



W/O 3/93
Campaigners for Human Rights

ANNUAL REPORT 2019



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Zimbabwe Human Rights Association

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■ ABOUT ZIMRIGHTS

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZimRights) is an indigenous non-profit, non-governmental organisation registered under the Private Voluntary Organisations Act. The organisation was founded in 1992 and registered in 1993 for the sole purpose of ensuring that the Zimbabwean citizens are informed about human rights, and are empowered to defend their own rights.

Our Vision

We envision ourselves leading in developing and sustaining a culture of human rights in Zimbabwe.

Mission Statement

We pursue our vision through the use of a grassroots-based approach in promoting, protecting and defending Human Rights in Zimbabwe through education, information, legal aid and litigation, counselling, lobbying, advocacy and networking.

Our Core Values

In the execution of our mandate, we are guided by the following core values:

- Respect for human dignity
- Sensitivity for gender and marginalised groups
- Transparency and accountability
- Impartiality and teamwork
- Non alignment to political parties
- Confidentiality and integrity
- Commitment and dedication



Takesure Musiiwa
Zimrights Chairperson

Chairperson's Message

As we wrap up another year, we are appreciative of the efforts of our stakeholders in making sure that ZimRights maintains its course in the fight to promote and protect and defend human rights in Zimbabwe.

We are, however, not complacent as we are alive to the chequered record of human rights in Zimbabwe. The year 2019 opened and closed on gloomy notes with the fuel protests that ended in the shooting of ordinary and innocent citizens by security agents, opening the year in January. Many people were also injured from gunshots and indiscriminate acts of violence as well as arbitrary arrests by state actors.

On the economic front, it hasn't been easy going for the ordinary woman and man as quite a number of people have been relegated to the periphery of the economy thus suffering economic exclusion. The demise of the economy has seen an affront of various social and economic rights of Zimbabweans who are yet to attain a better Zimbabwe where their dreams and those of their children, can come to fruition.

2019 also ended on a bloody note with a sharp rise in attacks by machete gangs mainly in mining centres, a situation that further entrenched anarchy and fear among our citizens.

However, through it all, ZimRights, through its membership and secretariat, has managed to sustain a coordinated effort on the human rights front in Zimbabwe and has truly seen it being a bona fide leader in developing a culture of human rights among Zimbabweans. Throughout 2019, we ran a number of campaigns that saw ZimRights being involved in providing assistance to internally displaced persons (IDP), community citizen engagements activities and human rights monitoring as well up to mounting a successful campaign for the access to documentation to marginalised communities.

As we observe the year behind us, we announce the retirement of our long serving National Director, Okay Machisa, in December 2019. We also welcome the new National Director and wish him well in his tenure.

Once again we thank our stakeholders who include ZimRights members across Zimbabwe's 10 administrative provinces, our funding partners, fellow Civil Society Organisations and the government for the support and we look forward to a better and fulfilling 2020 ahead.



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of various social and economic rights of Zimbabweans
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Dzikamai Bere
Zimrights National Director

Director's Message

The Tragic Year For Human Rights

The year 2019 has been a tragic year for human rights. In that year we saw the economy taking a plunge beginning with fuel increases triggering massive riots. The riots were met with ruthlessness by the state leading to the killing of 17 people and thousands more tortured. We saw increasing police brutality as the year progressed. Despite claims that the police were trained in human rights, we saw how badly they handled protests, attacking civilians three times in a year. None of the police officers was held accountable. At least one person died as a result of torture in police custody.

In the same year, the state's attack on human rights defenders increased. Around 24 civil society activists faced treason charges from trumped up charges. As the attack on civil society increased, the United Nations deployed its Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association Mr. Clément Nyaletsossi Voule. In his preliminary report, Voule expressed concern with the use of Section 22 of the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act provision on "*subverting a constitutional government*" to prosecute human rights defenders, civil society and opposition leaders suspected of having played important roles in protests. During his mission, he witnessed police interfering with the doctors' peaceful march, police attack

protesting teachers and met with many victims. As the state was wasting resources on attacking civic, the economy was on a meltdown. The economic collapse saw an increase in protests leading to clashes with the police. Many families struggled to make ends meet with the World Food Programme raising alarm on food security in Zimbabwe. In November 2019, the United Nations dispatched its Special Rapporteur on the right to food, Ms. Hilal Elver, from 18 - 28 November 2019 to assess the food security situation. In her preliminary report, Elver said 60% of Zimbabwe 14 million people were food insecure and declared that this was a crisis requiring urgent humanitarian response. She said Zimbabwe was experiencing man-made starvation and that food security is national security.

