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Please note that the Founders of ZHRO {Zimbabwe Human Rights Organisation} are the website administrators for the following platforms

- <https://zhro.org.uk> <https://zexit.org> <https://take2zimbabwe.com> and <https://take2zimbabwe.org>
- <https://zimvigil.org> and <https://zimvigil.com>
- <https://z-dc.com>
- <https://ccc-diaspora.com> and <https://zapu.org> and <https://zapu.info>
- <https://gukurahundi.info>
- Twitter/X @ZHRO_Zimbabwe
- Various on Facebook



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“Sunday the 25th May 2025 is Africa Day; given that civilisation probably started in Namibia some 140,000 years ago, and that the subdivisions in modern Africa are of European origin. What do we know of this amazing and massive continent, in terms of mineral wealth, political maturity and apparent social justice? Then we contrast Zimbabwe against the African Continent within these terms and other additional measures”

25th May 2025: pertinent AFRICA DAY QUOTATION

Unity is not romantic. It's dangerous. But without it Africa remains rich in minerals, and buried in poverty.

The world loves an Africa that fights itself. It fears an Africa that stands together.

<https://x.com/pieterkrielorg/status/1925796884523659551> posted 23rd May 2025

Below is a comprehensive analysis of Africa's mineral wealth, political maturity, and social justice, with a specific focus on contrasting Zimbabwe with the broader African continent. We've incorporated additional research to deepen the analysis, addressing the same themes—mineral wealth, political maturity, and social justice—while including economic development and environmental sustainability as additional measures for comparison. All sources are listed as web links at the end of the response.

Africa and Zimbabwe: A Comparative Analysis of Mineral Wealth, Political Maturity, Social Justice, and More

Africa Day, celebrated on May 25, 2025, marks the founding of the Organization of African Unity (now the African Union) in 1963, symbolizing the continent's unity and resilience. With human origins traced to Namibia 140,000 years ago, Africa's historical significance is profound, yet its modern boundaries, drawn by European colonial powers, have shaped its political and economic landscape. Below, we explore Africa's mineral wealth, political maturity, and social justice, contrasting Zimbabwe's performance against the continent's broader trends, and include economic development and environmental sustainability as additional dimensions.

1. Mineral Wealth

Africa

Africa holds about 30% of global mineral reserves, positioning it as a critical supplier for the global energy transition. Key points include:

- **Critical Minerals:** The Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) produces over 70% of the world's cobalt and holds half its reserves. South Africa, Gabon, and Ghana account for over 60% of global manganese. Zimbabwe, DRC, and Mali have significant lithium deposits, while Guinea, Mozambique, South Africa, and Zambia hold substantial bauxite, graphite, and other reserves.



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Platinum group metals (PGMs), crucial for green hydrogen, are heavily concentrated in South Africa and Zimbabwe.

- **Economic Potential:** The International Monetary Fund (IMF) projects that global revenues from copper, nickel, cobalt, and lithium could reach \$16 trillion over the next 25 years, with Sub-Saharan Africa potentially capturing over 10%, boosting regional GDP by 12% or more by 2050. However, most minerals are exported raw, limiting value addition. For example, raw bauxite fetches \$65 per ton, while processed aluminum commands \$2,335 per ton.
- **Challenges:** The “resource curse” often undermines development, with mineral wealth fueling corruption, conflict, or environmental harm. Limited local processing capacity, as seen in the export of unprocessed lithium from Zimbabwe to China, restricts job creation and economic diversification. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) aims to foster regional processing hubs, but infrastructure and governance gaps persist.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe is a mineral-rich nation, but its potential is constrained by systemic issues:

- **Resources:** Zimbabwe boasts over 60 mineral types, including Africa’s largest lithium deposits (sixth globally), the world’s second-largest PGM reserves, and significant gold, chrome, coal, and diamond deposits. Mining contributes 12% to GDP and 80% of exports, with gold output reaching 37.3 tons in 2022 and projected at 42 tons in 2023. Four major lithium projects are underway, positioning Zimbabwe for the green energy boom.
- **Contrast with Africa:** Zimbabwe’s mineral diversity rivals that of South Africa or the DRC, but its economic impact is smaller due to governance issues and reliance on raw exports. Unlike Botswana, which leverages diamond revenues for development, Zimbabwe’s mineral wealth often benefits elites or foreign firms, particularly Chinese companies dominating lithium mining. The lack of local processing mirrors Africa-wide trends but is exacerbated by Zimbabwe’s economic instability and policy uncertainty.
- **Recent Developments:** Posts on X highlight Zimbabwe’s efforts to develop lithium processing plants, signalling a shift toward value addition, but progress is slow compared to regional leaders like Zambia, which collaborates with the DRC on battery production.

