



FILE REF: ZHRC/CI/23/25/26/35/44/2016

In the matter between:

**SOME RESIDENTS OF BIKITA EAST CONSTITUENCY** **1<sup>st</sup> COMPLAINANT**

And

**SOME RESIDENTS OF BUHERA NORTH CONSTITUENCY** **2<sup>nd</sup> COMPLAINANT**

And

**SOME RESIDENTS OF MAZOWE CENTRAL CONSTITUENCY** **3<sup>rd</sup> COMPLAINANT**

And

**SOME RESIDENTS OF MUZARABANI NORTH AND SOUTH CONSTITUENCIES** **4<sup>TH</sup> COMPLAINANT**

And

**THE MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE,  
LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

**RESPONDENT**

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**REPORT**

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## 1. Introduction

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission received complaints involving alleged discrimination on the basis of political affiliation in the distribution of agricultural inputs and food aid in Buhera North Constituency (which is made up of 8 wards that is, wards 7, 8,9,10,11,12,13 and 31 which were all affected), Mazowe Central Constituency (in particular wards 7 and 8), Muzarabani North and South Constituencies (wards 2 and 17 respectively) and Bikita East Constituency (in particular the Dewure Resettlement Scheme covering wards 4 to 25.) This report contains findings of the ZHRC pursuant to investigations conducted into the complaints.

- 1.2. In determining its role in this matter, the ZHRC considered that the facts gave rise to distinct causes of action, namely :
  - 1.2.1. **Human rights investigation** into human rights violations of Chapter 4 Part 2 of the Declaration of Rights in the Constitution of Zimbabwe.
  - 1.2.2. **Maladministration investigation** on the role of public officials who were allegedly performing their duties partially and with bias against persons of a particular political affiliation in contravention of provisions of the Public Service Regulations SI 1/2000.
  - 1.2.3. **Possible Recommendation of Criminal investigation** of public officials who were allegedly stealing trust property in the form of food aid entrusted to them for distribution in contravention of the Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act.
  - 1.2.4. **Alleged Criminal Violation of Human Rights** in respect of assault perpetrated by ZANU-PF members on Buhera North Ward 7 MDC-T councilor.

## 2. Mandate of the Commission

- 2.1. The ZHRC is established as an Independent Commission in terms of section 242 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The functions of the ZHRC are set out in terms of section 243 (1) (a)–(k) which includes among others; to promote awareness of and respect for human rights and freedoms at all levels of society,

to promote the protection, development and attainment of human rights and freedoms and to receive and consider complaints from the public and to take such action in regard to the complaints as it considers appropriate, to investigate the conduct of any authority or person where it is alleged that any of the human rights and freedoms set out in the Declaration of Rights has been violated by that authority or person. Furthermore, the ZHRC can recommend the prosecution of offenders, where human rights or freedoms have been violated.

2.2 The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Act [Chapter 10:30] in section 9, empowers the ZHRC to conduct investigations into allegations of human rights violations.

2.3 The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) is publishing this report in compliance with section 244(2) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe [Amendment (no.20) Act 2013] which states the following:

*“In addition to the report it is required to submit in terms of section 323 the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission may, through the appropriate Minister, submit reports to Parliament on particular matters relating to human rights and freedoms which, in the Commission’s opinion should be brought to the attention of Parliament”.*

### **3. Detailed Background of the Complaint**

3.1. Complainants are villagers from Dewure Resettlement Scheme in Bikita East Constituency of Masvingo, Wards 7 and 8 of Mazowe Central Constituency, ward 2 and 17 of Muzarabani North and South Constituencies and wards 7, 8,9,10,11,12,13 and 31 of Buhera North Constituency who alleged that they were being discriminated against during food and agriculture input distributions on the grounds that their political views were different from those of the officials who were distributing.

