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## Essential Principles

*"Everyone has the right to take part in the government of his country, directly or through freely chosen representatives. . . . The will of the people shall be the basis of the authority of government; this will shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."*

Article 21, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, 1948



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If consent of the governed is the most fundamental concept of democracy, its most essential right is that of citizens to choose their leaders in free, fair, and regular elections. Other rights are necessary to democracy; elections by themselves are insufficient. Yet the right to freely elect one's representatives and to influence the political direction of one's government is democracy's indispensable political foundation.

Without free elections, there is neither the possibility for citizens to express their will nor the opportunity for citizens to change their leaders, approve policies for the country, address wrongs, or protest the limitation of their rights. Elections establish the citizenry's and the individual's political rights. They are the ongoing representation of the consent of the governed (see previous section).

Around the world, millions of people have braved violence, intimidation, and other obstacles to demand the right to express their will through the ballot box. Often, students and youth have played leading roles in this worldwide epic, such as the Otpor movement in Serbia, which helped to overthrow the dictator Slobodan Milosevic in 2000, or the Iranian Green Revolution, which protested the stealing of elections in 2009. In the United States, young people played a pivotal role in the civil rights movement, including thousands of students who challenged segregation throughout the South or volunteered to register black citizens to vote.

### Representative and Electoral Systems

The majority of democracies have chosen to establish parliamentary systems, in which elections for the legislature also determine the party in control of the executive branch. This means that the party (or coalition) with a majority of seats in parliament forms the government. (Although there are occasions of minority coalitions forming governments, they typically have majority support in parliament.) In a presidential system, such as in the United States, or in a mixed presidential-parliamentary system, such as in France and Poland, there are separate elections for the head of the executive branch and the legislature. Although parliamentary systems may reflect more directly the citizens' will, presidential or mixed systems may provide greater checks and balances on the exercise of power (see also Constitutional Limits).

There are two main types of electoral systems: proportional and direct. In proportional systems, seats in parliament are apportioned according to the percentage of the vote a party receives nationally or in regions; direct elections are determined by a majority or plurality vote in specific districts, usually divided proportionally to the population. But there are many variations on these systems, and many countries use a combination of proportional and direct systems for their elections. Each system raises complex questions. For example, should a turnout of less than 50 percent be considered a valid expression of the people's will? Should a plurality of the vote be sufficient to determine the majority in parliament or the national office of president? Should there be a threshold vote for a party to enter parliament or should any party receiving votes be able to have a seat? There are no simple answers. Often, these decisions depend on a country's political history and culture (see Resources). Often, however, these questions are determined based on the desire to manipulate an election's outcome.



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## Free, Fair, and Regular

As with the definitions for electoral and representative systems, there are no precise definitions for "regular, free, and fair elections." International human rights conventions have established a basic consensus. In the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 21 states that "the will of the people . . . shall be expressed in periodic and genuine elections which shall be by universal and equal suffrage and shall be held by secret vote or by equivalent free voting procedures."

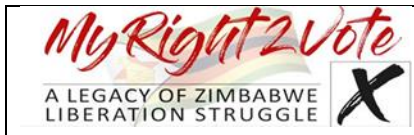
Regular or periodic means holding elections on a set schedule known to the electorate, either on a specified day or range of dates or within a particular time frame. Federal law in the U.S., for example, requires elections to be held on the first Tuesday of November of every even year (except if it falls on the 1st) for electing representatives and senators and every four years for electing a president. Parliamentary systems usually require elections to be held within four or five years from the previous election, but they may be called earlier as determined by the party or coalition of parties in the majority. This gives the ruling party some advantage in setting the date. Still, citizens are guaranteed the opportunity to change their leaders and to support new policies if they choose within a reasonable timeframe. No government stays in power indeterminately.

Genuine means that elections are free and fair. Electoral laws must offer equal conditions and opportunities for citizens to have access to polling stations and to vote. They also must offer equal conditions and opportunities for all parties and candidates taking part in them. Such equality requires the ability of political parties and candidates to register for elections without unreasonable requirements (such as paying special fees or having a minimum income); that they have balanced access to the media; that laws governing the financing of campaigns are the same for all candidates and do not give one candidate or party an unequal advantage; and that the electoral process is fair and not skewed toward a party or candidate. Overall, political freedoms of expression, conscience, association, and assembly must be protected so that candidates and parties can campaign without hindrance and have the opportunity to convey their political messages and platforms to the voters.

