



# Ballot Update

# Bulletin

May 2012

A Newsletter of Zimbabwe Election Support Network Issue 4

FREE

## ZIM NOT READY FOR ELECTIONS, SAYS UN



Picture by Kumbirai Mafunda of ZLHR

UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Navi Pillay.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Navi Pillay gave an indication that Zimbabwe is not ready for elections because of the extreme polarization that continues to mar the country's political landscape. She said this at a press conference held on 25 May to mark the end of her five day mission to Zimbabwe. This was the first ever visit to Zimbabwe by any High Commissioner for Human Rights.

*"... harassment and intimidation of political party activists, including restrictions on their right to freedom of assembly, is deeply worrying"*

In her statement she noted the extremely pronounced polarization in Zimbabwe despite the existence of the Inclusive Government, involving the three main political parties, which is a product of the extremely important Global Political Agreement (GPA) brokered by SADC in September 2008.

"This polarization is acting as a major impediment on a number of fronts, including the advancement of human rights. Concern is also rising both inside and outside the country that, unless the parties agree quickly on some key major reforms and there is a distinct shift in attitude, the next election which is due some time in the coming year could turn into a repeat of the 2008 elections which resulted in rampant politically motivated human rights abuses, including killings, torture, rapes, beatings, arbitrary detention, displacements and other violations", said Ms Navi Pillay. In her statement the Human Commissioner explicitly expressed concern on the continued arrest of human rights defenders, journalists and political activists most of them under Section 33 of the Criminal Code (a provision dealing with "insulting or undermining the authority of the president").

"I believe this legislation should be amended to protect against its frequent misuse for political purposes, especially during the run-up to elections", she said. "The corrosive effect of these laws, and of other forms of past and current, albeit lower level - harassment and intimidation of political party activists, including restrictions on their right to freedom of assembly, is deeply worrying", she added.

Ms Pillay also held separate meetings with civil society organizations, the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and also had a joint meeting with the Zimbabwe Anti-Corruption, Electoral and Media Commissions. Her statement further indicated concerns that were raised by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission which indicated that success of their work to ensure free and fair

elections would depend to quite some degree on the ability of the media to disseminate information properly and in an unbiased form to the general public.

The role of the military in the political affairs of the country could not be condoned. She explained that she had learnt with much concern about the role of the military, including a recent statement by one of the country's most senior army officers suggesting the army should throw its weight behind one political party. The Human Rights Commissioner emphasized CSOs' calls on the need to amend various pieces of legislation that infringe on journalists' right to freedom of expression, such as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Broadcasting Services Act and the Public Order and Security Act to ensure that they are brought in line with international human rights laws and standards.

"It is essential that a satisfactory new Constitution with an entrenched Bill of Rights is in place soon, so that the referendum to confirm it and all the electoral reforms necessary for a peaceful, free and fair election can be carried out before people go to the polls", she said. She also noted that realistically putting in place electoral reforms will take time, but further explained that it will be more important to get it right than to rush the process.

She also raised the following as extremely pertinent roles that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission needs to undertake before the next elections; updating the electoral roll, delimiting constituencies, supervising registration and supervising the Constitutional Referendum and the elections, while maintaining strict independence from any of the political parties.

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*Election news quotes*

"So, we are saying let us go to elections tomorrow with or without the constitution. Let them hear from me that our house is very much in order". Zanu PF secretary for administration Didymus Mutasa - **NEWSDAY 31 MAY 2012**

"The key message is broadly that 2012 is not an election year but must be a year for credible electoral reforms." Dhewa Mavhunga, Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition Regional Coordinator: **The Zimbabwean Thursday 31 May, 2012**

"It is imperative that government looks at what measures are being taken to protect the voter and the vote before, during and after the next elections". Irene Petras - Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights. **The Zimbabwe Mail May, 2012**

sms election related comments to: 0773 782 870



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## United Nations inoti, 'Zimbabwe haisati yagadzirira zvizere kuita sarudzo'

Chinyorwa ichi chakagadzirwa neboka reZESN

Mukuru weUnited Nations anoona nezvekodzero dzevanhu Komishina Pillay, vakati Zimbabwe haisati yagadzirira zvakanakwana kuita nesarudzo. Chikonzero chikuru ndechekuti, nyangwe zvazvo paine hurumende yemubatanidzwa pane kupesana nekusawirirana kwakanyanya pakati pemapato ari kuda kukwikwidza musarudzo. Vakataura mashoko aya pamusangano wakaitwa musi wa25 Chivabvu mushure mekunge vashanyira Zimbabwe kwemazuva mashanu. Aka ndekekutanga kuti Zimbabwe ishanyirwe neKomishina weUN anoona nezvekodzero dzevanhu.

