



**NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

**JANUARY-DECEMBER 2023**

*Peace begins with me; Peace begins with you; Peace begins with all of us*

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## LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCORD	African Centre for the Constructive Resolution of Disputes
CAMPFIRE	Communal Areas Management Programme for Indigenous Resources
CEWER	Conflict Early Warning and Early Response
CHIL	Complaints Handling, Investigations and Legal Services
CPMRT	Conflict Prevention, Management Resolution and Transformation
CPNR	Conflict Prevention and Non-Recurrence
CRGBV	Conflict Related Gender Based Violence
CSOs	Civil society Organizations
DDC	District Development Coordinator
EGBV	Electoral Gender Based Violence
EMA	Environmental Management Authority
FGD	Focus Group Discussion
GBV	Gender Based Violence
HRR	Healing, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation
IDP	International Day of Peace
IPSAS	International Public Sector Accounting Standards
KII	Key Informant Interview
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
KMS	Knowledge Management Systems
M&E	Monitoring and Evaluation
NDS 1	National Development Strategy 1
NPRC	National Peace and Reconciliation Commission
PAC	Problem Animal Control
PPC	Provincial Peace Committee
PWD	People with Disabilities
RKM	Research and Knowledge Management
SAP	Systems Application Product
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPAD	Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution
TSCZ	Traffic Safety Council of Zimbabwe
UNDP	United Nations Development Program
VSGD	Victim Support, Gender and Diversity
ZBC	Zimbabwe Broadcasting Corporation
ZEC	Zimbabwe Electoral Commission
ZGC	Zimbabwe Gender Commission
ZHRC	Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission
ZIMPARKS	Zimbabwe Parks and Wildlife Management Authority
ZPCS	Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services
ZRP	Zimbabwe Republic Police
ZUPCO	Zimbabwe United Passenger Company

## FOREWORD BY THE CHAIRPERSON



It is with great pleasure that the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) presents its annual report, as mandated by Section 323 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, directing the NPRC to submit its annual findings to the esteemed Parliament of Zimbabwe.

This comprehensive report illuminates the impactful programs spearheaded by the NPRC throughout the year 2023, encapsulating both successes and challenges encountered in the pursuit of our constitutional mandate. Aligned with our guiding documents, the Strategic Plan (2021-2025) and the Election Conflict Prevention Strategy (2022-2023), our focused activities revolved around Conflict Prevention and Social Cohesion.

Gratitude is extended to the Government of Zimbabwe, notably the Office of the President and Cabinet, and the Office of the Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs. We acknowledge the collaboration of various Ministries and Departments, Independent Commissions and the Parliament of Zimbabwe. Special recognition is given to our invaluable development partners, including the United Nations Agencies, for their unwavering support and partnership.

Heartfelt appreciation is reserved for the dedicated Commissioners, the Executive Secretary, the General Managers and the entire NPRC staff, whose unity of purpose and commitment were instrumental in fulfilling the Commission's mandate.

While the year posed its share of challenges, the NPRC remained steadfast in its commitment to conflict prevention and social cohesion. Recognizing the pivotal role of public awareness, the Commission enhanced its visibility and decentralized programs to encompass all ten provinces.

A sincere thank you is extended to the citizens of Zimbabwe for their collective efforts in achieving peaceful elections in August 2023. It is together, in peace, that we aspire to realize an upper middle-income society by 2030, understanding that true development is only attainable in an environment of peace, unity, and cohesion.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Dr. Moyo', written over a circular stamp or seal.

**Rev. Dr Chiropafadzo Moyo, Acting Chairperson**

National Peace and Reconciliation Commission

December 2023

## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This Annual Report outlines the work of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) in 2023 and is prepared in terms of the Constitution of Zimbabwe and the NPRC Act Chapter [10:32]. NPRC's 2023 programs were informed by the country's development blueprint, the National Development Strategy 1 and Vision 2030, the NPRC Strategy, (2021-2025), the NPRC Annual Plan (2023) and the NPRC's Conflict Prevention Strategy (2022-23), all of which reinforce the contribution of peace to the development of the country. Programs done by the Commission in 2023 were centred around themes focusing on complaints handling and investigations; conflict prevention and non-recurrence; healing, reconciliation and rehabilitation; research and knowledge management; victim support, gender and diversity issues. Suffice to say, the NPRC's 2023 work was anchored on its overarching theme: Conflict Prevention; this in realization that the Commission needed to do more to avert conflicts in the period leading to; during and after elections.

The NPRC received 105 new complaints in line with its mandate and these added to the backlog of cases that had not been investigated to finality in 2022 to create a total complaints log of 138. 104 of these were successfully investigated and concluded. Almost half of complaints received (47%); relate to political conflicts and Masvingo Province tops the list of the total complaints charts at 27% whilst the remaining 73% is distributed amongst the remaining nine provinces. The vice of early child marriages and child abuses instigated a number of community conflicts that were dealt with by the NPRC. The Commission had a number of electoral conflict preventative programs, not least of which include voter peace education, political parties' engagements, peace medley songs, peace publicity messages and elections observation among others. The Commission worked with multi-stakeholder national, regional and provincial infrastructures for peace to develop strategies for creating an environment conducive for holding peaceful elections in Zimbabwe. Work to set up a Conflict Early Warning and Early Response system continued from 2022 with focus dedicated towards strengthening internal capacities to appreciate its utility. Dialogue and mediation programs of the Commission were sustained through internal skilling on insider mediation in collaboration with Africa University. The Commission actively got involved in facilitating dispute resolution in a conflict between families in Buhera Central, Manicaland Province over the utilization of the Mainzo Wetlands.

The scourge of drug abuse and the prevalence of human wildlife conflicts threaten the proliferation of conflicts in some sections of our Zimbabwean society. The Commission thus ran several programs to find strategies; partnering with schools, the Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services, traditional leaders, the taskforce on drug and substance abuse among others; to curb the vice so that it does not result in the multiplication of avoidable conflicts. Equally so, engagements were done with concerned stakeholders on how to secure beneficial outcomes from human wildlife conflicts in communities hosting wildlife sanctuaries. Other community healing programs were focused on building peaceful societies and providing support to local response teams that often have to deal with fatal road traffic accidents. This work was reinforced by the Commission's research unit which sought to delve deeper into possible conflict multipliers and generate informed feedback about what could help to guarantee peaceful societies. Three major researches were commissioned and concluded and these focused on social cohesion among ethnic groups in Mashonaland West and Matabeleland South



as well as one on the operations of artisanal miners in Mashonaland West. To secure the Commission's peace literature, the NPRC worked on finalising its peace resource centre; which work also involved the identification and capacitation of internal knowledge management champions and exchange learning with Africa University library.

The NPRC partnered with the Zimbabwe Council of Churches in the training of community, church and NPRC initiated provincial peace structures in the 10 provinces on electoral gender-based violence. This was buttressed by the internal identification and training of gender focal persons to champion gender issues in the implementation of Commission programs. The focal persons were trained on gender sensitive conflict management and also worked on the Sexual Harassment Policy, in realisation of the need to create safe working spaces for both male and female employees of the Commission. The Commission also conducted gender responsive programs as provided for in Section 9 of the NPRC Act. These include inclusive gender-based community dialogues designed to appreciate; with fine gender lenses; the factors enabling or militating against peace, unity and social cohesion in the country. To facilitate publicity of this and other works of the Commission, several media related programs were done. These include interviews on radio and television; print, digital and social media adverts to promote peace as well as design and development of information, education and communication materials which were widely distributed around the country.

The Commission received budget support amounting to \$11,2 billion to implement its programs, 72% of which was apportioned to service delivery and the remainder for administrative purposes. An allocation of \$610 million was for procurement of non-financial assets. The Commission ran several staff wellness, capacity building and welfare programs to ensure a healthy and motivated staff. This notwithstanding; attrition levels as staff resigned for greener pastures or to take up higher responsibilities continued to be of major concern to the Commission. Other challenges that have militated against the Commission's work include the uncertainty over the expiry of the NPRC tenure, polarization levels in Zimbabwe and inadequate resources, among others. Despite these challenges, the NPRC acknowledges the goodwill from stakeholders at national and sub-national levels who helped so that the needed support to achieve the results that are captured in this report was given.

This report makes several legal, policy and administrative recommendations to reduce conflicts and guarantee peace in several areas. These include restoring trust between communities and law enforcement agencies, addressing the child abuse menace, assuring peace in wildlife hosting communities, securing amity between traditional courts and magistrates' courts, dealing with child abuse and ameliorating anger and frustration over perceived unfair displacements to make way for national development projects.

The NPRC acknowledges the role played by many stakeholders to ensure the success of its work in 2023. The Commission also appreciates the commitment by Zimbabweans to participate in the 2023 harmonised elections in a tolerant and peaceful manner.

***Peace begins with me, Peace begins with you; Peace begins with all of us***

## NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

### COMMISSIONERS & SENIOR MANAGEMENT

#### COMMISSIONERS



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Rev. Dr. Chiropadzho Moyo



Commissioner  
Dr. Golden  
Chekenyere



Commissioner  
Mrs Lilian  
Chigwedere



Commissioner  
Dr. Donwell  
Dube



Commissioner  
Adv. Obert Chaurura  
Gutu



Commissioner  
Mrs Normaqhawe  
Gwere



Commissioner  
Dr. Tinashe  
Rukuni



Commissioner  
Dr. Josephine  
Shambare

#### EXECUTIVE SECRETARY



Executive Secretary  
Mrs Sibusisiwe Zembe

#### GENERAL MANAGERS



General Manager  
RKM  
Mr Donald Chirunga



General Manager  
Finance  
Mr Brain Mangoro



General Manager  
CPMRT  
Mr Joseph Mashigaidze



General Manager  
HRR  
Mrs Cynthia Mawema



General Manager  
HR & Admin  
Mr Albert Mbabvu



General Manager  
CHIL  
Mr Tichafanana Sithole

## NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION



#### MANAGERS



Manager  
Audit  
Matirasa Banda



Manager  
HRR  
Mashudu Budagi



Manager  
PMU  
Ruth Jojo



Manager  
CPMRT  
Joseph Kauzani



Regional Coordination  
Manager  
Central Region  
Jesca Majaha



Manager  
ICT  
John Paul Moyo



Manager  
CHIL  
Hlonipani Mpofu



Manager  
Media & Communication  
Mercy Mtombeni



Manager  
M&E  
Mavis Mugaviri



Manager  
VSGD  
Caroline Munhuweyi



Manager  
Legal Services  
Marilyn Mutshina



Manager  
RKM  
Loverness Ndaima



Regional Coordination  
Manager  
Northern Region  
Giveous Savius



Regional Coordination  
Manager  
Southern Region  
Mathew Svotriwa



Manager  
HR & Admin  
Linah Zhakata



Regional Coordination  
Manager  
Eastern Region  
Emilio Chihono



Chief Accountant  
Itayi Bangidza

# **1. INTRODUCTION**

## **1.1 Introduction**

The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) is an Independent Commission established in terms of the Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No 20) Act of 2013. The NPRC's Constitutional mandate and legal framework provide the foundation upon which the Commission unites all Zimbabweans for sustainable peace by resolving past, present and future potential conflicts. This mandate is achieved by the NPRC performing a set of functions as outlined in Section 252 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe as well as in Section 3(2) (a-d) of the NPRC Act Chapter [10:32].

The Commission's 5-year Strategic Plan (2021-2025) outlines the strategic deliverables set by Commission as it strives to realise its mission of uniting Zimbabweans for sustainable peace by developing mechanisms to peacefully resolve violent conflicts of the past and institutionalise approaches for preventing their recurrence in the present and future. The implementation of the mission is anchored on mainstreaming key strategies in the NPRC Strategic Plan as the Commission journeys towards its vision of '**A peaceful Zimbabwe for all generations**'. The Commission's operations are structured in thematic areas namely;

### **Administrative Thematic Committees**

- a) Administration and Human Resources
- b) Finance and Resource Mobilisation

### **Programmatic Thematic Committees**

- a) Complaints Handling and Investigations
- b) Conflict Prevention and Non-Recurrence
- c) Healing, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation
- d) Research and Knowledge Management
- e) Victim Support and Gender Diversity

## **1.2 NPRC's Key Performance Targets for 2023**

The National Development Strategy 1 acknowledges the role of the NPRC as a critical player in improving national social cohesion in order to deal with the legacy of past conflicts. Key among the expectations for the NPRC in the National Development include promoting inclusive

dialogue and tolerance among citizens, promoting peace building initiatives among communities and strengthening citizens' engagement through establishment of national and sub-national peace infrastructures. The NPRC falls within the Governance Pillar and two major Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) to which the NPRC is a major contributor are:

- a) Level of Social Cohesion and Reconciliation in Zimbabwe
- b) Percentage of incidences of conflict received and resolved

The NPRC's Annual Plan targeted outputs to contribute to the achievement of the key performance indicators were focused on:

- a) Establishing provincial offices in order to decentralise the services of the Commission;
- b) Conducting researches to enhance social cohesion in Zimbabwe;
- c) Publicising Commission programmes and conducting awareness programs on complaints handling procedures
- d) Developing and implementing knowledge management system;
- e) Conducting elections and other Conflict prevention programs;
- f) Supporting functional infrastructures for conflict prevention and peace;
- g) Capacitating conflict early warning and early response system monitors and responders
- h) Establishing and supporting national networks of peace actors and mediators;
- i) Conducting community healing programmes with traditional and other local leaders;
- j) Institutionalising strategies on victim support, inclusivity, gender and diversity mainstreaming;
- k) Providing rehabilitative assistance persons affected by conflicts;
- l) Conducting inclusive engagements on the prevention of conflict related GBV;
- m) Receiving and resolving complaints received;
- n) Recommending and lobbying for the enactment of legislative and policy frameworks for the promotion of unity and cohesion.

