analysis is drawn.

[A people's guide to the agreement](#) - Africa Community Publishing and Development Trust (ACPD)

* **Disclaimer** – this document draws on reported activities and news media. It is not intended to be comprehensive and is, to the best of our knowledge accurate at the time of release.

Article II Commitment



Quotations by public figures pertaining to the GNU:

"For the Global Political Agreement to succeed there is need for national healing to put behind the atmosphere of hostility and polarisation which had regrettably become a feature of our national politics." President Robert Mugabe. April 18, 2009.

"We have made progress but, make no mistake; we have also experienced disheartening challenges and obstacles to hope." Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai. April 18, 2009.

"The historic inter-party political agreement places the responsibility of leading the constitution-making process on parliament and, more importantly, provides an opportunity for the country to create a constitution by the people and for the people." Speaker of Parliament Lovemore Moyo. April 16, 2009.

Article VI Constitution



- ✓ Speaker of parliament Lovemore Moyo (MDC-T) announced that a 25-member parliamentary committee comprising of legislators from the MDC-T, MDC and Zanu PF will lead the process of writing a new constitution. This process will finish with a referendum in July 2010. Constitutional and Parliamentary Affairs Minister Eric Matinenga revealed that the country's parliament is considering appointing a non-lawmaker to head the select committee that will lead the process of drafting a new constitution.
- ✓ A 25-member parliamentary committee co-chaired by Douglas Mwonozora (MDC-T), Paul Mangwana (Zanu-PF) and civil society groups in a meeting urged the government to encourage public involvement in the creation of a human rights commission provided for in a recent constitutional amendment. (Article VII)
- ? Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai held an emergency meeting with the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) chairman Lovemore Madhuku in an attempt to defuse growing tensions surrounding the process around the drafting of a new constitution. The NCA are calling for a people driven method without the participation of parliament.

Article III Economic Development



- ✓ Business Unity South Africa (BUSA) sent a delegation to Harare where Finance Minister Tendai Biti pledged to protect current and future private investments and ensured BUSA that all three political parties were committed to the GPA.
- ✓ The Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ) has been ordered to stop unlawfully accessing foreign currency reserves from private company accounts.
- ✓ African countries have provided the government US\$400 primarily in the form of credit lines to help with stimulating failing industries.
- ✓ The Harare City Council cut its fees by 50 percent in line with a government directive stating that all local authorities are to reduce their rates and supplementary charges to affordable levels.
- ✓ Cabinet met to discuss a 100-day programme of action for the inclusive government that was drafted at the ministerial retreat in Victoria Falls. This resulted in the implementation of the Short Term Emergency Recovery Programme, [STERP](#), drafted by Finance Minister Tendai Biti which aims to revive the ailing economy.
- ✓ Africainvestor, an African economic think-tank will host an investment summit in Harare to showcase business opportunities in Zimbabwe and on the continent in June.

- ? Economic Planning Minister Elton Mangoma announced that the government has suspended the use of the Zimbabwe Dollar. The US Dollar, South African Rand and other hard currencies are now legal tender, thereby eliminating the black market and inflation based economic volatility.
- ✖ It is estimated that up to 29 000 Zanu PF youth militia are still receiving government salaries as civil servants. Their role in perpetrating violence in last year's run-off presidential election still needs to be explored as does their suitability in receiving these funds as it is not provided for in the GPA, which does however state that the national youth service is to be utilised for the promotion of the state in a non political and peaceful way. (Article XV)

