



Anti-Corruption Trust of Southern Africa (ACT-Southern Africa)

# Corruption Media Monitoring Report

1 Jacaranda Street, P. O. Box 93, Kwekwe, Zimbabwe, Tel: 055-25235, 0773302830, 0784490660, 0717152535, e-mail: [actsouthernafrica@gmail.com](mailto:actsouthernafrica@gmail.com)

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25 to 29 July 2016

## 1. Introduction

During the week starting from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2016, the Zimbabwean media was awash with reports of many incidents of corruption, mal-administration and bad governance to name but a few. What should be stressed at the outset is that there is no single day that passes without a report of corruption captured by the media. However, the reports made constitute a drop in the ocean in view of the many cases of corruption that go unreported. Thus corruption is sadly part of the Zimbabwean way of life and the culprits are individuals at all levels, including national leaders who have been entrusted with the responsibility of safeguarding the interests of the people but have turned out to be predators.

This Corruption Media Monitoring Report (CMMR) closely scrutinises media reports on corruption and picks trends. To this end, we would like to heartily thank journalists who have invested their time and exposed cases of corruption as well as the effects thereof. In future, efforts will be made to award exceptional journalists as a way of motivating them towards the effective investigation and expose' of corruption cases.

## 2. Summary of Reported Cases of Corruption

Highlights of corruption cases reported from the 25<sup>th</sup> to the 29<sup>th</sup> of July 2016 include the following:

- The trial of Happison Muchechetere (former ZBC Boss), who was charged with swindling his employer (ZBC) of \$800 000 by inflating the purchase price of an OB van.<sup>1</sup>
- The Zimbabwe People First (ZimPF) President Joice Mujuru based on her experience during the tenure of office as the Vice President of the Republic of Zimbabwe revealed that Cabinet Ministers were allegedly taking bribes from investors which discouraged Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) in the country.<sup>2</sup>
- In a move, calculated to suffocate the freedom of expression which is a constitutional right of every Zimbabwean as well as advancing other hidden agenda to protect certain individuals accused of rigging, vote buying and other forms of electoral chicanery, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) forced the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) observers involved in the

<sup>1</sup> Tarvinga, M (2016) Muchechetere trial date set. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/25/muchechetere-trial-date-set-3/>. [Accessed on 2 August 2016] / Lupande, F (2016). Ex-ZBC boss to stand trial on August 2 . [online] Available at <http://www.herald.co.zw/ex-zbc-boss-to-stand-trial-on-august-2/> [Accessed on 2 August 2016]

<sup>2</sup> Saunyama, J (2016). Corrupt Zanu PF ministers demand kickbacks from investors: Mujuru [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/26/corrupt-zanu-pf-ministers-demand-kickbacks-investors-mujuru/>. [Accessed on 29 July 2016]

Mazowe North by-election, won by ZANU PF's Martin Dinha to sign "Official Secrets Act" forms and swear they would not publicly disclose any misdemeanours they observed in the polls.<sup>3</sup>

