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ABOUT ZESN

The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) is a network of 30 non-governmental organizations formed to co-ordinate activities amongst these organization focusing on elections and electoral support in Zimbabwe. The primary objective of the Network is to promote and strengthen democratic processes in the country, with special attention being focused on creating an environment conducive for the conduct of free and fair elections. It also seeks to ensure that the electoral process is open, transparent, credible and inclusive and conducted according to internationally acceptable standards, as reflected in the SADC Electoral Principles and Guidelines governing democratic elections.

ZESN's Vision is a Zimbabwe where a democratic electoral environment and processes are upheld

This is supported and substantiated by its Mission Statement that declares:

The Mission of ZESN is to promote democratic elections in Zimbabwe

The objectives of ZESN are:

- To enhance citizen participation in issues of governance and democracy.
- To promote democratic free and fair electoral processes through objectively and impartially monitoring and observing elections.
- To promote the creation of legal framework and election culture for free and fair elections.
- To effectively gather, disseminate and communicate objective information about elections and other democratic processes.

Values

In pursuing its vision, mission and objectives, ZESN is guided by the following values:

- Democratic, Free and Fair Elections
- Secrecy of the ballot
- Democracy
- Mutual respect and tolerance
- Respect for human rights
- Transparency
- Accountability
- Peace
- Informed citizen participation
- Non-discrimination
- Gender equality
- Gender sensitivity
- Non-partisanship
- Honesty
- Independence
- People oriented
- Credibility
- Impartiality

Activities

In order to achieve the above objectives, members of the Network are grouped into taskforces, which implement activities all over the country with secretariat coordinating the work.

ZESN focuses on the following activities;

- Election Monitoring and Observation
- Public Outreach
- Research and Advocacy
- Media and Information
- Networking and Capacity Building

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL STATEMENT



Mr Tinoziva Bere

INTRODUCTION

When I took office in October 2008, I stated that I had *“no illusions about the demands”* of chairing ZESN. I then made a promise *“to stand by ZESN, its members, its board, its staff, its volunteers and all its friends”* and committed myself *“to uphold the priceless founding values of ZESN”*. I hoped then to *“make a difference in the attainment of goals that inspired the founders of ZESN.”* As I present my fourth Annual Message, it is my hope that we have succeeded in achieving some of those initial aspirations.

Operating environment

The operating environment in 2011 was as in past years, challenging. Contestation for political space and political legitimacy by the GNU (Government of National Unity) parties continued to assume greater priority and prominence over an end to political violence, nation building and prior agreed reforms. The environment thus remained volatile, polarized and not conducive for the holding of free and fair elections. As the National Director's report and programming reports that follow will indicate, ZESN overcame

these challenges and delivered on all its key goals. ZESN continued to advocate locally, regionally and internationally that critical reforms as agreed at the time of signing of the GPA (Global Political Agreement) be implemented. SADC summit level intervention and mediation efforts by the facilitation team continued but did little to quell tensions in the troubled GNU.

The Zimbabwe Human Rights Bill and the Electoral Amendment Bill were gazetted in 2011. While commendable, these two became stalled like a lot of other processes in the troubled lifespan of this GNU. Public hearings for the Bills were chaotic and marred by disturbances which were widely reported as having been instigated by political party youths before the Bills were allowed to lapse in Parliament. Amendments to the Public Order Security Act (POSA) faced resistance in the Upper House and are now seemingly beached. The GNU's failure to successfully see through the completion and adoption of agreed reforms shows their lack of political will, their mutual mistrust, and the self-preservationist tendencies among the political parties.

The Arab spring effects were felt in Zimbabwe too. In the ensuing paranoia, meetings or gatherings were suspended and CSOs targeted, notably Munyaradzi Gwisai and others. Other human rights activists and political players were also constantly targeted for arrest and harassment. Thankfully ZESN was able to adapt and still pursue its core goals even in the midst of adversity. ZESN has consistently called for adequate reforms to both laws and state institutions before the next election is held.

ZESN also continued to observe and monitor the painfully slow COPAC process of drafting a new Constitution for Zimbabwe. All the deadlines that were set have been missed with the only constant being the demands and or threats to hold elections with or without a new Constitution and without prior agreed reforms to the laws and institutions. ZESN continues to warn that it would be *“suicidal”* and grossly irresponsible to ignore institutional, legal and constitutional reforms before elections are next held.

Corporate Governance & Policy Review: “Making ZESN stronger”.

ZESN completed critical internal capacity renewal which commenced with the capacity assessment in 2009. The Finance and Administration office was restructured with new accounting and reporting policies adopted to ensure clarity of reports and expected accountability. The audit report reveals satisfaction with these measures. We are conscious of the need to continually improve and ensure effective oversight by the board in this regard. At the end of 2010 the board and management retreated to review progress in implementation of the capacity assessment recommendations. The retreat reviewed ZESN corporate policies. This exercise facilitated by an independent consultant revealed

the following key issues on corporate governance, policies, roles and functions; requiring urgent attention:

- Review the ZESN constitution in order to remove contradictions and harmonise ZESN with its ancillary or subsidiary entities such as the trust and rationalize the powers of the Management committee vis' a vis' that of the Board to eliminate overlap or contradiction.
- Clearly define roles of members, board, management committee, elected board leaders and management and define terms of reference for all ZESN organs from membership, task forces, board to management at all levels.
- Define and provide for management of conflict of interest at every level and in every policy and procedure.
- Scrutinize the asset management policy and verify current status, security and ownership of assets.
- Outline clearer procedures for Board oversight over management.
- Hire an independent professional consultant to undertake job evaluation, titling, grading and remuneration structures so as to develop a feasible organizational structure, clear job functions and organisational performance management policies.
- Implement an audit committee as recommended by capacity assessment in 2009 and define financial management policies and procedures starting with budget approval procedure.
- Revisit the term of office of board members in order to expand the room for participation of all members at various levels.
- Define procedures for the review of the performance of the Board and of management; and all of the relations of the Board and Secretariat.
- Review qualifications for election to the board.
- Develop and adopt a ZESN governance charter.
- Review and change or adopt new (as appropriate) organisation financial, administrative and human resources policies and procedures.

Immediately following the adoption of these key decisions an independent consultant was appointed at the start of 2011 as a result of whose work comprehensive job evaluation was implemented. The result is a new structure which recognizes a management team led by the National Director,

followed by a Programmes Coordinator, then the Managers for Finance and Administration, Media and Information, Monitoring and Observation, Research and Advocacy and Outreach. The Programme Managers report to the Programmes Coordinator who also deputizes the National Director in her absence. Through this exercise ZESN was able to retain its key staff and provide space for effective specialized delivery of service through departments. Your board then reviewed remuneration in order to bring compensation in line with the market. What remained and lagged behind were policies designed for the old structure.

Separately the board set up three ad-hoc committees to undertake the special work outlined above however by mid to end of 2011 it was accepted that the time, specialization needed and other factors had militated against completion of these critical corporate review tasks. It was then resolved to appoint an independent consultant and assign to the consultant all the outstanding tasks set at the 2010 Board Induction workshop. I am pleased to report that after tender your board appointed an independent consultant to undertake corporate governance review and reform as agreed in 2010 (which will precede ZESN's elective AGM). All this was done to make ZESN stronger, more effective, more efficient and more accountable to its membership and its stakeholders. This is critical as the country draws closer and closer to the uncertain but regularly promised referendum and general elections. ZESN has the benefit of lessons of the past to renew itself and strengthen itself for the work ahead, for the next ten years. I also believe the members and stakeholders and the whole team at ZESN desire this and because of that it will be achieved.

Acknowledgement and Conclusion

As Chairman I am constantly grateful for the support of our partners, faithful members, patient taskforce members, long term observers, board members and the unquestionable commitment and dedication of the secretariat. I especially recognize those board members who attended all board meetings. The board did provide general direction to ZESN. The work you all do is one for which there is no material reward and of a kind that carries serious personal and family risk. We truly appreciate.