Article IV Funding

- ✓ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) has agreed to create a multi donor trust fund to be run by itself, the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the World Bank (WB) and the African Development Bank (ADB). These funds will be used as a stop-gap until donor countries feel comfortable to supply direct funds in a new government.
- ✓ A 'humanitarian plus' form of aid is being discussed by western donors to enable the country to deliver critical services while keeping 'smart sanctions and travel bans' in place. If implemented a review of this status may be likely when the rule of law and other minimum standards of governance and accountability can be seen and sustained.
- ✓ South Africa offered a US\$50 million credit facility to Zimbabwe as the GNU has failed to raise adequate funds from western donors as fears about the sustainability of the power-sharing government continue to develop.
- ✓ Botswana has pledged US\$70 million to be used specifically towards assisting key areas such as steel, leather, agro and pharmaceutical industries
- ? The region is considering the possibility of Zimbabwe joining the Common Monetary Area (CMA), which presently includes Namibia, Swaziland and Lesotho, and is investigating the practicality of Zimbabwe using the Rand as a reference currency.
- ? Economic Planning and Investment Promotion Minister Elton Mangoma said that no less than US\$13 million is required to clear the remaining Zimbabwean dollars held with banks following a one-year suspension of the currency.
- ✖ The International Monetary Fund (IMF) released a report blaming the RBZ Governor Gideon Gono for independently causing a 14 percent contraction of Zimbabwe's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) in 2008 and renewed its calls for his removal from the post.

Article VII, XVI Humanitarian & Food Assistance

- ✓ Organisations like the Red Cross have now been granted access to evaluate the humanitarian conditions within Zimbabwe's prisons on the back of publicity showing malnourished and starving prisoners. The Zimbabwe Prison Services released 20 prisoners from Khami Prison on medical grounds, after the South African Broadcasting Corporation Television 3 (SABC 3) screened a documentary called 'Hell Hole'.
- ✓ According to the National Social Security Authority (NSSA) 142 835 pensioners will now be able to receive their monthly payments to the value of US\$25.
- ✓ New cases of cholera infections continue to decline nationwide as health services reach most infected areas, education about the spread of the disease increases and clean water is being made available where possible.
- ✓ Britain has pledged a £15 million humanitarian package for the unity government.
- ✓ Government hospitals, prisons and universities have been allocated farms which must begin to be utilised to avoid hunger when waiting for government or donor hand outs a government spokesperson has said.

- ✓ World Vision, Zimbabwe's largest humanitarian agency, has received more than US\$500 000 from the Canadian government to improve water supplies and sanitation at clinics and hospitals.
- ? It remains unclear what role the new government envisions for the Diaspora. Calls for teachers and skilled sectors are increasing while there is a general fear of the millions of people living outside of Zimbabwe's borders coming home as they would tax the already precarious food security and health sector.
- ? Some signs of economic recovery can be seen now that trading can take place in foreign currency and price controls have been stopped. Shops are now more able to restock their shelves with goods, although many are still priced outside of affordable levels for most of the population.
- ? It is said an average family of six needs \$386 a month for a basic "basket" of goods that includes food as well as rent and utilities.
- ? Education
 - ✗ Most teachers have still not received a salary from the new government which leaves the future of the education sector uncertain. The education ministry is also under increasing pressure to nullify last years June examinations due to poor teaching conditions and crippling teachers strikes over salaries. Bulawayo - Teachers have resolved not to report for duty on 5 May until salaries are reviewed from US\$100.
 - ✓ Government is in the midst of a recruitment drive for teachers who left the country or their jobs due to financial constraints or political instability. The Ministry of Education, Arts, Sports and Culture released a statement stating that teachers who have been away for as long as since 2007 can report for duty at the beginning of the second term.
- ✗ The World Food Program (WFP) has suspended some aid to HIV/AIDS patients in the Masvingo province after reports of inappropriate food distribution methods by some of its agents.

Article XXII JOMIC (Joint Monitoring Implementation Committee)



- ? JOMIC wrote to the appointed facilitator from the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC), Thabo Mbeki following President Robert Mugabe's violation of the GPA with regard to the appointment of additional cabinet ministers. The appointment was made without appropriate discussion or consultation with the other two principals, Morgan Tsvangirai (MDC-T) and Arthur Mutambara (MDC-M).

