

ZIMBABWE HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANISATION | ZHRO

ZIMBABWEAN INDEPENDENT DIASPORA COALITION

INTELLIGENCE BRIEF & PETITION ADDENDUM

Twitter Spaces — Evening of 13 May 2026

Participants: Constitutional Lawyer Doug Coltart | MP Daniel Mlokele (Hwange Central) | MP Gladys Hlatywayo | and others

CRITICAL NOTE — PERSONAL SAFETY OF THREE NAMED PARTICIPANTS: CONSTITUTIONAL LAWYER DOUG COLTART, MP DANIEL MOLOKELE AND MP GLADYS HLATYWAYO

Three named participants in tonight’s Twitter Spaces discussion are operating at direct and documented personal risk as a consequence of their public opposition to CAB3. MP Daniel Mlokele (Hwange Central) and MP Gladys Hlatywayo are sitting Members of the Zimbabwe Parliament who participated publicly, by name, on a platform actively monitored by ZANU PF intelligence operatives and the Varakashi digital militia. Both MPs operate under a regime that has repeatedly harassed, detained and targeted opposition parliamentarians for far lesser acts of civic expression. Constitutional lawyer Doug Coltart — whose analysis is central to the legal case that CAB3 is unconstitutional — was physically assaulted and had his mobile phone stolen during the regime’s own claimed public consultation on CAB3. That assault is not a peripheral incident: it is evidence that the consultation was never open or democratic, and that Doug Coltart is a named and targeted individual. The theft of his device is an act of intelligence-gathering that may place others in his contacts at risk. All three individuals — Coltart, Mlokele, and Hlatywayo — chose to continue their public challenge to CAB3 in tonight’s Spaces knowing the personal consequences. That collective act of courage must be formally recognised and placed on the record. ZHRO calls on the UK Government, the FCDO, and the Joint Committee on Human Rights to note the elevated personal risk to all three, and to raise their safety in any diplomatic communications with Harare.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY — EIGHT KEY FINDINGS

This brief documents eight analytical points arising from the ZHRO-associated Twitter Spaces held on the evening of 13 May 2026 — less than 48 hours before the petition delivery to the UK Prime Minister. Participants included constitutional lawyer Doug Coltart, Zimbabwe MP Daniel Mlokele (Hwange Central), Zimbabwe MP Gladys Hlatywayo, and a number of diaspora activists and legal commentators. This document is an authoritative analytical addendum to the formal petition and is suitable for distribution to MPs, Lords, the JCHR and the FCDO.

#	Subject	Key Finding
1	ZANU PF Internal Division	CAB3 is a succession instrument, not governance reform. Removing VP Chiwenga — and elevating Sean Mnangagwa within the army — is the core objective.
2	Mnangagwa vs Chiwenga	The two architects of the 2017 coup are now adversaries. The Politburo is the battlefield; CAB3 is the weapon.
3	CAB3 is Unconstitutional	Section 328 of the 2013 Constitution requires TWO free and fair referendums for the term extensions proposed. None has been held. CAB3 is void. Doug Coltart was physically assaulted and his phone stolen at the regime’s own “consultation” — proof it was never democratic.
4	ZEC Capture	ZEC engineered a GNU rather than recognise Tsvangirai’s 2008 victory. Its CAB3 restructuring entrenches regime control, it does not reform it.

#	Subject	Key Finding
5	Delimitation Abuses	Doug Coltart's delimitation analysis constitutes a distinct dimension of CAB3 illegality requiring deeper formal attention.
6	Parliament is Captured	The Public Vote mechanism was designed to intimidate. The Politburo is Zimbabwe's real legislature. Parliament provides zero democratic input.
7	Student Abductions — S.59	Abductions are a coordinated suppression operation against the Section 59 constitutional right to protest, timed to coincide with 15 and 18 May demonstrations.
8	CRITICAL: Sale of Presidency	CAB3 enables acquisition of Zimbabwe's Presidency by a foreign power with only 30% of parliamentary votes — after purchasing citizenship. An existential national security risk.