Vakati zvakanakwana kuti mapato achakwikwidza musarudzo akasike kuwirirana pane zvinofanira kugadziriswa pamitemo yemuZimbabwe nekuti matambudziko akasanganiwa nawo musarudzo dza2008 anogona kudzororwa zvakanakwana. Matambudziko aya anosanganisira kurairwa kwevanhu, kushungurudzwa nekurohwa, kubatwa chibharo kwevanhukadzi, kusungwa kwevanhu zvisiri pamutemo nekutyorwa kwekodzero dzevanhu nenziira dzakasiyana siyana.

Mumusangano iyi, pfungwa huru yakabuda ndeyekuti, sarudzo dzinokwanisa kuitwa nenziira inofadza kana venhepfenyuro nevemapepa-nhau vakapihwa mukana wekufambisa mashoko kuruzhinji nenziira yakanaka isina kurereka kubato rimwe chete rezvematongerwo enyika. Komishina Pillay vakakurudzira vemaoto kuti vachengegetedze kodzero dzemumunhu wese pasina kurereka kumapato ematongerwo enyika. Vakagamuchira Komishini inoona nezvekodzero dzevanhu vakajekesa kuti ine basa rakakura rekugadzirisa matambudziko akawanda akatarisana neZimbabwe panyaya dzesarudzo nekodzero dzevanhu.

ZESN inoti pane mitemo inofanira kutanga yagadziriswa sarudzo dzisati dzaitwa. Inoti zvakanakwana sarudzo dzinofanira kuitwa nenziira dzakajeka pasina kubiridzira, pasina mhirizhonga, vanhu vakasununguka. Gwaro rine mazita evanhu vanoda kuvhota nebumbiro remitemo rinofanira kutanga ragadziriswa sarudzo dzisati dzaitwa. Chekupedzisira

ZESN iri kuti, ZEC inofanira kunge yakazvimiririra isina kurereka kubato rezvematongerwo enyika uyeve inofanira kuve nezvekushandisa pakuita basa rekuona mafambisirwo esarudzo.

**“ZESN inoti pane mitemo inofanira kutanga yagadziriswa sarudzo dzisati dzaitwa. Inoti zvakanakwana sarudzo dzinofanira kuitwa nenziira dzakajeka pasina kubiridzira, pasina mhirizhonga, vanhu vakasununguka.”**

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She further castigated some media organisations who are working to systematically denigrate human rights defenders who are simply going about their job of trying to help promote and protect the human rights of ordinary Zimbabweans. "A vibrant civil society is a crucial part of any democratic society's development, in all spheres including human rights, and it should be strongly supported even if some of its messages make uncomfortable reading for those in authority", she added.

The establishment of the Human Rights Commission in the country was welcomed but Ms Pillay advised the national institution to be governed by a rigorous international set of standards and to deal with the many pressing issues that face Zimbabwe today and in the future, and in particular all the human rights issues surrounding the forthcoming elections.

ZESN amongst many other civic society organisations have been calling for electoral reforms before any elections are conducted in Zimbabwe. ZESN believes that for elections to be free and fair there is need for transparency in all processes of the elections which include among others results management, transparency in the processing of postal votes.

In pursuance of our mandate of promoting a democratic Zimbabwe where free and fair elections are conducted, ZESN continues to advocate for these minimum conditions. The creation of a violent-free environment where freedom of assembly, movement, association and speech among others are upheld. ZESN believes that it is important for the Constitution making process to be finalized before elections are held. Election observation forms a critical element in any election, ZESN calls for the opening up of election observation to all interested stakeholders and for the invitation to be given by ZEC and not an executive arm of government. Furthermore, ZESN remains concerned about the state of the voters' roll and calls for the cleaning up of the voters' roll. ZESN advocates that ZEC should be independent of executive influence and report to Parliament, be well resourced and be given its full mandate in the management of all aspects of the election.

