

**PERCEPTION SURVEY ON THE NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION
(NPRC)**

SURVEY REPORT

Submitted to:

National Transitional Justice Working Group

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ACRONYMS

NTJWG:	National Transitional Working Group
NPRC:	National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
POLAD:	Political Actors Dialogue
ZIDERA:	The Zimbabwe Democracy and Economic Recovery Act
CSO:	Civil Society Organisations

SECTION ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 The Study Background

On 5 January 2018, the NPRC was operationalised and this created an opportunity for historical dialogue and dealing with the past. In October 2018, the NPRC launched its 5-year strategic plan which highlights all its intervention strategies.

The formation of the NPRC gave survivors of past atrocities in Zimbabwe a sigh of relief and opened an opportunity for the country to embark on a road to healing and reconciliation. Through its mandate, the Commission should establish structures to ensure non-recurrence of gross human rights violations in Zimbabwe. The Constitution makes reference to conflict resolution and prevention in the functions of the NPRC. Section 251(a) gives the NPRC the mandate to ensure post-conflict justice, healing and reconciliation. Section 251(h) empowers the NPRC to do anything incidental to the prevention of conflict and promotion of peace. Section 251(j) empowers the NPRC to recommend legislation to ensure that assistance, including documentation, is rendered to persons affected by conflicts, pandemics and other circumstances. The NPRC strategy does detail one of the strategic outcomes of the NPRC which makes reference to inclusive healing and reconciliation processes for addressing legacies of violent conflicts' (NPRC 2018 to 2022 Strategy, p.48). In that outcome, the NPRC envisages giving assistance to victims of past conflicts in line with its mandate outlined in section 252 of the Constitution. Despite the mandate given to the NPRC, there are sentiments that the Commission has delivered below the expectations of the major stakeholders.

Upon the formation of the Political Actors Dialogue (POLAD), the NPRC's chairperson was appointed by the President to chair it presumably to bring together political actors who participated in the 2018 elections to dialogue. The call for a national dialogue gathered momentum following the continuous deterioration of the socio-economic situation in the country. Upon the appointment of Retired Justice Selo Nare as the Chairperson of POLAD, the NTJWG expressed its concerns citing that the NPRC's role is not relevant in POLAD and that this might compromise its independence. Most recently, the NPRC got involved in a 'call' for the removal of sanctions imposed on some elites in Zimbabwe, which is not the mandate of the NPRC. The Commission has been issuing strong statements about sanctions and went further to go to Troutbeck Inn, Nyanga', to look at the outlay and the things we have missed out, but the area we are going to look at is that of the Zimbabwe Economic Recovery Act (ZIDERA), interrogate it (and) find out how we can approach the people who have imposed sanctions on us, perfect the whole thing and also the economy side of it. We are also going to be looking at the closure of factories' Justice Nare said.¹ In-terms of its communication and visibility, particularly at community levels, stakeholders have indicated that the NPRC is not as visible as it should be.

This assignment entails conducting a perception survey on how Chapter 12 institutions interact with stakeholders basing its analysis on the establishment of structures to ensure non-recurrence of gross human rights violations in Zimbabwe making reference to conflict resolution and prevention, post-conflict justice, healing and reconciliation and anything incidental to the prevention of conflict and promotion of peace.

1.2 Purpose and Objective of the Perception Survey

The purpose of this assignment was to conduct a perception survey on how Chapter 12 institutions (NPRC) interact with stakeholders basing its analysis on the establishment of structures to ensure non-recurrence of gross human rights violations in Zimbabwe making reference to conflict resolution and prevention, post-conflict justice, healing and reconciliation and anything incidental to the prevention of conflict and promotion of peace. The key objectives of this survey include,

- To evaluate if the direction chosen by the NPRC is in line with its mandate;
- To examine if the processes, products and services offered by the NPRC are contributing to the achievement of clearly stated results according to the Commission's mandate.
- To collect evidence that shall qualify or disqualify that the NPRC has been co-opted by the State.
- To collect data that shall be used to engage the NPRC on its independence and
- Proffer recommendations on how the Commission can re-gain citizens' trust and confidence.

SECTION TWO: APPROACH AND METHODOLOGY

2.1 Methodological Framework

The online survey was of a national nature and it was conducted online via KoBoToolbox and it collected both qualitative and quantitative information. As part of this assignment, the Consultant also conducted the literature/document review to identify, appraise, select and synthesize relevant research evidence on the project and its context. A link to the online survey questionnaire was shared by via email and social media to sampled survey respondents. Targeted respondents provided consent before participation. The overall approach to the evaluation will be participatory to ensure that the diverse respondents and organisations/stakeholders make direct input

2.2 Sampling Framework and Targeted Respondents

Since the assignment was conducted online where the costs are minimal, the Consultant developed a purposive sample. This survey targeted a variety of stakeholders that include individuals, donors and civil society representatives as guided by the contractor. Further to this, the Consultant made use of existing NTJW platforms and networks to reach respondents for the assignment targeting respondents such as the following;

- NTJWG Mailing list and
- Facebook, Twitter and LinkedIn.

2.3 Limitations of the Study

In conducting this survey, the following are some of the challenges that were experienced

- Non-response to the survey

Even though it was widely circulated the survey we only got 51 responses which was slightly above our minimum sample target of 50 respondents.

- Missing data

There may be missing data due to some questions not being answered.

- Quality of data and reliability

To ensure quality data, the Consultant had planned to conduct face to face interviews with selected individual and stakeholders to but this was not possible due to scheduling challenges

- Representativeness and limited scope of the survey findings

This data is biased and not representative therefore the views from this survey though varied will reflect the views of those that participated and be indicative of the situation of the NPRC in Zimbabwe.