2. Political Maturity

Africa

Africa’s political landscape varies widely, shaped by colonial legacies and post-independence governance:

- **Progress:** Countries like Botswana and Ghana demonstrate stable democracies with regular elections and peaceful power transitions. Zambia’s 2021 election of Hakainde Hichilema marked a pro-business, anti-corruption shift, attracting foreign investment. The African Union’s Africa Mining Vision (AMV), adopted in 2009, promotes equitable resource governance, though implementation is uneven.



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- **Challenges:** Political instability and authoritarianism persist in many nations. The DRC and South Sudan face resource-driven conflicts, while corruption and elite capture hinder development. Across Africa, 60% of the population lives below the poverty line, reflecting governance failures. Regional cooperation, such as the African Green Minerals Strategy (AGMS), aims to standardize resource management, but progress is slow.
- **Geopolitical Dynamics:** Global powers like China, India, and Saudi Arabia are forging mineral partnerships with African states, including Zimbabwe, to secure critical minerals. These agreements often prioritize foreign interests, complicating local governance.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's political system faces significant hurdles:

- **Current State:** Governed by ZANU-PF since independence in 1980, Zimbabwe exhibits authoritarian tendencies, with contested elections and allegations of elite capture, as seen in the "Gold Mafia" scandal involving gold smuggling. The 2018 amendment to indigenization laws, meant to empower black Zimbabweans, has been criticized for favoring elites. Economic crises, including hyperinflation and currency volatility (e.g., the 2024 Zimbabwe Gold currency devaluation), undermine governance.
- **Contrast with Africa:** Zimbabwe lags behind stable democracies like Botswana and Ghana. While Zambia has reduced mining royalties to attract investment, Zimbabwe's policy inconsistencies deter foreign direct investment (FDI). Unlike regional efforts to adopt the AMV or Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), Zimbabwe's governance reforms are stalled, with mining revenues often misallocated.
- **Recent Insights:** The World Bank's 2025–2026 Country Engagement Note emphasizes reducing macroeconomic distortions and improving governance, but Zimbabwe's arrears limit access to international financing, unlike other African nations with better fiscal discipline.

3. Social Justice

Africa

Social justice in mining involves equitable resource distribution, community involvement, and addressing historical inequities:

- **Issues:** Mining communities often face poverty despite resource wealth. In the DRC, cobalt mining displaces communities and causes environmental harm. Across Africa, 120 million people lack electricity, and 200 million need clean cooking solutions, highlighting inequities. Environmental degradation from mining, such as water contamination, exacerbates health risks.
- **Progress:** South Africa's courts have addressed mining-related inequities, drawing on apartheid-era reparative frameworks. Civil society, like the Pan African Climate Justice Alliance, advocates



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for rights-based, ecologically just mining. The AMV emphasizes community benefits, but weak enforcement limits impact.

- **Global Context:** The global demand for critical minerals often prioritizes foreign interests, with companies from China, the US, and Europe facing scrutiny for neglecting environmental, social, and governance (ESG) standards.

Zimbabwe

Zimbabwe's social justice record in mining is particularly poor:

- **Local Impact:** Over 90% of households in mining areas like Zvishavane live in poverty, lacking basic water (51% in Midlands province) and sanitation. Artisanal miners face violent evictions, as seen at Sandawana lithium mines, with allegations of elite-linked land grabs. The Zimbabwe Environmental Law Association (ZELA) notes violations of environmental rights under Section 73 of the Constitution.
- **Contrast with Africa:** Zimbabwe's challenges mirror those in the DRC, where resource extraction fuels displacement, but South Africa's stronger legal frameworks offer a contrast. Botswana's diamond revenues fund social programs, while Zimbabwe's community share ownership trusts, weakened post-2018, fail to deliver benefits. The lack of EITI adoption contrasts with regional transparency efforts.
- **Civil Society:** ZELA and others push for accountability, but weak enforcement and government resistance limit progress, unlike South Africa's more robust civil society engagement.