Article V Land Reform



- ✓ A Southern African Development Community (SADC) Tribunal has ordered the Zimbabwe government not to evict black farmer Luke Tembani, the first ruling by the court in favour of a black commercial farmer. Prime Minister Tsvangirai has appointed a team led by Arthur Mutambara to investigate these and other land grabs. Members of the team include Co-Home Affairs Ministers Kembo Mohadi (Zanu-PF), Giles Mutsekwa (MDC-T), Agriculture Minister Joseph Made (Zanu PF), Lands Minister Herbert Murerwa (Zanu-PF), and Minister of State Gordon Moyo (MDC-T).
- ✓ The Ministry of Agriculture has requested that the United Nations carry out two crop and food supply assessments to assess the annual harvest outputs.
- ✓ 13 Dutch farmers who lost their farms during President Robert Mugabe's controversial land reform programme have been awarded €8 220 000 as compensation by the International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes (ICSID). (Section D)
- ? In an announcement by Gideon Gono, it was revealed that the government illegally stole and spent millions of dollars belonging to tobacco farmers. It is unclear how this matter will be resolved.

- ✘ White owned farm invasions led by Zanu PF supporters continue despite calls from Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai for an immediate end to the attacks. (Article X) President Robert Mugabe continues to condone the invasions across the country, saying that the land reform will proceed despite the GPA. (Article V Sections C and F)
- ✘ Due to a fresh wave of commercial farm invasions it is estimated that the maize output for the 2008/09 season will drop by up to 5%. Contributing to this is the increased cost of inputs and fertilisers.

Article XVII Legislation



- ✘ The Committee on Standing Rules and Orders (CSRO) have still not sworn in Roy Bennet, Deputy Minister for Agriculture. This and other outstanding issues for the MDC around the appointment of provincial governors, ambassadors, the role of Reserve Bank Governor Gideon Gono and that of Attorney General Johannes Tomana remain unresolved.
- ✘ The Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA), the Public Order and Security Act (POSA), the Broadcasting Services Act (BSA) and the Criminal Code have yet to be amended as stipulated in the GPA.

Article XI, XVIII National Security Council



There has been no movement on this council to date.

Political Party Communication and Statements



Zanu PF have not released any statements or communiqués.

MDC-T

[Address by the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe](#) The Right Honourable Morgan Tsvangirai, to the International Business Forum, Zimbabwe International Trade Fair,

[Changing Times 29 April](#)

[30 000 turn up for MDC rally in Chinhoyi](#)

[The Changing Times 25 April](#)

[President's statement of solidarity to the suspended students 23 April](#)

[Address by the Prime Minister of Zimbabwe](#) at the Commemoration of the 90th Anniversary of the International Labour Organisation 22 April

[Address by Hon Mangoma to SALO workshop](#) Pretoria, South Africa 20 April

[MDC statement - MP's to get vehicles from government not RBZ](#) 16 April

[The Changing Times 15 April](#)

[Address by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Zimbabwe](#)

[Harassment of Senator Roy Bennett Continues](#) 1 April

Article VII, XII Reconciliation



- ✓ Zimbabwe's first Minister for National Healing, Reconciliation and National Integration is tasked with the setting up of a Human Rights Commission. This commission is to be established within the next few weeks.
- ✓ Public Service minister, Professor Eliphas Mukonoweshuro has vowed to depoliticise the country's civil service saying the rot has grossly affected professionalism in the public sector.