2.4 Data Collection, Processing and Analysis

The data collection was conducted from 20-30 November 2020, where the online survey was deployed as detailed above. In total, the Consultant managed to receive 51 completed surveys on the NPRC. Data analysis was conducted using KoBoToolbox which produced summary quantitative and qualitative data that was collected in the surveys. Frequency tables and infographics were produced from the quantitative data and for the qualitative data a thematic analysis done. The analysis brought out themes, issues, trends, patterns and conclusions that emerged from the survey and discussed/presented in this report.

SECTION THREE: KEY FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

3.1 Profile of Survey Participants

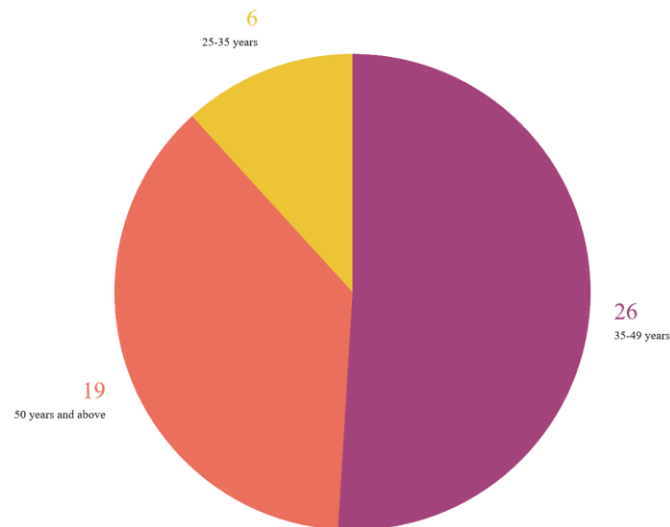
The table below shows the type of respondents that took part in the survey given the choice of method for the survey and the people it was shared with. Knowledge of transitional justice issues is usually not very prevalent, hence the bias shown by those who participated. This may have a bearing on the results of the survey which may be biased, but since the intention of this survey is to collect perceptions on the NPRC this may be the best group to participate in the survey.

Type of respondent	# of Respondents
General citizen of Zimbabwe with interests in transitional justice issues	31 (61%)
Survivor of human rights violations	11 (21%)
Political establishment (policy maker, member of a political party, member of a trade union, etc.)	2 (4%)
Staff of the NPRC	1 (2%)
Family member or dependant of a survivor	1 (2%)
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• NGO and Human Rights activist;• I'm a Zimbabwean permanent resident, and a human rights and transitional justice scholar and• Civil society actor x 3.	5 (10%)

3.2 Age Range and Gender of the Survey Participants

The total number of survey participants is 51. 26 participants were aged 35-49 years and this constitutes 51%, 19 participants were aged 50 and above, which is 37% and those aged 25-35 were only 6 and constituted 12%. High participation by the 35-49 and 50 and above age group could be because they have more interest in national issues hence NPRC, the age group also has the bulky of working class/breadwinners and may have more access to online platforms as compared to the other groups. It is also important to note that on close analysis gender aggregation of the participants is almost the same, with almost equal participation with those that identified as being male being 53% (27) and those that identified as being female being 47% (24) of the survey respondents.

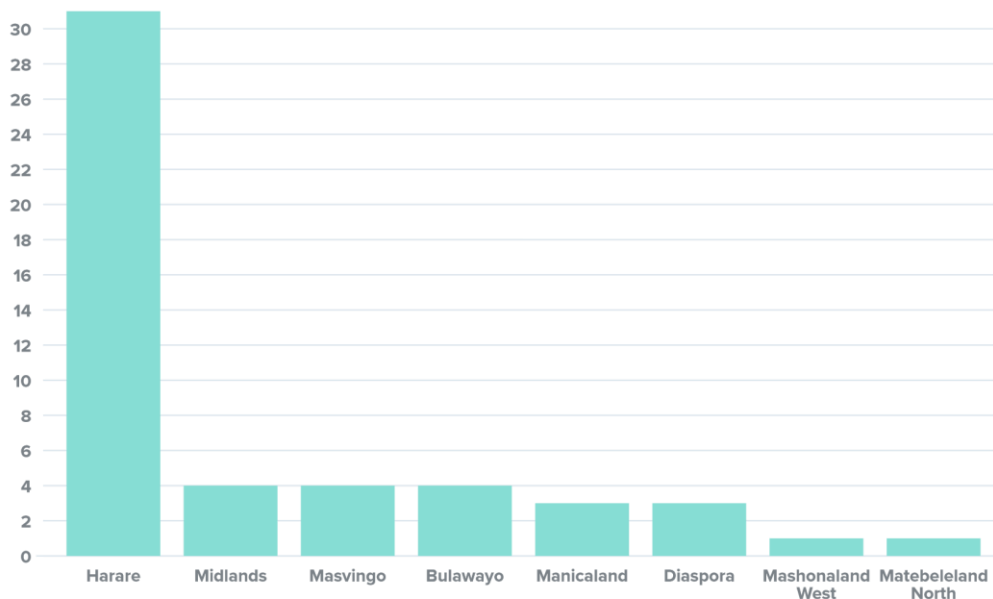
Age range for the survey respondents



3.3 Geographical Location of the Survey Respondents

Responses were received from respondents that were from different provinces in Zimbabwe with Harare (61%) having majority of the respondents and some from the Diaspora (6%). For the respondents based in the diaspora, two of them were based in the United States of America and another based in South Africa as shown by Figure 2.

Geographical location of survey participants



3.4 Knowledge of the NPRC and its Mandate

49 respondents (96%) indicated that awareness of the NPRC and its mandate as given by the Constitution whilst only 2 participants (4%) indicated that they were not aware of the NPRC mandate. Those with knowledge of the NPRC were given the space to indicate what it is they thought was the mandate of the NPRC and their views were different and emphasised different focus areas of the NPRC.