Looking ahead we have no illusions that a lot of work remains to be done. We may have overcome financial reporting challenges, structural weaknesses, corporate governance shortcomings, obvious external and internal

threats to ZESN, and we may indeed have found rhythm in our provision of leadership to the elections NGO sector but none at ZESN can afford to relax. The necessity for faithful and timely implementation of the outcomes of our corporate governance review and reform has assumed final demand form. ZESN's very future dictates that ZESN is governed at standards equated only to the best in the world. The need to maintain member motivation and commitment is at the core of ZESN's future. ZESN cannot escape the demands for better corporate governance, better accountability to stakeholders, better board oversight, better member welfare management and member participation. The centre has shifted, ZESN must and is

adjusting and I am hopeful its wheels will keep turning and that firm balance is retained as we focus on our core work. Thank you once again for your support.



Tinoziva Bere
ZESN Board Chairman

DIRECTOR'S REPORT



Mrs Rindai Chipfunde Vava

The year 2011 brought about its own challenges and opportunities. Having celebrated 10 years of existence in the preceding year ZESN looked into 2011 with a renewed impetus and vision to replicate and build on the success and impact of the prior decade. As in 2010 the political environment remained uncertain with incessant talk of possible elections coming from the various political parties. This meant that ZESN had to be prepared for an impromptu pronouncement to that effect. ZESN managed to continue with its planned activities in preparation for the impending election as well as advancing civic and electoral education to more areas of Zimbabwe.

The operating environment was generally peaceful for the year under review; however ZESN observers reported that in some places there were incidents of violence and political intimidation with certain political parties forcing people to buy their regalia and party identification cards. Constitution making process continued albeit with occasional clashes among the three political parties as to the structure and content of the document. ZESN also noted that the media remained muzzled and polarized with no significant reforms having been effected to facilitate diversity and plurality in the media sector. ZESN continued to call for reform measures before the holding of an election.

The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) and the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), Independent Monitoring Project (ZZZICOMP) was a collaborative work whose main goal was to objectively monitor, observe and report on the work of the Constitution Select Committee. On the 8th of December 2011, following the completion of the outreach process, ZZZICOMP launched a report on the constitutional outreach process. The report is a culmination of the work that ZZZICOMP carried out during the outreach and other processes in the constitution making exercise.

Programming

The Election Monitoring and Observation programme in year 2011 conducted a number of activities including long term observation, refresher training for observers, collection of reports, the production of ballot updates, regional as well as continental election observation. The programme has also been involved in activities that strengthen internal capacities to observe the political environment and future elections. Information gathered through the department has informed citizens and stakeholders including political parties on political developments in the country and the extent to which the GNU is working or not working. The programme continues to monitor political developments in the country and serves as a credible and reliable source of information on political developments in the country.

The year 2011 presented an opportunity for ZESN to scale up its Public Outreach efforts as talk of elections intensified amongst political actors. The constitution making process also provided ZESN with an opportunity to sensitise communities on the issue. ZESN also conducted outreach activities on the gazetted Electoral Amendment Bill, 2011 and distributed various materials on the gazetted bill. The year under review was generally peaceful with little incidences of violence and this allowed ZESN to conduct workshops and public meetings in a number of areas across the country including those areas which had hitherto been referred to as 'no go areas' in previous years.

The Research and Advocacy Programme was able to implement its planned activities. The Department conducted pre-lobbying meetings ahead of all the SADC Summits. The Programme also continued with local lobbying meetings and had meetings with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), SADC Ambassadors, Members of Parliament and other relevant local, regional and international stakeholders. Advocacy efforts centred around the creation of a conducive environment for credible elections.

As in previous years the Media and Information programme in 2011 remained committed to the provision of credible and reliable electoral

information. Furthermore, together with other ZESN programmes the department was instrumental in ensuring the continued visibility of the organisation in the public sphere and to all key stakeholders and the maintenance of its good reputation in the country and beyond. The collection, storage and dissemination of election continued through various media such as print media, email, website, Social Media and ZESN publications.

Conclusion

2011 proved to be another successful year for ZESN as a whole, the various programme areas managed to fulfil the objectives they had set out at the beginning of the year. I am very grateful to the inspiration of the Board and the Management Committee, without their guidance, steering an institution of the reputation and magnitude of ZESN would be a difficult undertaking . I would like to extend my gratitude to the funding partners who have continued to show faith in the vision of ZESN since its formation in 2000.

As we begin the journey of our second decade it is my earnest desire that ZESN remains vital and the leader in election related issues not only in Zimbabwe but in the region as well. This report summarises the work of ZESN in 2011 and provides the various successes, challenges and impacts of the activities that the organisation carried out. It is my sincere hope that the report will not

only educate and inform but also serve to inspire the creation of a conducive and enabling environment for free and fair elections in Zimbabwe.

Thank You



Rindai Chipfunde Vava
National Director

MONITORING AND OBSERVATION PROGRAMME

Key Objective

To promote democratic free and fair election processes through objectively monitoring and observing elections.



Barbra Nyangairi
Monitoring and Observation Programme

During the period under review political uncertainty continued to plague the GNU and haggling by political parties resulted in stalled progress. The political environment remained characterised by limitations to the enjoyment of fundamental freedoms. ZESN was accredited by COPAC to observe the outreach process as well as the thematic committee stage. While the outreach process was hampered by violence and muzzling of citizen voices, the thematic committee stage experienced disagreements on methodological grounds. The Constitution making process continued albeit lethargically as parties in the GNU negotiated back and forth on outstanding issues such as citizenship, devolution and the number of vice presidents for the country. The process was characterised by accusations of smuggling provisions and political party positions which were said to be contrary to the views collated during the outreach. ZESN was involved in a number of regional and

international observer missions and produced comprehensive reports especially recommending best practise on electoral processes. ZESN continued to play a pivotal role in observing the political environment and through its reports continues to be a reliable source of information and analysis on electoral issues.

Long Term Observation: Refresher training

Five refresher training workshops were conducted with long term observers in the 210 constituencies of Zimbabwe. The workshops were meant to acquaint them with the revised observation instrument that they would use to observe the pre-election environment and human rights protection in the Inclusive Government. The refresher training workshops were decentralized to selected provincial levels. Trainings were conducted in Harare, Gweru, Bulawayo and Mutare.

Review of manual and long term observer forms

An internal workshop with the Monitoring and Observation Taskforce was conducted to review the long term observation manual. The workshop was attended by 10 representatives of the National Taskforce on election monitoring and observation represented by: Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU), Progressive Teachers Union of Zimbabwe (PTUZ), ZimRights and Combined Residents of Harare (CHRA). Input from the taskforce and secretariat was sought and the manual was revised.

Preparation of code of conduct for long term observers

Preparations for a new Code of Conduct for observers, as observers operate in a harsh environment. This new Code of Conduct is meant to guide them in their conduct of observation, as well as the organization. The new code of conduct would ensure that observers provide reliable and objective data.

Production and distribution of Long Term Observer manual

A new manual for long term observers was produced and distributed to the trained observers. The revised manual took account of the changes in the laws though it was not conclusive as the Electoral Bill is yet to be enacted into law.

Monthly collection, verification and analysis of reports

Long term observers' reports were collected 9 times/once per month during this period. Data analysis for all data collected through LTO reports was done in Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS). Verification of observer information was done where necessary such as to verify the existence of "political bases" in Mashonaland Central and Mashonaland East. Observers in these areas reported the resuscitation of torture bases and resurgence of forced attendance to political meetings.

Monthly Production of Ballot Updates

7 ballot updates were produced since long term observers were deployed. These ballot updates were circulated through electronic means. The ballot update is a publication that contains information from observers as well as analysis of political developments at national level. The ballot updates are distributed to civic groups, government institutions in the Unity Government, International Organizations' and other stakeholders.

Election Observation Academy:

A three day election observation academy was conducted in Johannesburg, South Africa. The academy was done from the 17th-19th of October 2011. The academy was targeted at the membership, board and secretariat of ZESN to discuss emerging election observation methodologies. The academy also brought the Zambian Civic Society Organisations' perspective of Zambia's 2011 tripartite election.