Universal suffrage means that every citizen has the right to vote regardless of race, gender, ethnicity, religion, physical disability, sexual orientation, property considerations, or level of education.

Universal suffrage also means that there can be no burdensome impediments against any citizen's registering to vote or casting a ballot (such as a poll tax or fee). Only legitimate requirements such as age, residence, and citizenship may restrict the right to vote. The ideal is to have maximum participation in elections of all adult citizens eligible to vote. To achieve this, some countries, such as Australia and Uruguay, make voting a legal obligation and enforce penalties (usually fines) for not showing up at the polls.

It should be noted that the principle of universal suffrage is distinct from the principle of one person, one vote. The latter applies more to political systems with direct representation. But both principles mean that everyone who is qualified has a right to vote and no person's vote can be counted twice. A secret ballot means that no one — except for the voter — knows how each person has voted. If a voter's choice is observable by others, voters may be subject to intimidation and reprisals by the party in power or by a party seeking power. Elections would then have no integrity. Thus, protecting the right to a secret ballot is essential to a free election.



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There is one more essential requirement. For democracy to work, everyone must agree to accept the legitimate results of freely held elections. The people and parties who lose power or who have failed to gain it must be willing to accept defeat. If the loser refuses to accept the winner, the election's legitimacy is diminished, and the political system is likely to be marked by conflict and instability. A key test for a democracy is the successful and peaceful transfer of power from one party to another. Indeed, this is a continuous test for any democracy, even established ones.

### Controversy in Democracies

Within any of these broad definitions, there is a lot of room for debate and controversy. What can be done to ensure the independence of the election process? Should candidates and parties have spending limits? Or limits on campaign speech? Should there be rules for media access? And so on.

In European countries, for example, there are strict limits on spending.

In most countries, it is possible to discover a rich history of electoral abuse, including gerrymandering, ballot stuffing, fraud, and voter intimidation. Such abuses show that the integrity of democracy is not an inevitable outcome of elections; **that integrity must be vigorously and continuously protected by each country's citizens.**

### Dictatorships and Elections

It is a measure of the success of democracy that even dictatorships hold elections. But elections in dictatorships are not free, fair or genuine, as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but rather shams or political spectacles designed to ensure their regimes' continuation in power under a veneer of legitimacy. In such countries, political parties are restricted by the ruling government or prevented from even appearing on the ballot. When opposition parties are allowed, dictators ensure their victory in elections by setting unfair rules or simply fabricating the electoral results. Sometimes, however, dictators wrongly assess their own popularity and allow a relatively free vote to be held in the belief that they cannot lose. Through voter mobilization and vigilant oversight, citizens have used such opportunities to make democratic breakthroughs (as recently in Burma, Poland, the country study in this section, in 1989, and Chile in 1988). Other dictators respond to public dissatisfaction by strengthening their control over political parties and the election process (as recently in Egypt, Iran or, in this section, Azerbaijan). In many totalitarian countries, ruling political parties, operating according to a specified ideology, simply provide themselves with the institutionalized right to rule through their constitutions, as in the former Soviet Bloc countries, which called themselves "people's democracies" or "people's republics." (For current examples, see country studies of China, Cuba, North Korea, and Vietnam where citizens are forced to vote in staged elections for candidates only of ruling communist parties or satellite parties.)

### The Insufficiency and Abuse of Election

Dictatorships make evident the notion that the holding of an election, in and of itself, is insufficient to establish or sustain democracy. Elections are the sine qua non of democracy, but without democracy's other essential elements — such as constitutional limits, the protection of basic human rights and minority rights, accountability and transparency, a multiple party system, economic freedom, and the rule of law — elections are not a guarantee of freedom. Indeed, the holding of elections absent other democratic rights means that those elections cannot be considered genuine



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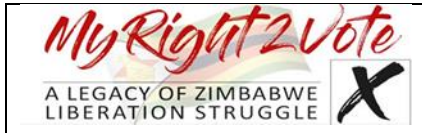
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and are simply a means of political manipulation by those who seek absolute power (country studies of “not free” countries in this and other sections linked above).

Even when elections are conducted freely, they are not a guarantee of a democratic outcome. When democratic institutions are or become weak, elections may easily be used by violent or authoritarian political groups to manipulate the will of the people and seize control of the government. During the 1930s in Germany, Adolf Hitler rose to power by participating in elections, but then gained complete political control through intimidation and thuggery (see Country Study of Germany).