Some of the views included the following:

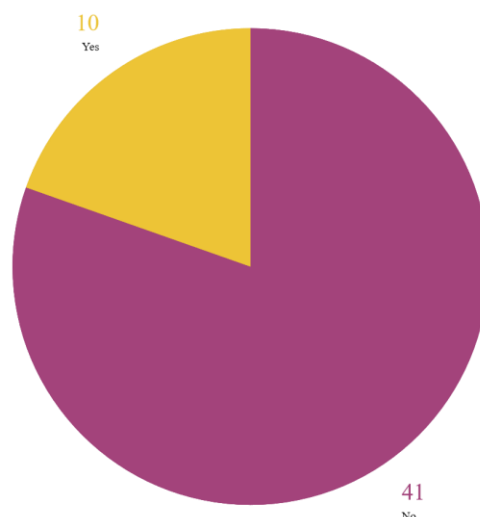
- NPRC as an independent body-would mean that the Commission stands on its own and free from influence from external actors. It gives the Commission the sole power and mandate of effecting peace and reconciliation amongst Zimbabweans. Independence also may entail neutrality/objectivity of the NPRC, meaning that they assist everyone regardless of their status, background or religious and political affiliation.
- NPRC as a state body/a Commission set up by the president/constitutional Commission- The NPRC is provided for by the 2013 constitution under the Independent Commissions. In accordance with the 2013 constitution the NPRC chairperson is appointed by the president, as well as the 8 other members of the Commission.
- NPRC has a human rights and social justice agenda
- NPRC as a Restorative and preventive Commission- and this can encompass restorative justice, peace, healing and reconciliation- addressing the effects of past conflicts, violence and human rights violation. More to do with holding perpetrators to account, by creating platforms for offenders and the victims to dialogue, seek forgiveness, closure and inner peace. Very relevant in Zimbabwe given the impasse surrounding the Gukurahundi, Murambatsvina, 2018 and 2019 shootings. On the other hand, it is supposed to make efforts towards preventing future conflict.

- Platform for truth telling and repentance- the Commission seeks to bring people together, and open up about their feelings, expectations and even go further to facilitate behaviour change
- The NPRC exists to address effects of past conflicts

3.5 Satisfaction with the current activities of the NPRC

The NPRC is mandated to bring peace, healing, justice and reconciliation amongst Zimbabweans, as well as conflict prevention in light of human rights. However, 41 (80%) of the participants indicated that they are not satisfied with the NPRC efforts in tackling these issues. This could mean that the activities of the Commission so far, falls short in fulfilling its mandate, yet the country has been experiencing a myriad of human rights violations. More so, there is the impending Gukurahundi debate, which to date has not received the attention it should, and no significant efforts have been made to facilitate peace in Matabeleland. Nonetheless, 10 (20%) of the participants reckon that activities of the NPRC are satisfactory.

Satisfaction with current activities of the NPRC



3.6 NPRC performance with respect to conflict resolution and prevention, post conflict justice, healing and reconciliation, promotion of peace and prevention of conflicts in Zimbabwe?

• Achievement of the Commission to date

According to the respondents though they have set up structures, have track records of the eras of conflict, conflict mapping and set up dialogue platforms, the work they set out to do is still in theory more than practice. In 2019 for example the Commission drafted a strategy on Gukurahundi and carried out outreaches in Harare and other provinces but nothing has come of it to date. Some of the key achievement include;

- Setting up peace structures across the country;

- Awareness campaigns to popularise its mandate;
 - Created platforms for dialogues on past and recurring conflicts;
 - They have done some useful mapping activities;
 - They have brought openness among the citizens to tackle conflict issues, especially Gukurahundi which remains a major talking point for national healing, justice and reconciliation;
 - Efforts have been made towards strategies for conflict prevention even though there is need to work on post conflict justice, healing and reconciliation;
 - Most of the work so far seems to be identifying the issues so far and not so much to actually address them;
 - There are activities that have been conducted and they have come up with a strategic document to guide their activities and
 - has done well in its accessibility to civil society, and developed its strategic plan and implementation plan.
- **Underperforming Commission**
 - To date the major atrocities such as Gukurahundi have not been dealt with
 - Most violations of human rights remain unresolved as far back as Gukurahundi, Murambatsvina and 2008 elections.
 - It is not visible enough to command attention
 - It has not done much, it is weak and performed dismally so far
 - Nothing tangible has been done as far as implementation is concerned by the NPRC

- **An emerging Commission**

It is important to note that much of the work the Commission sets out to do is still on paper rather than practice. This could be that the Commission is still in its infancy, since it started activities in 2018. Even so, it should be noted that it operationalised in a year that was characterised by pre and post political tensions, violence, killing of civilians and a contested election result. Dealing with these issues as it set off, would have epitomized the commitment and political will of the Commission in dealing affecting peace and addressing human rights violations. Two years down the line, human rights violations are still rife, and one would question the Commission's capacity, ability and good will in fulfilling its mandate.

According to one of the respondents, *"....so far it's only used to sanitize things, it's mandate of promoting peace, prevention of conflicts and addressing past violations is not happening..."* Some of the perspectives that point towards that it is still an emerging and not a fully fledged Commission include the fact that to date it has no budget support for activities hence serious budget shortages.

