



Ballot Update

Bulletin

February – March 2013

A Newsletter of Zimbabwe Election Support Network **Issue 12** **FREE**

Police blitz on CSOs-ZESN offices raided.

February 2013 will be remembered for the incessant raids by the police on civic society organisations in Zimbabwe. First it was the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) and then the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) head office in Harare and other organisations.

The raid on the ZESN offices by 7 police officers was based on the assumption that the organisation was in possession of subversive material and gadgets, according to the search warrant produced by the police led by Assistant Inspector Mudyirwa.

The police details who broke

down a durawall panel did not find the material that they were searching for but proceeded to take documents pertaining to ZESN's projects and plans for observing the referendum.

The police raid followed a break in at ZESN Masvingo office around 2 am earlier in the morning of 19 February by unidentified muggers who stole boardroom chairs, one computer and 60 T-shirts.

Two days later the Masvingo offices were broken into again by 7 armed people who took two top drawers from the Field Officer's desk with all the contents. ➡ to page 2



The place where the Police broke down a panel at ZESN Head offices

Violations resurge in Zimbabwe

As the curtain closes on the life of the GNU with the country headed for the referendum and landmark general elections, violence and intimidation are rearing their ugly heads once again.

Over the past four years under the leadership of the GNU, Zimbabwe has

been seen as a country on its path to recovery from the horror violence of 2008. However, the reports from the ZESN observers for the month of February indicate that violations on fundamental human freedoms are on the rise. These reports have also come at a time when ZESN offices and other

civic society organisations have been raided by the police on what have been described as unconvincing charges.

The next harmonised elections which are probably the biggest since independence and much rests on their outcomes. It is therefore worrisome that the ZESN observers have noted the setting up of structures which can be used to violate people's rights in provinces such as Manicaland, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Harare, Masvingo and Matabeleland North and South. Reports by the ZESN observers indicate that in there appears to be a revival of youth militia activities and the politicisation of food aid in some areas of the country.

officers must be seriously interrogated to avoid a relapse into the 2008 scenario.

Furthermore, the gruesome death of a 12 year old child in Headlands who was burnt in a suspected case of politically motivated case of violence has sent shock waves across the country. ZESN calls on the GNU to ensure that peace is upheld in order to instil confidence in the electorate that there will not be retribution in the aftermath of the election.

Zimbabwe cannot afford to go through another undemocratic election and the GNU through its structures must ensure that peace is upheld at all cost.



According to the report the politicisation of food aid is allegedly mainly led by the youth officers who are stationed in each ward. In light of the importance of the impending elections and the great need to respect and safeguard human rights before, during and after the election the role of these



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Ukungabiwa kuhle kwemali yezombusazwe akulungelanga umbuso wentando kazulu

E-Kadoma: 'Silokhu silokuthazakeka ngokwehleleka komhlaba wonke jikelele ukuvimbela inqwabangaba zezimali ezithelwa ezinhlelweni lekughutshweni kokhetho emazweni amanengi. Ukuphathiswa ngemali kwamabandla ezombusazwe kulokhu kudala ukumemetheka kobuqili lobusela emhlabeni wonke jikelele njalo ukuswelakala kwezindlela zokugeda lobu buqili kuzaghubeka kuvimbela imizamo yokuthi ohulumende babegotho njalo babuse ngokuthembeka' (yinkulumbo ka-Nathaniel Heller, ongumqondisi we-Global Integrity, 2011).

Kungenxa yalo umbono-ke, i-ZESN yaqoqa umhlangano edolobheni leKadoma ukuze kuhlaziye udaba lokuphathiswa ngemali kwamabandla ezombusazwe njengoba izimali lezi zikubho ukuphambanisa ukufunyanwa kombuso kanye lenzeno ezihlonipha intando kazulu. Esethula inkulumbo yakhe kulo umhlangano owavulezinhlangano ezizimele

zodwa, izifundiswa kanye lamabandla ezombusazwe ahlukeneyo, umqondisi we-ZESN, uRindai Chifunde-Vava wathi izimali zabancintisayo kanye lezombusazwe ezombusazwe kumele zihloliswe lapho ezivelelela khona, ukuthi zinganani lokuthi zisethenziswa njani.

UNkosikazi Chifunde-Vava waphinda njalo wathi, 'Lanxa sinazelela ukuthi ukuza kombuso wentando kazulu kuqakatheke ukwedlula imali, ukusetshenziswa komnotho ekusebenzeni kwalowo mbuso kumele kuhloliswe. Imali ilahlo ukudala ukugcizwani lokugahambi kule kwemikhubo yombuso wentando kazulu.

Waphinda njalo wagcizelela ukuthi amabandla ezombusazwe ancintisayo ekhethweni adinga imali yokuncediseka ekuhubeni inhlelo zokukhankasela amavoti njalo lokuncediseka nje njengezinhlangano kumele zibe lezisebenzi, amawofisi

lezinye indleko zokuphila kwenhlangano.