DETAILED ANALYSIS OF EIGHT KEY POINTS

PT 1 ZANU PF IS INTERNALLY DIVIDED — CAB3 IS A SUCCESSION INSTRUMENT

The primary driver of Constitutional Amendment Bill 3 is not governance reform: it is a contest for post-Mnangagwa power within ZANU PF itself. CAB3's structural purpose is to remove or marginalise Vice President Constantino Chiwenga — clearing the path for a Mnangagwa dynastic succession. The elevation of Sean Mnangagwa within the Zimbabwe National Army is not incidental. It is the centrepiece of that architecture. The army remains the single most critical institution for ZANU PF's hold on power, and placing a loyalist son within its command structure is the foundational move of a dynasty that intends to be permanent. Mnangagwa's ambitions are, as noted during the Spaces discussion, 'avaricious' — a word that is precisely chosen.

PETITION RELEVANCE
 This is dynastic entrenchment, not constitutional reform. Any UK Government engagement premised on CAB3 as a legitimate governance exercise rests on a factually false foundation. The UK must formally recognise that the amendment process is an internal power consolidation instrument dressed in constitutional language.

PT 2 MNANGAGWA vs CHIWENGA — A BATTLE OF ZANU PF SUCCESSION

The movements within the ZANU PF Politburo are not routine party management. They represent a calculated operation by Mnangagwa to neutralise Chiwenga before the 2028 electoral cycle — now extended to 2030 under CAB3 — can provide Chiwenga with a platform to mount an internal challenge. The two men who together conducted the November 2017 military coup that ousted Robert Mugabe are now adversaries within the same party structure they seized. The Politburo is the battlefield; CAB3 is the weapon; and Chiwenga is the target. These 'movements within the subversive Politburo' — as noted in the Spaces discussion — are the mechanism by which Mnangagwa's permanent entrenchment is being pursued.

DIPLOMATIC IMPLICATION
 Any UK engagement with Zimbabwe that treats ZANU PF as a unified political actor is working from a false premise. The regime is factionalised. This must be reflected in FCDO analysis and in any assessment of CAB3's political context.

PT 3 CAB3 IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL — TWO REFERENDUMS ARE REQUIRED

The discussion — with specific contributions from Doug Coltart, one of Zimbabwe's most respected constitutional lawyers — was unambiguous: CAB3 cannot lawfully proceed without a referendum. More specifically, for the term extensions proposed (2028 to 2030), Section 328 of Zimbabwe's 2013 Constitution requires not one but TWO separate free and fair referendums. Neither has been conducted. No credible independent legal opinion has supported the regime's claim that parliamentary approval alone is constitutionally sufficient. The manufactured parliamentary consultation process is not a substitute. CAB3 is void.

This is not a contested legal position. It is the settled view of independent constitutional scholars. The Zimbabwe Parliament's own legal advisers have not been permitted to publish a full opinion — and that silence is itself instructive.

The Assault on Doug Coltart — Evidence That the “Consultation” Was Never Democratic

Doug Coltart did not participate in tonight's Spaces discussion from a position of detached academic safety. He is a named target of the regime's intimidation apparatus — and the evidence is not circumstantial. During the regime's own claimed “public consultation” process on CAB3, Doug Coltart was physically assaulted and his mobile phone was stolen. This fact carries consequences that must be stated explicitly and placed on the formal record.

First: the assault destroys the regime's claim that CAB3's public consultation was a genuine democratic process. If the foremost independent constitutional lawyer challenging CAB3's legality cannot attend the regime's own consultation without being physically attacked and having his communications device seized, then that “consultation” was not a consultation. It was a controlled performance from which dissent was excluded by force. No democratic government, no international observer, and no court should treat it as anything else.

Second: the theft of his phone is not opportunistic crime. It is intelligence-gathering. A lawyer of Doug Coltart's standing, actively working on constitutional challenges to CAB3, carries in his device his legal analysis, his client communications, his contacts within Zimbabwe's opposition, civil society, and the international community. Whoever directed or facilitated that theft now has access to information that places those individuals at risk. This is targeted, professional-level suppression of legal opposition to CAB3 — and it occurred inside the regime's own public process.

Third: Doug Coltart's participation in tonight's Twitter Spaces — following that assault — places him in the same category of personal risk as MPs Molokele and Hlatywayo. He is a named, identified, and now physically targeted individual who chose to continue his public challenge to CAB3 regardless. That act of continued engagement, after a documented physical attack, must be formally recognised alongside the courage of the two participating MPs.