- **Political influence and bias**

According to the respondents, another limitation to the Commissions' expected performance could be attributed to the failure of the Commission to detach itself from other Commissions and the government, and an overall absence of political will. While it is stated that the Commission ought to perform neutrally some participants noted that the Commissioners themselves are former government officials, moreover they perform selectively. This could be because the president of Zimbabwe is the one who appoints the chairperson and take part in the selection of Commissioners. To give an example, the current chairperson of the

Commission is Retired Justice Nare, who has years of experience as part of the judiciary, and while the judiciary is expected to be free from the influence of the executive, in Zimbabwe, that doctrine of separation of powers is highly questionable. There is need for the NPRC to take a very objective stance and ensure participation at all levels, and utilise the bottom up approach that was envisioned during its formation. If we are to talk of peace, healing, social justice and reconciliation we ought to address the issues from the roots. It has a lot of bias towards victims and perpetrators of violence

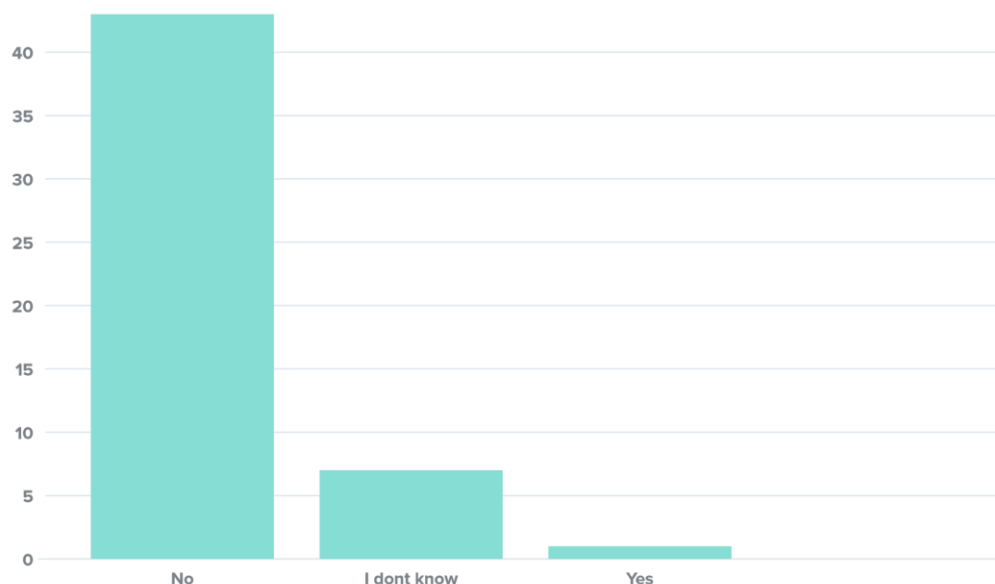
- **Limited visibility**

There is seemingly some secrecy surrounding the actual operation of the Commission hence effectiveness is questionable. The NPRC as a Commission that carries a national mandate ought to be widely known and visible, but it is largely known in Harare and Bulawayo. Before one even thinks of practical efforts of peace building the Commission still has a long way in raising awareness and sensitizing the nation on who they are and their mandate. Some of the issues highlighted include;

3.7 Perception on whether the NPRC is well resourced (budget and skills)

In terms of skills and resources, 82.61% of the participants felt that the NPRC lacks skilled staff and resources to deliver its mandate as expected, lack of visibility and significant changes as far as resolving past conflicts is concerned. The rest of the participants were not aware of their budgeting and skills base.

Perception on whether the NPRC is well resourced (budget and skills)

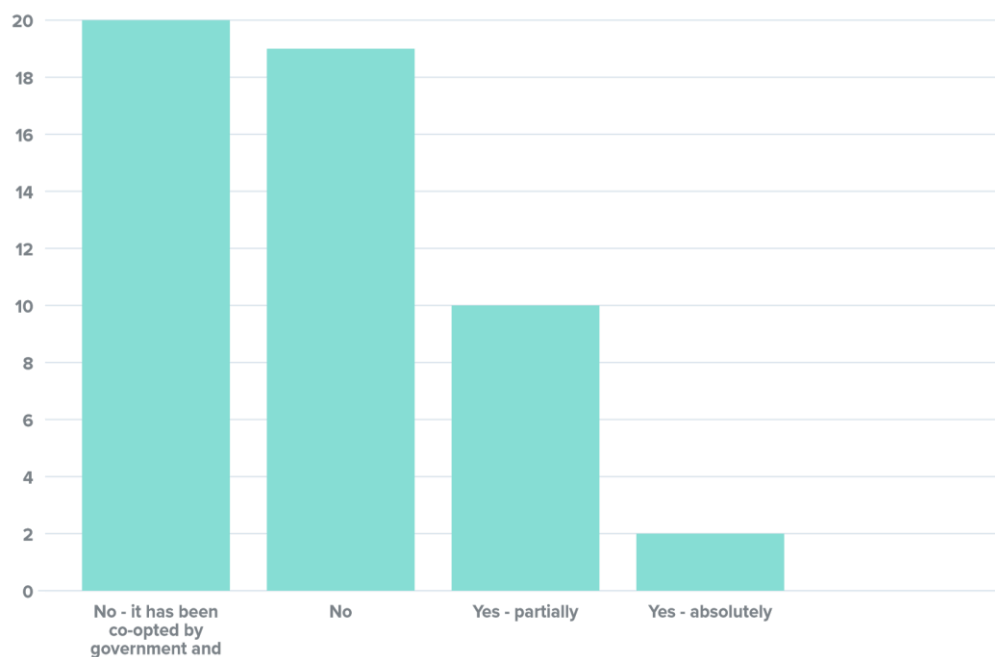


3.8 Is the NPRC free of political influence and the government?

The majority of the respondents 39 (76%) indicated that the Commission is not free from government interference and political influence. This brings into question the neutrality of

