

NPRCWATCH



NATIONAL
TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE
WORKING GROUP
ZIMBABWE

Follow all the Developments related to the NPRC

EDITION 6: JAN - DECEMBER 2018



ANALYSIS | PROFILES | NEWS | RECOMMENDATIONS | PARTICIPATION

Continuing Dialogue on Transitional Justice in Zimbabwe

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**NATIONAL
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Published by

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ABOUT THE NPRCWATCH

This NPRC Watch serves to provide an update for stakeholders on the transitional justice developments in the country as well as activities of the NTJWG in the year of 2018. This briefing covers the NPRC Act and the Next Steps, continuing dialogue on the transitional justice processes, NTJWG Stakeholders Conference, NTJWG Interface with the Special Advisor to the President, NTJWG interface with the NPRC, the Transitional Justice Archive, NTJWG radio programmes, NTJWG publications, among other developments.

January to March, 2018 Issue

The NPRC Act & Stakeholders Response

On 5 January, 2018 the Government gazetted the NPRC Act [Chapter 10:32] finally operationalising the NPRC, almost five years since the Constitution established the NPRC. NTJWG issued a Press Statement welcoming the Act and pointing out the weaknesses of the Act. Please read the full statement [here](#). Many stakeholders welcomed the Act and encouraged the NPRC to get down to work. Heal Zimbabwe issued a statement applauding the President for the Act. The statement by Heal Zimbabwe is available [here](#). The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) also issued a statement welcoming the Act. Please find the statement [here](#).

On 12 January, 2018 the NPRC addressed a Press Conference at Munhumutapa Building in Harare. Issues were raised at the Conference regarding the adequacy of the law, appointment of the Chairperson and the time frame for the Commission. Commissioners did not seem to have much knowledge on the issue of the Chairperson and time frame and noted that they had scheduled a meeting with Vice-President Mohadi to discuss the outstanding issues. On the adequacy of the law, Commissioner Masunungure said that the regulations will try to fill in the gaps. Please read our report of the press conference [here](#).

Continuing Dialogue on Transitional Justice in Zimbabwe

On 9 January, 2018 the NTJWG Secretariat did a radio interview on Star FM providing an analysis of the Act. Please listen to the interview [here](#). Please download the Act [here](#) and let us hear what you think.

On 24 January, 2018 Zimbabwe's President, Emmerson Mnangagwa was interviewed in

Davos, Switzerland by BBC's Mishal Husain at the World Economic Forum. Mnangagwa was asked about the Gukurahundi atrocities. Mnangagwa said he will be ready to appear before the NPRC and apologise for past wrongs. He disputed the figures that about 20 000 people were killed in the Gukurahundi atrocities. Please watch the full interview [here](#).

On 11 February, 2018 the NTJWG Deputy Chairperson reflected in the Standard: Can the

NPRC overcome a legacy of failed Commissions? Please read the full article [here](#).

NPRC What's Next Conference

On 7 February, 2018 NTJWG convened the NPRC 'What's Next' Conference to review the NPRC process and discuss strategies for engagement with Stakeholders. 36 organisations participated. Conference Outcomes were published in the Standards of 11 February, 2018. The summary of the outcomes is accessible [here](#).

Training for Peace Monitors

On 17 February, 2018 the Forum Secretariat partnered with ZPP and trained 13 Peace Monitors to monitor the NPRC process. Their reports contributed to the reports shared with the NPRC and to be shared in more detail, publicly.

NPRC Consultative Meetings

From 19 to 23 February, 2018 the NPRC held consultative meetings throughout the country to inform the public of its strategic planning process. The meetings were received with mixed feelings with some stakeholders expressing the view that the meetings lacked adequate preparation. NTJWG noted that the NPRC needed to hold on the roll-out until they had the regulations passed, full complement of the Commission's Secretariat. Some of the meetings were disrupted in Bulawayo, Lupane and Marondera. NTJWG noted that the public consultation meetings ended up being public hearings. A full report on the meetings will be shared separately.

