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Zimbabwe Gets Human Rights Body

By Staff Reporter

Zimbabwe will amend its constitution to make provision for a human rights commission, Harare's Herald newspaper has reported.

Its website quoted secretary for justice, legal and parliamentary affairs David Mangota as saying consultations to this end were underway.

"The idea is to create an organ which will, in the main, satisfy in a broad sense all parties whose duty it is to protect and promote the rights of the country's people whatever their station in life may be."

The envisaged commission would enhance, in a large way, the work of the ombudsman, whose office investigated violations of people's rights.

"Like the office of the ombudsman, which is established in terms of the constitution, this will be an independent institution, which is not subject to the control or direction of Government," said Mangota.

In the eyes of the international community, Zimbabwe has an appalling human rights record.

Government actions that evoked wide condemnation included the demolition of informal settlements around Harare which left thousands of people homeless and destitute.

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