- 3.2. The 1st complainants are from Dewure Resettlement Scheme in Bikita East Constituency of Masvingo and alleged that since January 2016 they had been denied food aid which was received from the Department of Social Welfare and Plan International, an international development and humanitarian organization operating in Zimbabwe amongst other countries, on the basis that they are members of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T). They alleged that they were denied grain, wheat and cash amounting to US\$6 (Six United States of America Dollars). They also alleged that food aid which was intended for vulnerable members of the society such as older persons was also being distributed along party lines.
- 3.3. The 2<sup>nd</sup> complainants are from Buhera North Constituency who are members of the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC-T) alleged that the government started a food deficit mitigation or drought management programme in 2010 in the area since it is a dry area (Natural Region 5). The programme is intended to assist the elderly, disabled and chronically ill. However, the village distribution committees seem to be politicising the programme and excluding a number of opposition party members especially MDC-T members some of whom meet the selection criteria. They also alleged that on the 29<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 during a food distribution exercise, the MDC-T Ward 7 councillor was assaulted by ZANU-PF members after he had raised concern on partisan food distribution. The alleged assault was reported at Murambinda Police Station under CR105/04/16 and the matter was yet to appear before the courts.
- 3.4. The 3<sup>rd</sup> complainants are from Mazowe Central Constituency who alleged that during the 2015-2016 farming season they were denied agricultural inputs which were received from the Presidential Inputs Scheme on the basis that they are members of the Movement for Democratic Change-Tsvangirai (MDC-T). They also alleged that food aid which was being distributed to vulnerable members of the

society such as older persons was also being distributed along party lines.

- 3.5. The 4<sup>th</sup> complainants are members of the MDC-T party resident in wards 2 and 17 of Muzarabani North and South. Complainants alleged that the government started a food deficit mitigation programme in October 2015 to assist the elderly, disabled, the chronically ill and vulnerable households, which had only benefited ZANU PF members.
- 3.6. In both Mazowe Central Constituency and Bikita East Constituency it was said that older persons aged 70 and above who were no longer engaging in party politics were being denied aid on the basis of the political affiliation of their children or grandchildren.
- 3.7. The complainants also made a crosscutting allegation that distribution committees (which are made up of Village Committees who are responsible for compiling lists of vulnerable and deserving community members for onward transmission to the responsible Ministry and also oversee the distribution of food aid) of the respective wards and constituencies are controlled by ZANU PF party officials who dictate who should or should not be given food aid. In Bikita East Constituency it was particularly emphasized that the Village Chairmen and their secretaries who are also officials of the ruling party, ZANU PF, told the complainants in the vernacular Shona language; in the presence of all the other villagers that, "*Vechinja havafe vakawana chikafu*" meaning those who are affiliated to the MDC-T will never get food aid. They further alleged that the distribution committees ensured that they would never benefit by writing their names at the bottom of the list while some were cancelled from the list by Village Secretaries. Similarly in Buhera North the District Administrator who oversees the distribution of food at district level is also said to have uttered the statement that

community members who support “wrong political parties” would not benefit from the food aid.

- 3.8. Complainants from Bikita East Constituency also stated that they were being left out of the Productive Safety Net Programme whereby food insecure households with excess labour were supposed to be given the opportunity to participate in rehabilitation of community assets and in turn receive a 50kg bag of cereal or \$20 cash per month.
- 3.9. Complainants from Mazowe Central and Muzarabani further highlighted that in some instances names of MDC supporters were not removed from the lists of beneficiaries but unknown persons received agricultural inputs and food aid using their names without their knowledge. They said they found out about this when they followed up with the distribution committees and they were advised that records indicated that they had already benefited when in actual fact they had received nothing.
- 3.10. Complainants in Muzarabani indicated that there is corruption in the way food aid is handled at grassroots level. They said that whilst it was indicated that food aid was for the elderly and vulnerable, it was not uncommon to find that those who were benefiting were neither old nor vulnerable. Village heads were implicated as the most corrupt in this exercise and they were interfering with the process making sure that they benefited together with members of their own families at every distribution of food aid.
- 3.11. Complainants from Buhera and Mazowe alleged that they sought the intervention of the Zimbabwe Republic Police and the respective District Administrators. The District Administrator for Mazowe district is alleged to have initially made an undertaking to resolve the matter and to direct the Councillors of the respective wards namely, Councillors Mukahiwa and Demberere, to give them the inputs and food aid. However it was alleged that the District Administrator was

no longer giving them any audience. There was speculation that the District Administrator had been threatened by ZANU PF officials so that he recuses himself from the matter. Complainants from Buhera and Bikita who sought the intervention of their Member of Parliament alleged that they were told to join the ruling party if they wanted to get food.