Can elections however legitimate be used for the overturning of established democratic governance, the imposition of a dictatorship, or revolutionary violence? The terrible consequences of the Nazi regime alone make clear that the answer must be a resounding "No." As a rule, dictatorships that claim to hold genuine elections manipulate and distort them, making clear their intent to prevent real competition and the possibility of a peaceful transfer of power. Democracy is based on political freedom. Its main foundation, the holding of free elections, cannot legitimately be used to introduce political conditions of organized violence or state repression that prevent genuine and free elections from being held again. In such instances, elections are not signs of democracy, but rather a mask to anti-democratic political structures.



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Inkhosi Nhlanhlayamangwe Ndiweni

Should The 2023 Elections in Zimbabwe Be Postponed?

## Summary Statement

**22 November 2021**

We now see the governments true intentions, about elections in Zimbabwe. The memorandum of the 17th November 2021 within the Zimbabwe Election Commission, ZEC, regarding the matter of voter registration titled ;-

**Subject; POSTPONEMENT OF THE DECEMBER 2021 MOBILE BIOMETRIC VOTER REGISTRATION (BVR EXERCISE) BLITZ.**

This is the “smoking gun “, we have been looking for and now we have found it. This means that the 2023 elections will be contested without doubt and so we are now preparing for that. We have caught ZEC red handed rigging and fixing the 2023 elections.

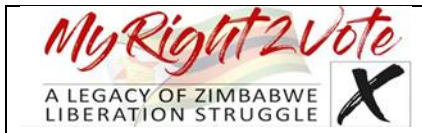
Elections are fixed and rigged well, well before the election date. They are fixed and rigged by the systems that are adopted by the government of the day. It is like a football match. The government of the day is like a player of one of those teams.

But then he is also the referee for that coming football match. That referee then goes a step further and says that the opposing team is not allowed a goalkeeper, a centre forward, a centre half and a left back. But the referee's teams have a full complement of players. It is clear that the referee's team will win the match, well before it has started. This is what the government and ZEC are doing here.

### Voter Registration Problems - ZEC

We already know that there are millions and millions of people not registered on the voters-role in Zimbabwe, because they do not have Identity papers and/or birth certificates. Roughly 400 000 who are the descendants of the labour force that came from Malawi and Zambia between 1955 -1985. We then have the victims and survivors of the Ndebele genocide that run into the high hundreds of thousands who also could not get identity documents because the state refused to give their dead relatives death certificates, that were stamped, cause of death “ Genocide by government of the day“.

We further know that every year there are 800 000 school leavers who just disappear from the system and are not registered on the voters-roll.



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The government through ZEC is now excluding these people from registering for the 2023 elections. Because the fewer people register, the easier is it to rig the election. The more people register, then the harder it is to rig the election.

It is in this month of December that most people would have returned to their places of residence. Where they would likely vote come the election. Now these people cannot register to be on the voters-roll. Of greater concern are the hundreds of thousands who are all returning from the SADC diaspora for Christmas break, this month, the month of December.

We have already seen efforts from South Africa, of the Zimbabwean Diaspora getting itself together, to make the journey back to the homes in Zimbabwe. So that once there they may register to vote. The Zimbabwe Embassy in South Africa is aware of this, yet here is ZEC and government, ensuring that these people cannot register to vote.

### Tribal Lines

The majority of these people in the SADC diaspora are Ndebele. Which means that here is a government decision that is purely tribalistic in intent and execution. We have no reservations at all, in levelling such a blunt accusation to this government about this. That it is operating on a tribal footing.

What makes matters worse is that the stoppage of service is indefinite. It is like ZEC and the government are playing hide and seek with those who wish to register to vote, whilst on the other side it is busy calling for people to come and register. A most reprehensible, loathsome conduct from a government. That is to wilfully deny the citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe, the human right to vote.

So, it meant that the government was also untruthful to us all, when it said, if the Zimbabwean diaspora wish to vote, all they have to do is to come back to Zimbabwe and they can vote. Yet when they do come back to register to vote ZEC is closed for business. There are many choice words one could use in this regard about our governments conduct here, but with regret they would fall on deaf ears.