Articles XII and XIX Rights and Freedoms



- ✓ The Ministry of Information, Media and Publicity has issued invitations to a national media stakeholder's conference, which is scheduled to be held in Nyanga from 6-9 May. The GPA states that the public media is charged with 'providing balanced and fair coverage of all political parties involved in legitimate activities'.
- ✓ Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings is allegedly planning to introduce two community radio stations and a television channel. Sunshine radio based in Harare, Skies radio in Bulawayo and TV2.
- ✓ The Herald newspaper is said to be appointing a well respected, veteran journalist William "Bill" Saidi as editor in chief.
- ✓ NewsDay newspapers have appointed veteran journalist Barnabas Thondlana as editor of the newly formed daily publication which is expected to launch in the next few months. Thondlana will lead the third and newest publication in the Zimind group. Moses Mudzwiti is the Managing Editor. Dumisani Muleya, who has been Assistant Editor for The Zimbabwe Independent, becomes the Group Political and Investigative Editor, while Constantine Munyaradzi Chimakure is the News Editor. Chimakure held the same position on The Zimbabwe Independent.
- ✓ The Financial Gazette announced the launch of a daily evening paper, The Daily Evening Gazette which is due to start in early May.
- ? The Zimbabwe National Students Union (ZINASU) issued a statement after the incarceration of Courage Ngwarai, their legal secretary. On the 21st April Ngwarai and 22 other students were arrested in Masvingo, following a demonstration at the Great Zimbabwe University. Students were protesting against the exorbitant fee structure pegged in foreign currency.
- ✗ Amnesty International released a report detailing ongoing human rights abuses which undermine the GPA and threaten the inflow of donor aid. [Click here to read the report.](#)
- ✗ It has been reported by the Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe (MMPZ) that state-controlled media continue to prioritise Zanu PF content and Mugabe favourable inserts and content despite the GPA calling for equal and fair, non-partisan institutions and practice.
- ✗ Violent clashes broke out between ZANU PF and MDC supporters at a youth summit, organised by the Ministry of Youth Development, Indigenisation and Empowerment. An estimated 100 youths attended the conference at the Rainbow Towers.

Article XI Rule of Law



- ✓ A Zanu PF political commissar Admroe Hwarare and two war veterans, Darlington Chiwa and Daniel Tsingo, were brought before the courts and Chiredzi magistrate Georgina Ndava facing charges of defrauding sugarcane farmers of 378 tonnes of sugar worth US\$268 380.
- ✓ The Chiredzi Magistrates Court in Masvingo Province jailed three Zanu- PF militiamen (Vengai Zihura, Eukeria Muvengwa and Alick Ziwende) for their involvement in election based violence last year targeted against the then opposition MDC.
- ✓ People continue to report cases of violence, torture and intimidation that were carried out before last year's presidential run-off election in June. A confidential police report claims that roughly 2 000 reports have been filed since the 11th of February.
- ? The Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA) demanded the immediate suspension of the Harare Town Clerk Dr Tendai Mahachi amid reports of corruption and mismanagement.
- ? Robert Mugabe has agreed to swear into office MDC Deputy Minister of Agriculture appointee Roy Bennett, but only after he has been acquitted of all charges laid against him, namely 'conspiring to acquire arms with a view to disrupting essential services'. This issue remains contentious as the MDC believe the charges are false.

- ✘ It is estimated that at least 7 MDC activists are still missing (Gwenzi Kahiya, Ephraim Mabeka, Lovemore Machokoto, Charles Muza, Edmore Vangirayi, Graham Matehwa and Peter Munyanyi).
- ✘ The trial of Zimbabwe Peace Project director Jestina Mukoko who remains accused of banditry, insurgency and terrorism in Botswana has been set for July 20. The trial of MDC-T activists facing similar charges will follow. The first will be Concillia Chinanzvavana, Fidelis Chiramba, Violet Mupfuranhewe and Collen Mutemagawu.
- ✘ Transparency Zimbabwe International (TZI), an anti corruption non-governmental organisation claims to be under threat from the Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) for investigating high profile corruption within the public service. (Intimidation of this nature is now illegal under Article XIII of the GNU.)
- ✘ Mugabe removed the telecommunications ministry from Information Minister Nelson Chamisa (MDC-T) and gave it to Transport Minister Nicholas Goche (Zanu PF), a move that violates the GPA and agreed ministerial allocations. It is unclear whether this move will remain in place considering it has no legal foundation.
- ✘ Sergeant Tinashe Munhenga and Constables Lincoln Mahonde, Isaac Magazo and Tinashe Nyamakapa, four police officers in the Karoi area of Mashonaland West Province were treated for serious injuries after they were badly assaulted allegedly by a group of Zanu-PF supporters at the instigation of a district councillor in the area. It is alleged that the police arrived to investigate a crime report filed by an MDC member.
- ✘ An MDC rally in Nemanwa Growth Point, south of Masvingo was scheduled to be held on Independence Day but was cancelled after the police denied MDC-T permission under the guise of POSA. (Article X, XII and XIX)