The academy was attended by representatives from Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP); Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace Zimbabwe (CCJPZ); Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ); Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC); ZimRights; Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions (ZCTU); Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA); Bulawayo Agenda; National Association of Societies for the Care of the Handicapped; Civic Education Network (CIVNET) and the ZESN Board Chair and ZESN secretariat.

Long Term Observation: Constituency visits

Constituency visits were conducted in the various provinces to assess the political mood in the various constituencies. These trips were also used to verify observations of the long term observers and to begin the recruitment of observers. During the visits secretariat interacted with a number of stakeholders in the field including the taskforce members, local civic groups as well as district administrators.

Conduct elections for CSOs

During the period under review ZESN conducted elections for civil society organizations in efforts to strengthen their internal governance and ensure that boards are manned by people voted for by members. In 2011 ZESN conducted elections for the following organizations:

- Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe
- Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition
- Zimbabwe Reflection Network (ZIREN)
- Media Institute for Southern Africa- Zimbabwe (MISA)

Observation of Constitution-making Process

Observing the COPAC thematic committee stage:
ZESN was accredited by COPAC to observe the thematic committee stage and alerts were issued on the delays and conflicts regarding methodology of data analysis by parties in the GNU.

Launch of the ZZZICOMP report:

The ZZZICOMP report was launched on the 8th of December 2011 at Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR). The report was well received by the public and COPAC admitted that it reflected the issues they also identified during the process but had not made public.



ZLHR, ZESN and ZPP Directors officially launching the ZZZICOMP Report

Regional and continental election observation missions

The programme was part of election observer missions that took place in Africa. These were Nigeria (Presidential, Gubernatorial and Parliamentary elections); Uganda (Presidential and Parliamentary elections) and Sudan (South Sudan Referendum), Zambia (Tripartite Elections), Liberia (Presidential, Parliament and Senate elections).

PUBLIC OUTREACH PROGRAMME

Key Objective

To effectively gather, disseminate and communicate information about elections and other democratic processes in Zimbabwe.



Emmaculate Chiseya-Public Outreach Programme Manager

The ZESN Public Outreach Programme aims at enhancing citizen participation on issues pertaining to governance and democracy by educating and informing them about their voting and political rights. The programme carried out a number of activities in 2011 and these were done by the trained community based educators, provincial and National Taskforce and ZESN project officers. During the first quarter of the year ZESN did not carry out much activity owing to the nationwide anti-sanctions petition which made the political environment a bit tense, activities were then successfully carried after the process. Though the political environment remained polarized ZESN was able to carry out workshops in all the country's provinces. Below are some of the activities carried out in 2011.

Training of Trainers (TOTs)

The department conducted 4 training of trainers' workshops (105 people trained):

- 22-23 March the department conducted a TOT for CCJP trainers drawn from Chinhoyi Diocese. 35 people were trained.
- 31 March - 1 April ZESN conducted a TOT for Platform for Youth and Development (PYD) in Chipinge. 35 youths were trained on electoral issues, facilitation and community mobilization skills.

- The department in conjunction with Research and Advocacy conducted an electoral education training workshop for members of the National Association for Youth Organizations (NAYO) on 16 May in Harare. 35 participants drawn from districts in Mashonaland East, Mashonaland Central, Matebeleland South and Harare participated in the workshop.
- The department conducted a one day electoral education workshop in Harare for heads of youth organizations. The meeting was coordinated together with ZIYON (Zimbabwe Youth Organizations Network) secretariat.

Mitigating electoral violence by young people

As a result of violence that experienced in previous elections, ZESN felt that it was imperative that peace building among the youth be incorporated in its programming. The project aimed at inducting the youths on general principles of democracy and good governance while inculcating skills and knowledge of mitigating electoral violence. Particular focus was on key state actors and the significance of young people's non violent participation in the electoral process. The training workshops were targeting youths from CSOs, political parties, in and out of school youths

Refresher/ Training for Community Educators

ZESN on 17 March 2011 conducted a training workshop for constituency based educators from Matebeleland Region and part of Midlands. 35 people were trained in Bulawayo. These community educators were identified to fill gaps created due to dropouts.

Material Development workshops

The department conducted 2 workshops on 3 March in Harare and Bulawayo on 3 March and 18 March 2011 respectively. The main objective was to formulate messages and design publicity materials to promote a favourable environment for free and fair elections. The workshops also brainstormed on methodologies and strategies of enhancing voter registration especially among the youth and women. Participants were drawn from ZESN members and non members from the Civic and Voter education cluster. As a result of the two workshops ZESN produced various publicity materials some of which are already being used in the print media as advertisements whilst others are to be produced into

posters, billboards and flyers as part of the broader Vote in Peace Campaign (VIP) which the network initiated as the theme for 2011 up to the period of elections.

Pilot project on Social media

The Public Outreach department in conjunction with Media and Information department organised a one day sensitization workshop on the use of social media as a tool for public outreach. Thirty five participants drawn from ZESN memberships and the media fraternity participated in the workshop. This was part of a pilot project that ZESN was undertaking since 2010. The pilot project culminated in the handing over of the bigger project to the Media Centre. As a result of the workshop ZESN started to compile mobile numbers for purposes of using SMS as a tools of disseminating voter information.

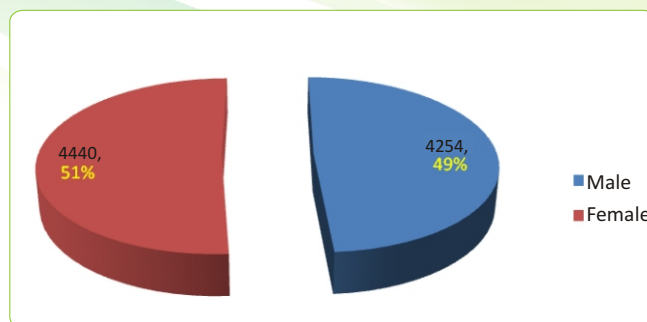
Community Workshops

During the period under review the department conducted one hundred and forty nine (149) community workshops. The workshops were attended by 8694 participants, 4254 males and 4440 females. The workshops were preceded by preliminary field visits to meet with the police, traditional leadership, provincial administrators, councillors, other key stakeholders and to mobilize participants for the actual workshops. Most of the pre-visits were conducted by taskforce members as well as community educators. The workshops created a platform to encourage active peaceful citizen participation and to provide information on how communities can engage continuously with the constitutional reform process in light of the referendum.



ZESN Taskforce member Takesure Musiwa facilitating a community workshop

Below is a graphical presentation of the attendances by gender



Public Meetings and Social Sports



Using sport to encourage peaceful elections - ZESN soccer team during a half time break in Mhondoro

The department conducted 18 public meetings in 2011. The meetings created a platform for the general public to discuss on Zimbabwe's readiness for elections as well as to sensitise them on the gazetted Electoral Amendment Bill (2011). Speakers were drawn from political parties, civil society and the academia. The department also conducted a pilot project of using sports as a vehicle for uniting the people in communities to encourage development and peace. Two soccer and netball tournaments were held at Kakora School in Chiweshe, Mazoe district and at Shirichena School in Ward 10 Mhondoro-Mubaira. Each of the sports events were attended by almost two hundred (200) participants. After the matches ZESN taskforce members and staff made presentations on peace, participation and peaceful co existence and political tolerance. Flyers were also distributed at these two events.

Provincial Workshops for Leaders

These workshops had a specific focus on traditional leaders, political party representatives and councillors who in the past have been implicated in political violence. The aim of these workshops was to highlight the importance of electoral reforms, peace building and political tolerance in leadership and governance. The workshops also sensitized community leaders on the Gazetted Electoral Amendment Bill 2011. Participants also gave their views which were to be encompassed into ZESN presentations at the Public hearings on the Bill.

Provincial leaders' workshop - Participants

Province	Date	Male	Female	Total
Mashonaland West	4 October	22	12	34
Manicaland	21 October	39	9	48
Mashonaland East	24 October	22	7	29
Matabeleland South	31 October	25	7	32
Total		108	35	143

The key outcome of the workshops was an improved understanding of electoral issues particularly the gazetted Electoral Amendment Bill, which was a topical issue during the last half of 2011. The leaders also brainstormed on strategies of disseminating information to their subjects and various strategies of handling electoral disputes in their areas of jurisdiction.