The foot note of this memorandum goes to phase two of the vote rigging scandal. ZEC says that whilst it knows that the roll is not complete and accurate, it says that it's official can continue fixing the voter roll in the exclusion of the hundreds of thousands that it has prevented from registering. Which that the political boundaries are being fixed knowingly inaccurate. ZEC is official engaging in Gerrymandering (The manipulation of an electoral boundaries and number so that one political party wins that coming election).

### ZEC is rigging the vote

So ZEC is continuing to fix the areas, even though it knows that the Enumeration Area to Polling Area are wrong and are in error, because of those hundreds of thousands of people that have been denied to register, by design, by ZEC and the current government . This is phase two election rigging we are witnessing in broad daylight. Here there is no need to look for a "V 11" form. No, the fraud is plain to see.



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Phase four of this electoral rigging by ZEC and the government is, how does ZEC and this government continue to update the Alpha list, when hundreds of thousands have been denied their Human Right to Register for the elections.

Right now, the government and ZEC, if they were being truthful and transparent, should have quadrupled their voter registration campaigns. This is by far the biggest problem we have as a country today. All our problems stem from the fact that we have a government in office that was NOT chosen by the people. That is why the government is not functioning in all areas, be they, health, schools, local government, business and enterprise, judiciary ..... Everything stems from one's ability to cast a vote into the ballot box.

If we do not protect this, we have done nothing. Because everything else we try to fix is doomed to fail, because of this. In biblical terms this is the cornerstone of our democracy. If a cornerstone is not there in a building, the building is structurally unsound and collapses. The building is condemned and is demolished. It is not the people of Zimbabwe that are condemned but it is the government of the day that is condemned.

### No Rule of Law

The existence of this memorandum is important because it is the smoking gun of electoral fraud and vote rigging for the 2023 elections. In the month of October 2021, the country witnessed both political verbal and physical violence on the streets. However, this breakdown of Law and Order has been developing since the last elections in 2018. The Rule of Law is in a critical state, as the last vestige of democracy. In such a state there arises the question of whether free and fair elections can take place in such an environment?

The calls for the postponement of the elections come with the following rationale; -

- The non-implementation of electoral reforms
- The under-funding and lack of resourcing of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, ZEC.
- The low level of electoral registration by ZEC
- The failure of ZEC to meet its responsibilities under the law
- Vote rigging and electoral fraud

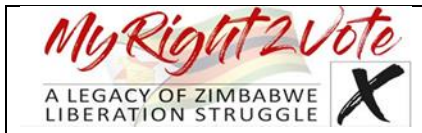
The call for any election in any country to be postponed is a serious matter. For it is actually stopping the democratic process, that determined what kind of government the people have.

The reasons given above by those calling for the postponement of the 2023 election, have to be resolved by the act of the postponement. If the act of postponement of the elections, does not quickly resolve the identified problem, then it is futile to postpone the election.

All of the problems cited fall under the jurisdiction of the current government of Zimbabwe.

Indeed, all of the problems cited for the postponement of the election, have been cultivated by the current government.





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## My Right to Vote Viewpoint

MyRight2Vote adopts the position that the Zimbabwe 2023 General Elections must not be postponed because the stated reasons can be resolved, well before the elections. All that is required is the right political will. Should the government have difficulties with resolving some of those challenges, there is assistance available from the Southern African Development Countries, SADC, the African Union, the International arena and the United Nations

MyRight2Vote rejects the idea of the 2023 elections being postponed and being substituted by a Government of National Unity, GNU ( Or as the leaked documentation from the recent Zanu PF meeting has chosen to call it "A Transitional Government" that we reject because their version is not people led and is trying to revive the defunct POLAD ). Such a course of action would have the effect of giving the current government, another illegitimate term of office, having not been elected by the citizens of Zimbabwe to govern.

Zimbabwe is now in complete crisis. Democracy has suffered a catastrophic failure, making piecemeal attempts at rectifying the situation, a futile endeavour. In the last elections in 2018, a total of 4.8 million Zimbabweans voted in the country.

## 50% of Zimbabweans are in the Diaspora

However, at that very same time there were 5.5 million plus Zimbabweans in the diaspora, who were not allowed to vote by the current government because they lived in the diaspora.