Umgeinisihlalo we-ZESN, umfundisi njalo engusikhwicamfundo Solomon Zwana laye wavumelana lo Chifunde-Vava ngelithi, 'Umbuso wentando kazulu (democracy) ngeke usebenze kuhle nxa amabandla ezombusazwe engelayo imali yokwenza izinhlelo zawo labantu bokwenza lezo zinhlelo. Ubudlelwano phakathi kwemali lezombusazwe sokuyimbangela emqoka yokungabuswa kuhle njalo nxa ukusetshenziswa kwemali kulokhu kungacacanga, ezombusazwe zizahlala zilokhu zingakwibatheki.'

KweleZimbabwe, umthetho olawula ezamabandla ezombusazwe (Political Parties Act) [Chapter 2:11] wonnyaka ka-2001 wenza kube nzima ukuthi amabandla ezombusazwe athole imali. Ubuzima lobu benza kungacaci ukuthi amabandla la ayithatha ngaphi-ke imali.

Amabandla ezombusazwe amakhulu kulelapha ngezimali zokuqogelela

kubalandeli bazo, ukuthengisa impahla yawo lokuphiwa zinhlangano ezitsihyeneyo. Umqondisi we-ZESN ukubeke kwacaca ukuthi izindlela zokuthola imali lezi azeneli. Lokhu kusuka kwenze ukuthi amabandla la azithole esesemukela izimali ngokungaphandle komthetho.

Inhlangano ye-ZESN ikubona kufanele-ke ukuthi omama labobaba batholisiwe ulwazi lokudinga imali zokukhankasela amavoti lokukhulisa amagama abo. UChifunde-Vava uphinde njalo wabeka umbono wokuthi kumele kube lenali enikwa omama abancintisayo ekhethweni ukuze kulnganiswe amathuba abo labesilisa. Uthe, 'kumele kube lezindlela zokulawula indlela amabandla ezombusazwe athola ngayo imali, ukuthi yimalini lokuthi isethenziswa njani ngesikhathi somkhankaso wokhetho. Ngokunjalo-ke kumele kubonakale ukuthi lezo zindlela ziyalandelwa,' nguChifunde-Vava lowo.



Election news quotes

"We denounce any forms of violence and those found wanting would have themselves to blame. We want to reassure loving Zimbabweans that they are going to exercise their democratic rights in a peaceful environment"

Police Commissioner General Augustine Chihuri.
The Herald 8 March 2013.

"...People should have peaceful nights because fear has no place in a democratic society. I will not be part and parcel of an electoral process that will subvert the will of the people. We have to put an end to this violence so that our people can vote freely"

Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai,
The Newsday 28 February 2013.

"The decision to have a peaceful and democratic vote lies in the hands of Zimbabweans. We are simply observing the process. We encourage Zimbabweans to demonstrate political stability to achieve a peaceful and democratic referendum."

SADC Executive Secretary Dr. Tomaz Salamao,
The Herald 11 March 2013

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Police blitz on CSOs-ZESN offices raided.

Although there was no clear link between the Harare police raid and the break-ins in Masvingo the incidents raised serious concerns over the coincidence of the events. Civic society organisations around the country were united in condemning the police raids which many saw as an attempt to frustrate the operations of the CSOs in Zimbabwe.

As the country heads for the watershed harmonised elections it is imperative for the GNU to ensure that the operating space for CSOs is not clamped and that they are allowed to play their watchdog role without intimidation and fear of being incarcerated.



The destroyed window and burglar bars at the Masvingo offices



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Kusaenzana kwemari dzinopihwa kumapato ematongerwo enyika kunotadzisa kubudirira kwehutongi hweruzhinji

Kadoma: Nathaniel Heller anoti, 'Tinoshungurudzika zvikuu nekushaikwa kwenzira nemitemo yakajeka inoona kuti mari dzinoshandiswa pakuita sarudzo dzashandiswa zvakanaka munyika zhinji. Mari dzinoshandiswa pane zvematongerwo enyika inyaya inofambidzana nechiokomuhomwe uye kushaikwa kwemitemo inotaura kuti mari idzi dzinofanira kushandiswa sei idambudziko guru rinokanganisa kushanda kwehurumende zviripachena.

ZESN yakaronga musangano wakaitirwa kuKadoma mumwedzi wakapfuura wakazendama papfungwa huru dzataurwa pamusoro. Vachitaura pamusangano uyu, Mukuru weZESN Amai Rindai Vava vakati mari dzinoshandiswa pakugadzirira sarudzo dzinofanira kuongororwa kuti dzishandiswe zvine mwero, uye kuti

dzingawanikwe sei uyezve kuti dzinofanira kushandiswa sei?

Zvakakosha kurangarira kuti hutongi hweruzhinji hautengwi asi kuti tizove nehutongi hweruzhinji panoshandiswa mari. Kana mari dzinoshandiswa pakugadzirira sarudzo dzikasapihwa kumasangano ematongerwo enyika zvakaenzanirana uye dzikasashandiswa zvakanaka zvinokanganisa kugamuchirika kwezvinobuda musarudzo.

Vakataura zvakare kuti mapato ematongerwo enyika anofanira kupihwa mari yekushandisa pakufambiswa kwemapato pamwe nepakutsvaga rutsigiro.

Mufundisi Zwana vanove mubati wechigaro weZESN vakatsigira pfungwa iyi vachiti mapato ezvematongerwo enyika haakwanisi

kushanda zvakanaka kana pasina mari yakakwana yekushandisa uye kana pasina vatsigiri vanoda kushanda. Vakati nyaya dzemari nezvematongerwo enyika idambudziko guru rakatarisana nehurumende naizvozvo mari dzinofanira kushandiswa nemwero wakanaka kana tichida kuve nehutongi hweruzhinji.

Mutemo wemuZimbabwe unorambidza mapato ezvematongerwo enyika kuwana rutsigiro rwemari kubva kunze kwenyika naizvozvo pane nzira shoma dzavanokwanisa kuwana nadozo mari. Naizvozvo hazvisi nyore uye hazvina kujeka kuti vangawane sei mari dzekushandisa. Mapato makuru ezvematongerwo enyika emuZimbabwe anowana mari dzekushandisa pamari dzinobhadharwa nenhengo, kana pakutengeswa zvakasiyana siyana kana kupihwa pachena.

Asi mari inowanikwa nenzira idzi haikwani. Naizvozvo masangano anoshandisa dzimwe nzira dzakaita seziokomuhomwe, mabhizimisi asiri pamitemo, mari dzehurumende kana mari dzinobva kunze kwenyika nedzimwe nzira dzisiri pamitemo.

ZESN iri kuti vakadzi nevarume vanofanira kudzidziswa hunyanzvi hwekutsvaga nahwo mari, hwekutsvaga rutsigiro pamwe nekuzvishambadza kuti mapato avo azivikanwe.

Panofanira kuve nemitemo inojekesa mashandisirwo emari, kunobva mari, kuti kutsvaga rutsigiro kunotora nguva yakareba zvakanadi uyezve kuti pachashandiswa mari yakawanda zvakanadi.

Panofanira kuiswa nzira dzeukuona kuti mari irikushandiswa nenzira yakajeka uye kuti zvakaikwa pamashandisirwo emari zviri kutevedzera here.

PEACE is your Highway to a
DEMOCRATIC REFERENDUM
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ZESN

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ZIMBABWE ELECTION SUPPORT NETWORK

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Uneven distribution of political finance unhealthy for democracy.



their activities and this therefore creates opaqueness in terms of how parties source their funding. Hence political finance everywhere is a sensitive matter and Zimbabwe is no exception. Thus running effective and robust political parties in a competitive environment is an expensive enterprise, as was recognised by the Zimbabwe political leadership more than two decades ago.

It is accepted that grossly uneven access to political finance can greatly vitiate democratic politics and imperil the representative system of government. Political party finance has high risks of endangering democracy as was emphatically stated by one seasoned researcher, Pinto-Duschinsky. He argued: "Corruption related to political party financing poses a grave threat to democratic development worldwide."

"We remain deeply concerned by the lack of progress globally on effectively regulating the flow of large sums of private money unto the elections process in many countries. Political financing remains the number one corruption risk around the world and absent meaningful reforms will continue to hinder many other open government and transparency initiative." (Nathaniel Heller, Global Integrity Executive Director, 2011).

It is in this context that the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) facilitated a roundtable meeting in Kadoma recently to discuss issues around political parties' finances.

The meeting sought to conscientise political parties and other stakeholders on the issue of political party funds, as well as possible effects of limited

regulation on political parties' finances such as threatening the legitimacy of the democratic processes and practices. Addressing delegates at the meeting attended by different political parties, civil society organisations and academia, the ZESN's National director Rindai Chipfunde-Vava said, candidates and political parties' campaign finances need to be regulated in terms of (i) limits, (ii) sources of funding and (iii) expenditure.

"While recognising that democracy is priceless, its functioning does have a price, and the use of economic resources is an essential element for democratic competence. The money in politics is capable of introducing distortions if there is unequal distribution. If the use of funds is not regulated, it can threaten the legitimacy of the democratic processes and

practices," she said, adding that political parties campaigning in an election need funding for institutional support. The ZESN chairperson, Reverend Dr Solomon Zwana added that, "Democracy cannot function effectively unless political parties have enough money to carry out their activities and enough members willing to perform them.

The relationship between money and politics has come to be one of the great and that healthy political life is not problems of democratic governments possible as long as the use of money is unrestrained," he said.

In Zimbabwe, the Political Parties (Finance) Act [Chapter 2:11] of 2001 makes it illegal for parties to receive foreign funding; hence they have limited avenues to source funds for

In light of this, the major political parties in Zimbabwe depend solely on methods such as membership dues, sale of party merchandise and donations.

However, the director of ZESN explained that, these methods would normally not raise much funding needed for political parties to survive. That leaves political parties to depend on other methods such as: kickbacks, returns on undeclared business investments, use and abuse of state resources, illicit sources, foreign donations, anonymous sources and donations.

ZESN is therefore advocating for the creation of an environment that provide women and men with skills to raise money, campaign, and build name recognition.