Komishina Pillay vakataridza kusafara nekusingwa kuri kuitwa vanhu vanomiririra kodzero dzeruzhinji, vatori venhau nevanozivikanwa panyaya dzezvematongerwo enyika pamwe nekurambidzwa kunoitwa mapato ematongerwo enyika kuungana. Vakakurudzira kuti mutemo unotaura nezvekutukwa kana kushorwa kweMutungamir wenyika ugadziriswe nekuti uri kushandiswa nenziira isiriyo pakusungwa vanhu vasina mhosva. Vakashora mapepanhau ari kutsoropodza vari kushingaira kuti kodzero dzevanhu dzichengegetedzwe.

Komishina vakakurudzira kuti pagadzirwe bumbiro idzva remitemo, uye kuti vanhu vemuZimbabwe vapihwe mukana wekurigamuchira kana kuriramba. Vakajekesa kuti basa iri rinogona kutora nguva yakareba asi vakatsinhira kuti, zvakanakwana kuita sarudzo nemazvo pane kungombunyikidza kuti dziitwe zvipere.

Vakakohomedza kuti Zimbabwe Electoral Commission inofanira kugadziriswa gwaro rine mazita evanhu vari kuda kuvhota, kujekesa miganhu yematunhu ekuvhota, kuongorora kuti vanoda kuvhota vari kunyoreswa nemazvo here, kuona kuti sarudzo dzaitwa nemazvo pasina kurereka kubato rimwe chete rezvematongerwo enyika. Vakawana mukana wekusangana nemapoka anoona nezvekodzero dzevanhu akasiyana siyana.

**May 18, 2012**

**CONGRATULATIONS ZESN**

Zimbabwe Human Rights Association congratulates the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) for attaining a continental observer status. ZESN gained the African Commission on Human and People's Rights (ACHPR) accreditation during the just ended Commission's 51st Ordinary Session which was held from the 18th of April to the 2nd of May 2012 in Banjul, Gambia. The accolade makes them one of the few Zimbabwean organisations with that honour.

It is a positive sign of the impact of ZESN's work in promoting, protecting and defending human rights. It is also means that its effectiveness has been realised beyond national boundaries. The new status will enable ZESN together with other CSOs that already have the observer status to directly interact with the African Commission on Human and People's Rights on various issues pertaining to the protection and promotion of human rights in the country. In addition, the status will also allow ZESN to report violations of human rights to the Commission through communications and many other mechanisms that are available.

Accredited organisations in Zimbabwe among others include the Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe (MMPZ), Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum, Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Media Institute of Southern Africa (MISA), Catholic Commission for Peace and Justice in Zimbabwe (CCJPZ), Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA) and Zimbabwe Lawyers for Human Rights (ZLHR).

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## AN ANALYSIS OF MAY 2012:

### Introduction

The period April to May was a busy period on the political scene characterised by government efforts to re-engage with the European Union, the unfortunate political violence that broke out in Mudzi and the factionalism in ZANU PF with potential to split the party coming to a head. ZESN observers report a tense political climate in most constituencies which is characterised by hostility and intolerance of divergent views. Fundamental freedoms such as the freedom to assembly, to organise and canvass for support have been violated with only some parties able to conduct political meetings and others banned.

### The GPA

The GNU continues to battle with a gamut of issues which compromise its ability to be effective. Among other complicating issues, are the succession battles that have reared their head in ZANU PF. In terms of implementation, the GNU, the outstanding issues have not been resolved. In addition, institutions of government have not been reformed to be politically neutral as evidenced by the selective application of the law in the police. Observers reported the inability of other parties such as MDC to conduct meetings and organise for themselves through police disruptions and the presence of groups such as Chipangano who terrorise other political parties. This is a clear violation of contravention of Article XIII of the GPA as the police continue to show themselves partisan in their discharge of duties. The violence that occurred in Mudzi is evidence that values of tolerance, peace and respect for the dignity of persons have yet to be achieved in the GNU. Inability to bring finality to the constitution making process is a clear demonstration of the lack of political will to implement the provisions of the GNU. During the period under review, a Zimbabwean delegation engaged the EU to put pressure for sanctions removal. In the same light the Attorney General has filed a case against the EU pressing for the removal of sanctions. The sanctions issues remains a contentious issues which has resulted in the adoption of hard line positions by the parties in the GNU and they have also been used as an excuse for the non implementation of some provisions of the GNU.