Information, Communication and Educational (ICE) material

The department produced and distributed 147 000 flyers, 3800 calendars, 2000 t-shirts and 8000 posters. The materials distributed included a summary of the ZESN Analysis of the Electoral Amendment Bill and Vote in Peace campaign materials. The t-shirts proved to be popular with participants. The department also produced and pitched up billboards at fourteen strategic sites in Harare, Bulawayo, Gweru, Mutare, Masvingo and Chinhoyi.

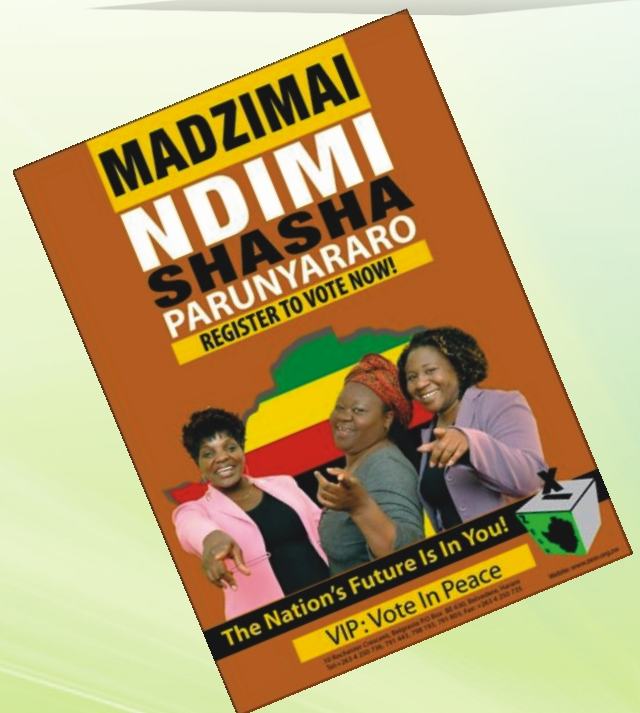
The department produced print media adverts that were displayed in state, community papers and private media. The messages encouraged citizens particularly, women and youth to register as voters, peaceful co-existence and for people to desist from electoral violence.

National Taskforce meeting

The department held a national taskforce on 19 April to discuss 2011 activities and to review progress.

Civic and voter education cluster

The department held a meeting of the Civic and Voter Education and Electoral Information Cluster on 3 May. The purpose of the meeting was to bring together Civic and Electoral Education cluster members to share information and to choose a lead organization, as this was not finalized at the leadership workshop held in Vumba and at Pandhari Lodge in 2010 and 2011 respectively. A mapping exercise for the cluster member organizations was also carried out in order to identify which organizations were doing what type of civic education in which geographic areas in order to avoid duplication and also to encourage future collaboration in activities.



RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY PROGRAMME

Key objective

To promote the creation of a legal framework and election culture conducive for free and fair elections.



Runyararo Munetsi Mazingaizo- Research and Advocacy Programme Manager

As with previous years, 2011 presented the programme with challenges and opportunities to lobby locally and regionally. The talk of elections continued in 2011 amidst an environment which was not conducive for credible elections. This created tension and uncertainty. However ZESN remained resolute in maintaining that Zimbabwe was not ready for an election. The SADC Facilitation team kept the momentum of mediating with the political parties which are part of the GNU. Progress was made in this regard though slow. An elections roadmap was crafted though much progress has not been made in this area. The department together with other civic society organisations managed to lobby SADC for Zimbabwe to remain on the agenda and for the regional bloc to pressurise the political parties to commit to ensure that there is wholesome electoral and constitutional reform. The Constitution reform process hampered by bickering and power struggles faced many hurdles. As of year end drafting had commenced, but still progress was worrisome, especially on the timing for completion. Two bills, the Electoral Amendment Bill and the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Bill were gazetted and by year end had not been passed into law. Below are the activities carried out by the programme;

Voters' Roll Observation Project

The department launched the report of the Voters' Roll Observation in Harare on the 20th of January. The meeting was attended by civic society, academia, political parties, MPs, Ministers, the media, funding partners and other stakeholders. Presentations were made on Voter Registration methodologies and Dissemination of the findings. Attendance was 140 and this showed the importance of the voters' roll in Zimbabwe.

On the 25th of January the department convened an African Ambassadors Luncheon, in Harare. The discussion centred on Minimum Conditions for Free and Fair elections and dissemination of findings of the Voters' Roll observation research. On the 26th of January another meeting with the same content but with Non-African Ambassadors was held in Harare. The five minimum conditions presented are as follows:

- Conducive electoral environment
- An accurate and complete voters' roll
- Media reforms
- Early deployment of local, regional and international observers
- Reforms to the Zimbabwe Election Commission and Legal framework.

Dissemination meetings on the Voters' Roll observation were held in Bulawayo on the 8th of February, Masvingo on the 10th of February and Mutare on the 11th February. The content focused on Voter Registration Methodologies, Dissemination Of Voters' Roll Observation Report and Minimum Conditions for Free and Fair Elections. Participants were MPs, Councillors', Civic Society Organisations, Academia, political parties, the media and the interested stakeholders.



A cross section of the audience that attended the distribution of the Voters' Roll Audit report in Mutare

Workshop on Voter Registration Methodologies: Lessons for Zimbabwe

The workshop on *Voter Registration Methodologies: Lessons for Zimbabwe* drew lessons from other countries in the region with different registration methodologies. A representative from the Malawi Electoral Commission (MEC) and the Electoral Commission of Zambia (ECZ) shared their experiences with biometric voter registration.

Public Meetings

15 public meetings were conducted throughout the country. 3 in Harare in the following areas (Mabvuku, Glenview, Kuwadzana), 2 in Chitungwiza, 4 in the provinces of Bulawayo, Matabeleland North and South, 2 in Masvingo, 2 in Mutare and 2 in Midlands. The topics focused on promoting an electoral environment that is conducive for credible elections. An estimate of 60-100 participants attended each public meeting making the estimated population reached between 900 and 1500 people for all public meetings. To make the meetings as inclusive as possible, speakers were drawn from the major political parties (ZANU PF, MDC T, ZAPU, Mavambo/Kusile/Dawn and MDC N), civic society, youth and the academia.



Participants during a public meeting held at the Quill club

Think Tank

ZESN conducted a think tank or consultative workshop on the 13th of September 2011 in Harare under the theme **“Mitigating Election related violence in Zimbabwe”**. The workshop drew participants from civil society and academia around Zimbabwe. The main objective of the think tank workshop was “to promote peaceful elections in Zimbabwe.”



Some of the participants captured during the ZESN think Tank held in Harare.

Provincial Workshops for Community Leaders

Two workshops were held in Bulawayo, one in Gwanda and Masvingo respectively and another two in Harare. The Bulawayo workshop covered delegates from Matabeleland North and South and Bulawayo, Harare covered participants from Mashonaland East, West and Central, and Harare. Participants were drawn from traditional leaders (chiefs and headmen), local authority leaders (councillors), civic society and political parties.

Focus Group Discussions

During the month of June, nine focus group discussions were held in seven administrative provinces around the country. The focus groups targeted the youth, women and the electorate. A total of 160 respondents were targeted. The purpose of the discussions was to provide information on the electoral processes and recommendations for a peaceful electoral environment. The discussions also tested citizen confidence in the institutions that run elections and gathered the citizens' perspective of what needs to be done to improve the electoral environment in Zimbabwe.

