

Zimbabwe new Constitution to be ready by July? But process seen as flawed

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Douglas Mwonzora, co-chairperson of the parliamentary select committee responsible for drafting the new Zimbabwe constitution announced on the 5th January that the process was on course and would be completed by July, ahead of a referendum.

The new constitution is being drawn up as part of the Global Political Agreement between Robert Mugabe and Morgan Tsvangirai signed in September 2008.

The process had been running behind schedule due to a lack of funding, no secretariat and disagreements on the methodology used. "All the reasons for the delays have been addressed," said Douglas Mwonzora "We will ensure that data capturing teams work nights and we should have the draft ready for a referendum by July."

On January 12th a consultation process lasting 65 days is due to begin in each of the country's 10 provinces.

Many in civil society continue to oppose the government led constitutional making process. Last year the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, the Zimbabwe Students' Union and the National Constitutional Assembly resolved to reject the process, instead reaffirming their calls for an independent, democratic and people driven constitutional process to be initiated.