Interface with the Special Advisor to the President on the NPRC

Following recommendations by the Stakeholders at the 7 February 2018 'What's Next' Conference, the NTJWG Chair met with

Prof. Clever Nyathi, the Special Advisor to the President on the NPRC to share with him the outcomes of the Conference and the concerns of the Stakeholders, especially the issues regarding the '*let bygones be bygones mantra*', the statements by the Vice President Mohadi on the role of traditional leaders and the conduct of the Executive in relation to past atrocities.

Executive that seemed to compromise the independence of the NPRC. The full report of this engagement will be shared separately. You can read NTJWG statement on the utterances by V.P Mohadi [here](#).

Appointment of the NPRC Chairperson

On 1 March, 2018 President Emmerson Mnangagwa appointed Retired Justice Selo Nare as the Chairperson of the NPRC. NTJWG issued a statement welcoming his long awaited appointment and expressing hope that the NPRC Chairperson would give sound leadership not only to the NPRC, but to the nation.

Interface with the NPRC

On 15 March, 2018 NTJWG met with the NPRC at their Harare offices. The meeting, which was chaired by Justice Nare, reflected on the NPRC so far and shared with the Commissioners recommendations of the NPRC 'What's Next' Conference and observations by Peace Monitors from the NPRC public consultations. NTJWG highlighted concerns of Stakeholders with the inadequacy of the law, delay in the regulations and non-availability of human and material resources for the Commission and the involvement of the Executive in the affairs of the NPRC. The NPRC responded that work was in progress to adequately equip the NPRC to do its work. The NPRC informed NTJWG

that regulations and policies would be released soon. A full report of this engagement will be shared soon.

International Day of Truth

On 24 March, 2018, NTJWG joined the world in commemorating the International Day of Truth concerning past human rights violations.

In a statement published in the Standard of 25 March 2018, NTJWG called on the Government to show sincerity with the ongoing peace and reconciliation processes by publishing the reports of past commissions. The full statement is available [here](#).

NTJWG Archival Project

Following on a number of recommendations from Stakeholders, NTJWG has launched the Transitional Justice Archival Project. A reference group was established with representatives from all regions of the country.

On 1 March, 2018, the reference group met in Harare to review the project asserts and policies. On 4 April 2018, the archival training and records survey started in Chinhoyi.

The project aims to capacitate NTJWG stakeholders for purposive documentation and archival of all human rights records and create a central portal for easy collaboration and sharing of information.

Coming this Month

NPRC Watch - NTJWG will this month launch the 4th issue of the NPRC Watch with more detailed reports.

Guide to the NPRC – Following the enactment of the NPRC Act, NTJWG will be publishing the updated Guide to Understanding the NPRC.

June-September, 2018 Issue

The interview: Justice Nare explains the NPRC's role in 2018 elections, its future

On 25 June, 2018 the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) Chairperson, Retired Justice Selo Masole Nare had an interview with Newsday to articulate the Commission's role during the election period. He noted *"that right now, the world is interested in whether Zimbabwe is going to hold peaceful elections, particularly since we have the new dispensation and the expectations are that we need to maintain a peaceful environment. To achieve peace, we need the NPRC to be all over the country."*

The interview also revealed what kind of activities the NPRC would implement in the prevention and management of violence in Zimbabwe given the violent history of elections in the country. Despite being the most recently operationalized Commission of the four, every citizen expects the NPRC to take lead in almost every major event in the country which might lead to violence, elections being one of the most critical.

Signing of the Peace Pledge

On 26 June, 2018, twenty out of the twenty-three Presidential candidates contesting in the July, 30 harmonised elections signed the peace pledge in Harare binding them to a code of conduct compelling them to campaign peacefully. The peace pledge document was prepared by the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) as part of efforts to promote a peaceful campaign environment ahead of elections set for July 30, 2018.

The NPRC allocates Provinces to its Commissioners

On 5 July, 2018 the NPRC allocated the 8 Commissioners to various Provinces according to their ethnic and technical expertise. The strategic ethnic distribution of Commissioners also allays concerns of imposition of Commissioners who are not aware of specific regional dynamics. This would also prevent Commissioners from interfering in one another's work and it would give them a chance to be creative and effect in specific areas rather than being everywhere, but doing nothing. This strategy also enabled the NPRC to be in many places at the same time so that it delivers its mandate in the smallest time.