Article IV Targeted Sanctions

- ✓ Smart sanctions and travel bans are to remain in place until a return to the rule of law, an end to human rights violations and a genuine commitment to the GPA is evident in government implementation.

Article VI, VII, XIII Civil Society Mechanisms

Below is a selection of reports by various civil society organisations. The list is neither comprehensive nor exhaustive.

Civil Society Monitoring Mechanism (CISOMM) Periodic Report

Participating organisations in the civil society monitoring group are:

Bulawayo Agenda; Christian Alliance; Counselling Services Unit; Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition General Agriculture and Plantation Workers Union; Legal Resources Foundation; Media Institute of Southern Africa - Zimbabwe Chapter (MISA-Zimbabwe); Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe; National Association of Non-Governmental Organizations; Progressive Teachers Association of Zimbabwe; Research and Advocacy Unit; Save Zimbabwe Campaign; Veritas Voluntary Media Council of Zimbabwe; Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights Zimbabwe Coalition on Debt and Development; Zimbabwe Election Support Network Zimbabwe Human Rights Association; Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum; Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights; Zimbabwe National Students Union and the Zimbabwe Young Women's Network for Peace Building

VERITAS

[Bill Watch 13 of 5th April](#) [Parliament adjourns to 12th May]

[Bill Watch Special of 11th April 2009](#) [Committee on Standing Rules and Orders]

[Bill Watch 14](#) 13th April 2009 [Meeting Planned to settle Outstanding Issues Affecting Inclusive Government]

[Bill Watch 15 VERITAS 20 April](#)

[Bill Watch 15 VERITAS 22 April](#)

[Constitution Watch 2 or 14th April 2009](#) [Parliamentary Select Committee for New Constitution]

[Peace Watch 18 April VERITAS](#)

Daily Cholera Updates – World Health Organisation. Click on date in April.

[1](#) [2](#) [5](#) [6](#) [8](#) [9](#) [10](#) [11](#) [12](#) [13](#) [14](#) [15](#) [16](#) [18](#) [20](#) [21](#) [25](#)

Justice for Agriculture

Communiqués [5 April](#) [6 April](#) [7 April](#) [18 April](#) [21 April](#) [22 April](#)

Open Letter Forum [No. 624 Dated 27 April](#) [No. 622 Dated 16 April](#) [No. 621 Dated 8 April](#) [No. 620 Dated 7 April](#) [No. 619 Dated 6 April](#) [No. 618 Dated 5 April](#) [No. 617 Dated 2 April](#)

ZINASU

[ZINASU Press Statement 28 April](#)

[ZINASU Legal Affairs Secretary To Appear In Court 28 April](#)

WOZA

[Update on 3 WOZA court appearances April 28, 2009](#)

[WOZA continues to engage schools directly on education issues Harare 1 April 2009](#)

MISA

[Gweru freelance journalist missing 1 April](#)

[Gweru freelance journalist released after abduction 2 April](#)

[Chief Justice Chidyausiku dismisses bail application by freelance photojournalist 6 April](#)

[Zimbabwe ranked low in ICT 6 April](#)

[Statement on defamation charges levelled against The Chronicle reporters 9 April](#)

[Freelance photojournalist finally released on bail](#)

[Police launch manhunt for freelance photojournalist](#)

SOKWANELE

[Flagrant violation of the rule of law on Mount Carmel farm](#)