### **1.3 NPRC Thrust for 2023**

The NPRC made a strategic decision to focus its programs on preventative actions to ameliorate conflicts before they occur, and to mediate and conciliate disputes in the event that prevention has not been successful. This was in acknowledgement of the fact that preventing conflicts is one of the significant early actions to guard against simmering conflicts flaring into open

hostilities by parties in dispute. Thus, **Conflict Prevention** became the anchor of the Commission's strategic programmes for the year, running under the theme: '*Prevent conflicts, Promote Peace*'. The focus on conflict prevention arose because 2023 was an election year and the NPRC was keen to secure a peaceful environment before, during and after the polls. As such, most of the prevention programmes implemented by the Commission were hinged on the **Election Conflict Prevention Strategy** adopted by the Commission in 2022. Major areas of this Strategy were targeted at the following programs:

- a) Behaviour and attitude change actions by institutions and persons affected by and involved in conflict;
- b) High level stakeholder engagements and partnerships to prevent and manage conflict;
- c) Capacity building and enhancement targeting peace and conflict actors
- d) Visibility and information dissemination about the work of the Commission
- e) Local and national peace-building initiatives

The NPRC, in collaboration with other actors including the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), other Independent Commissions, United Nations agencies, civic society, security structures, traditional leaders, government departments and agencies, political players, churches and faith-based communities and the national or local infrastructures for peace came up with mechanisms, programmes and intervention strategies to proactively forestall the occurrence of conflicts. This culminated in the Commission conducting rigorous conflict prevention programs that reached out to provinces, districts, constituencies and wards so that the message of peace, unity and non-violence cascaded to everyone, thus allowing for pro-active and early detection of disputes and violence. These sustained interventions were crucial to addressing the underlying causes of election violence, as well as the frustrations and incentives that perpetuate political intolerance.

This Annual Report, prepared in line with Sections 253 and 323 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe and Section 16 of the NPRC Act, outlines the work done by the Commission in 2023. The report covers activities done in complaints handling and investigations; conflict prevention, management and resolution; healing, reconciliation and rehabilitation, conflict related research and knowledge management and victim support, gender and diversity. Finance and administrative matters to facilitate the implementation of the Commission's work will also be highlighted in this report.

## 2. PROGRAMS OF THE COMMISSION IN 2023

### 2.1 Complaints Handling and Investigations Programs

The Commission's Complaints Handling and Investigations function has three outputs that feed into the National Development Strategy 1 (NDS1). These include public awareness campaigns on the complaints management process, investigations of complaints and strategic engagements or consensus building programs.

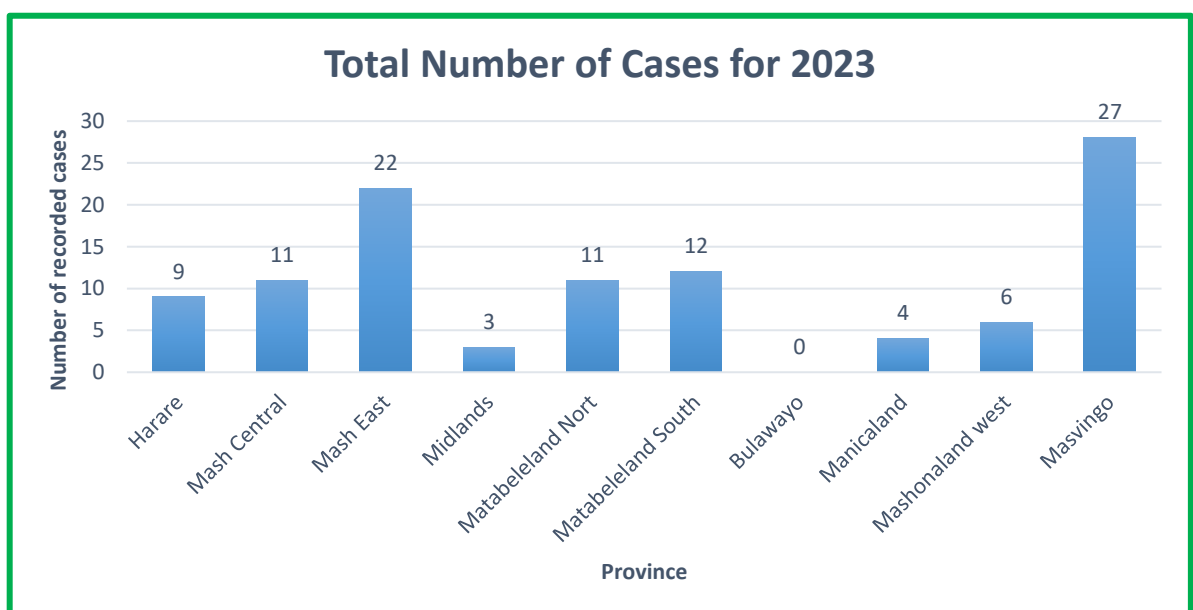
#### 2.1.1 Complaints Received and Resolved

The table below shows complaints that were received by the Commission:

**Table 2.1: Complaints Received and Resolved**

Complaints Received	Complaints Resolved
138	104

The Commission received 105 new cases in 2023 whilst it already had 33 outstanding cases from the previous year, thus accumulating 138 cases to finalize in the year. Of the total complaints, 75,4% (104) were resolved following investigations conducted in various provinces.



**Figure 2.1: Illustration of the distribution of the 105 new cases in 2023**

The graph above illustrates the spread of the 105 new cases which were received in 2023. It indicates that Masvingo received the highest number of complaints, accounting for 25% of the total complaints received followed by Mashonaland East (21%). Bulawayo Province had no report followed by Midlands Province where 3 cases (0.03%) were recorded.

### 2.1.2 Nature and Frequency of Complaints

The table below analyses the conflicts recorded by the Commission:

**Table 2.2 Conflicts Recorded by the Commission in 2023**

	Nature of Conflict									
Conflict Type										
Province	Land	Political	Stand	Labour	Human-Wildlife	Child Marriage	GBV	Theft related	Others	Total
Harare	1	2	1	1		1	2		1	9
Mash Central	3	1			1	1	2	2	1	11
Mash East	1	17		1			3			22
Midlands	1	1							1	3
Mat North	1	2			2	2	1		3	11
Mat South	4	2				1		2	3	12
Bulawayo										0
Manicaland	4									4
Mash West	1			2			2		1	6
Masvingo		23		1			1	1	1	27
<b>Total by Category</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>11</b>	

The Commission recorded 49 political conflicts, constituting 47% of cases received. Most of these cases were recorded in Masvingo which had 23 (23%) followed by Mashonaland East which had 17 (16%). The second highest conflictual issue recorded is land disputes which totaled 16 cases. Both gender-based violence and other miscellaneous category recorded 11 cases.

As an initiative by the Commission to improve its Complaints Handling and Investigations programs, investigations officers made use of dedicated cellphone numbers to receive complaints from the public through calls or via the WhatsApp platform. The Commission also effectively used regional offices and Provincial Peace Committees platforms for receiving reports and directing them to the Complaints Handling, Investigations function for further management.

### **2.1.3 Synopsis of Child Marriage Cases Received and Investigated by the Commission**

Cases investigated generally oscillated from low to high extremes but the issue of child marriages deserves special mention as they are of serious concern to the nation. Investigations in Matabeleland South indicated a high number of school dropouts due to teen pregnancies and forced child marriages at Tshasvingo, Number Two and Malungudzi Villages in Beitbridge East. It was revealed that parents do not report the cases to the traditional leadership or the police. The general trend is that every month an average of two minors per village are married off after having been impregnated by young men aged between 18 and 23 years. The parents accept lobola whilst the young men responsible for the pregnancies cross over to South Africa to look for greener pastures to fend for their new families or as a way of evading responsibility.

Police statistics on child sexual abuse within the district are very low (02 cases of rape for April 2023 as at 27/4/23) and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) acknowledged that there could be a lot of cases that go unreported. Traces of an uncoordinated approach and blame game were noted as contributing to underreporting of child marriages or teen pregnancies whereby each stakeholder seems to be focusing on pursuing own key result areas. The parents only report cases to the ZRP when there have been disagreements over unmet expectations or in rare cases where more than one minor would have been impregnated by the same man resulting in conflicts amongst families involved as to whom the man chooses to marry.

An analysis of the findings indicates that the traditional leadership is reluctant to interfere with family matters involving child marriages. Communities have embraced teen pregnancies that often lead to child marriages because of benefits that teen mothers get from donors. Community members interviewed revealed that there are donors who give handouts in the form of infant formula and toiletries that also come in handy for the rest of the family. There is urgent need



for inter-agency approach towards eliminating child marriages including collaborations with State and non-state actors as well as sister Commissions to conduct massive awareness campaigns in the grossly affected areas of Chasvingo, Number Two and Malungudzi Villages under Chief Matibe in Beitbridge East.

#### **2.1.4 Engagements with Stakeholders**

In terms of Section 6(3)(b) of the Act, the Commission can seek the assistance of any state and non-state actors in executing its mandate but in a manner that does not affect its independence as defined in terms of Section 235 of the Constitution as read with Section 4 of the Act. This entails the Commission conducting strategic engagements and or consensus building activities in order to obtain buy-in, share knowledge and intelligence of these various actors, thus allowing for investigations to proceed without hurdles. Stakeholder engagements and consensus building activities done by the Commission sought to gain buy-in and strengthen relations with state and non-actors. Stakeholders engaged include Zimbabwe Republic Police, Ministers and Secretaries of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution, District Development Coordinators, traditional leaders and faith-based organisations among others. The engagement with stakeholders provided an opportunity of promoting human rights and also sensitising the stakeholders on the work of the Commission and need for cooperation in future programs.



**Figure 2.2** Commissioner Advocate Gutu (front left), Commissioner Dr Shambare (front second from left), Commissioner Dr Rukuni (front right) and Commissioner Gwere (front, third from right) during a strategic engagement meeting with the Officer Commanding ZRP Mashonaland Central Province, Commissioner Dr Makamache (front, third from left (from third from left) and his Provincial Command team

**Table 2.3 Stakeholder Engagement Programs**

Stakeholder Engagements	Target
74	50

The Commission conducted a total of 74 strategic engagements against a target of 50 which translates to an achievement of 148% owing to increased internal collaboration and the thrust by the Commission to prioritize its programs towards ensuring a peaceful election. As such a lot of outreach programmes were supported.

### **2.1.5 Awareness Campaigns**

To help the public understand the work of the investigative arm of the Commission, public awareness campaigns on the Commission's mandate were done. Awareness campaigns were organized by traditional leaders and were predominantly focused on complaints handling mechanisms, promotion of peace and human rights as well as the work of the Commission in general. The choice of areas to do awareness campaigns was determined by trends of complaints but at the same time also targeting other areas where the visibility of the Commission had for long been relegated to the barest minimum. At these community meetings the Commission distributed flyers, erected banners, interacted with the public and addressed gatherings.



***Figure 2.3 Community leaders in Mberengwa District after an awareness campaign program***

**Table 2.4: Awareness Campaigns Conducted on Complaints Handling Mechanisms**

Awareness Campaigns Conducted	Target
66	40

The Commission conducted a total of 66 complaints handling and investigations related awareness campaigns against a target of 40. The target was surpassed by 65% due to internal collaborations and the prioritisation of peacebuilding activities during the electoral period by the Commission.

### **2.1.6 General Findings**

- a) Traditional leaders are recognized for their significant role in promoting peace and development within their communities. However, they often face challenges due to limited capacity and resources, which hinder their ability to fulfill their responsibilities effectively. These challenges include lack of transportation, inadequate knowledge of certain legal issues, limitation of powers as well as concerns regarding transparency and ethical practices;
- b) Communities expressed dissatisfaction over failure to fulfil corporate social responsibility arrangements by mining companies operating in their areas. Despite the level of education among community members, these companies tend to only offer ordinary menial jobs, resulting in limited employment opportunities for locals. Communities also cited that mining activities are conducted in a haphazard manner, without respect for local culture, sacred areas, and environmental sensitivity;
- c) Artisanal miners contribute to the national gold output, but they lack proper recognition and organization. This leads to haphazard operations that are often in conflict with laws, resulting in various disputes and conflicts;
- d) There is a high rate of teenage pregnancies and child marriages despite the limited number of cases reported to the Police or traditional authorities.