- 3.12. The Complainants contented that denying them agricultural inputs and food aid amounted to violation of the right to food as enshrined in section 77(b) of the Constitution as well as discrimination on the basis of political affiliation. Section 56 (3) of the Constitution prohibits discrimination on the basis of political affiliation among other grounds hence these complaints. Complainants from Bikita, a drought stricken area, were concerned about starvation as they were being excluded from enjoyment of the free food being availed by the Department of Social Welfare under the Food Deficit Mitigation Programme which was approved by Cabinet in 2010. It was said that the programme was meant to provide to labour constrained households free food to older persons, persons with disabilities and the chronically ill who make up 20-25% of food insecure households in order to mitigate the impact of drought. They said these were supposed to receive a 50kg bag of grain and \$10 per month to cover other necessities such as milling and cooking oil. They said in their area people were given \$6 cash instead of the prescribed \$10. They said they wanted to find out why there was that discrepancy.

#### **4. Methodology**

In conducting the investigations, the ZHRC employed a number of methods which included desk research, interviews with key informants and interviews with complainants and the respondents. Further, on the 15<sup>th</sup> of June 2016 the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare gave oral evidence on the Food Deficit Mitigation Programme before the Parliamentary Thematic Committee on

Human Rights. The ZHRC, in investigating this matter took into consideration submissions made by the respondent.

#### **4.1. Desk Research**

4.1.1 The ZHRC conducted extensive research into the legal framework governing human rights locally, regionally and internationally. This was done in order to, identify and assess the human rights that were violated by the respondents through partisan distribution of food aid.

#### **4.2. Interviews**

4.2.1 Individual interviews were conducted with ward members, complainants and their families in all constituencies. This method helped the team to gather a wealth of detailed information, a deep insight and full details of the allegations. The individual interviews created an accepting environment that put participants at ease allowing them to thoughtfully answer questions in their own words without fear of reprisals. Complainants who are members of the opposition political party, MDC-T, were also interviewed in order to get first-hand information of the situation. An interview guide which extracts qualitative data was developed and used to facilitate interviews. The complainants and key informants were interviewed at their respective homes.

4.2.2 The crosscutting observations from the interviews revealed that people in positions of influence, chiefly the ruling party, ZANU PF, continue to manipulate the distribution of food and other forms of aid from different sources through partisan distribution.

4.2.3 It was gathered from the interviews that traditional leaders, councillors and community food distribution committees mostly recommended by ZANU PF leaders orchestrate the removal of opposition party members from the list of beneficiaries. Beneficiaries are expected to chant ruling party slogans and to produce party affiliation cards before receiving food aid.

#### 4.3. Participant observation

4.3.1. This was used to gain intimate familiarity with the community and their activities through intensive involvement with people in their environment. Using observations gave the team an understanding of the geographical location, land size and community relations in the area.

### 5. Food Deficit Mitigation Programme Background

The Food Deficit Mitigation Programme was approved by Cabinet in May 2010. The key objective of the Food Deficit Mitigation Programme is to mitigate the impact of drought among both labour constrained and non-labour constrained households whilst building community livelihoods. The Food Deficit Mitigation Programme has two components which are;

- a) Free food distribution to labour constrained households (elderly, disabled, chronically ill). Approximately 20%-25% of food insecure households are normally within this category. Under this component, vulnerable households receive a 50kg bag of grain and ideally \$10 per month to cover other necessities such as milling and cooking oil.
- b) The second component is the Productive Safety Net in which households that are food insecure but have excess labour can participate in rehabilitation of community assets (food for work) and they receive either a 50kg bag of cereal or \$20 cash.

## 6. Legal Framework

### 6.1. Constitutional Rights

The essence of the complaints before the ZHRC was that the human rights to food, equality and non-discrimination of persons from opposition political parties were violated by public officials tasked with food distribution and office bearers of the ruling party (ZANU PF).

The Constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No.20) Act 2013 is the supreme guideline within the national legislative framework in as far as this case is concerned. The following sections are instructive;

- **Section 56 (1)** which provides that: “**All persons are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law**” (emphasis added), is one of the most essential rights particularly in the context of the present complaint. Section 56 (3) further provides that “Every persons has the right not to be treated in an unfairly discriminatory manner .....” on such grounds as their political affiliation among other grounds. It is also one of the founding values and principles of Zimbabwe as provided for in Section 3 (1) (f) which states that Zimbabwe is founded on respect for the “*recognition of the equality of all human beings.*”
- Section 77(b) of the Constitution provides for the right to sufficient food.
- Section 67 (2) (a) which guarantees political choice
- Section 82 which guarantees the rights of the elderly