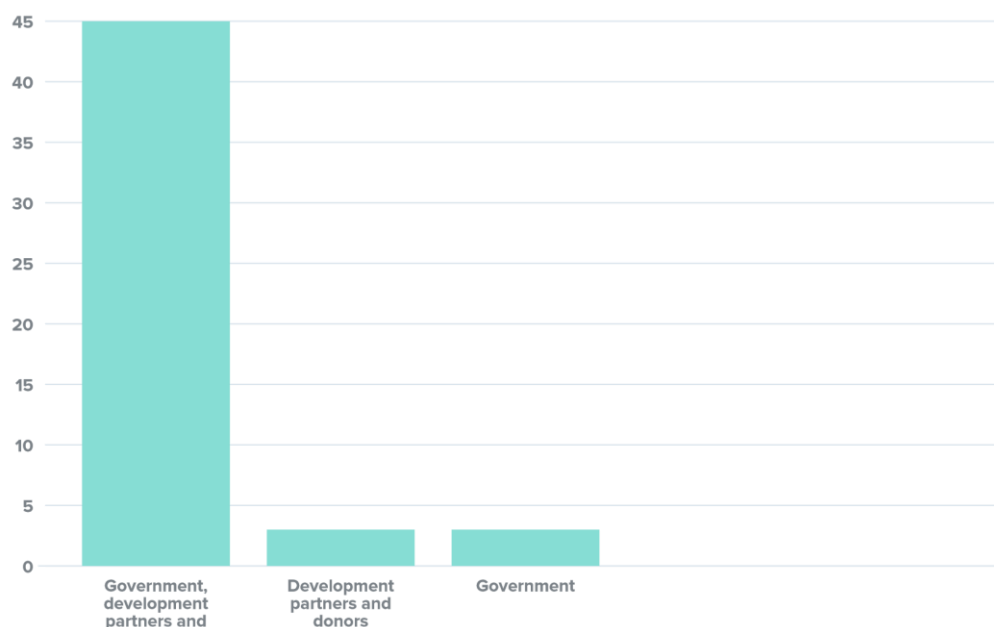
the Commission and the government and politicians from ZANU PF decide what the Commission should and should not do. The NPRC then can be used for the politicking agenda rather than be a true peace and reconciliation Commission. The rest of the respondents 12 (24%) indicated that the NPRC was free from the influence, but was still not objective in its mission and mandate as per the Constitution.

Perception on NPRC, political influence and government interference



3.9 Funding for the NPRC to fulfil its mandate

Who should fund the NPRC?



Most of the participants in this survey (88%) indicated that the NPRC should be funded by multiple funders that include government, development partners and donors. This points to the importance of partnership and multisectoral approaches to peacebuilding. The government, development partners and donors must all work together in funding the NPRC to allow all activities including those that may not be funded by the government in power to get attention.

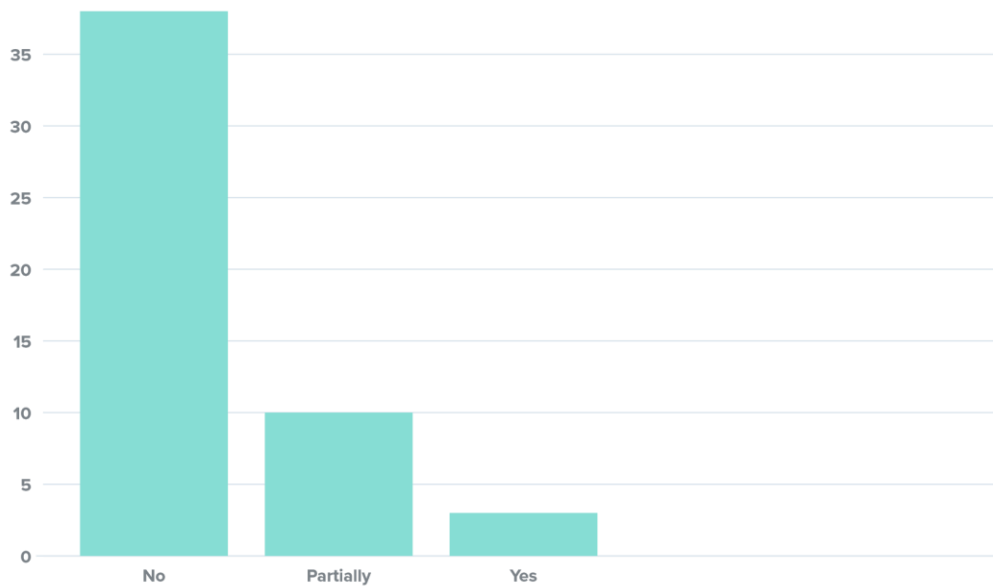
3.11 NPRC and engagement in political activities such as POLAD

The majority of the survey respondents (84%) indicated that the Commission should be apolitical and therefore stop forthwith participation in such and similar activities like POLAD as this is not in line with its mandate. Participation in such a highly politicised exercise threatens the image of the Commission in as far as their neutrality is concerned. The NPRC is supposed to be an independent body that addresses transitional justice issues that may involve the current government hence the constitutional mandate and need to be apolitical.

3.11 There has been a spate of alleged human rights violations, torture and abductions of members of the oppositions in the recent past in Zimbabwe. Do you think that the Commission has been visible in line with its mandate to ensure non-recurrence of gross human rights violations in Zimbabwe?

As shown below a large number of the participants (74%) attest to the invisibility of the NPRC and failure to deal with human rights violations as evidenced by the recent torture and arrests of anyone who opposes the government be it journalists, lawyers and other human rights defenders.

NPRC visibility when it comes to current alleged human rights violations, torture and abuse



3.12 Role of NPRC, the government and traditional leaders in dealing with past violations?

- **Roles of the NPRC**

The NPRC has to take an independent centre stage in addressing past and present violations. It should use an inclusive approach in which victims and perpetrators, CSO and others stakeholders participate if it is to be successful. Overall, the NPRC to be apolitical and its mandate should be to: bring people together, address political violence, promote peace and reconciliation, be non-selective and be critical of the government so that it doesn't hijack the Commission. The NPRC should detach itself from the government because some people think that it is affiliated with the ruling party. The NPRC should among other things ensure that;

- Past violations have to be openly engaged and tackled without fear or favour;
- It facilitates the acceptance by perpetrators of various violations, truth telling and ownership of the past wrongdoings. Without this all efforts are cosmetic and insincere;
- NPRC should be pushing for a truly inclusive process;
- NPRC should train peacebuilding chiefs and community leaders CSO to assist with documentation of alleged cases;
- They partner with those that provide legal aid services and psychosocial support for victims;
- NPRC should lead the processes of dealing with past violations with support chiefs, civic society and other stakeholders and
- NPRC must lead the process and not allow political players to lead the process.