In the face of these challenges and hardships, the Association has continued to defend the rights of many in communities. As this report will show, ZimRights undertook a number of local and international advocacy missions, including advocacy with the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, as well as the training of community human rights monitors in Murehwa, Kariba, Kadoma, Mpopoma, Cowdry Park, Bindura, Mvuma, Chikomba, Mutasa, Mutare Epworth and Bindura.

The Secretariat remains indebted to the support given by the members of the association as well as our funding partners. As we enter into the year 2020, the Association is looking forward to increased renewal and rejuvenation of community advocacy structures to enable members to plug into the national human rights system. We look forward to a great year of rebuilding the ZimRights family, bringing more young people into the human rights discourse and increasing the tools for community activism and giving more voice to the membership.

■ MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



Themba Chivheya
*Management Committee
Chairperson*



Takesure Musiiwa
*National
Chairperson*



Janet Kanaveti
*National
Treasurer*



Lydia Maphosa
*Management
Committee Member*



Liberty Nyadome
*Management
Committee Member*



Sithengisiwe Kalenge
*Management
Committee Member*



Dzikamai Bere
National Director

■ NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS



Takesure Musiiwa
*National
Chairperson*



Themba Chivheya
*Vice National
Chairperson*



Janet Kanaveti
*National
Treasurer*



Lydia Maphosa
*National Council
Member*



Sarah Njanji
*National Council
Member*



Mildred Muzanechita
*National Council
Member*



Armstrong Magavhani
*National Council
Member*



Ishmael Mkandla
*National Council
Member*



Sithengisiwe Kalenge
*National Council
Member*

■ NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS



Nyadzisai Mutyandaedza
*National Council
Member*



Joel Hita
*Masvingo
Chairperson*



Isaac Chabonyonga
*Mashonaland West
Chairperson*



Liberty Nyadome
*Mashonaland East
Chairperson*



Kelvin Nzimba
*Mashonaland Central
Chairperson*



Panganai Murime
*Manicaland
Chairperson*



Amidu Ali
*Chitungwiza
Chairperson*



Lagos Maphosa
*Matebeleland South
Chairperson*



Jabulani Sibanda
*Matebeleland North
Chairperson*

■ NATIONAL COUNCIL MEMBERS



Takawira Mashingaidze
*Harare
Chairperson*



Musa Moyo
*Bulawayo
Chairperson*



Martin Bongozozo
*Midlands
Chairperson*



Dzikamai Bere
National Director

■ FOREWORD

Civil Society organisations such as the Zimbabwe Human Rights Association have the mandate to strengthen the capacity of ordinary citizens to dutifully demand rights and freedoms as provided for by the constitution.

The Zimbabwe Constitution, which came into effect in May 2013 provides a comprehensive Bill of Rights, and has provisions for strategic independent institutions that are meant to support the enjoyment and fulfilment of human rights for all.

With such a Constitution, it remains the function of ZimRights and like-minded organisations to educate and sensitise citizens about key Constitutional provisions. In essence, ZimRights becomes the bridge between citizens and the state.

The solution to Zimbabwe's long standing political, social and economic crisis needs nothing short of collective and concerted efforts from all stakeholders regardless of their belief system, political, religious or otherwise. The economy is on an unabated free fall with inflation ravaging the ordinary people's incomes and making basic commodities beyond the reach of many.

The gap between the ordinary poor and the well-connect and often corrupt rich elite continues to widen, and with each day, the hope for any economic revival is fading. The operating environment for civil society organisations has remained constricted. Human rights work is treated with suspicion and in some sectors considered political. The full implementation of the Constitution has remained an outstanding issue and despite the calls for legislative reforms growing louder, government appears aloof and unwilling to implement Constitutional reforms.