### 6.2. Domestic Legislation and policies

#### 6.2.1. Social Welfare Assistance Act (Chapter 17:06) and the National Policy on Drought Management.

The Act and the Policy provide for procedures to be taken by the government to ensure social protection services to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society. Programmes implemented by the government include the Food Deficit

Mitigation Drought Management Programme. Section 6 of the Social Welfare Assistance Act stipulates the criteria for selection as follows;

*6(1) The Director or any person acting on his behalf, may grant social welfare assistance to a destitute or indigent person where he is satisfied that such person—*

*(a) is over sixty years of age; or*

*(b) is handicapped physically or mentally; or*

*(c) suffers continuous ill-health; or*

*(d) is a dependant of a person who is destitute or indigent or incapable of looking after himself; or*

*(e) otherwise has need of social welfare assistance.*

6.2.2. Other applicable pieces of legislation and policies are as follows:

Older Persons Act [Chapter 17:11]

Disabled Persons Act [Chapter 17:01]

National Policy on Drought Management

Food Deficit Mitigation Programme (Drought Management)

The above-mentioned pieces of legislation and policies seek to enhance self-reliance through provision of social protection services including food aid under the Food Deficit Mitigation Programme to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups in society such as orphans, older persons, persons with disabilities and those who are chronically ill.

### **6.3. International Law**

Equality of all human beings is not only a fundamental right in itself, but constitutes the basis of fundamental rights in international law. The right to equality and non-discrimination is highlighted in the following human rights instruments to which Zimbabwe is a State party:

#### **6.3.1. Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

Article 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights provides that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to equal protection of the law. Furthermore it provides that all persons are entitled to equal protection against any discrimination in violation of the Declaration and against any incitement to such discrimination.

#### **6.3.2. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights**

Article 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights provides that all persons are equal before the law and are entitled without any discrimination to the equal protection of the law and prohibits any discrimination on grounds such as race, colour, political or other affiliation.

#### **6.3.3. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights**

Article 2 of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provides that States Parties to the Covenant should guarantee the enjoyment of the rights enunciated in the Covenant without discrimination of any kind on grounds such as race, colour, political or other opinion or other status. Furthermore Article 11(2) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights provides that States Parties to the Covenant should guarantee the fundamental right of everyone to be free from hunger.

#### **6.3.4. Principles of the Human Rights to Food**

The right to food guarantees freedom from hunger and access to safe and nutritious food. Several key human rights principles are fundamental to guaranteeing the right to food. These must be followed by the Respondent and have been elaborated as follows:

**Availability:** Food should be available in a quantity and quality sufficient to satisfy the dietary needs of individuals, free from adverse substances, and acceptable within a given culture.

**Accessibility:** Food should be physically and economically accessible in ways that do not interfere with the enjoyment of other human rights.

**Sustainability:** Food should be secure or accessible for both present and future generations.

**Non-Discrimination:** Any discrimination in access to food, as well as to means and entitlements for its procurement, on the grounds of race, colour, sex, language, age, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status constitutes a violation of the right to food.

## **7. Analysis of the complaints**

### **7.1. Framework for legal analysis**

7.1.1 In analyzing the factual evidence gathered, against the applicable legal framework, the ZHRC considered the rights of the villagers to equal treatment and non-discrimination in distribution of food aid as set out in **Section 56** and **Section 77** of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

7.1.2 Against the enjoyment of these rights, the ZHRC considered the legal framework that defines the limitations to the enjoyment of fundamental rights entrenched in the Declaration of Rights.

7.1.3 Further, in analyzing the evidence and making legal conclusions, the ZHRC employed the **standard of proof on a balance of probabilities**.

## **8. Analysis of violations of human rights**

The rights that the ZHRC found to have been *prima facie* (on the face of it) violated are discussed and analyzed in detail below.

8.1 Right to equality and non-discrimination (section 56 of the Constitution)

8.2 Right to sufficient food (section 77(b) of the Constitution)

8.3 Right of older persons to receive reasonable care and assistance from their families and the State (section 82 (a) and (c) of the Constitution)

## **9. Respondent's response**

9.1 In order to get Respondent's side of the story a meeting was held in Mazowe with the distribution committee of the Constituency, representatives from the Provincial Administrator's Office as well the Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare. It was clarified that, as part of its social services provision, the Department of Social Welfare also implements government programmes such as the Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy for disadvantaged and vulnerable members of society such as orphans, older persons, persons with disabilities and the chronically ill.