- The Zvishavane -Ngezi Legislator Hon. John Holder urged Hon. Walter Chidakwa (Mines Minister) to address the rot and corruption in the mining sector. One of the cases cited was the case of Francis Gudyanga (Permanent Secretary) who was allegedly running a one-man board at the Minerals Marketing Corporation of Zimbabwe (MMCZ). It is alleged that corruption is rife in the sector.<sup>4</sup> The major culprits are senior government officials.
- The Minister of Youth and Indigenisation, Hon. Patrick Zhuwao failed to turn up for a Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Youth and Indigenisation hearing where he was expected to answer questions on how he is accused to have clandestinely appointed a consultancy company without following tender procedures. It is alleged that the Minister hired Triple Bottom Line Consultancy (3BL) to craft an economic empowerment strategy without following tender procedures.<sup>5</sup>
- The Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) suspended 19 employees, on allegations of fraud, corruption, insubordination, failure to obey lawful instructions, absence from duty without official authority, divulging the commission's secrets as well as giving false information to outsiders about the commission.<sup>6</sup> If so many individuals allegedly committed the offences, then questions remains on who should guard the guards in the fight against corruption in Zimbabwe.
- The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) board members are said to be serving their personal interests at the expense of the public. It is alleged that they were paid advances on their allowances while the employees are not paid their salaries. Apart from sitting allowances, the Board members were also allegedly receiving retainer fees, fuel and DSTV subscriptions as allowances. The names fingered by the media include: L Gibson Munyoro, Joyce Jenje-Makwenda, Cleopatra Matanhire-Mutisi, Ndabezihle Dlodlo, and D Khumal.<sup>7</sup>
- The Manicaland Provincial Minister Mandi Chimene was accused of abusing her power, office and authority when she violently invaded a farm (Mona Farm) allocated to Christine Murembwe who previously worked as an aide to Didymus Mutasa, one of the founders of the Zimbabwe People First. Chimene stands accused of abusing ZANU PF youths to achieve her personal interests. The youth broke into the farmhouse and throw out Murembwe's belongings despite a court order barring her from invading the farm.<sup>8</sup> Also tainting her image, that of her boss and the country at large is the disregard of the rule of law since Christine Murembwe was armed with a court order interdicting Chimene from invading the farm.
- The Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation (ZBC) suspended Chris Chivinge on numerous allegations, such insubordination among others. Chris Chivinge is also allegedly linked to the recent arrest of Patrick Mavhura and Benania Shumba of ZBC who were arrested by the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission for criminal

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<sup>3</sup> Saunyama, J (2016). Corrupt Zanu PF ministers demand kickbacks from investors: Mujuru [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/26/corrupt-zanu-pf-ministers-demand-kickbacks-investors-mujuru/>. [Accessed on 29 July 2016]

<sup>4</sup> Langa, V (2016). Chidakwa urged to address rot in mining sector. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/27/chidakwa-urged-address-rot-mining-sector/>. [Accessed on 29 July 2016]

<sup>5</sup> Langa, V (2016) Zhuwao absconds Parly hearing. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/29/zhuwao-absconds-parly-hearing/>

<sup>6</sup> Mushava, E (2016). Zacc sends 19 employees on suspension. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/29/zacc-sends-19-employees-suspension/> [Accessed on 27 July 2016]

<sup>7</sup> Manayiti, O (2016) ZBC board in allowances storm. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/28/zbc-board-allowances-storm/>. [Accessed on 29 July 2016]

<sup>8</sup> Manayiti, O. (2016). Chimene ignores court order, invades farm. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/27/chimene-ignores-court-order-invades-farm/>. [Accessed on 2 August 2016]

abuse of office after they bought 35 vehicles from a supplier not authorised by the government.<sup>9</sup>

- Criminal abuse of office in which a Zimbabwe National Water Authority (ZINWA) employee (Tendai Mashoko) based at Dema Growth Point was arrested and taken to court after he illegally connected residents to the authority's piped water system and collected the connection fees which he pocketed.<sup>10</sup>
- In a possible case in which there are allegations of abuse of office and violating the MDC-T Constitution, MDC-T President Morgan Tsvangirai received a lot of criticism after he allegedly appointed Nelson Chamisa and Elias Mudzuri without allegedly following the party's Constitution and an inclusive process of consultations.<sup>11</sup>

### 3. Effects of Corruption

There is always a cause-effect relationship between corruption and other dimensions and this it would be a remiss if we neglect or ignore reports on effects of corruption. The analysis pays attention to developments in which corruption has been cited as one of the causes. As will be shown below, it is convincingly clear that the effects of corruption have many dimensions that are political, economic, social and environmental in nature. In political arena, corruption impedes democracy and the rule of law. In a democratic system such as Zimbabwe, public leaders and institutions will lose their legitimacy. Furthermore, corruption has the potential to trigger conflicts, and wars. Zimbabwe should stand warned that it is treading on slippery path if cases of corruption, mal-administration and bad governance are ignored. The following are some of the effects of corruption obtained through reports made by journalists during the reporting period, that 25 to 29 July 2016:

- Corruption as exposed by Joice Mujuru scared investors in the country.<sup>12</sup> It is thus not surprising that investors are shunning the country and this problem is exacerbated by the current political turmoil bedeviling the country. This explains why the country has also resorted to engaging corrupt entities that have lost international respect such as a company hired to construct the Beitbridge-Chirundu highway.
- Corruption is a possible threat to national security and the recent onslaughts against the war veterans<sup>13</sup>, human rights defenders and anti-corruption activists has the potential of starting conflicts in a traditionally peaceful country such as Zimbabwe. The war veterans statement, and concerns raised by WOZA<sup>14</sup> as well