It is this challenge to democracy, that MyRight2Vote seeks to address with its Zimbabwean Diaspora Vote Campaign. For example;

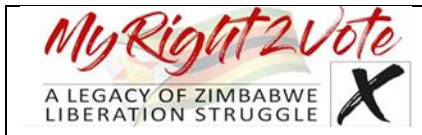
*The size of the voting population of the United Kingdom was 47,074,800 in 2019 (forty-seven million and seventy-four thousand, eight hundred). What if the current government of the United Kingdom decided to disqualify, 23,537,400, (Twenty-three million, five hundred and thirty-seven thousand four hundred) British citizens from voting. That number is 50 % of the electorate. This is what has happened in Zimbabwe. In that 50 % plus of the citizens who should be allowed to vote, are not allowed to vote by the current government.*

MyRight2Vote is campaigning that the Zimbabwean Diaspora be allowed to vote in the 2023 elections. However, MyRight2Vote is also independently facilitating the Zimbabwe Diaspora elections for 2023, in the diaspora, since the current government has already stated in public and in the Zimbabwean High Courts, that it will not allow the Zimbabwean Diaspora to vote.

## Regional and International Influence

MyRight2Vote is minded that the electoral process that it is holding for the Zimbabwean diaspora community already is in principle accepted by the international arena. And the international arena, **SADC, African Union, United Nations, EU** as a coalition can affect the wishes and aspirations of the Zimbabwean Diaspora in Zimbabwe. Whether the current government is or is not party to that.

The world has changed and now wishes to engage the Zimbabwe government on a Hard-Edged Diplomacy process that is result-led. It's beginning with the implementation of the electoral Reforms, The Rule of Law and democracy.



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Some of this Hard-Edged Diplomacy we have already seen at COP 26, then now with the exclusion of the current government from Joe Biden's Democracy and economy world conference. For if one observes what has happened during the last 41 years, the current government has had it relatively easy, since the international arena did not wish to act. However, that has changed and now our government will experience Hard-Edged Diplomacy. From what transpired at COP 26 it is clear that no other government will come to the aid of our government. It is fair to say our government is on its own.

## 23rd November 2021 House of Lords – Zimbabwe

### Questions regarding Imprisonment of Opposition Party Members and the ZEC announcement.

<https://hansard.parliament.uk/lords/2021-11-23/debates/22056385-B656-4818-A4D1-C0EA982F8505/ZimbabweMakomboreroHaruzivishe>

The Minister of State, Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office

#### **(Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon) (Con)**

*"My Lords, the UK remains concerned about the political situation in Zimbabwe. We regularly urge the Zimbabwean Government to live up to their own constitution by ensuring that the opposition, civil society and journalists are allowed to operate without harassment, and that due legal process is respected. The Minister for Africa reinforced these messages when she met President Mnangagwa on 1 November. Our embassy is also in touch with Mr Haruzivishe's lawyers as we await the outcome of his appeal."*

#### **Lord Anderson of Swansea (Lab)**

*"My Lords, in the Government's view, which country has the clout to bring effective pressure on Zimbabwe on political oppression? We probably have less influence than China which is most unlikely to bring any such pressure. Zimbabwe's conduct clearly tarnishes the image of the whole region. Is this recognised by its neighbours, particularly South Africa, and are they playing a positive role in this regard?"*

#### **Lord Purvis of Tweed (LD)**

*"In response to the last element of what the Minister indicated, Zimbabwean press promoted the fact that President Mnangagwa met our Prime Minister and the Secretary-General of the Commonwealth in Glasgow at COP 26. As the Minister is also the Minister for the Commonwealth, can he say whether we are making clear that, while we want the Commonwealth to be inclusive and open to Zimbabwe being a member, the conditions of a free and fair political system and the restoration of the 2013 constitution and the rule of law are essential criteria for membership and rejoining the Commonwealth?"*

#### **Lord Jones of Cheltenham (LD) [V]**

*"What representations have Ministers made to the Zimbabwe Government about the continued suspension of by-elections in Zimbabwe? Several dozen are outstanding."*



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### **Lord St John of Bletso (CB)**

*"My Lords, is the Minister aware that last week the Zimbabwe cabinet signed off on the patriot Bill, which would make it a criminal offence for anyone to criticise President Mnangagwa and for any member of the opposition to speak to any foreign Government in a negative way about Zimbabwe? At a time when Zimbabwe is considering rejoining the Commonwealth, can the Minister make it clear that our Government will support this only when the rule of law is restored and freedom of speech and political freedoms are protected?"*