9.2. It was highlighted that agricultural inputs and food aid were distributed through distribution committees which comprised of the District Administrator, Ward Councillors, Headmen, representatives from various government ministries and departments such as Ministry of Primary and

Secondary Education, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Ministry of Youth, Economic Development and Empowerment, Grain Marketing Board (GMB), District Development Fund (DDF), Agritex and the Zimbabwe Republic Police which ensures that the distribution process is done peacefully.

9.3 It was also highlighted that lists of beneficiaries were compiled at village level with the participation of the villagers who nominated vulnerable and disadvantaged persons from amongst themselves under the guidance of the village head and, in some instances, the headman. Village Secretaries compile the lists. The headmen forward the lists to the Councillors who then submit them to the Department of Social Welfare. This list becomes the register for beneficiaries when the distribution process is carried out. It was highlighted that this register is maintained for the whole duration of the mitigation programme meaning that those whose names are on the list will continue benefitting each time distribution of aid is done unless additional names are added through the same process of open nomination of beneficiaries.

9.4. The selection criteria involved the vulnerability assessment of each household and a criteria was used to select the beneficiaries. These were done once a year and in exceptional circumstances, twice a year. It was also noted that in any programme that involved any sort of distribution of inputs or food, inclusion and exclusion errors are normally found.

9.5. It was said that there was a complaints mechanism in place. At every distribution point, there was a complaints desk that one could complain to if they had queries or issues pertaining to the process. The complaints desk was headed by the Councillor and if one was not satisfied with the outcome, the District Committee was available for further enquires.

9.6. On the day of distribution it was said that there was no address of any sort that should be done with the exception of vital and key information that would affect or concern the distribution.

9.7. It was highlighted that recipients of the inputs or food aid assistances had to meet the transport cost for whatever they would have received. The transport cost would be from GMB to the distribution point. Government has a policy in place to ensure that transport is not over charged.

9.8. It was highlighted that there was a major drought in the country and the current food aid was inadequate which had caused a lot of friction and discrimination in the distribution of either inputs or food.

9.9. It was said that there were no issues with the Act but there was a need for the policies to be adjusted from time to time in order to address the prevailing challenges at the given time.

## **10. Findings**

Based on the investigations conducted by the ZHRC and analysis of the Constitution and the applicable law, the ZHRC made the following findings;

10.1. There were undisputable and corroborated facts which were that the Villagers in the Mazowe Central Constituency, Dewure Resettlement Scheme of Bikita East, Muzarabani and Buhera North were facing discrimination in the distribution of food aid and agriculture inputs on the basis of their political affiliation to the opposition party, the MDC. There was exclusion from food aid and agriculture inputs lists on the grounds of political affiliation and non- attendance of ruling party meetings. For example, in Buhera North there was information that some officials had made statements that food distributed was only meant for Zanu PF members, or that non

Zanu-PF members should get their ration from 'their parties' or 'Morgan Tsvangirai'.

- 10.2. In all districts where investigations were conducted community leaders such as Headmen, Village Heads, Village Secretaries, District Administrators (and for Bikita East the Member of Parliament and Councillors, who are all members of the ruling party) were biased in favour of members of their own party and against members of the opposition whom they told openly that those affiliated to the MDC would never get the food aid.
- 10.3. For Bikita East and Mazowe Central Constituency youths from the ruling party, who are not even part of the distribution committee, were involved in the distribution of food aid and agriculture inputs. Furthermore, for the two districts older persons who are not politically active but have family members such as children and grandchildren who are affiliated to the opposition party were also being denied food aid.
- 10.4. In Bikita East persons affiliated to the opposition party were being excluded from food for work programmes.
- 10.5. From the interviews it was noted that complainants from Buhera North Constituency were not conversant with the criteria of food aid distribution as stipulated in the National Policy on Drought Management. The lack of knowledge exposes them to manipulation as there is no transparency and accountability as well as ignorance of grievance procedures.
- 10.6. Those in Mazowe district were aware of the grievance procedure or appeal process for those aggrieved with the conduct of the ward food distribution committee. It was said that complaints against a ward distribution committee go to district and then provincial committees chaired by the District

Administrator and the Provincial Administrator respectively. However, when they approached the District Administrator for recourse their matter did not receive attention. During a meeting with the District Administrator he requested for names of complainants so that he could follow up on the matter. The ZHRC did not furnish the names as there was further consultations to be done with the complainants on whether or not they were comfortable with having their names disclosed to the authorities given that they had indicated that they feared reprisal.