### Constitution making process

The constitution making process has been marred with confusion and great controversies as the Newsday of 8 May 2012 reported the withdrawal of the ZANU PF party from the constitution making process. The continued haggling and bickering by the parties in the GNU is a sign of the lack of political will and commitment to the drawing of the supreme law of the country. ZESN continues to advocate for the conclusion of the constitution making process and reminds COPAC that their mandate was to have a people driven constitution which would resolve the problems bedeviling the country. ZESN urges political parties to see the future of the country as more important than their arguments on issues that are not constructive. There is need for parties to remain cognisant of the fact that a new constitution will set the stage for elections. In addition, the problems and mistrust in COPAC has been shown through the "drafts" that have been leaked to the press. This brings confusion to citizens over the security of the process and the extent to which the process is fool proof to manipulation by parties. COPAC continues to deny responsibility over the leaked "drafts" appearing in the local newspapers.

## Ayikalungeli ukhetho i-Zimbabwe-UN

*Kulotshwe yi- ZESN*

Umaqhuzi obona ngezamalungelo oluntu kunhlanganiso ye-United Nations uKhomishina Nkosikazi Navi Pillay okade evakatshele kweleZimbabwe okwakuqala ngqa, usenqume ukuthi iZimbabwe ayikalungeli ukwenza ukhetho njengoba nje kulokhu kulokungezwani elizweni kwezombusazwe. Lokhu ukutho ekuphetheni kwakhe ukwethekelela kwakhe kweleZimbabwe mhlaka-25 Nkwenkwezi Emazwini akhe awethule kwabezindaba, uthe loba nje kulohulumende wamabandla amathathu avumelana kusivumelwano somnyaka ka-2008, kuyadani ukuthi kulokhu kulokulwisana kwamabandla ezombusazwe osokudale ukungezwani elizweni.

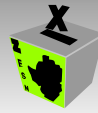
UNkosikazi Navi Pillay uthe, 'Ukungezwani lokhu kungumgoqo owenza iZimbabwe yehlukelele ukunakakela uzulu lamalungelo oluntu. Sokulokukhazeka kakhulu kuma- l u n g a k a h u l u m e n d e w e Z i m b a b w e lakubomakhelwane lomhlaba wonke nje jikelele ukuthi nxa iZimbabwe ingenzanga nguquko enkulu kwezombusazwe ingaphinda ibonakale iwela njalo phakathi kohlupho. Ukhetho oluzayo lungaphinde lufanane lolukaNhlanguka ka-2008 lapho okwabalawa, kwalinyazwa abantu kanti njalo abanye bathutha bebalekela udakela lolo.' Uphinde njalo wakhala ngemithetho evalela uzulu ukuthi atsho imbono yakhe njalo abelemlhlangano yokuxoxisana ngezombusazwe kumbe okunye nje okuphathelane lempilo zabantu. Umthetho awusole kakhulu yilowo osusetshenziswe kakhulu ekubotshweni lekujezisweni kwabalweli bamalungelo oluntu, abezindaba labamabandla ezombusazwe othiwa ngu-Section 33 of the Criminal Code (umayelana ngokuthethiswa kumbe ukudelewa kukamongameli welizwe kumbe iwofisi yakhe)