### **Baroness Hoey (Non-Afl)**

*"My Lords, Zimbabwe will only become a democracy when the people have a genuinely free and fair election. We have seen that recently in Zambia. Can the Minister go further and actually say what more could be done to get Zambia and other countries within SADC to put the pressure on Zimbabwe? It has to come from those countries. We can help, but we must make sure that they do their bit so that we can get back to a situation where the people of Zimbabwe genuinely have a free and fair election in 2023."*

### **In reply for the UK Government: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon (Conservative)**

*"My Lords, I agree with the noble Baroness: she is quite right to say that. SADC and other organisations—including, more broadly, the AU—have a key role to play and must lead on these discussions, as people want to see an inclusive, progressive Zimbabwe. Within Zimbabwe, we must see rights restored, constitutions respected and human rights—which includes the rights of other political parties to participate fully in the democratic process—guaranteed. Those will form part of our current and future discussions with key partners."*

### **The Earl of Sandwich (CB)**

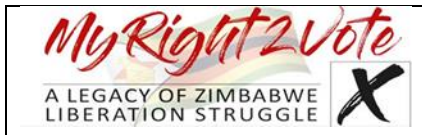
*"My Lords, the US embassy in Zimbabwe has issued some devastating reports on conditions in prisons in that country, including ill-treatment of activists, violence against women and rape. Does the UK embassy confirm these reports? Can he confirm the continuing harassment of Hopewell Chin'ono, who is a highly respected figure, as reported by the American Bar Association?"*

### **In reply for the UK Government: Lord Ahmad of Wimbledon (Con)**

*My Lords, on the noble Earl's final point on the case of Mr Chin'ono, yes, we are very much engaged on that particular case. I have not seen the details of the report to which he referred, so if I may, I will write to the noble Earl in that respect.*

It is clear that the UK Government is well aware of the situation in Zimbabwe with respect of the rule of Law and the Corrupt Voting System, as presided over by ZEC.

Zimbabwe will continue to be ostracised by those nations surrounding her, and those within the UK, EU and USA - who Zanu PF seem to think are their 'friends' who will get them back to the



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Commonwealth. So at the moment the only friend is China - but they are there to loot all of Zimbabwe's resources.

## Xenophobia Raises its ugly Head in SA

With an estimated 3 million Zimbabweans across the boarder in South Africa, tensions are rising over “jobs” – but the underlying condition is Xenophobia.

Of late there have been ongoing discussions on social media – sometimes with over 9,000 participants offering opinion from both ‘sides’ in this dichotomy.

Indeed, matters are now so perceptively volatile that politicians are being forced to speak out to defuse the situation. **17<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/i-would-rather-die-than-let-hungry-zimbabweans-die-alone-malema/>

*SOUTH Africa’s opposition Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) commander-in-chief Julius Malema says he would rather die or resign from politics than support the xenophobic expulsion of Africans from the country.*

*The firebrand opposition leader was responding to questions from the media if his militant stance in support of foreigners had led the EFF to lose in the recent local council elections.*

*However, Malema said it was “xenophobic to demand foreigners to leave South Africa. Millions of Africans have settled in South Africa in search of better opportunities in the continent’s biggest economy.”*

However, the removal of Zimbabwe ‘visas’ by SA has added to this problem.

The latest travel-ban [30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2021] for returning Zimbabweans will prevent further diaspora voter registration. <https://twitter.com/nickmangwana/status/1465714054861758465?s=20>

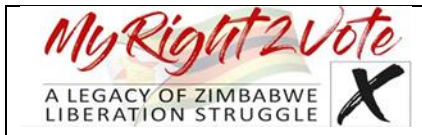
*All travelers [sic] to Zimbabwe will now have a Covid19 PCR Test at all ports of entry at their cost. All travelers [sic] and returning residents will now have a mandatory quarantine at their own cost. [10 days]*

## Summary

As stated by the Lords in the Upper House earlier, SADC and the AU need to be proactive – otherwise a new refugee class may develop on the borders of South Africa and Zimbabwe.

This is the result of the Zimbabwean Government’s continued policies of repression, violence and corruption. Will this region be destabilised due to the Zimbabwean Junta? The Zimbabwean global diaspora is the result of the policies of the ruling and ultra-violent cabal, who for 41 years have kept a stranglehold on power at all and any cost.

In the last Zimbabwean elections in 2018, the total number of Zimbabweans who cast a vote inside the country, were 4.8 million. Whilst at the same time there were over 5.5 million Zimbabweans in the diaspora who wanted to vote but were denied that Human Right by the current Zimbabwean. We repeat this fact because it crystallises the issue before us all.