ZimRights, just as other like-minded organisations, continues to play a critical role through strengthening and capacitating communities to effectively demand and exercise their democratic rights as provided for in the Constitution. ZimRights continues to promote a sustainable culture of human rights through establishing human rights structures at community level. These structures have, and remain the frontrunners in the identification, reporting and monitoring of human rights violations across the entire country. As a cornerstone mass-based human rights organisation, Zimrights also provides platforms for grassroots communities to engage and deliberate on a variety of democracy and governance issues that affects them.

The membership of ZimRights plays a critical role in the defence of the Constitution, national elections mobilisation and legislative reform processes. These members are the vital cog in the democratisation agenda and their efforts and contributions are equal to none.



*The economy is on an unabated free fall with
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■ **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

Zimrights expresses profound gratitude to stakeholders who have made the work of human rights in Zimbabwe possible. Appreciation is extended to various development partners and funders whose financial and technical assistance has rendered the work of Zimrights possible.

Zimrights also pays tribute to various government departments, and partner civil society organisations, whose partnership and collaboration, made the work of Zimrights possible and meaningful. More importantly, the membership of Zimrights, whose work and contribution at community level has been invaluable, is greatly appreciated.

■ OVERVIEW OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION IN ZIMBABWE

The human rights situation in Zimbabwe has remained dire. Throughout 2019, there were systematic violations of the right of personal freedom targeting ordinary citizens, human rights activists and members of the political opposition. Once again, the law enforcement agencies were the major perpetrators of human rights violations.

The year started on a bleak note, with incidences that put to rest any doubts about the government's aptitude in being a major driver of human rights abusers.



Just 14 days into the year 2019, Zimbabweans woke up to what was planned as a national shutdown to protest the 150% fuel price hike announced by President Emmerson Mnangagwa a day earlier.

The hike, the only major of its kind in nearly a decade, came on the back of crippling fuel shortages that had gone on for three months, spurred on by shortages of US dollars and basic commodities, all pointing to a worsening economic crisis.

Initially, the shutdown - meant to run for a week - looked like just another ordinary protest that would die on its first day.

In Harare, the protests escalated during the day, mostly concentrated in low class suburbs, and soon spread into other towns, notably Bulawayo, Gweru, Kwekwe and Mutare.

The security forces comprising the police, soldiers and members of the intelligence launched a response that involved raiding the homes of some residents and indiscriminate beating and shooting of civilians.

The Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights (ZADHR) stated that 172 people had been injured, 68 of which were treated for gunshot wounds.

Between 14 and 17 January, 12 people were killed, over 200 injured and over 600 were arrested, and the internet was shut down for two days as the State brutally cracked down on civilians in what was a dark beginning to the year 2019.

This was the year government started off with lofty promises that the economy would stabilise and Zimbabwe would be back on the road to recovery.

However, things were not getting any better and shortages of basic goods persisted and prices continued to rise.

A new currency was introduced but without enough public confidence, its value was gradually eroded, leaving the majority of workers with less income as government insisted that it was not going to adjust salaries in accordance with inflation rates.

March 14, 2019, the government of Zimbabwe was caught unawares when Cyclone Idai hit the eastern parts of Zimbabwe, impacting heavily on Chimanimani and Chipinge districts.

It took three days for the first vehicles to reach the hardest hit areas of Ngangu and Kopa.

Hundreds of lives were lost and the disaster, the biggest of its nature in Zimbabwe, exposed the poor disaster preparedness and poor priorities of government, which immediately started begging for assistance.

Sadly, there were stories of some of the proceeds from the Cyclone disaster being looted by Zanu PF officials and some foodstuffs ended up expiring because of the bureaucracy that was involved in the handing out of donations.



Across the country, fuel and water shortages, and 18-hour power cuts persisted.

On August 16, the main opposition MDC attempted to demonstrate in Harare city centre, and the police thwarted it with unmatched brutality, once again putting the country under the spotlight of human rights abuses.

What followed was an effective ban on opposition and pro-human rights public activities.

During 2019, there were bizarrely unexpected human rights violations that included the abduction of comedian Samantha Kureya and Doctor Peter Magombeyi, president of the Zimbabwe Hospital Doctors Association.

During the first week of December, weary Zimbabweans woke up to the news of a visit to Zimbabwe by former President of South Africa, Thabo Mbeki.

Mbeki met Mnangagwa and MDC leader Nelson Chamisa and other political actors, heightening speculation that he was in Zimbabwe to ignite political dialogue to rescue the country.

