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Perrance Shiri

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Perrance Shiri is a Zimbabwean politician and a retired four-star general in the [Air Force of Zimbabwe](#). He is the current Minister of Lands Agriculture and Rural Resettlement. Shiri retired from the Air Force of Zimbabwe where he was the Commander to pursue a career in politics. He was promoted to the rank of Air Chief Marshall on retirement.

Minister

Perrance Shiri

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Born

Bigboy Samson Chikerema
(1955-01-11) January 11, 1955 (age 64)

Occupation

- Minister

Background

He was born **Bigboy Samson Chikerema** on 11 January 1955.^[1] Perrance Shiri was his liberation war

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name. In October 2013, Shiri's son, Titus Takudzwa Chikerema, died aged 21 after a short illness.^[2]

Military Career

In 1986, Shiri was granted a place at the Royal College of Defence Studies in London. In 1992, Shiri was appointed as the commander of the Air Force of Zimbabwe, taking over from Air Chief Marshal [Josiah Tungamirai](#).

Assassination Attempt

Shiri was shot in the arm on 13 December 2008 and was admitted at an undisclosed hospital in [Harare](#). He was reportedly ambushed on the way to his farm, which was seized from a white farmer in 2000. Then Home Affairs Minister, [Kembo Mohadi](#), claimed the attack on Shiri had been an attempt to destabilise the country.^[3]

Involvement in

2008 Election

In the days before the Presidential Election, 200] Shiri along with other Zimbabwean defences Chiefs, allegedly held a press conference where they stated that defence and security forces had been deployed across the country to maintain order. In a remark against the [Movement for Democratic Change - Tsvangirai](#) the defence chiefs were reported to have stated that it would be a criminal act for anyone to declare himself the winner of the election. They reportedly mentioned that such a statement must only be made by the [Zimbabwe Electoral Commission](#).^[4]

Diamond Mines

In 2008 some Zimbabwean lawyers and opposition politicians from [Mutare](#) claimed that Shiri was the prime mover behind the military assaults on illegal diggers in the diamond mines in the east of Zimbabwe.^[5]

Food Shortages

In 2002, in response to the subsequent food shortage, it was reported that [Robert Mugabe](#) dispatched Shiri to South Africa to purchase maize. This undertaking was reportedly backed by a credit note for the equivalent of Pound sterling £ 17 million from the Libyan leader, Muammar al-Gaddafi Colonel Gaddafi.

Farm Invasions

In the late 1990s and early 2000s Shiri was reported to have organized farm invasions by war veterans.^[6]

Gukurahundi

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Shiri was the first commander of the [5th Brigade](#), a special unit in the army of Zimbabwe known to have caused deaths mostly in [Matabeleland](#) and [Midlands Province](#) that have come to be known as [Gukurahundi](#). From 1983 to 1984, the Zimbabwean Fifth Brigade, under Shiri's command, was reported to be responsible thousands of civilians were killed and thousands tortured.

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References

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