Regional Lobby Meetings

ZESN together with the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Women's Coalition, Bulawayo Agenda, NOVASC, Research and Advocacy Unit (RAU), Crisis Coalition and Christian Alliance went for a lobbying meeting in Botswana on the 18th of February focusing on the operating environment, legal framework, women's position and minimum conditions for free and fair



ZESN held a number of meetings with ambassadors as part of its advocacy campaigns in 2011

elections. In May ZESN sent a delegation of three to Namibia for pre-lobbying meetings before the SADC Summit. Two press conferences, a meeting with the Namibian Non-governmental Organisations Forum and civic society organisations and the European Commission were held. In June (6-12) ZESN had two lobby meetings- one in Botswana for the Zimbabwe Week organized by BOCISOZ and the other pre-lobbying meeting in South Africa before the Special SADC summit on Zimbabwe. ZESN also took part in the Annual People's Convention in South Africa. The Convention is an annual event organised by the SADC Council of NGOs, Southern African Trade Union Co-ordination Council (SATUCC) and the People's Convention.

Local Meetings

ZESN continued local lobbying meetings with local stakeholders. The organisation had meetings with the ZEC especially concerning the state of the voters' roll. ZESN also met the mediation team and highlighted the prevailing environment in Zimbabwe..



Hon. Olivia Muchena stressing a point during ZESN's Elections and Gender workshop

Cluster Meetings

During the period under review five cluster meetings under the Political Advocacy, Research and Protection of the Vote were held. Through these meetings organisations managed to share information and coordinate their advocacy activities.

Through the auspices of the cluster meetings, members of the cluster managed to come up with a civic society statement supporting the Livingstone position. The statement was used as an advocacy tool during the SADC Summit in Namibia. The Cluster also conducted a Planning Workshop whose purpose was to come up with terms of reference, strategise for future lobbying activities and strategies for advocacy.

Position Papers

ZESN has continued to research on topical electoral issues to inform policy makers, election stakeholders and the electorate. A research paper on the Zimbabwe's Electoral Preparedness was commissioned by the organisation. The paper highlighted the situation in Zimbabwe (legal framework and operating environment). ZESN conducted an analysis of the Electoral Bill in order to inform the policy makers on its adequacy/ inadequacies. The Bill is part of the long awaited and much needed electoral reforms.

Workshops on Gender and Elections

ZESN organised two workshops on Gender and Elections in August and December 2011. The purpose of the workshops was to interrogate the participation of women focusing on Quotas, Electoral



Kundai Matenga Programmes Assistant

Systems and Women's Safety and Security. Participants for the workshops included, the Parliamentary Women's Caucus, Hon. Minister of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Political parties representatives (Mavambo, ZANU PF, MDC-T and MDC), civic society organisations and the academia.

MEDIA AND INFORMATION PROGRAMME

Key objective

To enhance citizen participation in issues of governance and democracy



Ellen Dingani
Media and Information Programme Manager

The media, rightly referred to as the Fourth estate wields so much power and history has shown that it can either make or break individuals, institutions and even whole nations. In Zimbabwe owing to the political dynamics that have prevailed since the colonial era the media has been highly polarized on two extreme ends. ZESN noted that the media still remains muzzled with information diversity still to be realized as evidenced by the bias and unbalanced reportage in some publications. Despite concerted calls for the repelling of repressive media laws not much has been done in freeing the media space. ZESN is concerned with the piecemeal reforms in the media especially the broadcast media where independent players are yet to be licensed. The programme was instrumental in ensuring that ZESN remained visible and also in the dissemination of credible and accurate electoral information. ZESN carried out activities in fulfilling its mandate of gathering, disseminating and communicating electoral information to citizens. ZESN also managed to set up a number of social media platforms to increase the spectrum of information recipients and these helped to gather and disseminate information together with the traditional means such as statements, reports, alerts, advertorials, supplements, emails, website and publications. Below is a summary of the activities carried out by the Media and Information programme.

ZESN Newsletter – The Ballot News

Two editions of the Ballot newsletter were produced during the year under review. The first issue for 2011 was produced in April 2011 and was for the first time in full colour while the **second issue was produced in November 2011**. 500 copies of each issue were produced and disseminated to the various stakeholders and the public.

Annual report

ZESN produced and published 350 copies of its Annual Report for 2010. The report was distributed to ZESN stakeholders as well as at the organisation's Annual General Meeting held on the 17th of June. The annual report gave the highlights of the organisation's work and a summary of the financial statements for the year 2010.

Resource Centre activities

ZESN continued to maintain the resource centre and a number of books were loaned out to organisations, students and individuals. ZESN attended to all information inquiries via telephone and e-mail. Through the department ZESN also created a video database for all the activities that were filmed during the year under review.

The programme facilitated the production of copies of the ZESN 10th anniversary documentary and these were also distributed to members, development partners and other networking partners. The department also facilitated the filming of the Voters' Roll launch, the AGM, launch of the Critical Analysis of the Electoral Amendment Bill, the Nyanga Elections and Gender Conference, Public lectures and other ZESN workshops.



Activity Updates

In a bid to keep its members, the media and partners informed on the activities of the organisation, the department produced activity highlights for some of the organisation's activities and these were circulated via

email and posted on the website. ZESN's statements, activity updates and alerts were widely quoted and referred to by various media houses. In most instances they also prompted interview inquires and detailed feature and news articles were also written by various media houses.

Public Relations and Publicity Material

The department coordinated the production and dissemination of various publicity campaign materials. The department produced ZESN branded key rings and branded pens and these were distributed to the network's members, volunteers, local and a few regional partners, visitors to ZESN offices and exhibition stands, donors and key stakeholders. The department also facilitated the production of flyers and posters in conjunction with the Public Outreach Programme. ZESN also produced desk Calendars in December. Courtesy calls were also made to various member organisations and other civic organisations to discuss various issues including how they view ZESN information as well as how they were receiving the information.



Kevin Maenzanise - Media and Information Programme Assistant

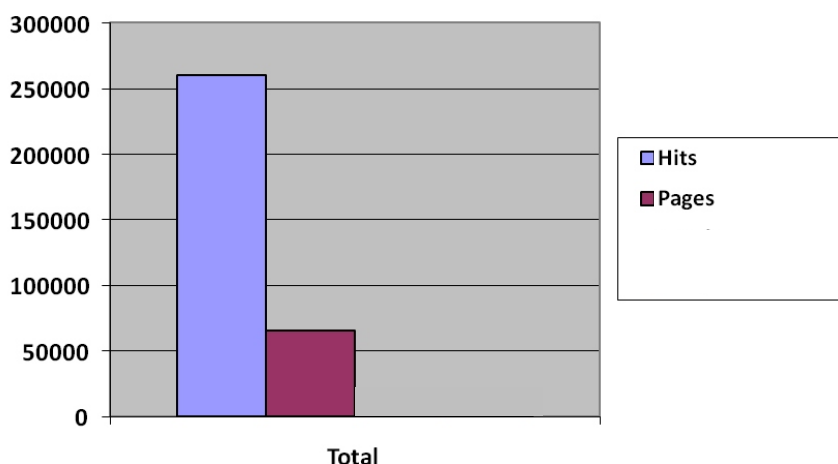
Exhibitions

The department in conjunction with the Public Outreach programme participated at the NANGO NGO Expo held from 24 to 26 August 2011 in the Harare Gardens. The department also took part at the Bulawayo Ideas Festival from the 13th -15th of October in Bulawayo. These exhibitions provided a platform for ZESN to distribute electoral materials as well as engage the electorate on a one to one basis on issues pertaining to elections. Through these exhibitions in 2011, ZESN managed to reach out to at least 600 people who visited its stands both in Bulawayo and Harare.

ZESN Website

ZESN also continuously updated its website. Below are the website hits for the period from January to December 2011:

Months	Hits	Pages	Number of visits	Unique visitors	Bandwidth
TOTAL	259 703	65 602	17 374	10 055	7.37GB



ZESN created a Facebook Page which is linked to the ZESN website in order to reach a wider audience.

Month	Hits	Pages	Number of visits	Unique visitors	Bandwidth
January	28 896	6 538	1 598	950	646.13 MB
February	21 116	5 849	1 351	753	577.06 MB
March	24 188	5 759	1 631	862	624.71 MB
April	20 187	4 905	1 277	775	489.49 MB
May	20 829	5 640	1 475	868	782.93 MB
June	24 660	6 143	1 598	908	698.01 MB
July	22 679	5 908	1 466	776	595.65 MB
August	23 249	6 822	1 372	799	713.59 MB
September	18 609	4 202	1 291	794	596.22 MB
October	21 279	4 679	1 481	883	606.57 MB
November	19 789	4 780	1 458	889	630.02 MB
December	14 222	4 377	1 376	789	588.36 MB
TOTAL	259 703	65 602	17 374	10 055	7.37GB

Hits by Month.