- **Roles of the Government**

The government only needs to create a permitting atmosphere and distance itself from decision making and controlling of the Commission. The president is responsible for

appointing the chairperson and the Commissioners but ought to distance himself from the actual operations of the Commission. Alleged perpetrators like President Mnangagwa cannot lead the healing of their victims. Government should establish a transparent and accountable system of collating data and engaging stakeholders for the NPRC and its partners.

- **Role of Traditional leadership**

Traditional leaders should guide community engagements and consultations. However, as gatekeepers they should take an independent stance and ensure that;

- The victims should drive the Gukurahundi issue, with the help from civil society under the guidance of Traditional leaders with the government only observing as well as facilitate the smooth running
- Traditional leadership should remain the custodians of our culture and preserve it against any foreign and external influences
- Traditional leaders should be involved unless they are too independent, skilled and objective. Everyone should be capacitated as needed to do this work effectively

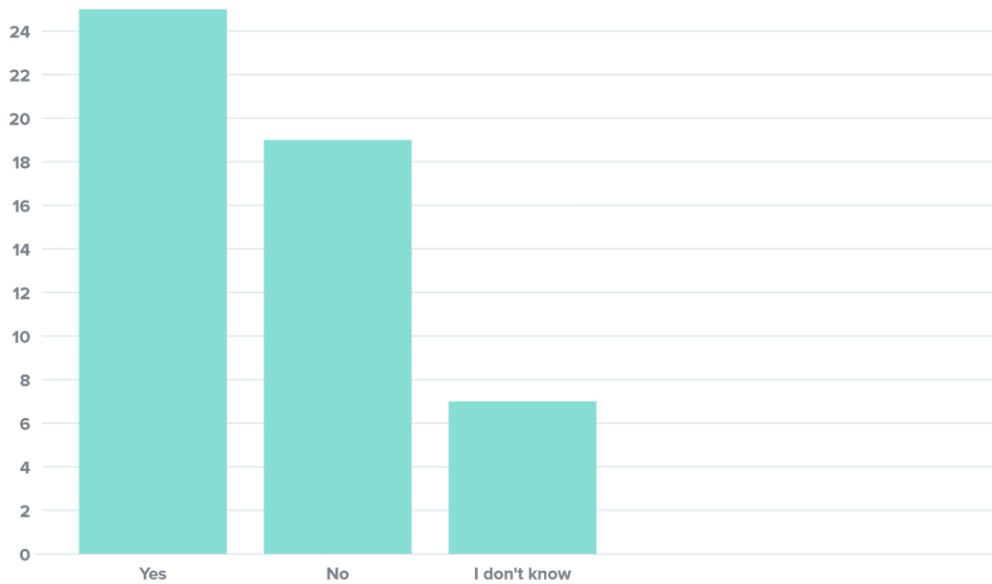
- **Role of Civil Society**

Civil society is a key stakeholder in the peace process and it has to play a supportive and complementary role. Civil society should be highly involved and able to influence and direct the healing processes. It should complement the work by the NPRC and the Government by publishing more educational materials to raise more awareness on the work being done.

3.13 Is the NPRC relevant in Zimbabwe in its present form?

The respondents were torn in between when it came to this issue with 25 respondents (49%) indicating that the Commission is important and has the ability to do its work if some of the current challenges are addressed. Some 19 respondents (37%) indicated that the NPRC in its form should not continue indicating serious need for its restructuring.

Is the NPRC relevant in its current form?



3.14 What do you think are the most important issues in Zimbabwe when dealing with past and current human rights violations that the NPRC should focus on?

The table below shows the areas which the respondents chose for the NPRC to focus on going forward with the most important one being that of attending to the needs of victims and survivors of past human rights violations and also truth telling.

Focus Area	# of Respondents that chose it
To pay special attention (medication, compensation and rehabilitation) to victims and survivors (and their dependants) of human rights violations	40 (78%)
To know the truth of what has happened and why it has happened	39 (76%)
To reform the police, the security, the army and the justice systems	37 (73)
To compensate the victims, survivors and their dependants	31 (61%)
To bring the persons who have committed human rights violations to the court	28 (55%)
To enable memorialisation, e.g. via museums, a memorialisation day etc.	26 (51%)
Other: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Forensic identification of bodies To create institutions, policies and mechanisms to avoid future recurrences of violations- lasting solutions/durable peace Make sure Perpetrators never get in public posts 	9 (18%)