The veteran politician left, promising to return for more interfaces.

As the country entered 2020 it was now clear that the country's human rights violations, perpetrated by government supporters as well as law enforcement agencies, and include assaults, torture, death threats, kidnappings and unlawful arrests and detentions, were the modus operandi.

■ MEMBERSHIP

As a membership based organizations, ZimRights prioritises this key asset, and always thrives to continue increasing and retaining membership.

As at the end of the year 2019, Zimrights had over 250,000 members. With some members not fully subscribed, the organizations gets into 2020 with a thrust to focus strongly on membership mobilisation and verification as a key strategy to enable an active membership. An increase in membership is critical in the coordination of local advocacy initiatives and feeds into sustainability of communities in the event that the organisations projects in certain areas come to an end. Communities are then able to coordinate and host meetings, engage local leadership and carry out advocacy initiatives on their own.



■ PROGRAMS UPDATE

International Advocacy

As part of its international advocacy efforts, ZimRights participated at the 65th Session of the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR), held in Banjul, Gambia. As part of the summit, Zimrights made inputs into the Zimbabwe periodic state party report and the delegation successfully drafted and submitted two statements. The first statement was on the Status of Human Rights Defenders in Zimbabwe and the second was on Freedom of expression and access to information. The delegation was also able to prepare and present for 3 minutes on Freedom of expression. ZimRights also contributed to the shadow report that was presented by Zimbabwe Civic Society. The platform also provided ZimRights with an opportunity to network with other regional and international human rights organisations with the view of enhancing the capacity of the organisation to upscale its advocacy work and initiatives.

ZimRights also participated at the SADC people's summit that was held in Tanzania in August 2019. The people's summit is an annual event which is held in order to promote and offer solidarity to SADC countries being affected by different forms of calamities. The summit is a precursor to the SADC Heads of State and Government Summit. The Peoples summit provided ZimRights with an opportunity to articulate and share human rights challenges and experiences the country is facing. ZimRights contributed to the development of a communique that was eventually presented to Heads of State and Governments. The communique captured and highlighted key human rights challenges and key recommendations for adoption by SADC.



Local Advocacy

In its local advocacy efforts, Zimrights engaged a number of key stakeholders on emerging human rights issues that include, but are not limited to, the widespread reports of partisan food aid distribution, which resulted in intended and deserving beneficiaries failing to get food aid, and the partisan conduct of traditional leaders.

In light of these, Zimrights engaged, on separate occasions, the minister of Justice Ziyambi Ziyambi, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission, and some members of Parliament. The organization also held meetings with some traditional leaders in Masvingo, Mashonaland West, Manicaland and Midlands provinces, where Zimrights outlined how their mandate requires them to impartially and fairly serve the entire communities that they preside over.

Grassroots Activities

Zimrights held various grassroots activities where the organisation used various initiatives such as sports for peace, town hall meetings, roadshows, stakeholder engagement and interfaces to raise awareness on and encourage peaceful coexistence and conflict resolution within communities. The following activities were carried out across the country.

i. Community Sports For Peace Activities

Zimrights conducted community sports for peace activities in Masvingo and Matabeleland Provinces, where community members and key community stakeholders such as the police, army, teachers and other members from government departments participated. This helped to establish and warm up relationships among the key community key stakeholders. The established relationship and network have led to an increase in the number of cases being taken up by the police for investigations and redress.

In addition, the Sports for peace tournaments also functioned as a mobilization strategy to attract mainly the youth. This is because the youth

are at the center of community conflict and their involvement in such peace initiatives was strategic in helping them understand the importance of peaceful co-existence. The sports for peace tournaments enabled the organisation to forge strategic partnerships with the security sector and this helped ZimRights to access some of the politically charged areas like Mwenezi in Masvingo province. Over 4000 people were reached through the sports for peace initiatives.



ii. Production And Reproduction Of Peace CDs

In order to promote peace through art, Zimrights facilitated the reproduction of an audio CD of tracks with messages of peace. Top local musicians, Jah Prayzah and Sulumani Chimbetu were among those that featured on the track compilation, which was distributed across the country and notably to kombi operators due to the influence as they can play music for their passengers, community key stakeholders and security services.



iii. Community Meetings

Zimrights, the provincial councillors for Matabeleland and Masvingo together with the communities managed to meet different communities and gathering a plethora of views on the devolution process. The conducted meetings resulted in the compilation of a Green Paper or Position Paper on devolution. The position paper has been since shared with relevant ministries as well as strategic members of parliament in order to influence policy and these include the Ministers of State for Masvingo and Matabeleland South Provinces, and the Local Government minister Honourable July Moyo for further advocacy. As a success story, some of the contents of the position paper have been incorporated into the changes that are being effected through Constitutional Amendment number 2 on Devolution.