- 10.7. In Muzarabani North and South, wards 6 and 17 food distribution committees were found to be distributing food on partisan basis and politicians were interfering in the distribution process for their political gain.
- 10.8. In Bikita East Constituency only the original stand owners who were resettled in the area in 1984 are being considered for food aid excluding their children and grandchildren who were born after the initial stand allocations. Those who settled in the area after the period are being discriminated against.
- 10.9. For Bikita East Constituency it was also noted that besides being affected in their food production efforts by the El Nino induced drought, villagers in the Dewure Resettlement Area said their crops were also falling prey to wildlife such as elephants and buffaloes from the neighbouring Save Valley Wildlife Conservancy. Hyenas were also said to be destroying their livestock.

## **11. San Community in Tsholotsho District**

In June 2016 the ZHRC conducted a field visit to the San community in the District of Tsholotsho. In this field visit, whose main objective was to document and appreciate the human rights situation of the San community, the ZHRC noted some human rights concerns. On the right to food, it was noted that the San community was not prioritized

when food aid assessments were done, they noted that they were always at the bottom of the list of beneficiaries. They stated that they believed that there were some people who received food aid but were not as vulnerable as they are. They felt that this discrimination was unfair. The ZHRC urges the Respondent to include the concerns of the San community in its redress of the violations highlighted in this report.

## **12. Conclusion**

From the above observations, the ZHRC came to the conclusion that there was indeed discrimination and exclusion in the distribution of food aid in Bikita East Constituency, Mazowe Central Constituency, Muzarabani North and South and Buhera North. The ruling ZANU PF members were the major perpetrators in violations linked to distribution of food, agriculture inputs and other forms of aid. However, in some instances, for example in Buhera North Constituency, members were not aware of the food distribution criteria which had exposed them to manipulation by those responsible for food distribution. For those who were aware of the grievance procedure there had been no recourse even though they followed the proper channel.

## **13. Recommendations**

From the aforementioned report and findings, the ZHRC makes the following recommendations:

### **Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare**

- The Ministry strengthens its mechanisms for resolving complaints arising out of food aid or input distribution or any other programme that is assisting vulnerable households to ensure that there is public confidence in the system.

The Ministry through the Department of Social Welfare should sensitise the public on vulnerability assessment criteria for the existing Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies and the Drought Management Programme so that they are fully aware of the entire process.

- The Ministry through the relevant department ensures that all public officials should ensure that they act in their official capacity and desist from utilizing their

political affiliation and ensure impartiality in any food aid or distribution of inputs or any other programme that is meant to assist the most vulnerable in communities.

- The Ministry through the relevant departments should carry out investigations into cases of discrimination in distribution of food aid and disciplinary action should be taken against public officials who deviate from their core duties and undertake private politically affiliated activities on government time.
- The Ministry from time to time should ensure that policies are reviewed or flexibility is permitted to ensure that the relevant prevailing circumstances on the ground are taken into account.

### **Public Service Commission**

- The Public Service Commission should monitor the activities of its officials and other stakeholders it engages in food aid distribution to ensure that food aid distribution is conducted in a non-partisan manner and that they do not prioritise their political affiliation when executing their duties as public officials since such conduct amounts to maladministration.

### **Relevant Non-Governmental Organizations**

- The Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) involved in the food aid distribution should ensure that it is done in a non-partisan manner.

### **Zimbabwe Republic Police**

- The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) ensure that it is at all times non-partisan in investigating criminal violations of human rights, for instance assault perpetrated by ZANU-PF members on MDC-T Buhera North ward 7 councillor. Such matters should be investigated without fear or favour and timeously.

### **Ministry of Environment, Water and Climate**

- The Parks and Wildlife Authority should erect a durable fence around the Save Valley Wildlife Conservancy so as to curb destruction of crops and killing of livestock by wildlife.

## **Ministry of Local Government, Public Works and National Housing and Ministry of Rural Development and Preservation of National Cultural Heritage**

- The Ministries should ensure that all public officials in particular the Provincial Administrators, District Administrators and traditional leaders under the respective ministries are adequately capacitated to serve in a non-partisan manner and should not be threatened for executing their mandates in a manner that is consistent with the Constitution and relevant laws.

### **Political Parties**

- All political parties with members who are elected into public offices (e.g. Members of Parliament and Councillors) should ensure that these members accommodate everyone (despite political affiliation) in the discharge of their official duties, a human rights based approach should be used.