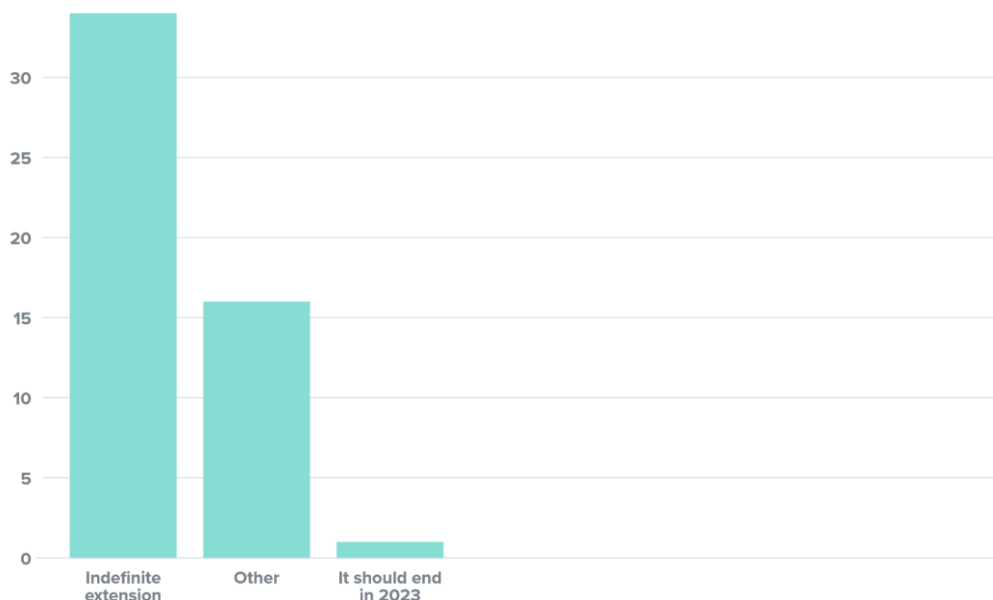
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To resist exacerbating tensions or trauma; to provide evidenced based and culturally appropriate restorative practices- acknowledge sensitivity of the issues and use methods that minimize further harm • To focus on the future, let bygones be bygones • The process of NPRC must be holistic not piecemeal • To have restorative justice for the whole nation • To progress the process in a timely, transparent and non-partisan manner | |
|--|--|

In addition, the respondents also thought that the NPRC should still focus on issues such as the forensic identification of bodies and ensuring that there is impartiality in the process.

3.15 What should happen to the NPRC now that the current constitutional mandate is ending in 2023?

According to 34 respondents (67%) that participated in the study, the mandate of the NPRC should be extended indefinitely which shows that they regard it to be an important institution in the dealing with past transgressions that should be permanent. Only one person indicated that its mandate should end in 2023

What should happen to the NPRC given its current mandate is ending in 2023?



The respondents that highlighted that the NPRC is necessary and has not yet served its purpose thus should not be disbanded as yet. In the last two decades Zimbabwe has witnessed a lot of violence, conflict and human rights violations and consequently negative peace, thus the NPRC was and is still a noble idea. If well and fully executed, the mandate of the NPRC can go a long way in mending relations across the nation. However, there is a need for committed actors in the Commission, they need to reconsider their strategies and

approaches. Given the fact that it has only been operating for two years there is still room for positive change and 2023 is too near. The process of peace, healing and reconciliation is not short-term, it's a very long process and a lot of patience is required. Quick solutions to longstanding problems have limited sustainability.

SECTION FOUR: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 Overall conclusions

The existence of the NPCR is very critical to Zimbabwe as a country given the context within which the Commission was set up. Impending post conflict anger, dissatisfaction and current human rights violations are a testament of the need for peace, healing and reconciliation. However, issues of fear, politicisation of peace building, incapacitation and a politically charged environment are among other reasons why take off has not been seen.

- **Inclusion and Visibility of the Commission**

The NPCR needs to directly involve communities, do wide consultations, publicise itself and create grassroot/local structures. Visibility, inclusion and multi stakeholder participation are key hence the need for it to consult widely and put survivors at the centre of its work. Participation of communities should be visible throughout the engagements

While it is a national Commission, the NPCR is not known in many parts of the country, there is still so much that needs to be done in terms of letting the public know of their existence and mandate. If the Commission is not known by the people it is supposed to help, it then defeats the whole purpose of having the NPCR in the first place. In the short term the NPCR should resourced so that it can fulfil its mandate.

- **NPCR should not be politicised/biased**

Given the manner in which the Commission is set up and how its Commissioners are selected the NPCR is bound to be political. The president and in most cases the judiciary in Zimbabwe is known to protect the interests of the government, therefore this brings to question whether the President can appoint a chair who opines differently with him. Furthermore, the participation of the current President and the government stalls the mandate of the NPCR right from the start, defeats the supposed bottom up approaches. The Chairperson of the NPCR and Commissioners should be chosen through a public process to ensure that they can act in an unbiased manner. A total independence of the Commission is key, disbanding it and setting up of community based peace building structures may be a better option, than having a team of people who are far removed from realities on the ground. The political environment is not conducive for an effective NPCR especially in its partisan form, with Commissioners appointed at the behest of the ruling party and government. Government to allow Commissions to work independently and officials appointed to the NPCR must not be perpetrators of conflict as this will defeat the whole purpose of conflict resolution in Zimbabwe. The appointed Commissioners need to demonstrate independence and leadership in dealing with Zimbabwe's past

- **Underperforming NPRC**

The NPRC is underperforming so far, and its capacities and abilities are thus questionable. Given the fact that in two years there has not been much progress, there is seemingly no hope that in the next 3 years' things would be different especially in the face of increasing political polarisation and human violations. There has been a rise in the persecution and prosecution of those who speak against the current government yet the constitution says otherwise about demonstrating and the like. The NPRC needs to be more visible and at present it is perceived that the steps they have taken towards Gukurahundi are more of window dressing than really addressing the issue, because they do not have the necessary independence and resources to see it through. In its present form and under the existing legislation the NPRC is mostly a sop to the notion of transitional justice, and in its current structure and process is retarding the possibility of transitional justice and proper reform of the state.