The conducted meetings resulted in the compilation of a Green Paper or Position Paper on devolution.

Human Rights Workshops

ZimRights conducted more than 50 civic and voter education workshops across the country. The workshops were conducted in Bulawayo, Kadoma, Kwekwe, Murehwa, Harare, Kariba, Gokwe, Zaka, and Bikita, Chirumhanzu, Gokwe, Mt Darwin, Chiredzi, Gwanda, Plumtree and Hwange. More than 5000 people attended the civic education workshops that were conducted. The meetings were aimed at conveying human rights knowledge to the people. ZimRights facilitators specifically used the Bill of Rights in the constitution as the resource.



The workshops also included information on the systems of governance; corruption; elections; the principal economic, social and political issues facing the nation; the value of democracy; equal rights of women and men; and the importance of peace and national reconciliation. These civic education workshops were an essential contribution to the long-term goal of prevention of human rights abuses, and they represented an important investment to the endeavor to achieve a just society in which all human rights are valued and respected.

Key issues raised by members of the communities visited include corruption within government institutions, notably the Passport Offices of the Registrar General's Department, the increase in the rate of child abuse and child marriages. As a result, ZimRights human rights monitors are now closely working with the police to curb child marriages especially in farming and mining communities.

Mazoe, Kwekwe and Kadoma topped the list of violent attacks by machete wielding illegal gold miners. The clashes were largely a result of disputes over ownership and/or sharing ratios of proceeds from mining claims. Unabated, the clashes ended up spilling into residential areas in Kadoma and Kwekwe, and ordinary people were caught up in the melees, with some losing lives. The situation also impacted negatively on the personal safety of citizens. Sadly, the police appeared to have been caught unprepared to deal with the machete gangs and in one incident, the miners attacked the Kadoma Police Station demanding the release of their associates who had been arrested. ZimRights commends government the relevant security agents for arresting majority of matchet gang leaders and hordes of illegal miners, but continues to urge for a lasting solution to the menace.

Human Rights Monitoring Trainings

ZimRights conducted more than 10 Human Rights Monitors Trainings in Murehwa, Kariba, Kadoma, Mpopoma, Cowdry Park, Bindura, Mvuma, Chikomba, Mutasa, Mutare Epworth and Bindura. The main objectives of these trainings were to:

- Build and enhance local capacity on monitoring and documentation of human rights violation cases.
- Harvest outcomes of the last series of human rights monitors' trainings.



- Capture emerging human rights issues.
- Develop locally owned responses to human rights violations.

The trainings involved taking participants through a human rights monitoring session that focused on collection, verification, and use of information to address human rights problems. Reference was made to the Zimbabwe Constitution and other international frameworks that Zimbabwe has signed, ratified and institutionalized as basis for discussions. Participants of the training were taken through a code of conduct that would guide their monitoring work. In the code, there were provisions that spoke to the following issues - doing no harm, knowing and respecting mandates, exercising good judgment and seeking advice, credibility, impartiality, visibility, and sensitivity when carry out human rights monitoring activities.

In order to effectively gather information on possible human rights violations, participants were encouraged to, among other things, closely follow the mainstream and online and social media platforms, to attend key local events and to establish connections with community leaders and human rights activists for interviews when required.

The trainings also capacitated the monitors on the importance of verifying information and ensuring accuracy in reporting violations as this would have a bearing on the overall credibility of Zimrights. The gathered information, when verified, would then be used for two main purposes, the first being to produce reports of various types and, the second being to intervene with the relevant authorities where necessary. Participants were also trained on how to meaningfully engage the authorities.

The trainings also unpacked possible interventions at different

levels. Emphasis was made on the need to prioritise the security of monitors and sources of information during the human rights monitoring processes.

Participants in Kadoma, Kariba, Mvuma and Chikomba concurred that access to national documentation was a challenge. Vulnerable groups in the community, which include orphans and people with disabilities, were finding it difficult to access birth certificates and national identity cards because of reasons ranging from a lack of the required documents to the inhibitive costs of the processes. It was highlighted that the problem was so widespread that the affected persons no longer had the ability to fully enjoy their rights because they did not have documentation.

Strengthening of ZimRights Structures

ZimRights created a total of 37 new community structures in 2019. The new community structures were established in Chirumhanzu, Gutu, Chikomba, Chiundura, Gokwe Nembudziya, Gokwe Nemangwe and Hippo Valley. A total of 36 already existing structures were strengthened and equipped with community advocacy skills. The trainings also focused on facilitation skills, human rights violations monitoring, documentation and reporting, partnership and networking, voluntarism and resource mobilization.

Working with Independent Institutions

ZimRights leveraged on the already existing strategic working relations with key Chapter 12 institutions such as the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC), and Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). This helped communities to access the

services of independent institutions. Communities took advantage of interface meetings to lodge various complaints with both the ZHRC and the NPRC. Some of ZimRights members were selected to participate and various Chapter 12 commissions activities and of worthy to report is the involvement of ZimRights structures in the mobilization of communities to attend workshops and meetings organized by the NPRC and the ZHRC.

Evictions

Masvingo Province

ZimRights received reports that the Local Government ministry had served about 1000 families from Sikato resettlement in Masvingo West constituency with seven-day eviction notices to vacate the land which they had occupied during the land reform programme in 2000. The families, from seven villages; Muza, Chikutuva, Manunure, Makasva, Banga, Sithole and Marikutira, were told in the notices, *“you are hereby given seven days to vacate Mzaro Farm, Masvingo province. You are violating section 3 of the Gazetted Lands (Consequential Provisions) Act Chapter 20:28; Gazetted Land Act in that you are occupying the said property without lawful authority.”* ZimRights was able to engage the Minister of State for Masvingo Province Honorable Chadzamira and the evictions were stopped.



Midlands-Gokwe

In April 2019 ZimRights conducted an assessment and verification exercise into the serving of eviction notices in Chemagora and Mapfungautsi Forest, Midlands Province. For over nine years, violent land disputes involving illegal settlers and farm owners had become common in these areas. Two farm owners had reportedly been murdered in the clashes of early 2019. In December 2018, the Government had commenced a countrywide issuing of eviction notices to all illegal settlers. A total of 1 855 families were served with eviction notices in Chemagora while 786 have been served in Mapfungautsi. It is against these circumstances that ZimRights deployed a team to conduct an assessment of the prevailing situation on the ground. ZimRights was able to meet with the Ministry of Lands Midlands Chief Lands Officer.

Chemagora SSCF

ZimRights held interviews with key community stakeholders including farm owners and some of the illegal settlers. The interviews were able to identify the following:

1. The land invasions and disputes in Chemagora started before 2010. The disputes started in a few isolated farms and it was mainly between farm owners and their disgruntled farm workers who were employed under unclear share cropping contracts.
2. In 2010, the Gokwe South District Land Committee, Gokwe South politicians and War Veterans resolved to subdivide all underutilized and deserted farms in Chemagora. This left the affected farmers with only 300 hectares. This was against the legal advice offered by the Ministry of Lands and Rural Resettlement officers. A total of 300 households were allocated pieces of land during that period. In October 2012, the Gokwe South District Land Committee, local politicians, Chiefs and War Veterans as

well as the Provincial Land Committee led by the then Minister of State for Midlands Province Jason Machaya had a meeting with the then Minister of Lands, Herbert Murerwa.

3. The District Land Committee levelled a number of accusations against Chemagora farmers and justified their subdivision of the farms. Key among the accusations were issues to do with land underutilization and farm desertions. The Minister promised to inspect and investigate the allegations and thereafter make a decision. He also instructed the District Land Committee to immediately cease farm subdivisions. By then farms 1, 2, 26, 19 and 38 had been affected.

4. In January 2013 a team of inspectors was sent to Chemagora and the inspection was done, however the decision made by the Minister thereafter was not communicated. Successive Ministers of Lands and Rural Resettlement have treated the Chemagora issue as highly politically sensitive and none of them created a lasting solution to the issue. From then, more and more opportunistic land invaders have been invading the farms unrestricted. To date an estimated 2000 families are illegally occupying land in Chemagora farms and land disputes have dramatically turned violent. Some have lost their lives while others have lost limbs in these wrangles.