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<sup>9</sup> Manayiti, O (2016). ZBC boss Chivinge suspended. [online] Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/27/zbc-boss-chivinge-suspended/>. [Accessed on 29 July 2016]

<sup>10</sup> Chingarande, D. (2016). Zinwa employee arrested for illegally selling water. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/25/zinwa-employee-arrested-illegally-selling-water/>. [Accessed on 2 August 2016]

<sup>11</sup> Mhlanga, B (2016). Come clean on Chamisa, Mudzuri elevation: Youths. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/26/come-clean-chamisa-mudzuri-elevation-youths/>. [Accessed on 2 August 2016]

<sup>12</sup> Saunyama, J (2016). Corrupt Zanu PF ministers demand kickbacks from investors: Mujuru [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/26/corrupt-zanu-pf-ministers-demand-kickbacks-investors-mujuru/>. [Accessed on 29 July 2016]

<sup>13</sup> Herald (2016). War vet Mahiya arrested. [online]. Available at <http://www.herald.co.zw/war-vet-mahiya-arrested/>. [Accessed on 2 August 2016] / Manayiti, O and Chitagu, T (2016). Mugabe, war vets fight escalates. [online] Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/25/mugabe-war-vets-fight-escalates/>. [Accessed on 2 August 2016] / Chidza, R (2016). Mugabe's troubles mount. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/23/mugabes-troubles-mount/>. [Accessed on 2 August 2016]

<sup>14</sup> Chinobva, L and Ndlovu, N (2016). Woza demonstrates demanding Mugabe to step down. [online] Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/27/woza-demonstrates-demanding-mugabe-step/>. [Accessed on 29 July 2016]

as the #ThisFlag Campaign<sup>15</sup> have cited corruption as one of their grave concerns. It is thus in the interest of the country to address the head-ache of corruption as one of the magic bullets or panaceas towards national prosperity.

- Corruption makes a country unattractive to donor support. Remarks by the British Ambassador speak volumes about this cause and effect relationship and also explains why it is always problematical to get outside support.<sup>16</sup>
- What is also incontrovertible is the fact that the abuse of office weakens political parties. It was reported that there was chaos in the MDC-T Party after the President appointed Chamisa and Mudzuri as the two Vice-Presidents of the Party. If not curtailed the incident may also trigger splits in the party and thus the importance to stick by the central tenets of democracy.<sup>17</sup>
- Efforts to cover-up corruption leads to a waste of valuable resources through propaganda and wasteful meetings such as the meetings held to discuss concerns from war veterans.<sup>18</sup> The resources used to transport, accommodate and feed delegates should have made impact if that had been deployed in health, and education to name but a few. Another condemned gathering was that of the youths who were also rail-led to Harare to demonstrate against #ThisFlag Campaign.

#### 4. Conclusion

In keeping with the above, it is in the interest of the country to fight corruption. There is strong need to mainstream anti-corruption in all development programming such as the ZimAsset among others. Resources put in all programmes will be wasted if there is no deliberate effort to fight corruption. Finally corruption is a threat to national security which will make it difficult for Zimbabweans to enjoy the fruits of independence unless we nip corruption in the bud.

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<sup>15</sup> Mushava, E (2016). 'Mawarire relocation won't quell revolution'. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/28/mawarire-relocation-wont-quell-revolution/>. [Accessed on 2 August 2016]

<sup>16</sup> NewsDay (2016). No reforms, no funding: UK ambassador. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/27/no-reforms-no-funding-uk-ambassador/>. [Accessed on 29 July 2016]

<sup>17</sup> Mushava, E (2016). 'Mawarire relocation won't quell revolution'. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/28/mawarire-relocation-wont-quell-revolution/>. [Accessed on 2 August 2016]

<sup>18</sup> Ncube, X and Nyangani, K (2016). Zanu PF in crisis indaba. [online]. Available at <https://www.newsday.co.zw/2016/07/26/zanu-pf-crisis-indaba/>. [Accessed on 2 August 2016]