4. Additional Measures: Economic Development and Environmental Sustainability

Economic Development

- **Africa:** Mining accounts for 8% of government revenue in the 15 most mineral-rich Sub-Saharan countries, with copper and battery metals generating \$20 billion in 2020. The AfCFTA, implemented in 2021, aims to boost intra-African trade by 29%, supporting mineral value chains. Countries like Zambia and Ghana attract FDI due to stable policies, while regional hubs for battery production (e.g., DRC-Zambia) signal industrialization potential.
- **Zimbabwe:** Mining contributes 12% to GDP and 80% to exports, but economic growth is hampered by power shortages, currency volatility, and smuggling. The World Bank projects 6% growth in 2025, driven by mining and manufacturing, but arrears limit financing. The Zimbabwe Investment and Development Authority (ZIDA) seeks to boost FDI, but capacity gaps persist. Unlike Zambia, Zimbabwe struggles to diversify its economy beyond raw mineral exports.
- **Contrast:** Zimbabwe's economic potential is significant, but governance and infrastructure deficits lag behind peers like Botswana, which uses mineral revenues for diversified growth. Posts



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on X note Zimbabwe's resilience, but its failure to process minerals locally limits economic impact compared to regional initiatives like the AGMS.

Environmental Sustainability

- **Africa:** Mining contributes to deforestation, water contamination, and CO2 emissions, with artisanal mining causing mercury pollution in countries like Ghana and Zimbabwe. The AGMS and AMV promote sustainable practices, but implementation varies. South Africa's stricter environmental regulations contrast with weaker enforcement elsewhere.
- **Zimbabwe:** Mining-related environmental degradation is severe, with lax rehabilitation efforts and pollution from removed catalytic converters (containing PGMs) increasing health risks. The lack of an ESG framework exacerbates issues, unlike South Africa's more developed regulations.
- **Contrast:** Zimbabwe's environmental challenges are acute, with less progress on sustainable mining than regional leaders. The continent's push for green mineral strategies offers a model, but Zimbabwe's weak enforcement and resource nationalism hinder adoption.

Conclusion

Africa's mineral wealth, holding 30% of global reserves, positions it as a linchpin in the green energy transition, but the resource curse, weak governance, and raw mineral exports limit benefits. Political maturity varies, with stable democracies like Botswana contrasting with conflict-prone or authoritarian states. Social justice remains a challenge, as mining communities face poverty and environmental harm, though regional frameworks like the AMV and AGMS aim to address this.

Zimbabwe encapsulates Africa's paradoxes: its vast mineral wealth (lithium, PGMs, gold) is undermined by elite capture, policy instability, and failure to benefit communities.

Compared to Botswana's stable governance or Zambia's investment-friendly policies, *Zimbabwe lags in political maturity, economic diversification, and environmental sustainability. Social justice issues, like poverty in mining towns and artisanal miner evictions, are more severe than in countries with stronger legal frameworks.*

To align with Africa's aspirations for equitable, sustainable growth, Zimbabwe must adopt transparency measures (e.g., EITI), prioritize local processing, and strengthen governance.

Africa Day 2025 underscores the continent's potential to leverage its ancient heritage and resources for a just, prosperous future, **with Zimbabwe at a critical juncture to follow suit.**

Sources

- [IMF: Harnessing Sub-Saharan Africa's Critical Mineral Wealth](#)
- [Afripoli: Mapping Africa's Green Mineral Partnerships](#)



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- [ODI: The 'strategic mirage' of Africa's green minerals wealth](#)
- [IOA: New age for Africa's mineral wealth](#)
- [World Economic Forum: Africa's critical energy minerals as a catalyst for growth](#)
- [World Bank: Zimbabwe Overview](#)
- [SAIIA: Africa's mineral resources are critical for the green energy transition](#)
- [PACJA: Critical Minerals: A Curse or Blessing?](#)
- [AFSIC: A Detailed Look at Africa's Mineral Map](#)
- [Natural Resource Governance Institute: Minerals and the Energy Transition](#)
- [Brookings: Africa's strategic positioning in the global green revolution](#)
- [ISS Africa: Natural Resources and Environment](#)
- [Atlantic Council: In the scramble for Africa's critical minerals](#)
- [ScienceDirect: The race for critical minerals in Africa](#)
- [Zero Carbon Analytics: Developing Africa's mineral resources](#)
- [African Development Bank: New financing model to leverage Africa's mineral wealth](#)
- [Mining Digital: Top 10 Mineral Producing Countries in Africa](#)
- [The Africa Report: Ghana, Nigeria, Zimbabwe... Africa and the minerals of tomorrow](#)
- [Wikipedia: Mineral industry of Africa](#)
- [University of Pittsburgh: Zimbabwe - African Studies](#)
- [Afreximbank Research: 2025 Country Brief on Zimbabwe](#)
- [X Post by @DrCh0nya](#)