ZESN

[Time to reform and strengthen our electoral legislative framework is now](#)

Statement on media conference

[Towards an open, tolerant and responsible media environment: Zimbabwe all stakeholders conference 24 - 26 April](#)

NCA

[Shortcomings of the Kariba Draft Constitution](#)

[Know the Kariba Draft Constitution](#)

ZINASU

[Update on the NACAPEZ campaign](#)

[Six student leaders arrested](#)

[State of the education sector - Week ending April 17 2009](#)

[National executive council resolutions](#)

[Two NUST students hospitalised after protest](#)

[Anti-riot police on rampage as students protest over fees](#)
[State of the education sector in Zimbabwe](#)
[NUST students released](#)
[State of the education sector: Week ending April 3 2009](#)

ZLHR

[MDC MP finally granted bail after spending more than one week in custody](#)

Political detainees continue to face harassment and persecution 21 April

State abuses Section 121 to deny bail to three political detainees 9 April

Magistrate relaxes abductees' reporting conditions 9 April

Chief Justice Chidyausiku dismisses abductees' appeal 6 April

Chief Justice Chidyausiku to preside over abductees appeal 3 April

ZPP

[Early warning report on politically-motivated human rights and food-related violations](#)

Zimbabwe's civil society monitoring implementation of the power-sharing agreement between President Robert Mugabe and the two formations of the MDC has accused both the police and Attorney General (AG) of being partisan. "The ZRP (Zimbabwe Republic Police) continues to enforce the law in a partisan manner, and the culture of impunity for police who are perpetrators of human rights violations remains intact," the Civil Society Monitoring Mechanism (CISOMM) said in a report released on Wednesday.

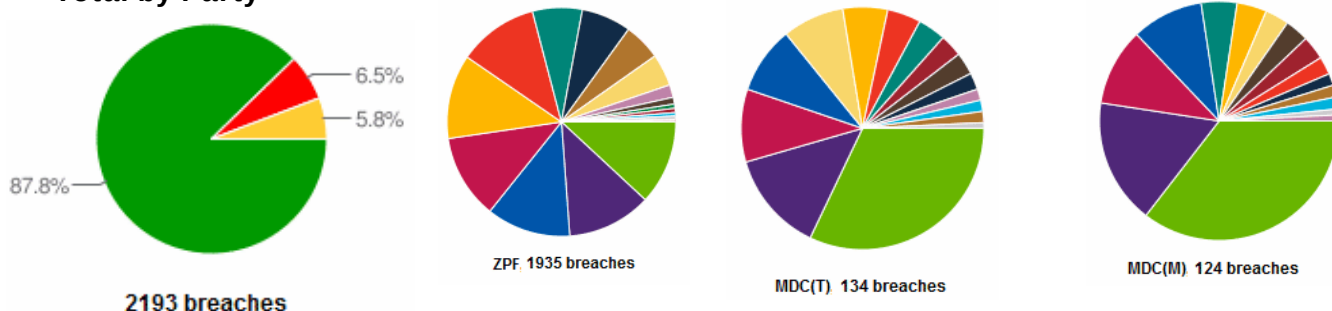
[Press release of the Southern African Commercial Farmers Alliance of Zimbabwe](#)

Sokwanele – Zimbabwe Interim Government Watch #4 – Highlights.

Chart Legend



Total by Party



Abbreviations

AIPPA	Access to Information and the Protection of Privacy Act
BSA	Broadcasting Services Act
BUSA	Business Unity South Africa
CMA	Common Monetary Area
CSO's	Civil Society Organisations
CSRO	Committee of Standing Rules and Orders
GNU	Government of National Unity
GPA	Global Political Agreement
IMF	International Monetary Fund
MDC	Movement for Democratic Change
MDC-T	Movement for Democratic Change – Tsvangirai Faction
POSA	Public Order and Security Act
RBZ	Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
WB	World Bank
Zanu PF	Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front