



# Ballot Update

## Bulletin

November 2012

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# 2012: Progress and Gaps as we Head for Elections By ZESN



On another positive note there was also the enactment of the Human Rights Commission Act which aims to promote awareness of and respect for human rights and freedoms at all levels, to promote the development of human rights and freedoms, to monitor and assess the observance of human rights in Zimbabwe. Though it had taken long, but this law will ensure that the Human Rights Commission is functional. However, much still needs to be done to ensure that elections are free and fair.

Of note is that most of the created commissions are in limbo due to lack of resources. There are numerous legal reforms still to be effected. The Public Order Security Act (POSA) and the

***“The Second All Stakeholders Conference though peaceful, failed to register movement to the next stage”.***

2012 what a year it proved to be for political parties, but for the ordinary citizens much could have remained the same. The Constitution reform process continued albeit with the bickering and the disagreements. The COPAC draft was finally produced on the 18th of July 2012, after a version had leaked.

Thereafter there was much heckling amongst the political parties, and after negotiations and mediation from the facilitation team the parties convened the Second All Stakeholders Constitutional Conference in October 2012. The Second All Stakeholders Conference though peaceful, failed to register movement to the next stage. A committee comprising of three cabinet ministers from the three political parties and the COPAC co-chairpersons has been created to look into the areas of disagreement.

A referendum in 2012 is no longer possible, going by this; the referendum is most likely to be held in early 2013 if these issues are resolved. They are repeated calls for political parties to take the Constitution seriously, because it will shape the nature of elections in Zimbabwe. The constitution lays down principles that Zimbabwe's electoral system should conform to; establishes requirements for registration as a voter, lays down criteria for the delimitation of electoral units, restructures key elective offices in the executive and legislature, and establishes standards for the formation and management of political parties. To date the parties have failed to abide by Article VI of the Global Political Agreement (GPA); the talk of elections in March 2013 is worrisome as it will subvert the constitutional reform process.

Key political party leaders, talked against violence by stressing tolerance and peaceful conduct in elections. The President's speeches at independence and at the Second All stakeholders Constitutional Conference denounced violence and this could have gone a long way in ensuring that the 2nd All Stakeholders was peaceful. SADC became more assertive and took a tougher stance on the political parties. The facilitation team ensured that there is sustained dialogue among the political parties.

It is clear that SADC does not desire another disputed election and the Zimbabwe question has taken too long. The Electoral Amendment Act No. 2 of 2012 ushered in a host of positive electoral reforms. These include announcing results within 5 days, adopting polling station based voters' rolls, setting up an electoral court and ZEC given the role to compile the voters' roll and maintain it.

Access to Information Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) impinge on fundamental freedoms of expression and assembly, are yet to be amended. Amendments to POSA have been stalled in the Upper House for more than a year. Efforts by the Joint Monitoring Implementation Committee (JOMIC) are not bearing much fruit for the nation. JOMIC was invisible in 2012 as incidences of violence continued to be reported. The Organ on National, Healing, Reconciliation and Integration was also ineffective. National healing is a critical component for the country to move forward given the political background of Zimbabwe. