

What about the recall of Chamisa's CCC MPs?

The Speaker of Parliament, Jacob Mudenda, wrote to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) announcing vacancies in 15 seats held by Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) Members of Parliament after they were recalled by Sengezo Tshabangu, who said he was Secretary-General of CCC despite denials by CCC leader Nelson Chamisa.

What loopholes allowed this to happen?

The lack of clear organisational structures in the CCC, which Chamisa has held up as part of the party's "strategic ambiguity" has left the CCC open to a disputable situation where people can claim to hold certain positions in the movement.

Chamisa says there's no confusion as he is the only one who can confirm any such claim. He accuses the Speaker of Parliament, a Politburo member of President Emmerson Mnangagwa's ruling party, of playing politics to help drive ZANU-PF towards a two-thirds control of parliament.

A two-thirds majority will give ZANU-PF parliamentary powers to effect some constitutional changes without requiring support from the opposition.

But how was CCC able to contest elections?

There are no laws in Zimbabwe that compel political parties to register in order to legally exist. The only obligatory registration required is with the election management body for purposes of fielding candidates and contesting elections.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) obliged to recognise "any political organization" - that is an association of persons set out to secure the election of one or more of its members to the position of State President or to be a member of a local authority or Parliament.

According to the Electoral Act, a political organisation should have at least:

- a minimum number of 500 members as set by ZEC.
- members from at least five of the country's ten provinces.
- objectives that are consistent with the principles of democracy and the rule of law.
- Commitment to non-violence

What about organisational disputes in parties?

In cases of organisational disputes, and the absence of clear protocols on handling internal contestations, aggrieved parties can approach the court to resolve the issues.

Under what grounds can a parliamentary seat become vacant?

Section 129 of the Zimbabwe Constitution a seat can become vacant on:

- Dissolution of Parliament;
- Written resignation notice by a member to the President of the Senate or to the Speaker of Parliament.
- Member ceases to qualify for registration as a voter.
- Being absent from their seat for 21 consecutive days.
- Certified to be mentally disordered or intellectually handicapped.

For Zimbabwe, the most commonly used clause has been Section 129 (1) (k), which

applies when a member of parliament ceases to belong to the political party under which sponsored their candidacy.

What does Parliament require to recognise communication from a political party/ movement?

In 2015 when MDC-T have evoked Section 129 (1) K to remove MPs who were deemed to no longer represent the party's interests, The Speaker of Parliament said: "I must reiterate as I have done in a previous ruling that the notification to the Speaker by the party that a member has ceased to represent its interest in the National Assembly and Parliament is all that is required at law to create a vacancy and for the Speaker to declare the seat vacant".

What prevents a seat declared to be vacant from being filled?

If legal proceedings are launched to deal with the matter, there will be delays in filling the declared vacancies until the courts have delivered a final ruling.

What if the courts rule in favour of the recall?

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) will resume the necessary proceedings to complete the filling in of the vacant seats by fielding nominations and holding by-elections for the available seats.

Sources

Veritas

Parliament of Zimbabwe

Speaker's Ruling - 17th March 2015 - 17 Vacancies in seats held by former MDC-T MPs

Four Vacancies declared by Parliament during 5th May 2020 Sitings National Assembly Hansard 10 October 2023

Zimbabwe Parliamentary Portfolio Committee Chairpersons

Zimbabwe's Parliamentary Portfolio Committees (PPCs) are specialist oversight panels established under both the country's national constitution and legislative guidelines to investigate specific issues on delegated authority from the lower and upper houses of parliament.

Where do they derive their powers?

The powers of parliamentary committees are derived from the Constitution and Standing Orders and Rules of Parliament to consider and deal with all bills and statutory instruments. They monitor, investigate, and make recommendations relating to any aspect of the legislative programme, budget, policy or any other matter relevant to their assigned department.

Who are the Honourable MPs Chairing the PPCs in the 10th Parliament?

NAMES OF COMMITTEE	CHAIRPERSON	SEX	PARTY
Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs	Hon. Energy Mutodi	M	ZANU-PF
Local Government, Public Works and National Housing	Hon. Supa Mandiwanzira	M	ZANU-PF
Mines and Mining Development	Hon. Remigious Toendepi Matangira	M	ZANU-PF
Lands, Agriculture, Fisheries, Water and Rural Development	Hon. Felix. Saul Maburutse	M	ZANU-PF
Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare	Hon. Dorothy Mashonganyika	F	ZANU-PF
Foreign Affairs and International Trade	Hon. Webster Shamu	M	ZANU-PF
Defence, Home Affairs, Veterans of Liberation Struggle and Security	Hon. Albert Nguluvhe	M	ZANU-PF
Budget, Finance and Investment Promotion	Hon. Clemence Chiduwa	M	ZANU-PF
Women Affairs, Community, Small and Medium Enterprises Development	Hon. Gertrude Mutandi	F	ZANU-PF
Transport and Infrastructure Development	Hon. Knowledge Kaitano	M	ZANU-PF
Primary and Secondary Education	Hon. Ophius Murambiwa	M	ZANU-PF
Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture	Hon. Chamunorwa Chiwanza	M	ZANU-PF
Industry and Commerce	Hon. Ngonidzashe Mudekunye	M	ZANU-PF
Youth Empowerment, Development and Vocational Training	Hon. Mutsawashe Ziyambi	M	ZANU-PF
Parliamentary Legal Committee (PLC)	Hon. Itai Ndudzo	M	ZANU-PF
Public Accounts	Hon. Charlton Hwende	M	CCC
Environment, Climate, Wildlife, Tourism and Hospitality	Hon. Joana Mamombe	F	CCC
Health and Childcare	Hon. Daniel Molokela	M	CCC
Information, Publicity and Broadcasting Services	Hon. Agency Gumbo	M	CCC
Higher Education, Science and Technology Development	Hon. Fadzai Mahere	F	CCC
Information, Communication and Technology	Hon. Darlington Chigumbu	M	CCC
Energy and Power Development	Hon. Engineer Leslie Mhangwa	M	CCC

Source

Parliament of Zimbabwe

Malaria situation in Zimbabwe

Malaria remains a serious public health problem in Zimbabwe, with more than five million people at risk of contracting the disease annually, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO). In the first eight of 2023 (by August), health authorities say the country had recorded 144,508 positive malaria cases.

Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Manicaland, Matabeleland North and Masvingo accounted for 97% of the cases. Here is a snapshot of what you need to know about Malaria.

What is Malaria?

It is a disease caused by parasites that are transmitted to people through bites from infected female (Anopheles) mosquitoes.

How does it spread?

Through the bites from infected female Anopheles mosquitoes.

Blood transfusion and contaminated needles may also transmit malaria.

What are the symptoms?

Symptoms usually start within 10 -15 days of getting bitten by an infected mosquito.

- Fever, headache and chills.
- Extreme tiredness and fatigue
- Impaired consciousness
- Multiple convulsions
- Difficulty breathing
- Dark or bloody urine
- Jaundice (yellowing of the eyes and skin)
- Abnormal bleeding

Prevention

- Take preventative medication (chemoprophylaxis) before travelling to areas where malaria is common.
- Use mosquito nets when sleeping in places where mosquitoes are prevalent
- Use mosquito repellents when in infested areas
- Use coils and vaporizers.
- Use window screens with mesh that keeps mosquitoes out

Treatment

These are the most common medical treatments for malaria:

- Artemisinin
- Chloroquine
- Primaquine

Climate Change and Zimbabwe

Impact of heatwaves on health

Zimbabwe is experiencing unusually hot weather conditions, which environmental experts are attributing to Climate Change. While the national Meteorological Services Department routinely warns people about the dangers of extreme heat on health - especially when temperatures rise above the mid-30-degree Celsius range - there are no readily available statistics on its impact.

But health authorities say there are cases of heat-induced fever in areas that suffer heatwaves in Zimbabwe amid rising temperatures being recorded globally as a result of Climate Change.

What is a heatwave?

A heatwave is an extended period of excessively hot weather, it is usually defined locally in relation to local normal weather, according to the World Health Organisation (WHO).

Heatwaves, or heat and hot weather, which lasts for several days, can have a significant impact on communities, including a rise in heat-related deaths.

The WHO includes heatwaves among the world's most dangerous natural hazards, but notes that it gets little media attention because deaths and destruction from its impact are not always immediately obvious. From 1998-2017, it says over 166,000 people are recorded to have died globally due to heatwaves.

The body and heat

The body maintains an ideal core temperature of 37°C, eliminating sweat

“
VERIFY
all information.
Don't spread falsehoods.

through evaporation of sweat and increasing blood flow to the skin.

Measures to take during a heat wave or extremely hot weather conditions

Stay in shaded areas or indoors to limit direct exposure to the sun.

Stay hydrated

Drink plenty of water regardless of your activity level, without waiting to feel thirsty. Do not drink alcohol, liquids with alcohol or large amounts of sugar as these lead to loss of more body fluid.

What about ice cold drinks?

Avoid very cold drinks, because they can cause stomach cramps, it is advised to consume drinks that are just above room temperature.

Cool yourself down

If you can eat cold foods, and fruits with a high water content; bath with cold water and sprinkle water over skin or clothing, or keep a damp cloth on the back of your neck.

Keep your environment cool

Keeping your living area cool is especially important for infants, the elderly or those with chronic health conditions or who can't look after themselves.

Keep windows that are exposed to the sun closed during the day and open at night when the temperature has dropped. Close curtains that receive morning or afternoon sun.

Stay away from direct sunlight and heat

Everyone is advised to consider ways to protect themselves from direct sunlight for example by staying in the shade, wearing shades, wearing a sunhat, and applying sunscreen when working or playing outdoors.

Avoid vigorous physical activity

Try not to engage in intense physical activity, especially during the hottest hours of the day. Reschedule sporting and physical play to alternative times.

What happens when one fails to regulate the temperature of the body?