<http://www.zesn.org.zw/plesk-stat/webstat/>

Adverts and Supplements

ZESN produced congratulatory messages for one of its Board members and other renowned human rights activists and lawyers who had received human rights awards from various Internal Human Rights bodies. A number of adverts and editorial materials were also flighted in various Newspaper supplements. The programme also worked in conjunction with the Public Outreach programme in designing and flighting of adverts and cartoons in the various newspapers and publications.

ZESN online quotes

ZESN compiled online quotes where ZESN was quoted from January 2011 to December the Google alerts platform. These alerts have enabled the organisation to assess the impact of its programming activities and issues which are topical in the media. The department disseminated the alerts monthly to all ZESN members, staff members and specifically programme managers who have been able to use them to analyze impact of ZESN reports, launches, updates and statements. A total of 273 alerts and these have been drawn from a number of online publications only.

Election Campaigns and Media Publicity cluster

ZESN Coordinated the Election Campaigns and Media Publicity Cluster which is comprised of the following organisations; Media Institute of Southern Africa, Media Monitoring Project Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Union of Journalists, Radio Dialogue, Women's Trust, Women in Politics Support Unit, Youth Empowerment Trust, Kubatana Trust, Crisis Coalition in Zimbabwe, Christian Alliance and ZESN. 2 meetings were held during the year under review. These meetings managed to bring together the cluster to exchange ideas, network and share information around media and elections and to find out ways of collaborating and to avoid duplication of activities.

Below is a view of the Facebook page:



Meetings and workshops

ZESN participated in the new ICTs workshop organised by Media Centre held in May. The Media and Information Manager attended a Democracy and Governance BRIDGE course in Kenya. The Programme Manager and Assistant attended and participated at a workshop on the use of Nokia Data Gathering tool which is a software system and open source technology that allows for field data collection using mobiles to pre-existing databases for analysis.

The department also attended a media strategic meeting held in Vumba on how to effectively and efficiently advocate media reforms and the repelling of repressive media legislation such as AIPPA organised by MISA.

ZZZICOMP report and launch

ZESN in conjunction with the Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights and Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) facilitated the editing and printing of the ZZZICOMP final report which was launched on the 8th of December in Harare. The launch was attended by 50 people including the COPAC representatives and the Deputy Minister of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development who is also the COPAC Chairperson for Information and Publicity. The launch received wide coverage from the online media and independent print media.



Media discussion Forum

ZESN in conjunction with the Quill Club organised a media discussion forum at Quill Club Ambassador Hotel. The discussion was facilitated by representatives from political parties, Mavambo, MDC T, MDC and representatives from the academia. The media were accorded an opportunity to engage political parties on issues pertaining to the electoral law and the envisaged reforms to the law. Meetings with editors were also conducted in Harare to discuss ZESN positions and placement of editorials in newspapers like the Zimbabwe Independent and The Standard Newspaper.

National Taskforce member attends to students at the ZESN stand during the 2011 NANGO NGO Expo

Materials Production

ZESN coordinated the production and printing of 250 Long Term Observers' manual, 250 electoral reforms booklets and 8 papers that were published in the Zimbabwe Independent Newspaper. The programme also coordinated with the Public Outreach department in the designing, production and designing of the Vote in Peace (VIP) campaign flyers and posters and oversaw the flying of some of these materials in the newspapers as adverts.

A. NETWORKING AND CAPACITY BUILDING PROGRAMME

The relations that an organization enjoys with other institutions are pivotal in forming its identity within civic society. Through interacting with local, regional and international organizations with similar values with ZESN, the organization seeks to create a network of partners and members. Related to networking is capacity building. ZESN continued to receive invitations of attend, present and participate in a number of fora such as workshops, meetings and conferences. Below is a summary of major meetings and workshops that were attended by ZESN outside Zimbabwe. Local meetings, workshops and conferences are not mentioned here because they were too many.

Networking & Capacity Building Events 2011:

Date	Name	Meeting	Destination
3- 24 January 2011	Public Outreach Manager	Observer Mission	Sudan
3-24 January 2011	Masvingo Field Officer	Observer Mission	Sudan
1– 4 February 2011	National Director Programmes Assistant Media & Information Manager Masvingo Field Officer Matebeleland Field Officer Media & Information Assistant Board members	Communication and Safety workshop - NDI	South Africa
14 – 22 March 2011	Media & Information Manager	Observer Mission – EISA	Uganda
14-19 March 2011	Monitoring & Observation Manager	Observer mission – HIVOS	Uganda
18 - 20 February 2011	National Director Research & Advocacy Manager	Lobbying –ZESN	Botswana
6 March -18 April 2011	National Director	Commonwealth Professional fellowship	United Kingdom
3 – 12 April 2011	Monitoring & Observation Manager	Election Observation	Nigeria
5 – 12 April 2011	Chairperson	Election Observation	Nigeria
21-23 April 2011	Media & Information Manager	BRIDGE - IDEA	Kenya
17-27 May 2011	Mashonaland Field Officer	Human Rights Defenders Training -International Service for Human Rights (ISHR)	Sierra Leone
6 – 10 June 2011	Public Outreach Manager Research & Advocacy Manager	Lobbying-SADC Troika	Botswana
10-12 June 2011	Public Outreach Manager Research & Advocacy Manager	Lobbying – SADC Troika	South Africa

11 – 12 June 2011	Media & Information Manager Public Outreach Manager	Lobbying –SADC Troika	Namibia
30 May -27 June 2011	Programmes Assistant	International Human Rights Training Programme	Canada
17-24 September 2011	Programmes Assistant	SADC ESN Zambian Election Observation Mission	Zambia
17-24 September 2011	Board Members and secretariat	Zambia Elections	Zambia
19-21September 2011	Media & Information Programme Assistant	ICT, Election Watch	Zambia
5-15 October	Monitoring & Observation Manager	EISA Liberia Observer Mission	Liberia
3-11 October 2011	National Director	Universal Periodic Review	Geneva
17-21 October 2011	Board Members	Observation Academy	South Africa
17-21 October 2011	Programmes Assistant	Southern African Young Women's Festival	Zambia
22-29 October 2011	National Director	Common Wealth Heads of Government (CHOGM) , Perth, Australia	Australia
24- October 2011	Board Members	Observation Academy	South Africa
21-24 October 2011	Media & Information Manager	Election Information documentation and Human resource safety Training	Durban, South Africa
23-24 October 2011	National Director	EISA Symposium	Kenya
1-3 December 2011	Field Officer (Bulawayo)	Zimbabwe Consulting Meeting	South Africa

The Finance and Administration department

The department managed to support the organisation's programme areas and remained resolute in realizing the several objectives of the organization. The organisation continued to receive technical and financial support from a number of its long time and new partners. Below are pictures of the finance and administration staff followed by the financial reports for the year 2011:



