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## Walter Mzembi

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**Walter Mzembi** is a Zimbabwean politician and a former member of the ruling [Zanu-PF](#) party. He is also the former Minister of Foreign Affairs. He previously had served as the Minister of Tourism. He replaced [Simbarashe Mumbengegwi](#) as the Minister of Foreign Affairs effective, 9 October 2017, following a cabinet reshuffle which was speculated to be a stern measure to rid Zanu-PF of factional fights. He was also a member of parliament for Masvingo South Constituency. Mzembi played a role in lobbying and organizing the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) conference, co-hosted by [Zimbabwe](#) and Zambia in August 2013. He was expelled from the party in November 2017, following an operation code-named [Operation Restore Legacy](#) by the military. In January 2018 he was investigated and arrested by Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) for abuse of office and corruption whilst he was minister.

Walter Mzembi  
Eng.

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Walter Mzembi

Born

(1964-03-16) March 16, 1964 (age 54)

Residence

[Masvingo](#)

Occupation

[Zimbabwe](#)

- Cabinet Minister
- Member of Parliament
- Minister of Foreign Affairs

Years active

2000-present

Known for

Being a Cabinet Minister

Notable work

Organised the UNWTO Conference in 2014

Home town

[Masvingo](#)

Political party

[

Spouse(s)

Barbara M Perez Hernandez

Children

6

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He was expelled from parliament in terms of Section 129 (1) (k) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe after ZANU-PF informed the National Assembly that they he was no longer a member of the party. <sup>[1]</sup>

## Background

Walter Mzembi was born on 16 March 1964 in [Masvingo Province](#) of [Zimbabwe](#). He is married to Barbara M Perez Hernandez, who comes from San Jose, Cuba. The couple has 6 children together. <sup>[2]</sup>

## Educational Background

He did his Primary and Secondary Education in Masvingo. In 1987 he obtained a Technologist Diploma in Mechanical Engineering in Lusaka, Zambia.

## Career

He showed an interest in Youth and Social Affairs in the [Zanu-PF](#) party. In 2004, Mzembi was elected the first runner-up winner of the Zimbabwe Communicator of the Year Award of the British American Tobacco and Zimbabwe Institute of Public Relations prestigious awards. In the past the prestigious awards had been won by people like [Robert Mugabe](#), the late Vice Presidents [Joshua Nkomo](#) and [Simon Muzenda](#), and former Prime Minister [Morgan Tsvangirai](#), among others. Mzembi won this award on the basis of his advocacy work in Agribusiness. He was elected in Parliament in 2004 where he held the position of Portfolio Committee Chairperson for Agriculture, Lands and Resettlement. He was subsequently appointed Head of the Zimbabwe Delegation to the ACP/ EO Joint Parliamentary Assembly in Europe. <sup>[3]</sup>

## Positions Held

He has held various positions in both the Public and Private Sectors in Zimbabwe. He was elected to the Provincial Youth Executive of the ruling party Zanu -PF. Some of these include Inspector of Mines in Zimbabwe's Ministry of Mines, Sales Engineer, General Manager, Marketing Director and Chief Executive Officer in various private companies. In 2007 he was appointed Deputy Minister of Water Resources and Management. In February 2009, he was appointed to the position of Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry in the Inclusive Government. When the Zanu-PF, [Movement for Democratic Change](#) led by Tsvangirai(MDC-T) and Movement for Democratic Change led by [Arthur Mutambara](#) (MDC-M) formed Government of National Unity (GNU). He is also the Member of House of Assembly for Masvingo South. In a cabinet reshuffle in October 2017, Mzembi was appointed as the Minister of Foreign Affairs.

## Accomplishments

Walter Mzembi was reported to have successfully lobbied for Zimbabwe to co-host the UNWTO together with Zambia in August 2013. This all worked to the advantage of Zimbabwe as it was put in a good light after years of negative media coverage. In turn, there was also a steady influx of tourists visiting Zimbabwe as it was portrayed as safe destination. <sup>[4]</sup> After the successful hosting of the UNWTO in

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[Victoria Falls](#) Mzembi was singled out by President Mugabe as his best minister and the leader bragged about how much Mzembi had put Zimbabwe on the international map.

## Arrest

In January 2018, Mzembi was arrested on allegations of corruption and criminal abuse of office based on events which occurred when he was still the Minister of Tourism and Hospitality Industry. [Former Ministers Walter Mzembi Arrested](#) A few weeks later Mzembi was being investigated by the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption Commission (ZACC) for allegedly abusing funds donated by Mbada Diamonds when Zimbabwe co-hosted the United Nations World Tourism Organisation (UNWTO) with Zambia in 2013. Mzembi was being investigated for abusing at least US\$1.5 million from the US\$5 million IDBZ infrastructure facility in 2013. Mzembi allegedly bought several cars with part of the money he received. [Walter Mzembi Faces Arrest, Again, For Abusing Millions From IDBZ, Mbada Diamonds](#)

## About Pindula

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## References

1. ? [\[1\]](#), *Zanu-PF Expels 11 More MPs From Parliament*, Published: 19 January 2018, Retrieved: 19 January 2018
2. ? [Hola Its Senora-Barbara Mzembi](#)
3. ? [Walter Mzembi - Tourism Minister](#)
4. ? Herbert Mpofu, [Tangible benefits accrued from UNWTO — Mzembi](#)