Uthe yena, "Umthetho lo ngikholwa ukuthi kumele wesulwe kumbe ulungisiwe ukuze kuvikelwe abantu nxa sokuyiwa ekhethweni. Imithetho edala ukwethuselwa kanye lokuhlukuluzwa kwabantu iyadani kakhulu, ngoba yephula amalungelo abantu ngoba ibafakela imigogo eyenza bengenelisi ukhlanganela ndawonye kanye lokutsho imibono yabo bekhululekile. UNkosikazi Pillay waba lemihlangano eyehlukeneyo lezinhlalanganiso ezilwela amalungelo oluntu leKomishini emela ezamalungelo kweleZimbabwe (Human Rights Commission), waphinda njalo waba lomhlangano leKomishini ebona ngezokhetho (Electoral Commission), ebona ngezokusakaza lamaphephandaba (Media Commission) kanye lebona ngezobuqotho (Anti-Corruption Commission). Emazwini akhe okuphetha uhambo lwakhe lolu waphinda waphatha udaba olwaluvela luke lwaphathwa yiKhomishini ebona ngezokhetho, olokuthi umsebenzi wayo udlelana lalowo owamanye amaKhomishini. Ukuze umsebenzi wokulungiselela ukhetho ufezeke kudingeka ukuthi uzulu athole imbiko kungela kwenqatshelwa kwenhlangano zokusakaza kuleli. Ukuphatheka kwezombusazwe kobukhokheli bebutho lamapholisa lakho ukusole kakhulu, watsho ukuthi akumelanga kwenzeke ukuthi abezobutho bakhanye besekela amabandla ezombusazwe. UNkosikazi Pillay uphinde njalo wagcizelela ukuqakatheka komkhankaso wezinhlalanganiso ezilwela amalungelo lentuthuko kuleli owokulungisiswa kwemithetho ephula amalungelo oluntu kuleli efana lalowo oncindezela onozindaba owe-Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA), lowe-Broadcasting Services Act kanye le-POSA yona esetshenziswa ukwenqabela imihlangano kazulu leyamabandla angasekelwa ngabomthetho.

Act kanye le-POSA yona esetshenziswa ukwenqabela imihlangano kazulu leyamabandla angasekelwa ngabomthetho. Uthe imithetho le kumele ilungisiwe ukuze ihambelane lezimiso zemithetho yamalungelo yomhlaba wonke jikelele. Uthe, 'Kuqakathekile ukuthi iZimbabwe ibe lesisekelo sombuso esihlonipha njalo sivikele amalungelo oluntu, ngakho-ke i-referendum (ukhetho lokuvuma kumbe ukwala isisekelo sombuso) lokulungisiswa kwemithetho yokuphathwa kokhetho kumele kuqale kwenziwe ukuze kulungiselelwe ukhetho olungela budlwangu budlwangu lokuqilibezelana.'

Ukutshilo njalo ukuthi lanxa lokhu kungathatha isikhathi eside kuqakathekile ukuthi kwenziwe kulokugijimela ukwenza ukhetho. Uphinde njalo watsho uNkosikazi Pillay ukuthi iKhomishini ebona ngezokhetho kumele ibe yiyo ebeka imingcele yezigaba zabameli bePhalamende, ibone njalo ngokulungiswa koluhlu lwamabizo ezizalwane ezivotayo (voters' roll), iphinde njalo ibe yiyo ephatha zonke eziphathelane lezokhetho kumbe ama-referendum (ukhetho lokuvuma kumbe ukwala isisekelo sombuso). UNkosikazi Pillay usole kakhulu inhlalanganiso kumbe ingatsha ezihlala njalonje zihlukuluzwa abalwela amalungelo lezinhlalanganiso zabo kanye labezindaba. Uthe, 'Inhlalanganiso ezimela amalungelo lentuthuko kazulu ziqakatheke kakhulu emphakathini, kumele zincediswe lanxa eminye imbiko yazo ingabe ingamandi kulabo abaphethe umbuso.' Ukubunjwa kweKhomishini emela amalungelo abantu kweleZimbabwe ngokunye kwezinto ezinconywe ngoka Pillay; uhle wakhuthaza liKhomishini ukuthi kumele iphathe umsebenzi wayo ilandela izimiso ezihlonitshwa ngumhlaba wonke ekuvikeleni amalungelo abantu. Uphinde wayikhuthaza ukuthi imele iqiniso ngokukhulu ukunanzelela ekhethweni oluzayo kanye lakusasa. Emsebenzini wayo i-ZESN kanye lezinye inhlalanganiso ezimele amalungelo kazulu kweleZimbabwe zilokhu zikhuthaza uhulumende ukuthi alungisise imithetho kanye lengatsha ezimele zibone ngokuphathwa kokhetho olungela dlakela lokuqilibezelana.