### **2.2 Conflict Prevention and Non-Recurrence Programs**

The work was informed by the need to fulfil the following strategic programs:

- a) Elections and other conflict prevention programs
- b) Infrastructures for conflict prevention and promotion of peace

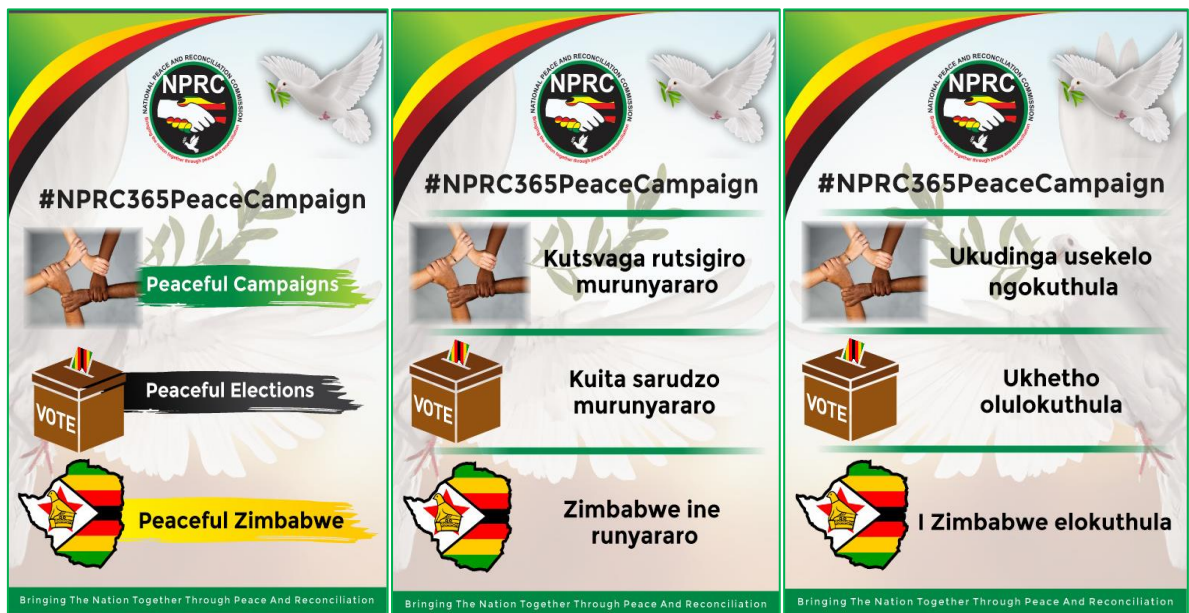


- c) Conflict early warning and early response (CEWER)
- d) Preventive dialogue and mediation services

### 2.2.1 Elections and Other Conflict Prevention Programs

The focus on elections conflict prevention was influenced by the need to reduce avoidable election-related conflicts and disputes that usually take place before, during and after elections. A number of activities and programs were successfully implemented, guided by the Election Conflict Prevention Strategy adopted to give a roadmap of programming in the election year. Some of the key activities carried out in the year are outlined below:

#### (a) Voter Peace Education Campaigns



*Figure 2.4: Campaign messages on posters and fliers which NPRC election observers distributed*

The Commission conducted voter peace education and awareness programs. This exercise included one-on-one and group engagements with prospective voters and distribution of peace messages on posters and fliers. The main peace message, aptly summarized, ‘**Peaceful Campaigns, Peaceful Elections; Peaceful Zimbabwe**’ was shared in five different languages. NPRC teams across the provinces were able to interface with other authorities in the administrative structures of provinces and districts where there was positive reception to the peace messages.



*Figure 2.5 NPRC interfaces with the public while educating them on the importance of peace*

A peace caravan was deployed to provinces and attracted attention and audience from Zimbabweans in the areas that were visited. In Harare, a send-off ceremony of the peace caravan was done at the Fourth Street Bus Terminus where the Commission and the Zimbabwe Republic Police exhorted Zimbabweans to conduct themselves in a peaceful manner before, during and after elections. In Mashonaland West, the peace caravan was in Banket, Chinhoyi, Central Business District, Cold Stream bus terminus, Chegutu and Kadoma city centres. In the Midlands Province, the caravan's awareness programs were done at Mberengwa Turn shops, Mberengwa Business Centre, Mandava area in Zvishavane and other high-volume public places and business centres along Zvishavane and Mhandamabwe Road.

In Matabeleland North, peace education awareness was done at Ntabazinduna Centre in Umguza District. In Bulawayo Metropolitan, areas covered include 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Nkulumane, Cowdry Park and Luveve while in Matabeleland South, Spirtzkop and Phakama Shopping Centres, surrounding suburbs and the Gwanda Central Business District were reached. The peace caravan further travelled to Masvingo and Manicaland Provinces where the public was meaningfully engaged in promoting messages of peace and non-violence. Areas visited include Mhandamabwe Shopping Centre, Croco Bus Stop, Mucheke Bus Terminus, Sisk

Shops and Nyika Growth Point (Masvingo); Birchneough Bridge, Nyanyadzi Business Centre and Sakubva Musika (Mutare). In Mashonaland Central, NPRC conducted a peace road show at Chaona Business Centre and surrounding areas in Chiweshe. In Mashonaland East, peace awareness, publicity and advocacy programs were done in Chitungwiza, Seke, Dema, Hwedza and Marondera.



*Figure 2.6 Peace caravan used to disseminate peace messages before, during and after elections*

## **(b) Radio, Television and Social Media Peace and Conflict Prevention Nuggets**

The NPRC ran robust social media campaigns mainly on its X and Facebook handles in which peace messages ran under the **#365PeaceCampaign**. There, Zimbabweans were kept informed about the Commission's peacebuilding programs. Follow up publicity was also done on print and broadcast media where the Commission's work was reported or where Members gave interviews on election conflict prevention programs;

The Commission facilitated the production of television skits, spot ads and jingles which were played on national television, radio stations and social media platforms. Television skits were produced by Madlela Sikhobokobo of Shilolo Media house whilst the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Cooperation (ZBC) produced jingles and spot adverts aired on ZBC Television Channel, the ZimPapers (Star FM) and other community radio channels. NPRC Commissioners participated in various print and electronic media programs, including interviews in community radio



stations where they relayed messages and received feedback on how to effectively reach out to all populations.

In Harare, the Commission Spokesperson Commissioner Advocate Obert Gutu had a number of interviews with ZTN Prime and ZBC TV while the Acting Chairperson, Commissioner Rev Dr Chiropafadzo Moyo also complemented with messages on ZBC TV on the promotion of unity and peace. In Masvingo Province, Commissioner Dr Tinashe Rukuni had interfaces with listeners on Hevoi FM, Great Zimbabwe University Campus Radio Station and Avuxeni FM in Chiredzi. In Manicaland, Commissioner Dr Golden Chekenyere had peace publicity programs on Diamond FM, Nyangani FM, Chimanimani FM and Yemuganga FM. In the Midlands Province, Commissioner Dr Donwell Dube had radio interviews with YAH and 93 FM with a view to expand coverage of the NPRC's messages to a wide listenership. In Bulawayo, Commissioner Nomaqhawe Gwere and the Executive Secretary Mrs Sibusisiwe Zembe were on Khulumani FM and Classic FM publicising the peace caravan and the NPRC's efforts on peacebuilding while rallying the nation to exercise their voting rights without resorting to violence.

**Yemuganga**  
**Community Radio**  
Ndizvo Zvetinoita Kanyi

**LIVE interview with**  
**Guest: Dr G. D Chekenyere**  
**NPRC Commissioner**

**Friday 23 June @ 2pm**

**Host: Cheriel Dzobo**

f t i d

**#MugangaWedu**

**Live on 106.8 FM**

**NPRC**  
NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION  
Bringing the nation together through peace and reconciliation

*Figure 2.7: Commission peace education outreach to local communities in Chipinge South*

Listeners feedback and engagement during the radio programmes demonstrated acknowledgment of the NPRC's work to prevent conflicts before they degenerate into violence.

### **(c) Branding of Buses with Peace Messages**

The Commission branded, designed and hired four ZUPCO buses, a nationally networked transport provider, as another form of awareness raising, intensifying the visibility of the Commission and transmission of peace messages under the catchphrase: **Prevent Conflict, Promote Peace**. The buses were branded in different languages, including Tonga, Shangani, Shona, English and IsiNdebele. The buses plied several routes across Zimbabwe to ensure that Zimbabweans got to appreciate the importance of peace. Some of the buses also ferried political party campaign teams during their campaign trail towards the elections as well as during national commemorations (Independence and Heroes days), thus ensuring a wider reach of the conflict prevention messages.



*Figure 2.8 One of the ZUPCO buses branded with a peace message in Tonga*

### **(d) International Day of Peace Commemorations**

One of the flagship events on the NPRC calendar is the commemoration of the International Day of Peace (IDP), a day set aside by the United Nations to strengthening the ideals of peace, through observing 24 hours of non-violence and cease-fire. The 2023 edition of the



International Day of Peace ran under the theme '*Actions for Peace: Our Ambition for the #GlobalGoals*'. This was a clarion call to action that recognized individual and collective responsibility to foster peace and the contribution of peace towards the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As per norm, the NPRC held internal white ribbon events and published solidarity messages on various virtual platforms and in The Herald as it joined the rest of the world in commemorating this special day.

#### **(e) Peace Medley Songs**

The NPRC, working together with local musicians, composed four peace medley songs under the theme '**Unite Zimbabwe/Khomanani Zimbabwe**', with songs titled, *Peace Begins with me*, *Tiri mhuri imwe*, *Hilava kurhula* and *Ukubambana*. These songs were distributed to all radio stations in the country and they received significant airplay as the Commission rallied the nation for a peaceful election period.

#### **2.2.2 Election Observation and Post-Election Environmental Scanning**



***Figure 2.9: A team of NPRC election observers led by Commissioner Advocate O.C Gutu at the National Results Centre, Harare International Conference Centre during the elections***

The 2023 harmonized elections were conducted on the 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 and the NPRC, in line with its mandate, deployed observer teams around the country to conduct peace education and election peace observations. Teams of NPRC members and staff were also deployed to conduct post-election environmental scanning with a view to appreciate the

peacefulness of the country after the elections. The NPRC sought to ensure the existence of an environment conducive for the holding of peaceful elections as provided for in Section 155(a) and (d) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. Guided by the Commission's overarching theme for 2023 focused on '**Conflict Prevention**', the election observation and post elections scanning programs were meant to ensure peace in the period leading to, during and beyond the harmonised elections.

The NPRC's observer teams around the country noted a highly peaceful and tranquil environment that characterised the periods before, during and after the 23 August elections. Interactions with a number of stakeholders who included electoral officials, the voting public, some local observers and peer review teams confirmed that Zimbabweans had exercised high levels of tolerance for each other by campaigning and voting in a largely peaceful environment. Some of the factors to confirm this assertion include:

#### **Before the Elections**

- a) The presence of political players on the ground moving freely and campaigning for their candidates, distributing fliers and pasting posters without any hinderance;
- b) The public largely respected campaign materials for alternative political parties and there were a few complaints of destruction of posters and other election materials.

#### **During the Elections**

- a) The presence of members of the Zimbabwe Republic Police in various spots and at polling stations throughout the country ensuring that any would-be offenders were hindered from perpetuating lawlessness, thus maintaining a highly peaceful environment;
- b) The electoral process that flowed smoothly and quickly without any violent clashes or politically motivated disturbances. Even in areas where voting was delayed, voters still patiently and peacefully waited for the availability of voting materials without causing any disorder;
- c) The availability of party agents at all polling stations visited which ensured that all contesting candidates had full knowledge about the election proceedings, thus leaving little room for a contested outcome;

- d) The congenial atmosphere that characterised public places after voters had cast their votes with people meeting and sharing information, irrespective of political affiliation, whilst waiting for the results;
- e) Non-election related business proceeded as normal on the day as the public went about their daily chores and businesses and market places remained open without any threats or breach of peace;
- f) The promulgation of the Statutory Instrument 151 of 2023 to extend the voting day to the 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2023 brought relief to a pensive situation in which some voters had thought that they were going to be disenfranchised by the delays in the availability of voting materials in Harare, Bulawayo and parts of Manicaland;
- g) Prospective voters who found themselves at the wrong polling stations were assisted by professional election officials to locate their names at their correct polling stations to which they proceeded without incident;
- h) During the Commission's engagements, there was no hate speech, intimidation or harassment targeting individuals, groups, candidates, voters, campaign teams and electoral officials;
- i) The public heeded the call by the Zimbabwe Republic Police and other players in the electoral process to avoid public gatherings near polling stations after casting their vote.

#### **After the Announcement of Results**

- a) The continued presence of law enforcement officers ensured that peace remained in place across all areas;
- b) Interested political players patiently waited for the results of the elections without resorting to any violent or inflammatory actions;
- c) Post the announcement of the results, there were no reports of any conflicts or threats to peace that were recorded.

The NPRC deployed teams of observers to appreciate the level of peacefulness and social cohesion after the elections. The post-election environmental scanning program was done for a period of one month in two phases; the first deployment being from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 18<sup>th</sup> of September 2023 and the second from the 9<sup>th</sup> to the 22<sup>nd</sup> of October 2023. The NPRC observed

that the elections were conducted in a peaceful manner. The period leading to the elections was characterised by calmness and tranquillity as Zimbabweans exercised their political rights to campaign for candidates of their choice and to canvass for votes. Announcement of results at Ward, Constituency and the National Command Centres was done without any threats to peace. After the elections, the environment remained largely quiet and peaceful.

### **2.2.3 Infrastructures for Conflict Prevention and Promotion of Peace**

The Commission had meetings with members of the Thematic Committee on Conflict Prevention and Non-Recurrence, a multi-stakeholder advisory structure that provides strategic guidance to the CPMRT from both a State and Non-State actors' viewpoints. Two meetings for the Northern and Southern Region Thematic Committees were held in Harare and Bulawayo respectively. Members reviewed the previous year's work, shared strategic developments on the recommendations from the last engagement as well as insights on how the NPRC could programme around conflict prevention at a time when the nation was gearing up for the Harmonized Elections of 2023. During the meetings, members proposed restructuring of the Thematic Committee in order to improve its effectiveness and this process was successfully implemented.