The strategy ensured that the NPRC raises awareness and campaigns for a peaceful election before the plebiscite. Some few weeks after allocation of Provinces, the NPRC began to mobilise and managed to convene huge gatherings of people across the country during the peace outreach campaigns.



PRESS RELEASE

NPRC COMMISSIONERS AND THE PROVINCES THEY ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR:

While the NPRC is in the process of setting up its offices and secretariat the following Commissioners are responsible for provinces as stated below. Members of the public are encouraged to contact them whenever there is need.

RESPONSIBLE PERSON	PROVINCE	EMAIL ADDRESS	CELL NUMBER
Retired Justice Selo Masole Nare (Chairperson) & Commissioner Leslie Ncube	Bulawayo, Mat North & Mat South	smasolenare@nprc.co.zw leslie.ncube752@nprc.co.zw	0776 095 047 0777 849 325
Commissioner Lilian Chigwedere (Deputy Chairperson)	Harare	lchigwedere7@nprc.co.zw	0772 353 251
Commissioner Dr Geoffrey Chada	Mash East	gtzchada@nprc.co.zw	0712 874 828
Commissioner Dr Golden Chekenyere	Masvingo	gchekenyere@nprc.co.zw	0775 916 823
Commissioner Patience Chiradza	Manicaland	pzchiradza@nprc.co.zw	0772 889 817
Commissioner Rev Charles Masunungure	Mash Central	cmasunungure@nprc.co.zw	0772 393 926
Commissioner Netty Musanhu	Midlands	netty.musanhu@nprc.co.zw	0772 100 050
Commissioner Choice Ndoro	Mash West	choicendoro@nprc.co.zw	0778 767 519

Commissioner Lilian Chigwedere (Deputy Chairperson)

National Peace and Reconciliation Commission

05/07/2018

Peace Caravans

Immediately after the signing of the peace pledge, the NPRC, collaboration with churches, civil society organisations and government entities, deployed two trucks which embarked on a nationwide campaign to promote peace in Zimbabwe between the 20th and 28th of July, 2018.

The road shows were done on the back of peace pledges that were also signed by political parties in the ten Provinces in Zimbabwe. The campaigns took the form of peace pledges by political leaders followed by road shows in every Province which were meant to spread the word of *'peaceful elections'* at a wider scale targeting a larger audience in 19 major towns and cities across the country under the theme *'peace is our collective responsibility.'* They were done strategically to coincide with the elections and when people's expectations were high.

Views from the Diaspora on Peace and Reconciliation on Zimbabwe

On 19 July, 2018 exactly eleven days before the harmonised elections, the NTJWG convened a dialogue on national peace and reconciliation in Zimbabwe.

The Working Group, accompanied by one of its members, Ms. Samukeliso Khumalo, captured all the views proffered by participants who emphasized that people in the diaspora must also be part and parcel of the NPRC's programming because their views are equally important.

**Peace is
our Collective
Responsibility**

NTJWG Pre-Election Transitional Justice Briefing

An Urgent Call for Action: Embracing the Imperatives of Peace, Avoiding Violence

A week before the elections, the NTJWG acknowledged that Zimbabweans were heading for the polls in the post-Mugabe era and that it was a tightly contested election pitting a post-Tsvangirai opposition coalition and a post-Mugabe ruling party. Both the opposition and the ruling party promised real change, equating the plebiscite to the 1980 elections that ushered in majority rule. As the momentum was rising, the tensions rose as well, creating fears of social unrest and protest in the days ahead. This situation raised transitional justice questions which the nation needed to reflect on. In this briefing, the NTJWG raised some red flags as it believed

that Zimbabwe was on the road to a disastrous election that had a high violence potential in the aftermath. These issues, could only be ignored at great risk of instability.

The July, 2018 Harmonised Elections

On 31 July, 2018 Zimbabwe held a plebiscite to elect its local and national leaders. Voting started in the morning and ended at 7pm. Compilation of results started as soon as the queues ran out.