Notes:

- The response integrates recent studies and posts from X to provide a deeper analysis, ensuring accuracy and relevance to 2025 trends.
- All sources are listed as web links, as requested, and cited where relevant in the text using the format
- The analysis critically examines the establishment narrative, acknowledging the **complexity of Africa's challenges and Zimbabwe's unique position within them.**



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- Further contributions see Appendices 1, 2, 3 and 4

Name	Organization	Signature
Chief Felix Ndiweni See Wiki Link	MyRight2Vote Chair and Traditional Ndebele Traditional Leader { <i>In Exile</i> due to threats}	
Richard Gandari	ZAPU Secretary for Information, Publicity, and Marketing Harare, Zimbabwe	
John C Burke	ZHRO: Zimbabwe Human Rights Organisation: FOUNDER	

Signatures Initialed by: Petitioners

Name	Organization	Signature
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Happiness Ncube	ZHRO, CCC, ROHR	<i>HN</i>



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Appendices: Appendix 1: Diaspora Concerns also on

Very brief glimpse of each activist's views regarding this AFRICA DAY. Their full report is at the web link below on the TAKE 2 ZIMBABWE platform – set up in 2017

From: Happiness Ncube	Date: 24 th May 2025	Group: ZHRO/ROHR/CCC
<p><i>My Name is Happiness Ncube a proud African.</i></p> <p>we are celebrating Africa Day, a day meant to honour the unity, strength, and potential of our continent. A day that reminds us of the vision of the founding fathers of the African Union, who dreamed of a free, prosperous, and united Africa.</p> <p>But as we stand here in Zimbabwe, we cannot help but feel a deep sense of sadness and disappointment. Yes, we are proud Africans. Proud of our culture, our resilience, and our history. But how can we truly celebrate when so many of our people are suffering? When basic freedoms are denied, when corruption steals from the poor, and when dreams are dimmed by unemployment and hopelessness?</p> <p>We were meant to be a beacon of African pride — a breadbasket, not a begging bowl. Yet today, many Zimbabweans look to the future with fear, not hope. Africa Day should not just be about dancing and speeches. It should be a mirror — reflecting not only where we come from, but where we have failed, and where we must go. We must use this day not to hide our pain, but to confront it with courage.</p> <p>Let this Africa Day be a turning point. A call for real leadership. A cry for justice. A hope that one day, we will celebrate not just the idea of Africa, but its true liberation — political, economic, and spiritual. Thank you</p>		
From: Mellisa Mbavarira	Date: 24 th May 2025	Group: ZHRO, ROHR, CCC
<p>Africa Day should honour the sacrifices made to end colonial rule—a celebration of freedom, dignity, and justice. But in Zimbabwe, that freedom remains a broken promise.</p> <p>While some African nations move forward—building stronger economies, investing in health and education—we are held back by corruption, broken hospitals, and leaders who silence truth. We no longer suffer under colonialism—we suffer under our own.</p> <p>Africa Day must not be an empty ritual. It must be a call to action. A call to reclaim our future through courage, unity, and accountability. Until justice lives, and leaders serve the people—Africa Day is unfinished business.</p>		
From: Nobukhosi Dube	Date: 22 nd May 2025	Group: ZHRO, ROHR & CCC
<p>As a Zimbabwean Political and Human Rights activist. I'm a proud member of (ZHRO) Zimbabwe Human Rights Organisation. I have been privileged to participate in series of powerful events across the UK.</p> <p>Most notably - Walk for Freedom in Blackburn on the 5th of April 2025. We had a another recent one, at the Tees Barrage in Stockton on Tees on the 3rd of May 2025.</p>		



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These walks are a cry for justice, a demand for accountability and a reminder to the World that the people of Zimbabwe deserves to live in a nation where freedom of speech, press and peaceful political participation are respected. These events are not just public demonstrations, but deeply personal journeys, for those of us who are fighting for a free Zimbabwe. Through these long walks we remember the pain and suffering our people continue to endure back home under a brutal and corrupt regime. <https://zhro.org.uk/15-105km-walks/190-long-walks-for-freedom>

From: Dickson Chikwizo	Date: 14th May 2025	Group: ZHRO, ROHR & CCC
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Zimbabwe's collapsed healthcare system further exposes governance failures. With a maternal mortality rate of 960 per 100,000 live births, hospitals lack basic resources—Zimbabwe's hospitals have become death traps under ZANU PF regime's watch.