*Figure 2.10 Acting Chairperson (seated, fourth from left), Chairperson of Thematic Committee on Conflict Prevention and Non-Recurrence, Commissioner Rukuni (seated, left), Commissioners Gutu and Gwere (seated 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> from left) meet with the Thematic Committee on Prevention and Non-Recurrence for the Northern Region*



Some of the key recommendations by the Thematic Committees to NPRC included;

- a) The need for the NPRC to reach out and engage various faith-based organizations in Zimbabwe as they could act as lobbying points for members within their religious groups particularly at a time when the nation needed to prevent violence at all costs;
- b) Broadening the scope of the Commission by paying more attention to drug and substance abuse and climate change as possible conflict multipliers;
- c) A more elaborate and direct focus on the youth since they are easily drawn and incited into violence particularly during election periods;
- d) Inclusion of persons with disabilities in the work of the Commission, and that meetings should consider inclusion of sign language to enable wider reach of messages.

The Commission continued with its efforts to increase the involvement of the Provincial Peace Committees (PPC) as an integral infrastructure in the peacebuilding ecosystem. As such, Peace Committee meetings were facilitated in the ten provinces of the country. These meetings were held to develop a multi-sector strategy to ensure peace before, during and after the harmonised elections of 2023. The Commission invited various stakeholders from the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) and Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). The three political parties then represented in Parliament also gave solidarity messages to highlight commitment and strategies they were adopting to prevent conflict before during and after the electoral period.



***Figure 2.11 Chief Ngezi of the Mashonaland West Provincial Peace Committee, (standing); addresses the Committee as the Commission Vice Chairperson, Rev Dr C. Moyo (seated next to Chief Ngezi) listens attentively***

Members of Provincial Peace Committees recommended the following:

- a) The need for NPRC to facilitate more PPC meetings to enhance peacebuilding work around the country;
- b) That participants who were invited to address the meetings (the Zimbabwe Republic Police and political parties) were urged to walk the talk and make sure that they followed up and acted on the things they would have committed and envisioned to do;

#### **2.2.4 Engagements with Local Peace Actors**

The Commission engaged various stakeholders and participated in trainings, meetings and programmes to cement partnerships for the promotion of peace and prevention of violent conflicts. Among those engaged include youth engagements with 4-H Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches through its 'I Pray, I Vote' campaign, and the Junior Parliamentarians where capacitation on harnessing peace for development towards Vision 2030 was done. Capacitation of junior legislators is important for the Commission's programmes since children and young people remain an integral part of peaceful societies.

#### **2.2.5 Conflict Early Warning and Early Response (CEWER) System**

The NPRC facilitated the development of the CEWER system which has since reached 95% completion. Two internal trainings on the system usage and maintenance were conducted with Members of the Commission and secretariat. They were oriented on the CEWER system and capacitated on its usage, user access, data analysis and reporting. Thirty-eight members of staff mainly drawn from the Conflict received these trainings. The Commission sensitised members of the Thematic Committee on Prevention and Non-Recurrence in the Southern Region on the system and they were in support of its national roll-out.

#### **2.2.6 Mediation of Disputes**

The Commission received a request from the Secretary for Provincial Affairs and Devolution (SPAD) for Manicaland Province, Mr. E. Seenza, to resolve a wetland dispute in Buhera District. The Commission, together with Buhera Rural District Council, District Development Coordinator's office, Environmental Management Agency (EMA) and Chief Nyashanu jointly investigated, assessed and mediated a long-standing land dispute in the Mainzo Wetlands. Members of the NPRC's Dispute Resolution Unit led by the Acting Chairperson, Commissioner Rev. Dr. Moyo spearheaded the mediation process whose outcome was officially handed over

to the Secretary and Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution in Manicaland at a Roundtable meeting organized by the NPRC in October of 2023.

NPRC staff members continued to receive technical support and capacitation under the Africa University Insider Mediators program. This partnership has been on-going for the past three years and is yielding positive results as the trained staff members are cascading their skills to their colleagues and infrastructures for peace.



*Figure 2.12 Acting Chairperson, Rev Dr C. Moyo facilitating a dispute between families over the Mainzo Wetlands in Buhera*

### **2.2.7 Preventative Dialogue**

Preventative dialogue engagement meetings with traditional leaders, Zimbabwe Republic Police, National Prosecuting Authority, Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, Zimbabwe Gender Commission and the Human Rights Commission were done from the 8<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of May 2023 in 4 districts of Matabeleland namely Beitbridge, Bulilima-Mangwe, Gwanda and Umzingwane. This was as a follow up to a request from the Officer Commanding Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) in Matabeleland South Province Assistant Commissioner Sibanda. The week-long engagements reviewed conflicts affecting social cohesion in the province. The meetings developed strategies to address these conflicts, promote inclusive dialogue and partnerships amongst key stakeholders in order to build strong institutions to prevent conflicts



and disputes arising in the future. During the meetings; a sharp increase in the incidences of drug and substance abuse, violence, murder, attempted murder, assault, rape, electoral violence, armed robbery, physical abuse, stock theft, drugs and illegal mining were noted, with strategies to curb the menace within the Province consensually generated by participants.



***Figure 2.13 Chief Tshitauze (seated, third from right) joins Commissioner Gwere (third from left) and Commissioner Rukuni (fourth from right), ZRP, traditional and community leaders as well as Independent Commissions after a preventative dialogue session in Beitbridge***

In these preventative dialogue engagements, it was agreed that:

- a) Conflicts are best resolved by local communities who should adopt indigenous ways of dealing with them;
- b) Continuous engagements by state actors and Independent Commissions with traditional leaders will yield positive results; build trust and enhance a culture of working together in communities;
- c) Traditional leaders should strengthen local community-led preventative dialogue platforms to encourage consensual conflict resolution;
- d) Child Protection Units should be empowered to deal with related conflicts;
- e) Anti-stock theft committees need to be formed in communities and they should work hand in hand with the ZRP;



- f) Teachers are role models; they should be capacitated to empower children with proper traditional and cultural values;
- g) Confidence building between the ZRP and traditional leaders needs to be enhanced by ensuring the authorities work together.

### **2.2.8 Political Parties Engagements**

The Commission engaged political parties represented in Parliament. The Commission attended and addressed some Multi-Party Liaison Committee meetings which were convened by ZEC at national and provincial levels to call for peace general elections as well as to seek ways to resolve conflicts that may arise during the electoral period. The Commission also participated as a guest during a meeting of key leaders of political parties represented in Parliament where they agreed to work together to promote peace in the period leading to the harmonised elections.



*Figure 2.14 NPRC Members join leaders of political parties represented in Parliament to explore avenues of creating a peaceful environment before, during and after elections*

### **2.3 Healing, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation Programs**

The Commission conducted activities focusing on two major areas, namely;

- a) Community Healing workshops with traditional leaders
- b) Awareness raising on drug and substance abuse

### **2.3.1 Community Healing Workshops with Traditional Leaders**

#### **(a) Human and Wildlife Conflict**

The Commission conducted programs targeted at areas affected by human wildlife conflict. Two provinces selected were Matabeleland North, Dete under Chiefs Hwange and Nelukoba; and Mashonaland West, Nyamakete-Hurungwe under Chiefs Chundu and Kazangarare and Siakobvu-Kariba under Chiefs Nebiri, Negande, Mola and Musambakaruma. It was noted that human wildlife conflict was caused by factors such as increased herd of wild animals against the increase in human population. This resulted in competition over land and water sources. In addition, climate change, poor land use planning and deforestation have added to conflict between human populations and wildlife. Amongst the many challenges faced by communities are loss of lives and destruction to property and crops.

The NPRC engaged key stakeholders including Government departments and agencies, Zimbabwe National Parks (ZIMPARKS), ZRP, CAMPFIRE administered under the Rural District Councils; Safari operators and the media. Community meetings were conducted through focus group discussions with traditional leaders and their subjects in each area. Of concern was the seeming importance attached to wildlife over humans due to the law that criminalises the killing of wild animals such as the “Big Five” (African elephant, lion, leopard, cape buffalo, and rhinoceros), even where they have destroyed one’s livestock or homestead. The other main challenges and proposed recommendations raised included:

**Table 2.5 Challenges and Recommendations by Communities in Conflict with Wildlife**

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Proposed Recommendations</b>
Lack of compensation for victims of human wildlife conflict	The Government of Zimbabwe is encouraged to review laws to allow for the compensation of victims
Competition for resources with wild animals, for example water sources	The Government of Zimbabwe should consider issuing hunting licences for the shooting of wild animals, including the “Big Five”

<b>Challenges</b>	<b>Proposed Recommendations</b>
Massive devastation of crops by elephants	Stakeholders need to respond timeously to distress calls made by the community
Loss of livestock by wild animals such as lions and hyenas. The loss of livestock was equated to loss of livelihoods by the communities as cattle are regarded as a source of wealth. It also resulted in the spreading of diseases from wild animals to livestock;	There is need for improvement in Problem Animal Control (PAC) Culling needs to be reintroduced by ZIMPARKS and the Government of Zimbabwe in order to deal with inflating populations of wild animals such as elephants
CAMPFIRE's incapacitation to effectively deal with human wildlife conflict because of inadequate resources and untrained personnel	Conduct regular awareness campaigns on how to reduce attacks on humans by wild animals;  Establish toll-free communication lines for ease of access to ZIMPARKS and CAMPFIRE;
Poorly built animal kraals made of wood not durable enough to deter wild animals;	Consider using traditional methods of keeping wildlife away from homesteads and these include using "chilli fences" and "chilli bombs" as was done in Muzarabani and other wildlife prone areas.

### **(b) Community Healing and Awareness Raising on Healing and Reconciliation**

The Commission undertook community healing working with traditional leaders in the Midlands Province in Mberengwa and Zvishavane Districts with Chief Mataga, Chief Mposi, Chief Mapanzure and Chief Mazvihwa. Key Issues raised during these community healing programs include:

- a) There are a number of conflicts between artisanal miners and communities;
- b) Issues of drug and substance abuse are a major problem in the Midlands Province;

- c) The use of chemicals such as cyanide by miners causes water pollution and this is causing harm to domestic animals;
- d) Gender-based violence is rampant in the communities.

Recommendations proposed by the community leaders to address these challenges include:

- a) Councils should ensure that everyone selling alcohol possesses a liquor licence as tuckshops without liquor licences stand accused of distributing most of the drugs;
- b) Conduct reconciliation and rehabilitation programs with village heads and villagers;
- c) Increase in number of NPRC peacebuilding programs;
- d) Develop trauma healing programs targeting victims of displacement and conflict;
- e) Increase anti-drug awareness campaigns in schools and communities.



*Figure 2.15: NPRC team with Chief Mazvihwa and Village Heads in Mberengwa*

### **(c) Trauma Healing Interventions**

Following the Tynwald High School Bus Accident on the 14<sup>th</sup> October 2022, the NPRC visited the accident scene in Nyanga District. This was an opportunity to contribute towards trauma healing of the communities living in proximity of the numerous accident black spots, but specifically the scene of the Tynwald High School Bus Accident. The program was conducted in collaboration with the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Traffic Division and the Traffic Safety Council of Zimbabwe (TSCZ). This program was attended by 43 individuals in Tombo



2, Nyanga District, trained in First Aid for the purposes of assisting victims of road carnage. Included amongst the 43 individuals was Chief Saunyama's representatives and other traditional leaders from around Tombo 2.



*Figure 2.16 Commissioner Chigwedere addresses community members during healing session in Nyanga*

The participants were taken through an extensive trauma healing exercise which involved allowing the members to share the experiences they had come across in the past and more closely the accident that involved the Tynwald High School learners. The observation by the NPRC revealed that the members exhibited deep seated wounds which required attention through the trauma and debriefing sessions. The Tynwald High School bus disaster had reopened memories of the accident as well as other accidents that had occurred at the same spot before. The Commission had an opportunity to visit the nursing staff at Nyanga District hospital in order to provide the same support as was given to the group in Tombo 2.

### **2.3.2 Awareness Raising on Drug and Substance Abuse in Schools**

The NPRC noted that drug use and substance dependence have become rampant across the nation and are serious potential conflict multipliers. The youth have been identified as both the

most affected as well as perpetrators of violence, with those of school-going age not being spared. The uptake of harmful drugs and substances has resulted in violent behaviour, which has been highlighted as a major cause of conflict in communities. This has called for drastic measures to curb the upsurge in the uptake of harmful drugs and substances. In the quest to “catch them young” in awareness raising on drug and substance abuse, the Commission visited schools in Manicaland (Nyanga and Chipinge Districts) and Masvingo (Chiredzi District).



*Figure 2.17 Commissioner Chigwedere addresses students in Nyanga on drug and substance abuse*

Schools visited in Nyanga include Crossdale High School, Nyajezi High School and Nyangani High School. In Chiredzi, the Commission held programs with Chiredzi Government School, Hippo Valley High and Muleme Secondary School among others. The meetings were done in collaboration with various government ministries and departments and stakeholders such the Inter-Ministerial Taskforce on drug and substance abuse, Zimbabwe Prisons and Correctional Services, ZRP, Rural District Councils, Urban Local Authorities and traditional leaders.