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It is reasonable to postulate that from this sizeable Zimbabwean Diaspora population that some of them will now be for ever international in residence. But also, that also a considerable size will return to Zimbabwe out of their own will, so long as the Zimbabwe Crisis is addressed and resolved. One of the most cost effective and achievable methodologies of effecting this, is to effect a Zimbabwean Diaspora Vote.

For the Zimbabwean situation is most unusual in many regards and so requires measures from outside the box. These millions of Zimbabweans voted with their feet and left Zimbabwe, because they no longer had any trust in the current Zimbabwe government. Trust is incredibly difficult, if not impossible to regain, once it has been lost. Hence the global Zimbabwean diaspora election has to be completely independent from the Zimbabwean Election Commission ( ZEC ) and also independent from the current Zimbabwean government. It is only under these conditions that the Zimbabwean diaspora will take part in such elections. Elections that would be facilitated by the international arena, MyRight2Vote and other Human Rights organisations. Electronic elections because of the global dispersal of the Zimbabwean diaspora. An election process which the World would know was truly free and fair.

The results of this Zimbabwean Diaspora “parallel election process” would be a most useful tool for effecting a resolution to the Zimbabwean Crisis.

It is the current looming serious situation in the Southern African Region, that necessitates an imaginative solution. For the stability of the region is now at stake.

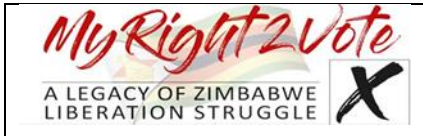
Social cohesion and economic challenges have resulted in the terrible of xenophobic attacks in South Africa. For the country has had to absorb between 3.5 to 4.3 million Zimbabweans and this now not sustainable. With the coming elections, it is expected that another One million Zimbabweans will find their way into South Africa. Likewise, Zimbabweans are finding their way into Botswana, in numbers. There are measurable signs of instability in Botswana. The flow of Zimbabweans will increase to Zambia, immediately challenging that new democracy and its delicate economy. Instability has already reached into Eswatini and also Mozambique and the flow of Zimbabweans and arms between South Africa, Zimbabwe, Mozambique and Eswatini is of concern.

For the international arena not to engage the Zimbabwean Diaspora in the manner described amounts to rolling the dice at the casino that is loaded against the thrower.

For as things stand within Zimbabwe, the 2023 election or whenever it is called, are absolutely guaranteed to be disputed. That is a certainty, since this has happened for the last 41 years.

The growing acceptance of “Hard Edged Diplomacy” combined with the proposed parallel Zimbabwean Diaspora elections provides a Zimbabwean Road Map that can be realistically crafted. The details of this Zimbabwe Road Map can be discussed. It's chances of success are high and they involve the SADC Region working with the international arena, in a coalition. This is necessary because whilst the Crisis is in Zimbabwe and the SADC region, its repercussions are global.

Can we not, as “peace-makers” in the UK resolve this issue by creating the framework for a global diaspora vote – so that all Zimbabweans around the World can decide for themselves the fate of their own homelands? If so, perhaps numbers of Zimbabweans will return “home” when they can



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see a democratic space opening up, with re-development potential appearing after the junta has been removed through free and fair elections?

**Zimbabwe: an 'indaba' is needed**

***We await your invitations from the Commons, House of Lords and Foreign Commonwealth & Development Office to discuss such a possibility and to progress policy in the region.***

Signed: Petitioners

Chief Felix Nhlanhlayamangwe NDIWENI

Thomas MUTANGIRI

John C BURKE,

Moses MBANO

Rashiwe BAYISAYI

Sarah BAYISAYI

Plus representatives from:

- Restoration of Human Rights (ROHR) Zimbabwe ([www.rohr-zimbabwe.org](http://www.rohr-zimbabwe.org) )
- Zimbabwe Human Rights Organisation (ZHRO) (<https://www.zhro.org.uk/> )
- Movement for Democratic Change Alliance (MDCA) (<https://mdcukandireland.org/> )
- Zimbabwe African Peoples Union (ZAPU) (<https://www.zapu.org/>)




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## Appendix 1

### Gabriel Shumba et all 2012 representations

20th October 2021 Dismissal: Case presented 27th December 2012 [8years, 11 months ago]

<https://cite.org.zw/achpr-dismisses-diaspora-vote-case/>

The African Commission on Human and Peoples Rights has dismissed claims by some South African based Zimbabweans who argued that restrictions by the government on diaspora votes violated the African Charter.