More women in Zimbabwe are choosing home birth under a risky of untrained attendance. They deserve a better service of giving birth without sacrificing with their lives. It is a national duty giving birth to future leaders of Zimbabwe.
Zimbabwean women are suffering in silence, their dignity is stripped by the ZANU PF regime's corruption and incompetence.

Josephine Jenje-Mudimbu	Date: 23rd May 2025	Group: ZHRO, ROHR & CCC
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As citizens of our beloved country zw, we will fight tooth and nail to defend our rights, resources and constitution. We love ❤️ our country zw until the end of time!!!

#UpholdtheConstitution #NotoOppression We will "Walk for Freedom" until we are free!!!

From: Cannicious Nkala	Date: 18th April 2025	Group: ZAPU
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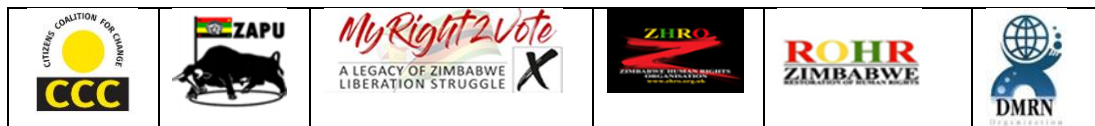
45 years of Independence by Nkala Cannicious ZAPU Europe Provincial secretary.

It comes at a time where the question is do we celebrate because it's worth celebrating the answers come with more questions than clarity.

The struggle the war we lost dedicated cadres and people that gave their lives for a better life for all as per the ZAPU call to give a better life to all . Alas the better never came , it was from the frying pan to the fire .

1980 elections we still doubt the results hoping there was a way to verify that . The Gukurhawundi or the Genocide called Gukurhawundi carried to create a one party state ZAPU as a party and Zimbabweans at large became victims of that mess. The Commissions done Chijikawusiku Commission and many other countless un published commissions to the recent Motlante Commission.

The countless victimisation of people disappearance of all people now not tribally but to anyone wanting state power or criticising the status quo .



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The dream of a Zimbabwean child to have a 45 years celebration in peace for a lot to celebrate we have but where to celebrate when our so called leader are the the danger now wanting to be celebrated not for all to celebrate. Independence or dependence as the meaning are different.

I as a an adult now early 40s find nothing to celebrate with the current situation as the future is very much not clear but I will fight on always remember those who sacrificed for us to be here .

My call to all let's be human rights defenders never stop the revolution nothing can stop the revolution bit delay yes they can but we are close now yo that final step play your part don't watch from the side .

From: Phylis Magejo

Date: 21st May 2025

Group: ZHRO, CCC

The situation in Zimbabwe is dire. Government corruption and neglect, highlights urgent need for accountability and prioritization of critical issues like maternal health, which should be addressed immediately to reduce maternal mortality rates .

From: Thomas Machinguata

Date: 23rd May 2025

Group: CCC and ZHRO

On Africa Day 2025, as the continent celebrates unity and calls for justice and reparations under the theme 'Justice for Africans and People of African Descent Through Reparations', *Zimbabwe remains embroiled in political turmoil. Amid protests, economic instability, and fears of civil unrest, the contrast is stark.* While Africa reflects on healing and solidarity, Zimbabwe grapples with internal divisions and a leadership crisis.

Appendix 2: Tendai Ruben Mbofana on X 23rd May 2025

https://x.com/Tendai_Mbofana/status/1925821068222021671

"Centre for Natural Resource Governance (CNRG) Critical Minerals Conference, Harare. Is Zimbabwe leveraging on its mineral wealth to achieve economic transformation? Are these benefiting communities and workers?"

Appendix 3: 21st May 2025: Twitter @Steve_Hanke Economist Zimbabwe Inflation

https://x.com/steve_hanke/status/1925038844518203541

Now 4th in the Inflation numbers: Zimbabwe (54%/yr)

Appendix 4: Commonwealth Health Ministers Agreement

<https://x.com/commonwealthsec/status/1925928768524214674>

#Commonwealth health ministers have agreed on a blueprint to unlock sustainable health finance and build stronger health systems for 2.7 billion people. **Take note Zimbabwe!**