Key issues raised during these awareness sessions include:

- a) Drugs street named “Ranger” and “Mukozodo” were cited as the leading cause of addiction, anti-social behaviour and violence in the area;
- b) Creation of community watch groups to monitor drug and substance abuse;

- c) Stiff penalties for shop owners selling drugs or illegal substances;
- d) Porous borders present opportunities for smuggling of illicit drugs and dangerous substances;
- e) Children should respect their parents. Children's rights are obstructing parents from disciplining their children;
- f) Youth require lifeskills capacitation in order to provide them self reliant skills.
- g) Families were decrying the effects of drug abuse causing family disintegration, spousal conflict as well as parent and child; and sibling-sibling conflict;
- h) Drugs are the cause of poor moral fabric and are the cause of high levels of prostitution, increased stealing, violence and the use of foul language.



***Figure 2.18 The Commission conducts a drug and substance abuse awareness program at one of the schools in Chiredzi***

Schools and community members suggested interventions to curb the scourge:

- a) The need for border checks to stop the illegal inflow of drugs and toxic substances;
- b) Training of school heads and teachers in psycho-social support, counselling and therapy skills in order to assist learners;
- c) Partner with ZRP for training sessions and awareness campaigns, especially exhibiting samples of commonly abused drugs;
- d) Establish Peace Champions or Ambassadors for anti-drug abuse, and hold drug awareness week campaigns in schools;



- e) Develop criteria for awarding “drug free schools” through school competitions
- f) Hold drug awareness campaigns through sport and other recreational activities;
- g) Increased child protection;
- h) Skills empowerment programs for the youth, women and vulnerable communities;
- i) Naming, shaming and effecting citizens’ arrests against drug traffickers and peddlers.

## **2.4 Research and Knowledge Management Programs**

The Research and Knowledge Management function of the NPRC conducts research on conflicts in Zimbabwe and provides intervening strategies relating to those conflicts as well as effective management of knowledge of the Commission. This enables the Commission to make informed decisions, track progress, and continuously improve its strategies for national peace and social cohesion.

### **2.4.1 Research to Enhance Social Cohesion**

In 2023 the Commission carried out research aimed at enhancing social cohesion among diverse communities. Three main areas of research were carried out across in three provinces namely Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central and Matabeleland South and they focused on:

- a) Research on social cohesion among diverse ethnic groupings in Kariba Rural;
- b) Research on social cohesion among diverse ethnic groupings in Matabeleland South;
- c) Research on Artisanal Miners operations in Sanyati District.

The researches were conducted using qualitative research methodologies to unearth the nature, scope and dynamics of issues that impact negatively on social cohesion in communities. Data was collected using three techniques as listed below:

- a) **Key Informant Interviews** targeting both State and non-State actors (Provincial Ministers, Heads of Government Departments, War Veterans; Civil Society Organizations; Business, Traditional and Church leaders among others);
- b) **Focus Group Discussions (FGD):** targeting communities of women, men, boys and girls to understand the underlying issues affecting social cohesion;
- c) **In-depth interviews:** targeting those experientially knowledgeable about issues affecting the communities.



## 2.4.2 Key Research Findings

Below is a summary of the findings from the three main studies which were conducted and whose detailed reports are captured on the NPRC website ([www.nprc.org.zw](http://www.nprc.org.zw)).

### 2.4.2.1 Socio-Economic Challenges

#### (a) Marginalisation

Research participants highlighted that there is marginalisation of minority groups in Kariba and Matabeleland South Province both economically and socially. This has left these areas impoverished and it is difficult to break the cycle of poverty. In most rural areas there is a wide gap as compared to urban areas in terms of development and access to basic services.

#### (b) Poor Road Infrastructure

Due to poor road infrastructure Kariba, Sanyati and Matabeleland South are marginalised from economic development initiatives being implemented in Zimbabwe. In Kariba there is a decline in tourism as it is difficult for tourists to use the current roads to travel to recreational areas like Matusadonha and Bumi Hills. The issue of poor roads makes transport costs very high and this impedes people from getting services which are in urban areas where most government offices are. Some even fail to acquire birth certificates or attend courts which is detrimental to their dignity as most service providers are confined to urban centres.



*Figure 2.19: NPRC research team meets with Village Head Hikwa (seated) from Bulilima District*

### **(c) Communication Network Infrastructure**

Technological advancement has connected the world into a global village but people in the research areas remain excluded due to poor connectivity. In Kariba, people visit risky and dangerous spots along the hills to find network connection for communication purposes, which has adverse effects including possible attacks by wild animals. This is a source of conflict as residents feel neglected despite having resources like gold, ivory and revenue from tourists which can be used to develop their areas. Poor infrastructure development is a threat to peace stability and social cohesion.

Radio and television networks are also a challenge in most areas in Matabeleland South. There is a gap in telecommunication which needs to be addressed through relevant authorities so that network providers can put up systems for the area to get network coverage. Communities in Chikwalakwala under Chief Tshitauze in Beitbridge are the worst affected. There is a double predicament as most people along Limpopo River use South African telecommunication lines while some do not have the privilege to listen to local news on radio or television due to network challenges. Poor or no radio connectivity means that people are not abreast with current information. Failure to have connectivity disconnects these people from opportunities as nowadays media is the widely used medium for information dissemination.

### **(d) Human-Wildlife Conflict**

Human-Wildlife Conflict is prevalent in Kariba and Matabeleland South Districts namely Bulilima, Mangwe and Beitbridge. In Kariba people have to co-exist with wild animals in conservancies and human losses due to human-wildlife conflict, exacerbated by increase in human and animal populations and poor land use patterns; is a major concern (see 2.3.1(a) above for further details).

### **(e) Management of Natural Resources**

The research established that management of natural resources both on land and water is a challenge. Exorbitant prices for fishing permits was constantly mentioned as the hindering factor to pursue sustainable livelihoods in Kariba. Those who fail to pay for the permits end up engaging in poaching resulting perpetual conflicts with the ZIMPARKS rangers. Fishing by-laws were being rejected by residents as they are perceived to be harsh even though they help

manage resources for future generations. Most people in rural areas fail to acquire licences to have safaris hence they feel discriminated as foreigners are given precedence since they have resources to invest. Knowledge on how dividends from CAMPFIRE are shared is inaccessible thus creating conflicts as communities lack empowered knowledge on how to manage their share of resources.

#### **(f) Agriculture-Mining Conflict**

Farming and mining are the backbone of Zimbabwean economy. Studies in Sanyati District revealed that the Mines and Minerals Act of 1961 gives power to peg mines even on farming lands and this has precipitated some conflicts between farmers and miners. Miners can just start mining in someone's field, a reflection that agriculture and mining laws are not harmonised to protect these two critical contributions to the country's economy growth.

#### **(g) Challenges of Artisanal miners**



*Figure 2.20: Chief Neuso and Chief Wozhele of Sanyati (seated from left to right), accompanied by Mr Ruzvidzo (standing, front centre), President of the Zimbabwe Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners Association engage with NPRC researchers*

Artisanal miners are at the bottom tier in the mining hierarchy and they bemoaned unequal distribution of resources as medium and small-scale miners own huge blocks of mines thus creating need for claims redistribution to address the inequality. Due to poor mining conditions, sometimes the shafts collapse and no one takes responsibility. Even though associations exist to represent artisanal miners like Zimbabwe Artisanal and Small-Scale Miners Association, some do not subscribe to them due to poverty and ignorance, putting them at risk of exploitation.

#### **(h) Gender Issues**

Research acknowledged strides made in promoting gender equality, including in local traditional leadership, women still remain largely economically marginalized. (See 2.5 below).

#### **(i) Drug and Substance Abuse**

In all the areas drug and substance abuses are pressing issues faced in the country and rural areas are not spared either (See 2.3.2 above).

#### **(j) Child Marriages**

Research unearthed rampant child marriages and teenage pregnancies among girls particularly school going ages (See 2.1.3 above).

#### **(k) Health Facilities**

Inadequate health facilities compounded by poor road network has hampered efforts by villagers to access basic health services.

#### **(l) Unemployment**

The rate of unemployment remains very high among youth in Matabeleland South Province. As a result, some youth end up resorting to criminal activities like cattle rustling, illegal sale of illicit beer and drugs and others migrating to neighbouring countries in search of employment opportunities.

#### **(m) Education**

Communities acknowledged efforts by government through various programmes in building schools and promoting education.



A few challenges were highlighted in the following areas;

- In some areas under Chief Matibe pupils still travel long distances to attend school;
- Teachers deployed in some schools are not conversant with local languages and this has a likelihood to cause conflicts among locals;
- Lack of wi-fi infrastructure in some schools poses challenges to most pupil's performance as the current education curriculum demands internet access by students;
- Absence of built infrastructure in newly established satellite schools does not provide a conducive learning environment to children.



*Figure 2.21 Members of the Commission (from left); Acting Chairperson, Rev Dr C. Moyo, Commissioner L. Chigwedere, Commissioner Dr D. Dube and Commissioner Dr G.D. Chekenyere take notes during a community research program*

#### **(n) Cultural Erosion**

The majority of respondents from the rural areas attributed the conflict-ridden and pervading cultural erosion as a result of the following;

- Drug and substance abuse which results in the majority of people indulging in immoral behaviours and activities;

- Recognition of foreign religious beliefs in community functions has instigated the cessation of observance of cultural ceremonies, for example rain making and thanksgiving ceremonies

#### **(o) Access to Drinking Water**

Most rural areas in Matabeleland South do not have access to clean water as a result of perennial rainfall shortage and inadequate boreholes.



*Figure 2.22 NPRC team with San Community Village Head Mrs Matjena Ncube (seated fourth from left) accompanied by her husband and daughter during key informant interview*

### **2.4.2.2 Political Challenges**

#### **(a) Boundary Disputes**

The existence of a number of boundary disputes in rural communities, most of which pitting traditional leaders; was observed. Villagers emphasized the need for urgent attention to resolve the disputes as it remains a threat to peace, stability and social cohesion among various chieftainships and their subjects.



### **2.4.3 Knowledge Management: Establishment of a Peace Resource Centre**

Staff of the Commission were trained to strengthen their capacities on knowledge management. This was meant to strengthen NPRC's knowledge management thrust is aimed at the creation, maintenance, control, storage and disposal of records in a way that facilitates their appropriate, efficient and effective use to meet the demands of modern-day research and internal or external record users.



*Figure 2.23 NPRC staff undergoing a knowledge management training in Gweru*

To preserve institutional memory and properly disseminate information, the NPRC is currently in the process of developing a Peace Resource Centre. A library tour to Africa University Library, a renowned regional knowledge centre, provided valuable lessons to be applied within the Commission. The objective of the tour was to get guidance from academic experts on the creation and management of peace libraries. Trainees learnt the importance of an archive repository to preserve the institutional history and maintain a comprehensive database. This was seen to be vital to the safekeeping of Commission heritage.

## **2.5 Victim Support, Gender and Diversity Programs**

The Victim Support, Gender and Diversity (VSGD) function ensures that gender imperatives are mainstreamed within the Commission as well as in carrying out external programs as provided for in Section 9 of the NPRC Act. The function ensures that the Commission has the



internal capacity to comply with legal, constitutional and human rights standards on gender equality, victim support and inclusivity in peace-building processes. In 2023 VSGD activities were hinged on the following outputs;

- a) Mainstreaming of strategies on victim support, inclusivity, gender and diversity;
- b) Rendering assistance to persons affected by conflicts and;
- c) Inclusive engagements on the prevention of Conflict Related Gender Based Violence.

### 2.5.1 Disaggregated Summary of Programs Conducted

**Table 2.6 Summary of Programs Conducted**

Output and Outcome	Activities supported	Sex Disaggregation		
		Males	Females	Total
<b>Output: Strategies on Victim Support Inclusivity, Gender and Diversity mainstreaming operationalized</b>	Training of Gender Focal Persons on Victim Support Inclusivity gender and diversity mainstreaming	5	19	24
	Gender Sensitive Conflict Management Training for Infrastructures for Peace	16	33	49
<b>Outcome: Improved Gender Responsive and inclusive peace building</b>	Electoral Gender Based Violence Prevention and management Training targeting Peace Infrastructures	390	435	825
<b>Output: Assistance Rendered to Persons affected by conflicts.</b>  <b>Outcome: Improved Victim Centred Healing and Reconciliation</b>	Group Therapy Programme during Voter Peace Education and Drug and substance abuse Programme	3746	3667	7413

Output and Outcome	Activities supported	Sex Disaggregation		
		Males	Females	Total
<b>Output: Inclusive Engagements on the prevention of CRGBV</b>	Gender Inclusive Dialogues with marginalized communities	293	527	820
	Awareness campaigns on Conflict Related Gender Based Violence	--	--	1 039 501 <sup>1</sup>
<b>Outcome:</b> Improved Gender Responsive and Inclusive Peace building				

## 2.5.2 Training of Gender Focal Persons



*Figure 2.24 NPRC staff during training for Gender Focal Persons*

In order to strengthen internal capacities on dealing with gender issues, the Commission held trainings on victim support, inclusivity, gender and diversity mainstreaming. The training

<sup>1</sup> Figures derived from gender inclusive dialogue campaigns, printed materials which were distributed, social media engagements and radio dialogue programs

reached out to 24 members of staff (19 females and 5 males) to ensure gender mainstreaming and proactive technical support to the Commission and partners to ensure that gender equity principles are incorporated into all policies and activities. The training advocated for increased attention to; and integration of gender equality and women's empowerment in the Commission's policies and programming. The training also saw the review of the Commission's draft Sexual Harassment Policy.

### **2.5.3 Gender Sensitive Conflict Management Training for Infrastructure for Peace**

NPRC Secretariat and members of Provincial Peace Committees attended a three-day training with technical and financial support from ACCORD and UN Women. The training provided 49 participants (33 females and 16 males) the platform to strengthen the capacities of the participants, building up from previous trainings, to explore in depth the gendered perspectives to conflict prevention. The gender sensitive conflict management training, held when the nation was gearing up for 2023 general elections, saw the exchange of best practices from African Women Leader's Network and representatives from the media fraternity.