I-ZESN ikholwa ukuthi ukuze ukhetho luphathwe kuhle kuleli, kumele kulungisise indlela yokuphathwa kanye lokubalwa kwamavoti athunyezwayo, lokunye okuphathelane lokhetho. I-ZESN, yona eyinhlangano ekhankasela umbuso wentando kazulu kweleZimbabwe lokuphathwa kokhetho oluqutho, iqhubeka ikhankasela ukuthi imithetho ilungisiwe ukuze uzulu akwazi ukhlangana, ukuzihambela nje engela mgoqo njalo abantu bevunyelwa ukutsho imbono yabo kungela mgoqo. I-ZESN ikhuthaza njalo ukuthi inhlalanganiso ezifuna ukuzafakaza ekhethweni lweZimbabwe zingavalelwa njalo zixuswe yiKhomishini ebona ngokhetho kuleli hatshi umphathintambo kumbe ugatsha lukahulumende. iKhomishini le kumele njalo izimele yodwa, ingalawulwa nguhulumende, kumele ise imbono yayo ePhalamende hatshi kubaphathintambo bakahulumende. Kumele iKhomishini le ebona ngezokhetho, itholiswe imali lakho konke ekudingayo ukuze ifeze umsebenzi wayo wokubhekana lakho konke okuphathelane lokhetho kuleli.



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## Bulletin

### Elections

Of note during this period was the visit by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Ms. Navi Pillay Zimbabwe. She met stakeholders in government, academia and civil society to discuss topical issues affecting Zimbabwe. This was the first ever visit to Zimbabwe by a High Commissioner for Human Rights. Of her importance was her statement that Zimbabwe was not ready for elections due to extreme polarization that continue to mar the country's political landscape. She also castigated the role of the military in politics and condemned the lack of press freedom. She strongly condemned the various pieces of legislation that infringe on journalists' right to freedom of expression, such as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act, the Broadcasting Services Act and the Public Order and Security Act. (Detailed story on page 1 of this Newsletter)

### Factionalism and intra-party democracy

ZESN observes reported that the ZANU PF party is grappling with factionalism which has potential to destabilise the country. Factionalism has trickled down from the macro to the micro levels of the party and intra-party violence has accompanied these battles for dominance. The ZANU PF's District Coordinating Committees (DCC) elections held in most constituencies were characterised by intra-party conflicts with some results being nullified and elections rescheduled. The succession issue lies at the centre of factionalism and the media has reported the presence of contenders within ZANU PF vying for political power. The lack of a clear succession plan in political parties in Zimbabwe is a key weakness in their internal makeup.

### May day Celebrations

On the first of May, ZESN joined the Nation and the World at large in Commemorating Workers' Day. ZESN is concerned with the divisions in the labour movement given that they had separate workers day commemorations. The split of the ZCTU to two splinter groups has serious ramifications for workers representations, respect for workers' rights and have got adverse impacts and effects on collective action. Bargaining and negotiating strategies for the worker are jeopardised and compromised as unions fight to outdo each other and energy is sapped in non productive activities which do not benefit the worker.

### World Press Freedom Day and Media Controversies

On the 3rd of May, ZESN joined the world in commemorating the world Press Freedom Day. It is an opportunity to celebrate the fundamental principles of press freedom and also an occasion to evaluate press freedom, to defend the media from attacks on their independence and to pay tribute to journalists who have lost their lives in the line of duty. This day was commemorated amid restrictions that continue to muzzle the media in particular the inability by the responsible authorities to open the air waves to communities and the monopoly on TV and radio by the state. Furthermore, the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) still looms large on the neck of press freedom. Independent press is the cornerstone to any democracy which can thus guarantee free and fair elections.