Mapfungautsi Forest (Observations)

1. Due to its adjacency to Chemagora and its vicinity to communal lands, Mapfungautsi Forest also experienced these disputes. By 2010, three illegal settlements, Zanda, Ngondoma-Bandakamwe and Nyamazana, had been established. Over the period 2015 to 2015, the then Minister of State for Midlands, Jason Machaya, verbally promised the villagers that the settlements were formalized. Apart from this, the then Minister of



Environment, Francis Nhema, at one point sent his Provincial Officer to verbally address communities saying all was in order to formalize the settlements. This led to the construction of a school in Ngondoma-Bandakamwe while plans were set in motion to construct another one in Zanda. No legal documents were administered to formally substrate these settlement areas from the forest.

2. More people are invading the forest since there are no distinct boundaries that were given when the announcements were made. The forest dispute was magnified in 2015 when Minister Machaya attempted to resolve the issue. He verbally instructed that all illegal settlers in Chemagora should be relocated to a forest strip adjacent to Nyamazana settlement. This however was not properly implemented since there were no control mechanisms in place. As a result, a few families moved and the majority remained in Chemagora. This created chaos as more villagers saw an opportunity and invaded the forest strip. To date an estimated 1 000 families are illegally occupying land in this strip and an estimated 3 000 families are settled in Mapfungautsi Forest. The evictions are still ongoing, albeit strong resistance from settlers especially in Mapfungautsi.

Kadoma-Gazminki Resettlements

(Meeting with Kadoma District Administrator)

In April 2019 ZimRights assessment team managed to have a meeting with Kadoma District Administrator Mr. Mhlanga and his team. The meeting deliberated on the challenges that the people that were issued with eviction notices are facing. The meeting went on to emphasize the need to respect the rights of settlers as provided for by the constitution. ZimRights then suggested the following recommendations:

- Allowing the settlers to harvest their crops first and then move them out in June will make the eviction task easier. Most of them are ready to move.
- Alternative land should be availed if possible to the affected settlers who are in critical need of land.
- There is urgent need to prepare NFIs since the evictions can start anytime from now.

Marondera

Following reports that 23 families had been evicted from Stovhoro farm in Marondera, Zimrights intervened managed to provide the affected families with temporary shelter.

The families had nowhere else to go and had resorted to living in an open space near the farm thereby being exposed to harsh weather conditions coupled with heavy rains.

In response, ZimRights sourced a total of 64 tents and donated to the affected families.

■ KEY COMMEMORATIONS

On the 21st of October 2019, Zimbabwe Human Rights Association joined the rest of Africa in commemorating Africa Human Rights Day. As part of the celebrations, held under the theme, *'Fighting Corruption and Promoting Human Rights Together,'* Zimrights convened a public gathering with the community of Gokwe at Gokwe Centre. Attended by over 1000 citizens, local and central government officials, and other CSO players, the served as a platform to reflect locally and on the country's human rights record and it was an opportunity to assess the government's commitment, or lack of it, to respect, promote and protect human rights.

■ CHALLENGES, LESSONS AND OPPORTUNITIES

In its endeavour to meet its objectives, the organisations experienced some challenges, which, to a large extent, were a result of the Zimbabwe's continued political stand-off and economic uncertainties and policy inconsistencies on the part of government. Government's escalation of clampdown on human rights actors left the operating space for civil society organisations narrower, and so was the democratic space constricted. This also has a negative impact on the participation of some ordinary members of communities who feared possible retribution from state security agents.

However, in spite of these challenges Zimrights continued to implement activities.



MEDIA HIGHLIGHTS

- Renewed exodus of Zimbabweans amid economic woes

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/africa/renewed-exodus-of-zimbabweans-amid-economic-woes/1627663>

- “You Don’t Need To Be Sponsored By USA To Say The System Is Wrong,” NGOs

<https://news.pindula.co.zw/2019/11/26/you-dont-need-to-be-sponsored-by-usa-to-say-the-system-is-wrong-ngos/>

- Zimbabwe no safe haven for Homosexuals

<https://www.newsday.co.zw/2019/11/zimbabwe-no-safe-haven-for-homosexuals-2/>

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- <https://www.zimbabwesituation.com/news/zimrights-launches-1-million-brick-campaign>
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■ **LOOKING AHEAD: 2020 AND BEYOND**

The thrust of ZimRights in the coming year has six priority areas.