*Figure 2.25 Acting Chairperson, Rev Dr C. Moyo addressing participants at the Gender Sensitive Conflict Management Training in Harare*





*Figure 2.26 Participants attending Gender Sensitive Conflict Management training in Harare*

#### **2.5.4 Electoral Gender Based Violence Prevention and Management Trainings**



*Figure 2.27 Church leaders and PPC members in Masvingo join the Acting Chairperson of the NPRC (seated, fourth from left) and Commissioner Dr Rukuni (fifth from left) after EGBV training*

The trainings on electoral gender-based violence prevention and management were rolled out in 10 Provinces with the objective of equipping stakeholders with knowledge on electoral gender-based violence and violence against women in elections. The Zimbabwe Council of Churches worked in partnership with the NPRC on this program which targeted local and

church-based infrastructures for peace building and conflict prevention. The trainings, reaching out to 815 participants (425 females and 390 males), came up with strategies and mechanisms to address, prevent and respond to Electoral Gender Based Violence (EGBV) before, during and after elections in Zimbabwe.

The trainings on EGBV created a platform for increasing visibility on the work of the NPRC and its partners in dealing with violence during elections and assisted in fostering peace in the nation. The training came up with a framework for accelerating prevention and response to conflict related gender-based violence and informed future programmes for the Commission. It also strengthened collaborations with other stakeholders in cascading information on response to violence against women in politics at community level.

#### **2.5.5 Gender Inclusive Dialogues with Marginalized Communities**



*Figure 2.28 Commissioner Gwere (seated, right) and Commissioner Chigwedere (seated left) with community leaders in Mashonaland East after a dialogue session*

One of the mandatory requirements to guaranteeing sustainable peace provided in the NPRC Act is to ensure that gender issues are made central to the work of the Commission. Section 9 of the NPRC Act mandates the Commission to ensure the development of strategies to encourage the participation of women, girls and other marginalised groups in the work of the Commission. It also provides for public or private hearings on the gendered nature and context



of violence and marginalisation, investigations into the causes of such violence and marginalisation and assessment conflict related gender-based violations.

The Commission conducted gender inclusive dialogues and awareness campaigns in seven provinces targeting hard to reach areas of Zimbabwe. The gender inclusive dialogues were informed by feedback from the Electoral Gender Based Violence Prevention and Management training held with key stakeholders in the Provinces and merged with the Commission's strategic focus on conflict prevention in 2023. The dialogues brought together 820 young people (boys and girls), women and men of different age groups (293 males + 527 females). The inclusion of different demographic groups was necessitated by the fact that conflict affects people differently.



***Figure 2.29 The NPRC conducting an inclusive dialogue session with the Garanyemba community in Gwanda***

Key issues noted from the gender inclusive dialogues are:

- a) Conflict related gender-based violence (CRGBV) undermines economic outcomes as the vulnerable members become less productive and are deprived of their universal rights, personal development and decision making;

- b) Women mainly contest in lower levels of political office due to constraining conditions to participate in politics. This has led to a decline in representation of women in decision making positions; a potential source of conflict and the perpetuation of marginalization of women in peace building processes;
- c) Young people yearn for meaningful political and decision-making positions within political parties since they make up a key voting demography;
- d) Male engagement programs as champions for CRGBV have been poorly subscribed.

### **2.5.6 Group Therapy Programmes for Victims of Conflict**

As part of victim support, the Commission held group therapy sessions with victims in different parts of the country, riding on the voter peace education program. Psychosocial support and group therapy services were offered to victims of conflict related gender-based violence, reaching out to 7313 people (3646 males and 3667 females) across the 10 provinces.

### **2.5.7 Awareness Campaigns on Conflict Related Gender Based Violence**

In the build up to Harmonised elections the Commission embarked on a campaign against conflict related gender-based violence aimed at raising awareness as a pre-election activity. Awareness campaigns were conducted through social media platforms sending messages against CRGBV. The Commission continued to flight gender sensitive messages and jingles through print and broadcast media in the build up to elections and contributed to the decrease in the number of conflict related gender-based violence cases observed during the year.



**Figure 2.30 NPRC: Partnering with the National Arts Council in ‘Promoting Cultural Diversity, Unity and Peace’**

### **3.0 FINANCE, ADMINISTRATION, HUMAN RESOURCES AND OTHER SUPPORT PROGRAMS OF THE COMMISSION**

#### **3.1 Finance**

##### **3.1.1 Funding from Government of Zimbabwe**

###### **(a) 2023 Budget Against the Commission's Programs**

The Commission received a resource envelope of \$11.2 billion for all its operations in 2023, including support from unallocated reserves. Compensation for employees was allocated 18% of the 2023 resource envelope translating to \$2.057 billion, use of goods and services got 76% of the 2023 budget translating to \$8.6 billion and the remainder of \$610 million which translates to 5% was allocated to acquisition of non-financial assets.

The Commission has two Programs through which Commission activities are implemented namely Governance and Administration and National Peace and Reconciliation as tabulated below. Governance and Administration, which is Program 1, has five sub-programs under it and received 72% of the total budget. The structures that support the programming work for the Commission are housed under Program 1 hence the substantial resource allocation. The remaining 28% of the budget was allocated to Program 2 (National Peace and Reconciliation) with four sub programs.

**Table 3.1: Commission's Programmes and Sub-Programmes**

<b>PROGRAMME 1: GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION</b>	<b>PROGRAMME 2: NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION</b>
<b>SUB PROGRAMMES</b>	
<b>1. Chairman, Commissioners and Executive Secretary</b>	1. Conflict Prevention, Management, Resolution and Transformation
<b>2. Finance, Administration and Human Resources</b>	2. Healing, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation
<b>3. Audit and Legal Services</b>	3. Victim Support, Gender and Diversity
<b>4. Monitoring and Evaluation</b>	4. Complaints Handling and Investigation
<b>5. Research and Knowledge Management</b>	

As of the 31<sup>st</sup> of October 2023, 65% of the total budget was released and consumed. The improved support from the Ministry of Finance and Investment Promotion through unallocated resources in 2023 as compared to 2022 led to improved programme implementation during the period under review.

### **3.1.2 Acquisition of Non- Financial Assets**

The Commission was allocated a total of \$610 million for procurement of non-financial assets for the period under review. From the 2023 allocation the whole amount was released towards the procurement of furniture and ICT equipment for use by the Commission.

## **3.2 Human Resources and Administration**

Human Resources and Administration provide backbone support services to the Commission. The following are key matters for consideration:

### **3.2.1 Recruitment, Staff Turnover, Training and Induction**

During the period under review, the Commission appointed the following;

- a) General Manager Human Resources and Administration,
- b) Manager Research and Knowledge Management,
- c) Manager Healing, Reconciliation and Rehabilitation
- d) Regional Manager Eastern Region
- e) Regional Manager Northern Region.

The Commission could not fill all vacant posts of junior-level staff members due to uncertainty about the continued existence of the Commission after expiry of its Constitutional mandate. During the same period, the Commission had staff turnover as some members left the organization due to varying reasons. However, the Commission celebrates with some of its members who left the organization on promotional basis. The table below shows the rate of staff turnover during the period under review.

**Table 3.2: Staff Resignations in 2023**

	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date of Termination</b>	<b>Type of Termination</b>	<b>Period of Notice</b>
1	General Manager – VSGD	16/01/23	Transfer	None
2	RKM Officer	29/09/23	Resignation	None

	<b>Designation</b>	<b>Date of Termination</b>	<b>Type of Termination</b>	<b>Period of Notice</b>
3	CPMRT Officer	03/10/23	Resignation	None
4	Office Assistant	15/02/23	Resignation	None

### 3.2.2 Gender Equity

The Commission complied with Section 9 of the NPRC Act which provides for Gender equity in the structure of the Commission, in secretariat and any other committees the Commission may set up. The table below represents gender distribution for members of the Commission who were in post at the time of reporting.

**Table 3.3: Gender Representation of Members and Staff of the Commission**

<b>Position</b>	<b>Males</b>	<b>Females</b>	<b>In Post</b>	<b>% Female Representation</b>
Commissioners	4	4	8	50
Executive Secretary	0	1	1	100
General Managers	5	1	6	16
Manager	7	10	17	59
Officer and Below	23	32	55	63
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>87</b>	<b>55</b>

### 3.2.3 Capacity Building Programs

During this period, the Commission successfully conducted capacity building exercises. Of major note were:

- Corporate Governance training for Commissioners facilitated by the Corporate Governance Unit;
- SAP Materials Management facilitated by Ministry of Finance and Economic Development;
- SAP Human Resources facilitated by the Public Service Academy;
- Customer Care training facilitated by the Public Service Academy;
- PPS1 on Performance management facilitated by the Public Service Academy;
- Training on Performance Contracts facilitated by Public Service Academy;
- Report Writing and Client Relationship Management facilitated by Public Service Academy;



- h) IPSAS facilitated by Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
- i) The Commission successfully conducted two one-day Strategic Planning Review Workshops at Cresta Lodge. The Chairperson, Vice Chairperson, Commissioners and the Secretariat at management level were in attendance.



*Figure 3.1 Commissioners follow proceedings during the induction training by the Corporate Governance Unit*

#### **3.2.4 Staff Welfare**

The Commission conducted staff wellness programs and facilitated the payment of 80% of tuition fees to staff members who were furthering studies in line with their current duties.

### **3.3. Procurement**

During the year under review the Procurement Management Unit supported the implementation of programmes by the Commission through the procurement of materials and resources. The following procurements were done:

- a) Office furniture
- b) Laptops
- c) Desktops
- d) Mobile Phones
- e) IEC Materials
- f) Food Provisions
- g) Vehicle maintenance

### 3.4 Media and Communication

The Commission ensured that Commission programmes received wide media coverage throughout the year through coverage in conventional and digital media. There were public outreach campaigns to educate and inform the general populace on the mandate, objectives, functions, policies and procedures of the Commission as well as ongoing programmes using various media platforms to cater for the country's diverse audiences.



*Figure 3.2 Caption in the Herald imploring media to report responsibly*

#### 3.4.1 Media Breakfast Meeting

The Commission hosted a Media Breakfast Meeting which was attended by senior members of the Fourth Estate. The meeting discussed peace and conflict reportage issues as well as navigated ways in which the NPRC can work closely with the captains of the media industry in peace -building and conflict prevention. The meeting encouraged media houses to promote national peace, unity and social cohesion; handle news reports on conflict in a responsible manner and map the way forward on how the Commission can work together with the Media to foster peace, unity and tolerance in Zimbabwe.





*Figure 3.3 Mr Chris Chinaka, a media expert, shares the role of the media in promoting peace during elections at the media breakfast meeting in Harare*

### 3.4.2 Print, Digital and Social Media Campaigns



*Figure 3.4 Print media caption on the community work of the NPRC in 2023*

The Commission carried out social media campaigns in the form of countdowns, commemorative e-fliers, election related awareness campaigns, among others. Social Media Campaigns hash-tagged **#NPRC365Campaign** were a huge success as the Commission received instant feedback from the digital platforms and some of the comments enhanced the peacebuilding work of the Commission. Various NPRC digital sites played a critical role in the dissemination of information on the Commission's programmes. NPRC website, X handle, Facebook, YouTube pages had regular posts and feedback. Some of the Commission's publicity work carried on digital media sites are captured below:

<https://www.nprc.org.zw/media/video-gallery>

<https://www.nprc.org.zw/nprc-embarks-on-...ral-gbv-training/>

<https://www.nprc.org.zw/nprc-celebrates-...ional-womens-day/>

<https://www.nprc.org.zw/nprc-elections-peace-strategy/>

<https://www.nprc.org.zw/media/video-gallery>

### **3.4.3 National and International Commemorations**

The Commission developed and shared commemorative statements on national events such as Independence Day and Heroes Day. These were published in the newspapers and on the NPRC digital platforms. Online, radio and television audiences, newspapers readers and other stakeholders were updated, reminded and informed about the Commission's work at the same time increasing the Commission's visibility. The Commission notes and appreciates that national holidays such as Independence, Defence and Heroes Days have historical significance to the work of NPRC as the sacrifices made during these epochs were meant to achieve peace and unity in Zimbabwe.

### **3.4.4 Zimbabwe Agricultural Show Exhibition**

The Commission exhibited at the 2023 Edition of the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show (ZAS). The objective was to increase the Commission's visibility as well as to raise public awareness on its mandate. Visitors to the stand received important information about the work of the Commission, how to lodge complaints and how to access the Commission's offices throughout



the country. Visitors to the NPRC were keen to understand the work of the Commission and requested for IEC materials.



*Figure 3.5 NPRC exhibition at the Zimbabwe Agricultural Show Society*

### 3.4.5 Radio, Television and Other Publicity Programs



*Figure 3.6 Commission Spokesperson, Advocate Gutu, engaging Zimbabweans on ZTV*



The Commission had several television and radio slots during the year to increase its visibility as well as raise awareness on the importance of peace, unity and tolerance in the country. Broadcasters such as ZTV, 3KTV, Star FM and publishers such as The Herald, Daily News among others played a critical role in publicising the work of the Commission as they have a wider audience reach. The Commission also flighted radio and television adverts with messages to promote peace, unity and reconciliation. Information, Education and Communication materials were produced, designed and printed for distribution during various Commission programmes.