- **Heat rash** - Small, itchy blisters appear on the face, neck, upper chest, under breast, groin, and scrotum areas. This can affect any age but is prevalent in young children
- **Heat Cramps** - Painful muscular spasms occur, most often in the legs, arms or abdomen, usually at the end of sustained physical activity. This can be attributed to dehydration, loss of electrolytes through heavy sweating and muscle fatigue.
- **Heat exhaustion** - Symptoms include intense thirst, weakness, discomfort, anxiety, dizziness, fainting, and headache.
- **Heat stroke** - Body temperature rapidly increases to greater than 40°C and is associated with central nervous system abnormalities, such as stupor, confusion or coma. Hot, dry skin, nausea, hypotension (low blood pressure), fast heart rate, and rapid breathing.
- **Heat syncope** - This involves brief loss of consciousness or dizziness. It is common in patients with cardiovascular diseases (heart and blood disorders).

What groups are most vulnerable to extremely hot weather conditions?

Children

As dependents, children rely on others to keep them safe, and some may not have the resources or knowledge to protect themselves from extreme heat. Children spend a good portion of their time in schools or day care settings, some of which may lack air conditioning.

- As much as you can, keep children out of direct sun.

- Move outdoor activities to the morning and evening rather than middle of the day.
- Stay hydrated, and practice sun safety

Older people

For older adults, health complications such as heart conditions can exacerbate the effects of extreme heat. Some older adults may also be using prescription drugs that affect their capability to regulate heat. Older adults are also more likely to be socially isolated than some groups, as they are less likely to have occupations and may lack other community involvement.

- Do not stay home alone during extreme heat events.
- Drink fluids regularly to avoid getting dehydrated and overheated.
- Be careful with the amount of time you spend outdoors. Take frequent breaks to come back inside, cool off, and drink fluids that don't have caffeine.

People with Disabilities

Many people with disabilities are at a higher risk of heat-related illness during periods of high daytime and night-time temperatures. During heat events, people with physical, sensory, mental, or cognitive disabilities are disproportionately affected.

- Ensure people living with albinism stay away from direct sunlight and have adequate supply of sunscreen.
- Provide assistance to people with physical disability that affects their mobility
- Where people have problems with mobility ensure there is someone to assist
- Ensure living spaces are well aerated and have an adequate supply of water

Sources

World Health Organisation

<https://www.heat.gov/pages/who-is-at-risk-to-extreme-heat>

What is the current situation with electricity in Zimbabwe?

The Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) published a statement on October 25 informing the public of depressed power generation in the country, which it attributed to technical faults at Hwange Power Station and standard maintenance work at one of the major units. This has led to increased load-shedding.

What is the average daily power generation for the country?

With Hwange Power Station running on full capacity, the daily average electricity generation is 1614 Megawatts as recorded on October 17, 2023.

What is the current status of power generation?

According to statistics published daily by the Zimbabwe Power Company, the entire country is running on 892 Megawatts, a 722 Megawatts deficit from the daily average. The current distribution is as follows:



DAILY POWER GENERATION STATISTICS 26 OCTOBER 2023

SOURCE	MAXIMUM SUPPLY TODAY
Hwange	454MW
Kariba	400MW
Small Thermals	-
IPPs	38MW
TOTAL	892MW

Stakeholder Relations 26/10/23

What has caused the reduction in power generation?

The ZETDC says this is due to some technical faults at Hwange Thermal Power Station, and maintenance at the recently synchronized Unit 7. A statutory procedure requires this Unit to be taken off the grid after running for a defined period. The company said it expected this to be completed in 30 days.

Has ZETDC published a load shedding schedule?

No. The power distribution company has not yet published a national schedule pertaining to the load-shedding. Communities are experiencing different hours of load shedding while some have gone for days without power.

Source:

Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company
Zimbabwe Power Company

False statement on swimming lessons to beat flooded rivers

Claim: A Twitter (X) post, purportedly from the national broadcaster, ZBC News Online, went viral on social media claiming the Zimbabwe government had called for swimming training for school going children to enable them to safely cross rivers during the rainy season.



Source: Social media

Did the government make such a call?

Verdict: False

This claim is false, and has a number of red-flags undermining its credibility.

Summary of Red flags in the post

- Not posted on the official @ZBCNewsOnline X page. The post has the banner of a parody account @ZBCNewsOnline_, which is notorious for sharing false information.
- Does not show date or time -The screenshot does not show the time or date when the post was made which is standard for all X posts. This suggests that the post was doctored as it does not appear on the imposter page @ZBCNewsOnline_.
- Not current - The screenshot went viral on Facebook in 2021
- Grammatical errors - the post reads, "to and fro schools" instead of to and from schools.
- Reference photo not from Zimbabwe. A reverse image search of the photo shows it was taken in Northern KwaZulu-Natal as students from Madonela Primary School where crossing Uhlajana River.



**Information verification is important for promoting peace and understanding.
Fight against the spread of misinformation and disinformation!**



Zimbabwe fact-checking and media literacy organisation
www.zimfact.org



This bulletin is an initiative of ZimFact, Zimbabwe's first fact checking organisation.



zimfact

@zimfact

@zimfact

zimfact.org