This election was arguably one of the most open to observers in the history of Zimbabwe which was observed by SADC, E.U, Commonwealth, political parties and civil society organisations. Very few incidences of violence were reported, especially in the rural areas bordering on intimidation. The voting environment on this day was generally peaceful.

The August 1, 2018 Demonstrations and Shootings

The Zimbabwean government deployed the military in Harare on 1 August, 2018 leading to the extra-judicial killing of three unarmed civilians on spot, three more died after being admitted into hospital and several more injured due to beatings. The tragic events were a result of clashes between the ZRP and members of the public, including opposition political party supporters who were protesting the perceived delay in the release of the results of the Presidential election.

Reports indicated that the ZRP were in control of the situation when military vehicles were observed driving into the Central Business District. Gunshots were fired randomly throughout the Central Business District.

Forum observers witnessed soldiers randomly firing live bullets and beating up bystanders who were not involved in the protests. The military's conduct fell short of internationally accepted standards in controlling protesting crowds and the incident has since aroused new and appalling transitional justice questions such as truth-telling and the security sector reforms.

NTJWG Statement on the Establishment of the Commission of Inquiry

On 31 August, 2018 the NTJWG published a press statement in response to the purported establishment of the Commission of Inquiry into the 1 August, 2018 shootings in Harare. The statement included topics such as 1 August, 2018 Killings Constitute Serious Violation of Human Rights, The Right to the Truth, The Right to Remedy, The Composition of the Commission, The Mandate, Key questions for the inquiry, Operation of the Commission and Report of the Commission.

NTJWG Ordinary Meeting

Quarterly, the NTJWG convenes to reflect on milestones made and also re-strategize in its work. The NTJWG convened on 31 August, 2018 after elections to discuss opportunities and challenges posed by elections given the ever changing environment and in particular, the 1 August, 2018 killings in Harare. Interesting intervention strategies were adopted which will inform the Working Group's work into the final quarter.

The 8th Institute for African Transitional Justice

The Refugee Law Project (RLP), School of Law, Makerere University, in collaboration with the African Transitional Justice Research Network (ATJRN), invited

Tendaishe Tlou, one of the Forum/NTJWG Secretariat members, to its 8th Institute for African Transitional Justice (IATJ) that was held from 1-8 September 2018, in Arua, West Nile Region, Uganda under the theme: ***'Doing Inclusive Gender in Transitional Justice: What might this look like in Post-conflict African Societies?'***, the 8th IATJ confronted and explored global experiences in relation to making transitional justice more broadly both gender sensitive and inclusive.

Radio Programme on the Commission of Inquiry

Following the 1 August, 2018 shootings of civilians in Harare the President, E.D.Mnangagwa, announced that a Commission of Inquiry will be formed to investigate the causes and solutions of the shootings.

In response, the NTJWG- represented by the NTJWG Coordinator Dzikamai Bere and NTJWG member Roselyn Hanzi- appeared on a radio programme on Star-Fm on 27 September, 2018 to assess the impact of the Commission on inquiry on the economy and socio-political context of the country.

October to December, 2018 Issue

Survivors' training

On 2 to 3 October, 2018 the NTJWG convened a workshop for survivors in Harare

in partnership with Tree of Life. The training was meant to equip survivors with skills to assist them in organising their submissions before the NPRC and coordinating the survivor groups from 10 provinces of Zimbabwe to organise themselves for participation in the national healing and reconciliation process.

Community Dialogue

On 6 November, 2018 the NTJWG had a community dialogue with the community in Chiadzwa, Manicaland to discuss their expectations from the NPRC and challenges they have in engaging the government to convey their grievances. Barriers to engage the State and the lack of information from the NPRC were highlighted as the main challenges which prevents the community from effectively dealing with the past.

Public Lecture

On 7 November, 2019 the NTJWG organised a public lecture at Africa University (A.U) in Mutare. The panellists of the lecture were Dr.S.Mungure from the A.U, Commissioner Patience Chiradza from the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) and Rev. Masango. The purpose of the public lecture was to create a platform to debate the pertinent transitional justice issues in Manicaland, particularly Chiadzwa, and also give students the opportunity to reflect on possible areas for further research in relation to resource governance and conflict.