4.2 Recommendations

Below are some of recommendations that emerged from the perception survey;

- The NPRC needs resources (financial and technical) from a variety of sources that include government, donors and development partners to enable to carry out its mandate without fear or favour and undue influence especially from the government of the day.
- Given the nature of issues that the NPRC has been focusing on, it is recommended that its constitutional mandate needs to be extended and made indefinite so that it can take a permanent place in Zimbabwe's democracy.
- NPRC needs to do more awareness campaigns targeting general citizens and those in specific areas/regions affected by past atrocities that have not been resolved to date. This will enable citizens to access the institution and have their issues resolved.
- The NPRC is supposed to be an independent body that addresses transitional justice issues that may involve the current government hence the constitutional mandate and need to be apolitical. It needs to be seen to be apolitical and not aligned to government programmes such as POLAD and the 2020 anti-sanctions campaign in Zimbabwe
- The appointment of the NPRC Chairperson and Commissioners should not be the responsibility of political head such as the President as this compromises the independence of the Commission. Therefore, it is recommended that the appointment of the Chairperson and Commissioners of the NPRC be done by an independent body through public interviewing process

SECTION FIVE: ANNEXES

5.1 Annex#1: Study Tools for the NPRC Perception Survey Tool

Introduction

The National Transitional Justice Working Group is conducting a perception survey on the NPRC and how it has executed its constitutional mandate since its operationalisation in January 2018. The formation of the NPRC gave survivors of past atrocities in Zimbabwe a sigh of relief and opened an opportunity for the country to embark on a road to healing and reconciliation. Through its mandate, the Commission should establish structures to ensure non-recurrence of gross human rights violations in Zimbabwe. The Constitution makes reference to conflict resolution and prevention in the functions of the NPRC. Section 251(a) gives the NPRC the mandate to ensure post-conflict justice, healing and reconciliation. Section 251(h) empowers the NPRC to do anything incidental to the prevention of conflict and promotion of peace. Section 251(j) empowers the NPRC to recommend legislation to ensure that assistance, including documentation, is rendered to persons affected by conflicts, pandemics and other circumstances. The NPRC strategy does detail one of the strategic outcomes of the NPRC which makes reference to inclusive healing and reconciliation processes for addressing legacies of violent conflicts' (NPRC 2018 to 2022 Strategy, p.48). In that outcome, the NPRC envisages giving assistance to victims of past conflicts in line with its mandate outlined in section 252 of the Constitution. Despite the mandate given to the NPRC, there are sentiments that the Commission has delivered below the expectations of the major stakeholders.

The overall objective of this survey is to evaluate the current work of the NPRC and strategies it has taken to deliver on its mandate as per the constitution. The results of the survey will then be used to engage the NPRC and offer recommendations on how it can execute its mandate in line with the expectations of the Constitution, citizens and interested stakeholders.

Your answers will be confidential and no names will be written. You don't have to answer any question you prefer not to and you can stop the interview at any time. It will take about XX minutes.

a. Have I explained adequately the purpose of the interview? <Yes/No>

b. Do you understand that you do not have to answer any questions you do not wish to and that you can stop the interview at any point? <Yes/No>

c. Do you agree to continue with the survey <Yes/No>

1. How old are you?

- 18-24
- 25-35;
- 35-49;
- 50 and above

2. What's your gender?
 - Female
 - Male
 - Other
3. What is your current location?
 - City
4. Which province are you based?
 - Bulawayo
 - Harare
 - Masvingo
 - Matabeleland North
 - Matabeleland South
 - Mashonaland Central
 - Mashonaland West
 - Mashonaland East
 - Midlands
 - Manicaland
 - Diaspora (Specify)
5. The NPRC has the mandate to bring healing, justice and reconciliation to the people of Zimbabwe regarding past human rights violations. Section 251(h) of the Constitution empowers the NPRC to do anything incidental to the prevention of conflict and promotion of peace. Are you satisfied with the current activities of the NPRC?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
6. In your opinion is the NPRC still in line with its mandate? Please explain your answer?
(OPEN)
7. Do you think the NPRC is well resourced (skilled staff and budget) to fulfil its constitutional mandate?
 - Yes
 - No
 - I don't know
8. In your opinion is the NPRC free of political influence and the government?
 - Yes, absolutely
 - Yes, partially
 - No
 - No – it has been co-opted by the government and is not free and impartial

9. In your opinion who should fund the NPRC to fulfil its constitutional mandate?
 - Government only
 - Development partners and donors
 - Government and Development partners and donors

10. In the recent past we have seen the participation of the NPRC and its Chairperson in the anti-sanctions movement by the current government and POLAD respectively. What are your views on this?
 - The Commission should continue in this direction as this is in line with the mandate of the Commission
 - The Commission should be apolitical and therefore stop forthwith participation in such and similar activities. This is not in line with its mandate
 - I am not bothered

11. There has been a spate of alleged human rights violations, torture and abductions of members of the oppositions in the recent past in Zimbabwe. Do you think that the Commission has been visible in line with its mandate to ensure non-recurrence of gross human rights violations in Zimbabwe?
 - Yes
 - Partially
 - No

12. What do you think are the most important issues in Zimbabwe when dealing with past and current human rights violations that the NPRC should focus on? Please indicate your opinion by checking only the items you deem very important
 - To know the truth of what has happened and why it has happened
 - To bring the persons who have committed human rights violations to the court
 - To compensate the victims, survivors and their dependants
 - To enable memorialisation, e.g. via museums, a memorialisation day etc.
 - To reform the police, the security, the army and the justice systems
 - To pay special attention to victims and survivors (and their dependants) of human rights violations

13. In your opinion what should the Commission do to regain the trust and confidence of citizens? (OPEN)

14. What do you think should be done by the NPRC to demonstrate that it is independent and executing its constitutional mandate? (OPEN)

15. In which major capacity have you answered the above questions? I answered as a member of the...
 - Community (citizen, victim/ survivor of human rights violations, dependant of a survivor, media)

- Civil society (working groups or associations dealing with past human rights violation, NGOs)
- Political establishment (policy maker, member of a political party, member of a trade union, etc.)

16. Do you have any other comment on the NPRC and its work in Zimbabwe? (OPEN)

Thank you for your time!