Victor Kahari
Finance Manager



Danisa Mushohwe
Bookkeeper



Angela Moyo
Secretary



Lovemore Ndlovu
Accounts Clerk



Godfrey Mudondiro
Account Clerk



Peter Mandikutse
Driver



Itai Chinomona
Driver



Shepard Shumba
Security Officer

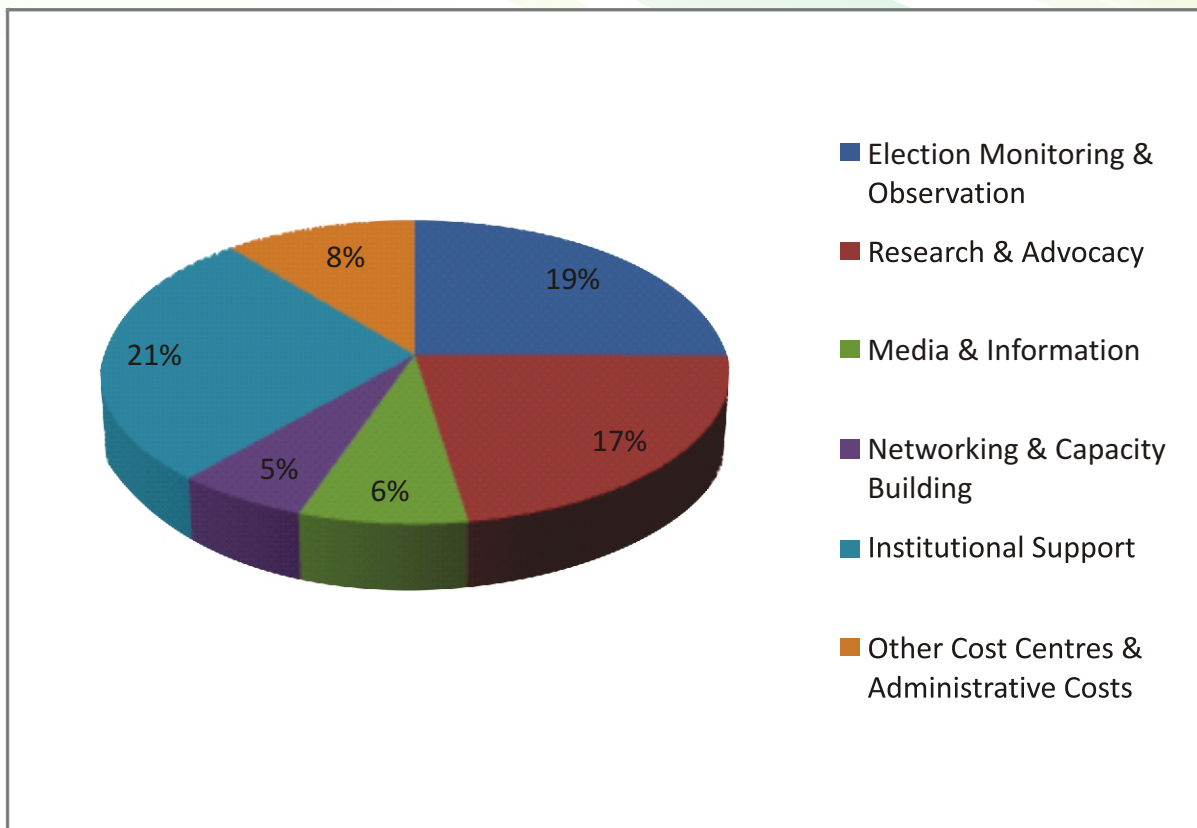


Vusani Mhlanga
Office Orderly

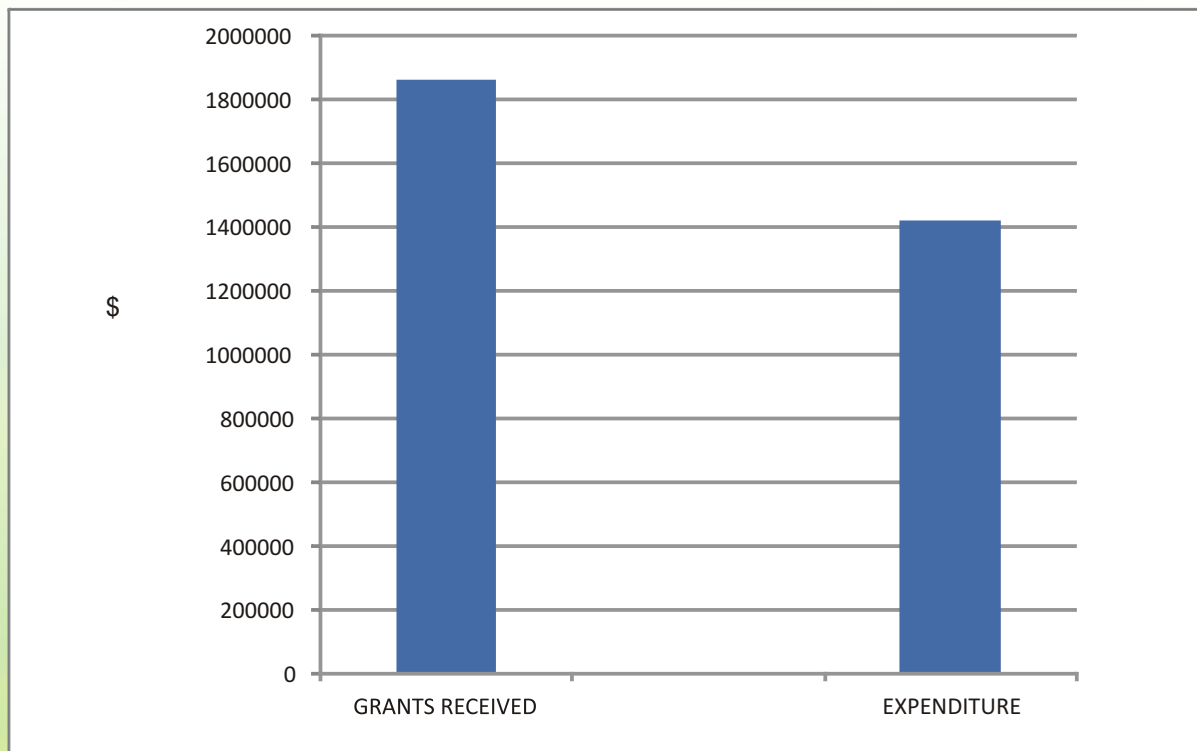


Collin Navhaya
Security Officer

Expenditure



Analysis of Income / Expenditure



ZESN PROGRAMMES

The ZESN programmes department is headed by Tsungai Kokerai, the Programmes Coordinator. The Programmes Coordinator works closely with the following programmes to ensure successful implementation of ZESN projects, Monitoring and Observation, Research and Advocacy and Public Outreach programmes.



Tsungai Kokerai
ZESN Programmes Coordinator

FIELD OFFICERS

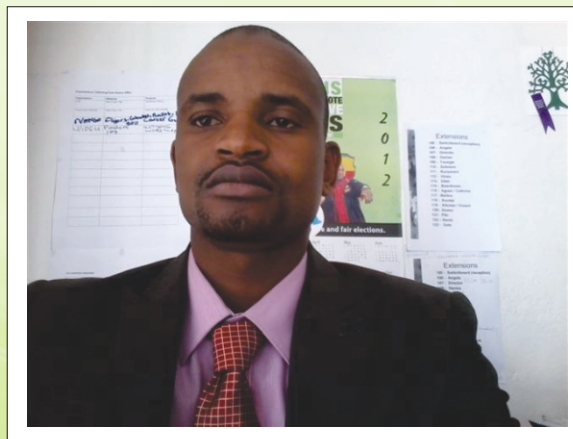
ZESN has three field officers based in Harare, Bulawayo and Masvingo respectively. The field officers implement programme activities ZESN in all the provinces and also work with provincial taskforces in the respective provinces.