*Figure 3.6 Commissioner Dr Rukuni (right) engages with Hevoi FM on the Commission's conflict prevention programs in 2023*

### **3.5 Legal Services**

#### **3.5.1 Review of Legal Contracts**

The Commission's legal function helped to craft and review legal documents such as contracts, tenders and Memorandum of Agreements to ensure that they comply with the law.

#### **3.5.2 Litigation**

The Commission dealt with one matter instituted against it while two other matters were rolled over to the year 2024 as they were still pending before the High Court. The new matter dealt

with alleged human rights violations emanating from circumstances which arose in the year 2008. The case against the NPRC was dismissed on the basis that the tenure of the Commission was coming to an end in August 2023, thus pursuing the matter would be merely a futile academic exercise. Following the conclusion by the High Court sitting in Harare, the matter was withdrawn at the instance of the Commission. Other pending matters were also dismissed because the High Court concluded that the matters lacked merit.

### **3.6 Monitoring and Evaluation**

In pursuit of the National Vision “**Towards a prosperous and Empowered Upper-Middle income Society by 2030**”, the NPRC institutionalised a strong culture of Monitoring and Evaluation to ensure that performance was well within the national aspirations. Commission programmes were monitored from the planning and implementation stages. The Commission had three major activities during 2023 which were the Voter Peace Education Campaigns, Research and Conflict Prevention. Participation in conflict prevention programmes was inclusive as stakeholders were drawn from various organisations. The programmes that the NPRC conducted played a complementary role to other similar programmes that were conducted by other players.

An impact evaluation on the 2022 voter peace education campaign was conducted and findings revealed that the programme was effective in promotion and maintenance of peace in the country. In terms of resource use, all Commission programmes were allocated resources agreed upon by the Budget Committee and priority was given to Conflict Prevention Programmes. Peace infrastructures remain key in sustaining the work of the NPRC. An impact evaluation of the work done during NPRC’s tenure is of importance as it will serve as a baseline that informs the planning, and designing of other peacebuilding programmes beyond the life of the Commission.

#### 4.0 STRATEGIES FOR GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Gender mainstreaming is an approach which supports the implementation of global, regional and national commitments on gender equality and women's empowerment. Implementing a gender mainstreaming strategy requires systematic integration of gender perspectives in policies, programmes and thematic issues. At an institutional level, was significant commitment to gender mainstreaming with established institutional arrangements, gender unit and gender focal persons. A transformative approach to gender issues was incorporated in all the NPRC programmes making gender equality a focus. Gender focal persons were included in the planning and implementation of all NPRC programmes. Some of the milestone programs done to mainstream gender include:



*Figure 4.1: The gendered face of NPRC staff as led by the Executive Secretary, Mrs S. Zembe (centre)*

#### 4.1 Improving Gender Sensitive Monitoring and Evaluation

The NPRC developed specific gender indicators for monitoring and evaluation for the programmes that were being implemented by the NPRC. These include attention to Sex disaggregated data when reporting. Sex-disaggregated data was used as a standard for planning, implementing, monitoring and evaluating activities and programmes. Disaggregating program statistics helped in coming up with correct figures in terms of how many men and women the

NPRC interacted with during implementation. Information was also disaggregated according to other key variables, depending on the type of activities, target group and context; including factors such as socio-economic group, age, ethnicity, race, religion, or location (rural or urban).

#### **4.2 Gender Sensitivity in the Staff Structure**

In 2023 the Commission recruited new secretariat members and accepted resignations as well as retirements from serving members. The sex disaggregated data and analysis of the composition of the Commission and its secretariat as of November 2023 is captured in Table 3.3 above. The overall structure shows the Commission's cumulative steps to engender its recruitment processes with the total female complement now standing at 58%. It is however of concern to note that, women continue to dominate lower-level positions of Managers and Officers and below while men dominate high level positions of General Managers.

#### **4.3 Fostering a Gender-Sensitive Organizational Culture**

The NPRC embarked on a gender-sensitive culture change programme in promoting equal opportunities for all. This led to the drafting of a sexual harassment policy which will be launched in 2024. Tackling organizational culture is not only a crucial element in implementing organizational change as part of gender mainstreaming, but also for providing a respectful and empowering atmosphere in the workplace, free from any form of harassment. This includes eradicating discriminatory behaviour and establishing procedures for preventing and dealing with sexual harassment in the workplace.

#### **4.4 Research and Analysis**

To enhance social cohesion in research projects which were carried out in Kariba, Sanyati, Mbire and Matabeleland South, the Commission included both male and female team members. Gender-disaggregated data which was collected provided quantitative statistical information on differences and inequalities between women and men and how each demographic group contributes to aspects of society that lead to peace and cohesion. This disaggregated data helped in designing NPRC programmes as well as making recommendations on effective and equitable policies that are beneficial for women and men in terms of promoting peace in the country.

#### **4.5 Community Based Approach**

Most of the NPRC's programmes happen at community level. These programmes included Healing and Reconciliation, Conflict Prevention, Investigations, Research as well as Victim

Support. The Commission developed concentrated and effective interventions at the community level, borne from strategies for implementing gender sensitive coordination mechanisms and programming developed in earlier years. The Commission had to abide by the principles of participation within a community-based approach, so that community members were empowered to be active and equal partners in the development and implementation of NPRC work.

#### **4.6 Strengthening Gender Mainstreaming in NPRC Programmes**

From the programmes that the NPRC conducted during 2023, a detailed gender analysis is a critical starting point for programmes to be considered gender sensitive. Questions such as the difference in impacts of programmes on women and men; the advantages and disadvantages; roles and responsibilities; who does what, who has what, who needs what; strategies and approaches in closing the gap between what men and women need; should be asked and analysed in building a comprehensive picture of the existing situation before embarking on programs. This process has helped the Commission in identifying, gaps and mismatches. A detailed and stronger gender analysis by the Commission implies:

- a) Assessment of the roles and needs of women and men, including gender based labour division;
- b) Focusing on gender relations, not just on women (looking at different inequalities, power imbalances, differential access to resources between men and women);
- c) Knowing that gender is a factor that influences how people respond both individually and collectively;
- d) The life experiences, needs, issues, and priorities vary for different groups of women and men (dependent on age, ethnicity, disability, income levels, employment status, marital status, and whether they have dependents).

More work therefore needs to be done in the next programming cycle to ensure the existence of institutional arrangements for strengthened gender mainstreaming, reporting and analysis of impacts.



## **5.0 CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT**

### **5.1 Challenges**

#### **5.1.1 Inadequate Resources**

The Commission's budgetary allocation was insufficient for wider coverage of its programs. Tools of trade such as laptops, printers and furniture remained inadequate and a number of the existing ones are in a state of disrepair. Due to inadequate resources, the Commission execute some of its mandatory functions as expected particularly with regards to lack of comprehensive follow-up mechanisms to complaints and reports received.

#### **5.1.2 Delayed Disbursement of Funds**

Commission programmes were negatively affected by delayed disbursement of funds. As a result, some of the NPRC planned programmed were not implemented. This resulted in some of the set targets for the year not being met.

#### **5.1.3 Expiry of Tenure of the Commission**

The NPRC has a ten-year tenure in terms of Section 251(1) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. This mandate lapsed in August 2023. The uncertainty surrounding the Constitutional expiry of the NPRC term seriously affected programming and resulted in significant staff turnover. Most departments and regions operated with very lean staff since recruitment and secondments were paused. The expiry of the tenure affected recruitment, planning and the making of critical decisions for the Commission due to the doubt about its existence beyond 2023. For example, procurement of tools of trade like computers, vehicles, office space, recruitment of critical staff and decentralization to certain provinces and districts could not proceed due to this hesitation. Even though the mandate of the Commission, the service of peace in Zimbabwe, as the report reveals, continues to be a necessity.

### **5.2 Lessons Learnt**

- (a) Increased goodwill and commitment from stakeholders who selflessly contributed to the implementation of Commission programs to promote peaceful electoral processes calls for the strengthening of collaborations to reinforce peacebuilding work;
- (b) Strengthened collaboration and joint programming with other Chapter 12 Independent Commissions for purposes of achieving the common set objectives outlined in Section 233

of the Constitution of Zimbabwe will strengthen sustainable partnerships and complementarity by players in the peacebuilding ecosystem on mutually edifying roles;

- (c) Traditional authorities (that is Chiefs, headmen, and village heads) play an important role as custodians of culture and customs to the development and promotion of sustainable peace in communities. The Commission noted that through working together with traditional leadership using innovative, inclusive and consultative processes, sustainable peace is guaranteed;
- (d) Promotion of the use of traditional and indigenous knowledge systems (IKS) on conflict early warning and early response, management of human-wildlife conflict and the general promotion of peace and prevention of conflicts remains key in building community capacities in responding to emerging conflicts and peace building issues;
- (e) Preventive dialogues and platforms that bring stakeholders, leadership, parties and communities together have the ability to bring sustainable peace and address socio-economic, political, natural resources and environmental issues which cause conflicts;
- (f) Deployment of modern digital technologies, ICTs and multi-media including locally based national and community radio stations in peace building and conflict prevention work is effective in information dissemination, public education and strengthening the visibility of the Commission;
- (g) Youth and school children are the most affected by drugs and substance abuse hence the need for increased creative and innovative driven programming tailor-made to respond to this menace in collaboration with multi-sectoral players.
- (h) The family institution is under attack from the scourge of crime, GBV as well as drugs and substance abuse rendering societies at risk of incessant conflicts as such practices are potential conflict multipliers.

## **6.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE PROMOTION OF PEACE**

The following constitute the proposed legislative, policy and administrative recommendations;

### **6.1 Child Marriages and Sexual Exploitation of Young Persons**

The law defines a young person as a person below the age of 18 years and outlaws the pledging of children into marriage. However, forced child marriages remain prevalent and sexual exploitation of children through prostitution remains rampant. This is blamed on the difficult economic situation prevailing in the country. Resultantly, young persons, especially girls are forced into prostitution and unplanned marriages as a means of survival. Section 19 of the Constitution places the duty on the State to adopt policies and measures to ensure that matters involving children are hinged on the best interests of the child. The following recommendations are proposed to protect the best interests of children;

#### **Policy Recommendations**

- a) To conduct continuous awareness-raising programs on the existing legal framework such as the rights of children as embedded in
  - ✓ the Constitution,
  - ✓ the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act [Chapter 9:23] as regards provisions relating to sexual intercourse with young persons,
  - ✓ the Domestic Violence Act [Chapter 9: 23],
  - ✓ the Protocol on the Multi-Sectoral Management of Sexual Abuse and Violence in Zimbabwe of 2012.
- b) Stakeholders to engage in coordinated programs to address harmful cultural, traditional and religious practices affecting girls which perpetuate child marriages within communities.

### **6.2 Internal Displacement of Communities for Development**

The Commission conducted research programs focusing on minority groups in Kariba. The findings of the research highlighted the disgruntlement of the BaTonga people who were displaced from Kariba to pave the way for the establishment of the Kariba Dam and Matusadona Game Park. This challenge permeates several other communities where the Commission's programs were implemented. Communities raised concern about resettlement into

inappropriate and non-arable land, inadequate compensation, poverty, lack of basic social amenities, unemployment and poaching. The communities bemoaned their settlement into dry land with no accessible water to engage in agriculture. No adequate compensation was made to the affected to establish themselves and continue with their lives with minimal inconvenience and hardship.

### **Legal Recommendation**

- a) Amendment of the Communal Lands Act [Chapter 20:04] to incorporate the provision of adequate compensation for and in consultation with communities displaced for development purposes before or immediately after displacement.

### **Policy Recommendations**

- a) Implementation of existing policy on providing compensation to communities displaced before, during or immediately after the event to enable their settlement into newly allocated areas with minimum hardship;
- b) The policy should incorporate the provision of suitable alternative land to enable the communities to continue with subsistence farming activities and fend for their families.

## **6.3 Conflict between Traditional Leaders and Magistrates' Courts**

The Commission conducted engagements with traditional leaders who are regarded as key stakeholders in peacebuilding, conflict prevention and management. The traditional leaders indicated their displeasure at how decisions made by them in their courts are overturned at the Magistrates Courts without due regard to their powers to adjudicate on conflicts arising within their area of jurisdiction. As a result, traditional leaders felt that they were being undermined by the courts, leading to members of the community not according them the respect they duly deserve. Overturning of their decisions renders them powerless and unable to perform their duties effectively. Concerns raised by traditional leaders highlight information gaps on the rights to appeal and review a decision which is part of the justice delivery chain.

### **Policy Recommendations**

- a) Adoption of a policy that promotes synergies between Magistrates and traditional leaders for effectively executing their functions as both parties are key in the administration of justice and maintenance of community level peace;

- b) Inclusion of continuous training programs for traditional leaders on the legal framework governing their duties such as the Constitution, the Traditional Leaders Act, the Communal Lands Act and the Customary Law and Local Courts Act;
- c) Inclusion of provisions that require feedback to the traditional leaders setting out the cases appealed or reviewed and the reasons for doing so.

## **6.4 Human and Wildlife Conflict**

Human and wildlife conflict is a conflictual issue that remains contentious and a thorn in the flesh for communities residing within the proximity of Game Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries. Reports of attacks by lions, elephants, and crocodiles were received by the Commission. Communities complained of losing livestock and human life, suffering bodily injuries and loss of agricultural produce. Although communities are cognizant of the importance of wildlife protection, the law leans in favour of animals rather than the protection of human life or property. Even worse, is the belief that the communities stand to benefit nothing from the CAMPFIRE project.