Barriers to engage the State and the lack of information from the NPRC were highlighted as the main challenges which prevents the community from effectively dealing with the past.

Radio Programmes

On 15 October, 2018 the NTJWG had a radio programme on Skyz-Fm in Bulawayo following the launch of the '36 Years Later' *Gukurahundi* documentary by CITE on 29 September, 2018. The radio programme discussed opportunities which the memorialisation of past atrocities and screening of the documentary opened up space for dialogue in issues related to 'dealing with the past.'

On 16 October, 2018 the NTJWG had another radio programme on Diamond-Fm in Mutare following a preparatory survivors' training for members and partners of the Zimbabwe Victims of Political Violence Trust (ZVPVT) from 2 to 3 October, 2018 in Harare designed to support survivors of past human rights violations in their work and engagement with the NPRC.

On 1 November, 2018 the NTJWG had another radio programme on Skyz-Fm in Bulawayo to discuss the Commission of Inquiry disturbances which occurred in Bulawayo. The panellists included Rev.Dr.Motsi: the NTJWG Memorialisation thematic leader, Ackim Mhlanga: Secretary General of Mthwakazi Freedom Party and Mthokozisi Ndebele: WILD Trust.

On 7 November, 2018 the NTJWG facilitated a radio programme on Diamond-Fm in Mutare to discuss natural resources management, conflict and transitional justice in Manicaland, in particular Chiadzwa. The panellists were Dr. Mungure who is an expert in peace building and lecturer at Africa University and Commissioner Patience Chiradza from the NPRC.

On 23 November, 2018 just some few hours before the conclusion of the transitional justice symposium, the NTJWG and its stakeholders appeared on Skyz-Fm in Bulawayo to highlight the major take-away from the conference. The panellists were P.T Nyathi who is the NTJWG Vice-Chairperson, Annah Moyo who is the CSVR Transitional Justice Officer, Sekai Gombe representing Zimbabwe Victims of Political Violence Trust (ZVPVT) and Commissioner Choice Ndoro from the NPRC.

On 21 December, 2018 the NTJWG had another radio programme on Star-Fm in Harare to reflect on the transitional justice policy symposium and to also commemorate the National Unity Day. The panellists were Dzikamai Bere who is the NTJWG Coordinator, Alec Muchadehama who is the NTJWG Chairperson and Sekai Gombe representing the Zimbabwe Victims of Political Violence Trust (ZVPVT).

Commission of Inquiry into the 1 August, 2018 shootings

From the 16th to the 19th of October, 2018 the Commission of Inquiry commenced and concluded its public hearings in Harare, followed by Bulawayo on the 26th of October, 2018. In November, 2018 the Commission of Inquiry was stationed in Gweru, Mutare and finally Harare. The hearings were concluded on 31 November, 2018.

Publications

The NTJWG developed a monitoring framework for the NPRC that will be distributed across the country. The NTJWG produced 315 copies of the translated '*Guide to Understanding the NPRC*' in Shona, Ndebele, Tonga and the Nambya version will be printed in 2019.

About The National Transitional Justice Working Group

The National Transitional Justice Working Group (NTJWG) is a platform established by 46 Zimbabwean organisations representing various transitional justice stakeholders to provide the interface between transitional justice stakeholders and the official transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe.

Vision

A peaceful, just, accountable and democratic society.

Mission

To create inclusive space for the coordination of transitional justice stakeholders, share experiences; build synergies for comprehensive, accountable, victim centered and participatory transitional justice processes in Zimbabwe.

Values

- Integrity
- Inclusivity
- Impartiality

Members

Mr. Alec Muchadehama	Chairperson/Reparations
Mr. Paul Themba Nyathi	Deputy Chairperson
Rev. Dr. Fradereck Chiromba	Promotion of Truth
Ms. Roselyn Hanzi	Justice and Accountability
Rev. Dr. Ray M o t s i	Memorialization
Ms. Memory Kachambwa	Gender
Mr. Anthony Reeler	Independent Expert / Institutional Reform
Mr. Otto Saki	Independent Expert
Ms. Samukeliso Khumalo	Independent Expert

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