Prosper Mtandadzi- Masvingo, Manicaland and Midlands Provinces field officer



Ndodana Ndhlovu-Bulawayo and Matebeleland Provinces field officer



Solomon Bobosibunu-Harare and Mashonaland Provinces Field Officer

Board Members



Mr Tinoziva Bere
Chairperson



Ms Irene Petras
Deputy Chairperson



Mr Wellington Mbofana
Treasurer



Dr Frances Lovemore
CSU



Ms Jestina Mukoko
ZPP



Mr Okay Machisa
ZimRights



Mr Mfundo Mlilo
CHRA



Mr Thabani Nyoni
Bulawayo Agenda



Mr Nhlanhla Ngwenya
MISA



Mr Vitalis Gutu
CCJP

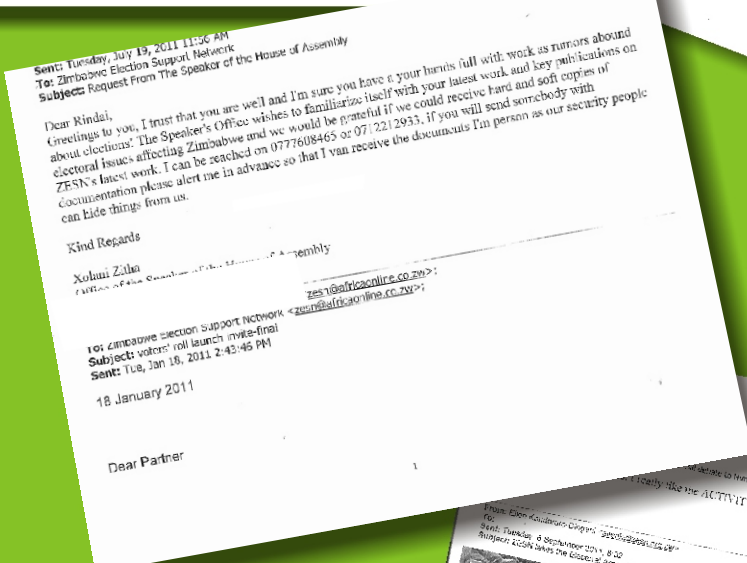
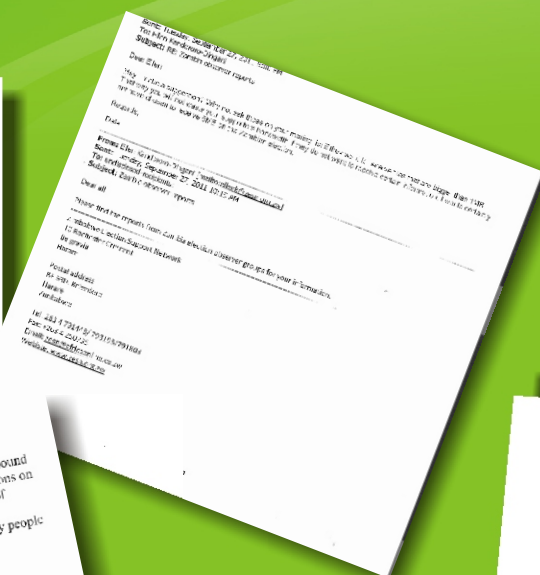
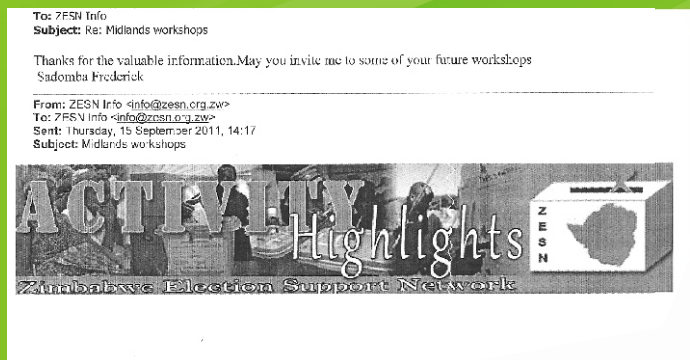


Mrs Rindai Chipfunde Vava
Ex-Officio

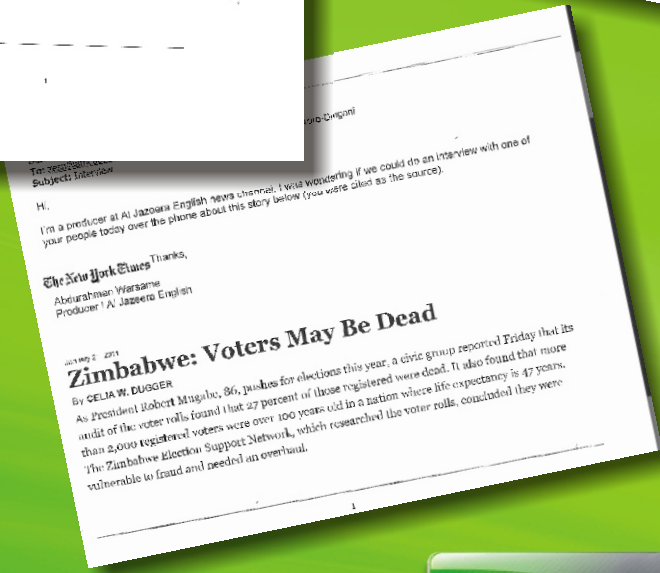
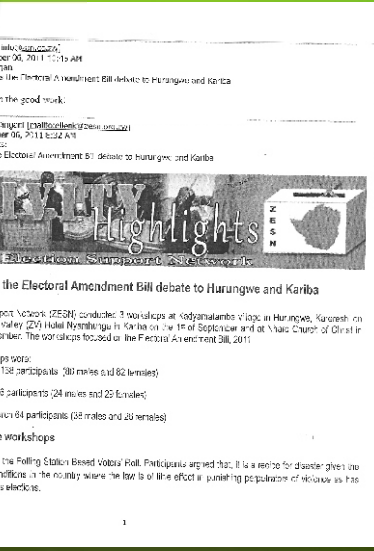
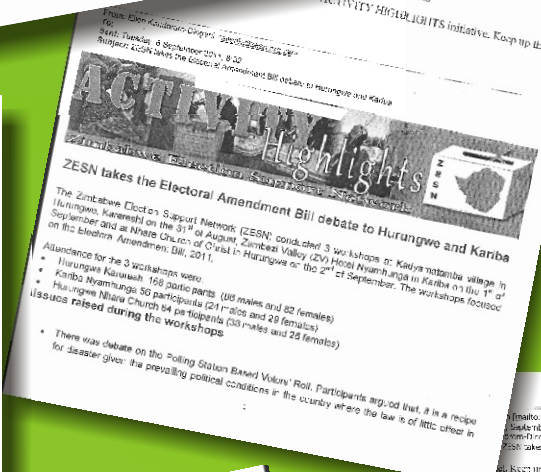
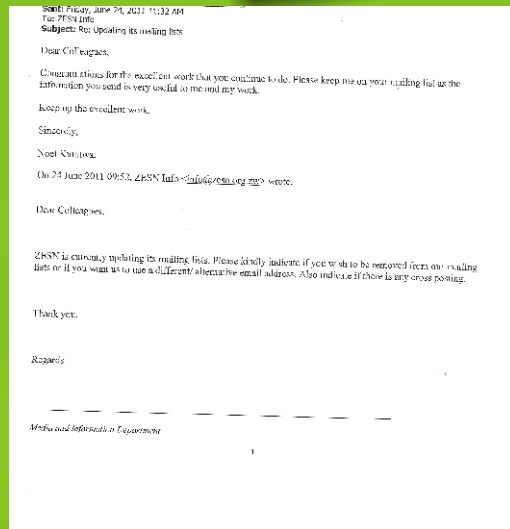
MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

1. **Mr. Tinoziva Bere**
(Chairperson)
2. **Ms. Irene Petras - ZLHR**
(Deputy Chairperson)
3. **Mr. Wellington Mbofana - CIVNET**
(Treasurer) & (Public Outreach Taskforce Chair)
4. **Ms. Jestina Mukoko - ZPP**
(Research and Advocacy Taskforce Chair)
5. **Mr. Vitalis Gutu - CCJP**
(Monitoring and Observation Taskforce Chair)
6. **Mr. Nhlanhla Ngwenya - MISA**
(Media and Information Taskforce Chair)
7. **Mrs. Rindai Chipfunde Vava**
(National Director)

FEEDBACK



Many thanks if you have a regular distribution list for news and updates, I would appreciate being added to that as well.
 Cheers,
 Pella



Zimbabwe: Voters May Be Dead
 By CELIA W. DUGGER
 As President Robert Mugabe, 86, pushes for elections this year, a civic group reported Friday that its audit of the voter rolls found that 27 percent of those registered were dead. It also found that more than 2,000 registered voters were over 100 years old in a nation where life expectancy is 47 years. The Zimbabwe Election Support Network, which researched the voter rolls, concluded they were vulnerable to fraud and needed an overhaul.