The first priority area is membership co-ordination, or the return to the grassroots. ZimRights, as the biggest membership and grassroots-based organisation, will seek to reconsolidate our membership, activate our structures and build a sustainable human rights movement. An important component of that movement building is the youth. We will be creating a Youth Zone, where young people will step forward and be the champions for human rights in their communities.

The second priority area is strategic communication. We want to be able to communicate effectively and we are building a wide network of communication platforms to allow our members to communicate effectively and shape our programming.

As the big family raises many human rights issues in the communities, it becomes imperative that these issues shape our national human rights discourse. This will be the work of the Special Project Unit, to facilitate a seamless integration of community voice and the national human rights priorities. We want in this priority area to allow the secretariat and the members to seamlessly and in real time, share information.

The third priority area is relationship building. We believe we will be entering into a phase of rebuilding lost relationships and establishing new ones, and this is out of the realisation that Zimrights is a people's movement and it needs everyone on board.

The fourth priority area is sustainable resource mobilisation. An

ambitious human rights agenda will require resources. We will be designing many ways of fundraising including tools for our members to resource the issues that they care about without waiting for the Secretariat to raise funds for them.

The sixth priority area that cuts across all the other areas is the organisational development and reform plan. This is a long process which will include a lot of consultations which have since begun. By the time we get to the end of the year, we will have listened enough to design some proposals to feed into the good work that has already been ongoing.

The background of the page features a blurred image of a desk with financial documents, a tablet displaying a bar chart, and a pair of glasses. The documents contain various charts and graphs, including a prominent bar chart with blue bars and a red line graph. The text is overlaid on this background.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED
31 DECEMBER 2019**

STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE

for the period 1 January to 31 December 2019

	CONSOLIDATED	DONOR 1	DONOR 2	DONOR 3	DONOR 4	DONOR 5	DONOR 6
INCOME							
Donation Income	620,595	35,005	272,806	86,728	62,515	143,598	19,944
Other Income	21,936	0	0	0	0	0	21,936
Total Income	642,531	35,005	272,806	86,728	62,515	143,598	41,880
PROJECT EXPENSES	498,239	25,259	202,103	61,303	61,995	99,325	48,254
Project expenditure	317,235	9,181	131,717	50,743	38,906	70,615	16,074
Salaries and wages	181,003	16,079	70,386	10,560	23,089	28,710	32,180
ADMINISTRATION EXPENSES	85,187	1,915	34,007	5,351	10,917	8,235	24,763
Surplus /(Deficit) from operations	59,105	7,831	36,696	20,074	(10,397)	36,038	(31,137)
Represented by:							
Cash and bank	42,314	6,984	287	16,833	949	15,484	1,778
Receivables	20,457	848	10	3,314	9,985	6,221	80
Payables	(12,379)	0	(119)	0	0	0	(12,260)
Retained income	(177,780)	0	36,518	(73)	(21,331)	14,333	(207,227)
Fixed Assets	186,492	0	0	0	0	0	186,492
	59,105	7,831	36,696	20,074	(10,397)	36,038	(31,137)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

as at 31 December 2019

	NOTES	2019 \$	2018 \$
ASSETS			
Non Current Assets			
Property and Equipment	2	186,491	206,780
		186,491	206,780
Current Assets			
Accounts Receivables	3	20,457	20,795
Cash	4	42,314	22,796
		62,771	43,591
Total Assets		249,263	250,371
EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
Capital and Reserves			
Accumulated Fund		236,884	177,779
		236,884	177,779
Current Liabilities			
Accounts Payable	5	12,379	72,592
Total Equity and Liabilities		249,263	250,371

These financial statements were approved on 25 August 2020 and signed on its behalf by:

.....
TAKESURE MUSIIWA
 National Chairperson

.....
DZIKAMAI BERE
 National Director



W/O 3/93
Campaigners for Human Rights

Registered as a Welfare Organization in Zimbabwe. W/O 3/93

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