FORMAL CALL — DOUG COLTART'S SAFETY & THE ASSAULT ON RECORD

ZHRO formally places on the record the physical assault on constitutional lawyer Doug Coltart and the theft of his mobile phone during the ZANU PF regime's claimed public consultation on CAB3. ZHRO calls on the UK Government to: (1) formally note this assault as evidence that the CAB3 consultation process was not free, open or democratic; (2) raise Doug Coltart's personal safety directly with the Mnangagwa administration as a matter of concern for the safety of legal professionals; and (3) treat the theft of his communications device as a documented act of targeted intelligence-gathering against a named legal opponent of CAB3 — with all the implications that carries for the safety of those whose details may now be in the regime's possession. Doug Coltart's continued participation in public advocacy — including tonight's Spaces — following a documented physical attack, places him alongside MPs Molokele and

Hlatywayo as an individual operating at direct and personal risk in the service of Zimbabwe's constitutional integrity.

PETITION DEMAND REINFORCED

The petition's demand that the UK formally condemn CAB3 as unconstitutional is fully supported by the Section 328 analysis. This point should be elevated in all FCDO, JCHR, and Prime Minister's Office communications.

PT 4 THE ZEC IS COMPROMISED — AND CAB3 MAKES IT WORSE

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has presided over systematic electoral fraud across multiple cycles. The most egregious example remains 2008, when Morgan Tsvangirai was the clear popular winner. ZEC engineered a Government of National Unity rather than acknowledge that outcome — ZANU PF political survival dressed as democratic compromise. That precedent has never been addressed; ZEC has never been held to account.

The restructuring of ZEC proposed under CAB3 is not an accountability measure. It is a further consolidation of regime control over the electoral machinery — designed to remove whatever residual independence ZEC retains and ensure that future elections produce ZANU PF-compatible outcomes.

PETITION DEMAND REINFORCED

The demand for ZEC to publish withheld ward-level results from 2023 stands. This point additionally supports the demand for independent international referendum monitoring by the AU, SADC, Commonwealth, EU and UN.

PT 5 DELIMITATION — DOUG COLTART'S ANALYSIS REQUIRES DEEPER ATTENTION

Constitutional lawyer Doug Coltart raised the issue of delimitation — the process by which constituency boundaries are drawn — with particular analytical precision. Delimitation manipulation is a well-documented instrument of electoral fraud in Zimbabwe: by redrawing constituency boundaries, the regime can engineer outcomes before a single vote is cast. The specific analysis presented requires deeper legal examination and should be incorporated into a supplementary submission to the JCHR. Delimitation abuse under CAB3 represents a dimension of constitutional illegality that is distinct from — and additional to — the referendum requirement under Section 328.

ACTION REQUIRED

ZHRO should request from Doug Coltart a written note of his delimitation analysis for direct incorporation into the JCHR position paper and any future legal challenge documentation. This is a priority action before any formal parliamentary engagement proceeds.

PT 6

ZIMBABWE'S PARLIAMENT IS FULLY CAPTURED — ZERO DEMOCRATIC INPUT

Zimbabwe's Parliament provides no meaningful avenue for democratic input. The Public Vote mechanism — imposed by the ZANU PF-aligned Speaker of the House — is not a democratic procedure. It is a mechanism of intimidation: MPs must vote openly, by name, in a chamber where the consequences of voting against the regime are well understood. This renders the parliamentary process on CAB3 constitutionally meaningless.

The real decision-making body is the ZANU PF Politburo — an unelected, party-internal structure with no constitutional basis for governance, but which in practice determines policy, appointments, and the direction of legislation. The Parliament ratifies; the Politburo decides. The revisions currently being driven through the Politburo on CAB3 and succession are the most significant political decisions being made in Zimbabwe — and they are happening entirely outside the constitutional framework.

UK GOVERNMENT NOTE

UK diplomatic engagement with Zimbabwe's Parliament as though it were a functioning democratic institution is not consistent with documented reality. ZHRO calls on the FCDO to formally reassess its characterisation of Zimbabwe's parliamentary process.

PT 7

STUDENT ABDUCTIONS — DELIBERATE SUPPRESSION OF SECTION 59

The recent abductions of student leaders in Zimbabwe are not isolated incidents. They are a deliberate, coordinated operation to suppress the constitutional right to public protest enshrined in Section 59 of Zimbabwe's 2013 Constitution. Section 59 provides every Zimbabwean citizen the right to demonstrate and present petitions without harassment. The abductions are precisely timed to coincide with the CAB3 parliamentary process and the diaspora demonstrations on 15 and 18 May 2026.