### Human rights and fundamental freedoms

ZESN notes with concern the continuous violation and infringement of human rights as shown by observer reports in the 210 constituencies. Observers in Rushinga reported high levels of political intolerance and victimisation of MDC supporters as they are liable to evictions from residential areas due to political affiliation. Observers in Harare South and Mutoko North have reported that not all parties are free to wear their party regalia. Observers in some constituencies have reported the partisan role of traditional leaders in fuelling intolerance as they openly support ZANU PF and aid the victimisation of supporters of MDC. Observers in Bindura North have stated that on the 5th of May 2012 at Benridge Farm, a ZANU PF official (name withheld) was seen influencing residents to vote against the draft constitution so as to revert to the Lancaster House Constitution. Evidence from Guruve North, Hurungwe North, Umzumba and Maramba-Pungwe show national reconciliation and peaceful co-existence has not taken route due to the chanting of slogan loaded with hate and messages of intolerance. Observers in Marondera East have cited that money collected from residents for the Independence Day Celebrations was misappropriated and converted for personal use by a ZANU PF official (name withheld). Observers in Insiza North and Matobo North also cited that the Independence Day Celebrations were politicised and dominated by the ZANU PF party to the exclusion of other parties even as they implement the GNU.

Reports from Hurungwe Central have shown that farm workers at a farm (name withheld) were harassed and intimidated by war veterans. Observers in Marondera East Constituency have also cited that those found in possession of other newspapers outside of the Herald and other state owned papers have been threatened with the loss of agricultural land. Observers in Harare South have brought to attention incidences of MDC supporters who are being given eviction notices by chiefs (names withheld). Reports from Chegutu East have shown that whenever ZANU PF wants to hold a political meeting it ensures that all shops including bars, bottle stores and beer halls are closed. Observers in Harare South have brought to light incidences of coercion as residents are being forced to attend ZANU PF meetings and failure to do so results in residential stands being taken away. Reports from Marondera Central, Zvimba West and Mutoko North have shown that residents are being forced to buy ZANU PF membership cards and being told to vote for the party in the upcoming elections. Observers from Bulawayo province reported that during the Zimbabwe International Trade Fair (ZITF), conducted from the 24th to the 28th of April 2012, COPAC encouraged citizens to vote for the draft constitution as it encapsulated the people's views. ZESN feels that civic groups continue to play a fundamental role in fostering democracy as they enlighten citizens and communities on their rights through progressive civic education, as such the state should play a lead role in creating a conducive political environment for civic organisations to carry out their operations. Observers have cited a number of civic organisations as operating in areas under observation.

ZESN reiterates that state resources are not for personal, political or private use but are meant for the wholesome benefit of all citizens. Observers in constituencies under observation have highlighted on how these resources are being abused for purposes. Observers in Muzarabani have cited the use of a state vehicle (ID withheld) on the 10th of May 2012 to transport food for ZANU PF staff at a meeting held at Muzarabani Council Offices. Reports from Rushinga have cited the use of a ZRP vehicle as having been used to ferry ZANU PF members to political meetings and rallies. Also two headmasters (names withheld) were seen campaigning for the ZANU PF party during working hours. Observers in Bulawayo South have stated that on the 28th of April 2012, a JOMIC vehicle with the number plates (ID withheld) was used to transport MDC (N) supporters to a rally held at Sizinda Hall.

Observers in Rushinga Constituency, Gokwe Mapfungautsi, Gokwe Chireya, Mberengwa East, Makoni North, Chimanimani East and West, Musikavanhu, Buhera North, Chivi South, Chivi North, Masvingo Central and West, Zaka Central and East, Muzarabani South, Chegutu East, Hurungwe East, Nkayi North, Goromonzi South and Marondera East have noted the partisan distribution of maize as only ZANU PF supporters have access to this maize. Reports from Bindura North have shown that on the 28th of April 2012, the war veterans, youths were partisanly distributing food aid and politicised the whole event. Reports from Chinhoi and surrounding constituencies have shown that people evicted from farms are facing dire straits as they have no permanent shelter and are living in tents and surviving on handouts. Reports from Bindura North have brought evidence of the eviction of former farm labourers of Matemba farm has increased their vulnerabilities. Observers from Insiza North have reported farm invasions in the constituency. Observers in Matobo North have stated that Chief Masuku and Clever Dube invaded Connolly Farm on the 15th of April 2012. ZESN urges the Human Rights Commission to investigate these incidents and to ensure that the government of Zimbabwe respects protects and upholds human rights in the country.