### **Legal Recommendations**

- a) Enactment into law of the CAMPFIRE policy to ensure legal enforceability of the obligations arising therefrom. In its current state, the CAMPFIRE is redundant because it does not embody a clear legal mandate and obligations to the stakeholders;
- b) Review of Zimbabwe as a member of CITIES and other international instruments in animal conservation as it undermines the authority of the country to manage wildlife in a manner that benefits the country and its citizens.

### **Policy Recommendations**

- a) Adoption of a policy that promotes community-owned concessions, to ensure that communities situated within the vicinity of Game Parks benefit from natural resources;
- b) Inclusion of a monitoring assessment matrix that monitors the administration of the CAMPFIRE proceeds for the benefit of communities;
- c) Adoption of human and wildlife conflict standard operating procedures that are supported by funding to ensure their execution.



## **Administrative Recommendations**

- a) The administration procedures for registration should be accessible to communities to enable the public to access their services and promote community development.

## **6.5 Drug and Substance Abuse**

Drug abuse and substance dependence is a vice that the country is grappling with as it affects various sections of society and has become a national security concern. Communities bemoaned the easy accessibility of drugs and illegal sales of alcohol within their localities. As a result, youth, abetted by adults in some of the cases, have become unruly; dropping out of school and suffering physical, social and emotional harm; causing family distress and burdens on families and communities.

## **Legal Recommendation**

- a) Review of the Dangerous Drugs Act [Chapter 15:02] and its regulations by including certain illicit drugs and substances as illegal.

## **Policy Recommendations**

- a) Multi-stakeholder approach in formulating programs to address drug and substance abuse, including continuous public awareness campaigns and education of school children and the youth on the harmful effects of drugs;
- b) Training of school authorities and community care facilitators in psychosocial support, counselling and therapy skills.

## 7.0 CONCLUSION

The NPRC acknowledges and appreciates the Head of State and Government, His Excellency President Dr E.D. Mnangagwa for his commitment to building a peaceful and united Zimbabwe. His calls for peace, love, harmony, non-violence, tolerance of alternative views and unity in the country at many platforms which he addressed in 2023, including at campaign rallies, provided the much-needed impetus for the NPRC to reinforce this call. The Office of the President and Cabinet also followed up with the administrative support necessary to make the work of the Commission surmountable.

The NPRC also thanks the Speaker of Parliament, Hon Advocate J.F.N. Mudenda for the tireless effort to see the Commission's work supported. The Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs, Hon Z. Ziyambi and his Permanent Secretary are acknowledged for the policy and technical advice. Tribute goes to the Ministry of Finance and Economic Development for availing the resources to enable the Commission to do its work. The Commission also worked closely with the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs and the Thematic Committee on Peace and Security whose passion for a peaceful Zimbabwe spurred the NPRC.

The NPRC recognises the individual and collective roles of Independent Commissions in Zimbabwe and extends appreciation to their Chairpersons and Heads of Secretariat for strengthening the symbiotic inter-relationship between and among us. Other players who include security institutions; other ministries, departments and agencies; political parties represented in Parliament; traditional leaders, development partners, the church and other religious bodies; civic society organizations and the Commission's infrastructures for peace at regional and provincial levels, are warmly saluted for being agents for peace, unity, healing and reconciliation.


*Runyararo rumbawambira naiwe; runyararo rumbawambira naiwepo, runyararo  
rumbawambira naiye pano*

## 8.0 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS FOR 2022

NPRC/713

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All communication should be addressed to:  
The Auditor-General  
P. O. Box CY 143, Causeway, Harare  
Telephone 263-242-793611/3/4  
Telegrams: AUDITOR  
E-mail: oagzimbabwe263@gmail.com  
Website: www.auditorgeneral.gov.zw



OFFICE OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL  
5th Floor, Burroughs House,  
48 George Silundika Avenue,  
Harare

**OAG ZIMBABWE**

Ref: **NPRC 2/25/22**

**REPORT OF THE AUDITOR-GENERAL  
TO  
THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
FOR NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION  
IN RESPECT OF  
VOTE 29.-APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022**

**Report on the Audit of the Financial Statements**

**Opinion**

I have audited the financial statements of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission for the year ended December 31, 2022. These financial statements comprise the Appropriation Account, Finance and Revenue Statements and other supporting returns.

In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly the state of affairs of the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission as at December 31, 2022 in accordance with Generally Accepted Accounting Practice (GAAP).

**Basis for Opinion**

I conducted my audit in accordance with International Standards of Supreme Audit Institutions (ISSAIs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of my report. I am independent of National Peace and Reconciliation Commission in accordance with the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit of the financial statements, and I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements. I believe that the audit evidence I have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion.

**Key Audit Matters**

Key Audit Matters are those matters that, in my professional judgement, were of most significance in my audit of the financial statements of the current period. During the year under review no other Key Audit Matters were addressed in the context of my audit of the

NATIONAL PEACE AND  
RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

07 JUN 2023

7TH FLOOR, FIRST MUTUAL BUILDING  
99 JASON MOYO AVENUE  
P.BAG 7700 CAUSEWAY HRE, ZIM

financial statements as a whole, and in forming my opinion thereon, and I do not provide a separate opinion on these matters.

#### **Information Other than the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report Thereon**

Management is responsible for the Other Information. The Other Information comprises information in National Peace and Reconciliation Commission annual report but does not include the financial statements and my auditor's report thereon.

My opinion on the financial statements does not cover the Other Information and I do not express any form of assurance conclusion thereon.

In connection with my audit of the financial statements, my responsibility is to read the Other Information and, in doing so, consider whether the Other Information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements or my knowledge obtained in the audit or otherwise appears to be materially misstated. If, based on the work I have performed, I conclude that there is a material misstatement of the Other Information, I am required to report that fact. I have nothing to report in this regard.

#### **Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Statements**

Management is responsible for the preparation of these financial statements in a manner required by the Public Finance Management Act [Chapter 22:19], Treasury Instructions and Circular on preparation and submission of financial statements.

These responsibilities include designing, implementing and maintaining internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error; selecting and applying appropriate accounting policies; and making accounting estimates that are reasonable in the circumstances.

Management is responsible for overseeing the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission financial reporting process.

#### **Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements**

The objectives of my audit are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatements, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but it's not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with ISSAIs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

As part of an audit in accordance with ISSAIs, I exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the planning and performance of the audit. I also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit



evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.

- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the entity's ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial statements or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify my opinion. My conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of my auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Commission to cease to continue as a going concern.

I communicate with the management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.


I provide the management with a statement that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and to communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to bear on my independence, and where applicable, related safeguards.

From the matters communicated with management, I determine those matters that were of most significance in the audit of the financial statements of the current period and are therefore the key audit matters. I describe these matters in my auditor's report unless law or regulation precludes public disclosure about the matter or when, in extremely rare circumstances, I determine that a matter should not be communicated in my report because the adverse consequences of doing so would reasonably be expected to outweigh the public interest benefits of such communication.

### **Report on Other Legal and Regulatory Requirements**

In my opinion, the financial statements have, in all material respects, been properly prepared in compliance with the disclosure requirements of the Public Finance Management Act [Chapter 22:19] and other relevant Statutory Instruments.

06 June 2023.

  
**R. KUJINGA,  
ACTING AUDITOR-GENERAL**

VOTE 28.- NATIONAL PEACE AND RECONCILIATION COMMISSION

APPROPRIATION ACCOUNT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2022

Expenditure Head	Original Budget Estimates 2022 ZWL\$	Supplementary Budget ZWL\$	Unallocated Reserves Transfers ZWL\$	Total / Revised Budget ZWL\$	Actual Expenditure as at December 31, 2022 ZWL\$	More than Estimated ZWL\$	Less than Estimated ZWL\$	Explanation for main variations
<b>PROGRAMME 1. GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION</b>								
<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Compensation of employees.....	120 838 000	64 176 000	106 756 927	291 770 927	283 403 499	—	8 367 428	The saving was due to non release of funding by Treasury as a result of lack of liquidity.
Use of goods and services.....	139 564 000	227 741 000	52 079 400	419 384 400	336 427 909	—	82 956 491	The saving was due to non release of funding by Treasury as a result of lack of liquidity.
Acquisition of fixed capital assets.....	64 460 000	—	—	64 460 000	59 084 241	—	5 375 759	The saving was due to non release of funding by Treasury as a result of lack of liquidity.
	324 862 000	291 917 000	158 836 327	775 615 327	678 915 649	—	96 699 678	

**PROGRAMME 2. NATIONAL  
PEACE AND RECONCILIATION**

<b>EXPENSES</b>								
Compensation of employees.....	30 495 000	16 182 000	24 971 631	71 648 631	73 250 654	1 602 023	—	The excess was due to a review in fuel allocation of senior officers.
Use of goods and services.....	50 436 000	82 259 000	—	132 695 000	138 989 745	6 294 745	—	The excess was due to general increases in the prices of goods and services.
Acquisition of fixed capital assets.....	35 540 000	—	—	35 540 000	28 338 284	—	7 201 716	The saving was due to non release of funding by Treasury as a result of lack of liquidity.

	116 471 000	98 441 000	24 971 631	239 883 631	240 578 683	7 896 768	7 201 716	
<b>Total:</b>	<b>\$441 333 000</b>	<b>\$390 358 000</b>	<b>\$183 807 958</b>	<b>\$1 015 498 958</b>	<b>\$919 494 332</b>	<b>\$7 896 768</b>	<b>\$103 901 394</b>	
Net Underspending								\$96 004 626

de ci ..... 2023  
Month / Day / Year

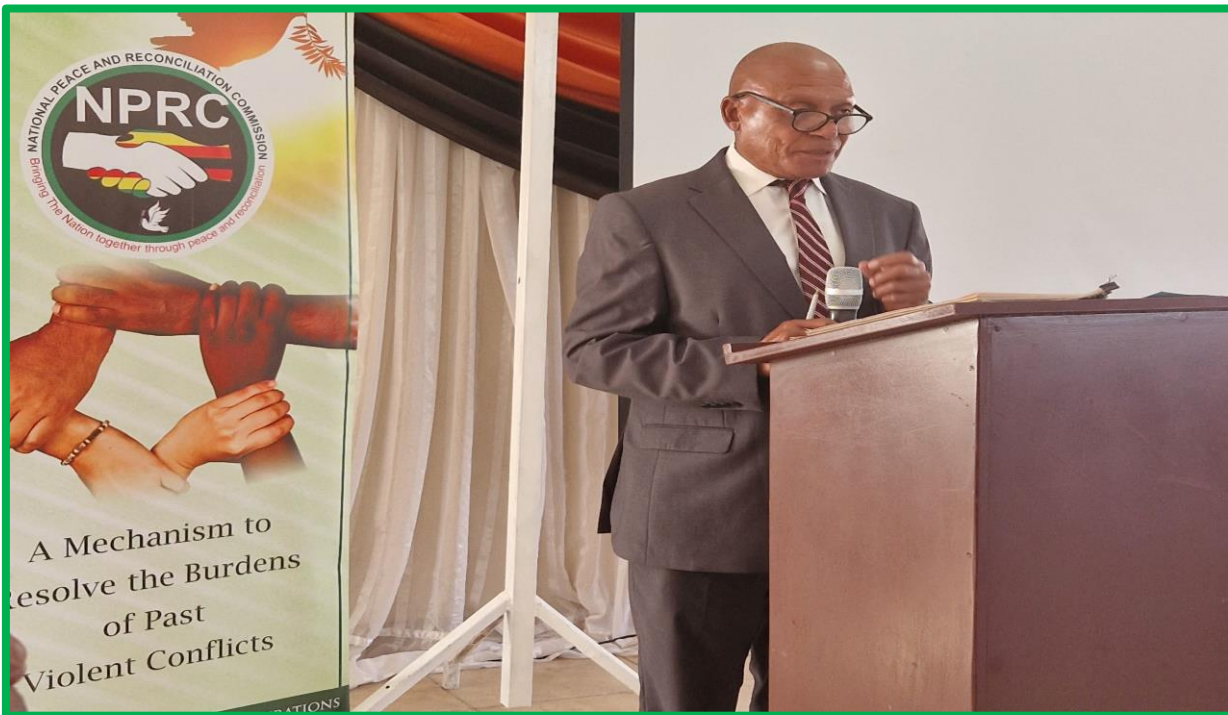
S. ZEMBA  
Executive Secretary to the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission.



**PHOTO GALLERY**  
**COMMISSIONERS SUPPORTING PEACE PROGRAMS AROUND ZIMBABWE**



*Acting Chairperson Rev Dr C. Moyo meeting with traditional leaders in Mashonaland West*



*Commissioner Dr G.D. Chekenyere addressing the Manicaland Provincial Peace Committee*





*Commissioner L. Chigwedere (third from left) meets with Minister of State for Provincial Affairs and Devolution in Mashonaland East, Hon Munzverengwi (second from left) and Minister of National Housing and Social Amenities, Hon Garwe during a voter peace education program*



*Commissioner Dr D. Dube making an address during research and knowledge management trainings*



*Commissioner N. Gwere addresses Chiefs and ZRP senior officers in Matabeleland South*



*Commissioner Advocate Gutu addresses Committee on Prevention and Non-Recurrence in Harare*





*Commissioner Dr T. Rukuni addressing community leaders in Matabeleland South*



*Commissioner Dr J. Shambare giving remarks during training on EGBV in Mashonaland Central*