The regime does not need to abduct every protester. It needs only to abduct enough to make others choose silence. Witnessing the abduction of student leaders, ordinary citizens calculate the personal cost of exercising their Section 59 rights. That calculation — and the fear it produces — is the instrument of suppression. This pattern is documented, consistent with previous ZANU PF practice, and constitutes a direct violation of Zimbabwe's own constitution — the same constitution the regime claims CAB3 is being conducted in accordance with.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION CONNECTION

The student abductions within Zimbabwe are mirrored by the transnational repression operating against diaspora activists on UK soil. Both are branches of the same suppression apparatus. Both must be addressed in the UK's formal response to this petition.

PT 8

THE SALE OF THE PRESIDENCY — CAB3'S MOST DANGEROUS PROVISION

⚠️ CRITICAL NATIONAL SECURITY CONCERN — REQUIRES IMMEDIATE GOVERNMENT ATTENTION

This is the most alarming analytical point to emerge from tonight's Spaces discussion, and it demands the most urgent attention from the UK Government, its intelligence services, and international partners.

Under CAB3, the mechanism for electing Zimbabwe's President is changed from a direct popular vote to election by a joint sitting of Parliament — with only 30% of the parliamentary vote required. When this provision is read alongside Zimbabwe's citizenship laws, a catastrophic vulnerability is exposed: a foreign state or foreign-aligned interest could purchase Zimbabwean citizenship for a sufficient number of individuals, secure their election to Parliament, and then use those 30% of parliamentary votes to install a chosen President of Zimbabwe.

Zimbabwe sits atop some of the world's largest reserves of lithium, platinum, diamonds, chrome and other critical minerals. It shares borders with Zambia, Mozambique, Botswana and South Africa. The combination of mineral wealth, strategic geography, and the constitutional vulnerability created by CAB3 creates conditions in which a foreign power — state or non-state — could effectively acquire control of Zimbabwe's executive branch through a mechanism that would, on its face, appear constitutional.

This is not a hypothetical. The deliberate suppression of the referendum requirement, the capture of Parliament, the restructuring of ZEC, and the 30% presidential election threshold are not independent policy choices. Together they form a coherent architecture — whether by design or cumulative effect — that renders Zimbabwe's sovereign integrity acutely vulnerable.

FORMAL CALL TO THE UK GOVERNMENT

ZHRO formally calls on the UK Government to instruct the FCDO and its intelligence partners to conduct an urgent assessment of the national security implications of CAB3's presidential election provisions — specifically the 30% parliamentary threshold combined with the citizenship acquisition mechanism. This is not a matter of political preference. It is a matter of regional and international security. Zimbabwe's neighbours, the African Union, the Commonwealth, and Zimbabwe's international creditors must all be informed of this risk. The UK, as a permanent member of the UN Security Council and as Zimbabwe's former colonial power, has both the standing and the responsibility to raise this at the highest levels of international diplomacy without delay.

CLOSING STATEMENT

The eight points documented in this brief, arising from a single evening's public discussion among constitutional lawyers, sitting MPs, and diaspora activists, demonstrate the depth and coherence of the case against CAB3. These are not the complaints of a disorganised opposition. They are the documented findings of individuals who have studied Zimbabwe's constitution, its political history, and the current legislative process with rigour — and, in the case of the participating MPs, at direct personal risk.

MP Daniel Molokele and MP Gladys Hlatywayo participated in this discussion as sitting members of Zimbabwe's Parliament. They did so knowing the platform is monitored, that their participation would be noted by state security services, and that the regime has demonstrated repeatedly its willingness to act against those who speak publicly against CAB3. Constitutional lawyer Doug Coltart participated having already been physically assaulted and had his phone stolen at the regime's own consultation — and chose to continue his public challenge regardless. The courage of all three is formally acknowledged in this document. Their safety is a matter of direct concern for ZHRO and should be a matter of immediate concern for the UK Government.

The petition to the Prime Minister is submitted at 14:00 on 15 May 2026. This brief is submitted alongside it as an authoritative analytical addendum, and will be formally transmitted to the FCDO, the Joint Committee on Human Rights, and all parliamentary contacts on record.

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On behalf of the Zimbabwean Independent Diaspora

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