The Commission, a quasi-judicial body for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa, established in terms of the African Charter on Human and Peoples rights, in a communique on October 20, 2021 said restrictions on the diaspora vote did not violate the African Charter.

Zimbabweans abroad have been clamouring for a diaspora vote but the government declared they do have a right to vote but they need to travel back to their relevant constituencies to do so.

The commission noted that the right to participate in government processes, within the meaning of Article 13 (1) of the African Charter does not extend so far as to guarantee non-residents the right to vote from abroad.



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## Appendix 2

The dubious suspension of the December 6th 2021 voter registration blitz is clear rigging by Zec!

### MDC Alliance Namibia fumes.

24 November 2021

Mdc Alliance Namibia absolutely condemns the suspension of the December 6th voter registration blitz aimed at making sure that virgin voters especially the millennial generation register to vote in their numbers in 2022 and 2023. This is a clear sign that Zec is not independent! Zec is now an undoubted ZanuPF appendage. This should be constitutionally contested in captured courts and in the streets! Voting is part of independence! The right to vote is enshrined in our 2013 constitution. Lets commit to defend Constitutionalism and the rule of law.

ZanuPF should divorce itself from the operations of Zec. Rigging of the people's vote has just started. Social democrats should democratically pent up their outrage demanding justice to the people's voices.

It's satanic to continue muzzling the democratic space in Zimbabwe. We demand our voting rights! That was one of the main reasons why we went to the liberation war to enjoy the universal fundamental basic right to vote. Zec must respect the people of Zimbabwe, one man one vote is a significant provision in the supreme law of the country. The people of Zimbabwe deserve their full voting rights as a sign of independence.

We expect ZEC to represent and protect civic and political rights than meddling in politics as a ZanuPF enabler.

We say no to the suspension of the much-needed voter registration blitz. Zec should put the constitution first before receiving bribes and threats from the desperate ZanuPF regime. Mdc Alliance Namibia District urges all Zimbabweans across the globe to rise up in defence of Constitutional Democracy. It is clear that ZanuPF has just pressed the panic button after witnessing the revolutionary appetite in the millennial generation through mass mobilisation from the opposition and civic societies. The citizens interface that the political behemoth (Mdc Alliance) is currently undertaking driven by the energetic and dynamic President Advocate Nelson Chamisa Wamba Dia Wamba scared the Harare regime. They unleashed unprecedented state-sponsored violence in Masvingo, Manicaland and in Matebeleland to deter social democrats across the breadths and lengths of Zimbabwe.

The extreme determination in the youths should not compel Zec to postpone the due process of voter registration blitz to avert voter apathy. Change agents in Zimbabwe and the diaspora should come clear demanding justice to both virgin voters and all time voters. We are concerned as one of the diaspora assemblies because our real plan was to use the festive season to intensify our registration campaign as an integral part of #CitizensConvergenceForChange.

We remain committed to the national democratic revolution that's why we don't halt to say #NgaapindeHakeMukomana.





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In a nutshell, Mdc Alliance Namibia's serious message to Priscilla Chigumba and cabal is that Zimbabwe does not belong to Zanupf neither does it belong to ZEC. We shall continue demanding accountability and transparency from the captured electoral body which defends Zanupf cabal at the expense of the voice of the people. Our encouragement is that lets remain resolutely behind the reform agenda as Citizens Converge for Complete Change.

ZEC should stop playing with people's lives! We are ready to surrender ourselves before we surrender our fight for free, fair and credible elections. We are cognisant of the fact that the world is ruled by those who show on the registration day, verification of the name, voting for change on the day in question and readiness to defend the vote. A New Great Zimbabwe is possible in our lifetime under the leadership of our political dynamo President Advocate Nelson Chamisa. Ngaapinde Hake Mukomana fullstop.

- #NoToSuspensionOfTheRegistrationBlitz
- #6DecemberWeWantToRegisterToVoteForChange
- #ZecMustBeDisbanded
- #ZecMustBeIndependent
- #RegisterToVote
- #VoteForChangeIn2023
- #DefendTheVote
- #ZanupfAndTheirEnablersMustFall
- #NelsonChamisa
- #People'sPresident

Mdc Alliance Namibia  
Rundu Branch Spokesperson  
Robson Ruhanya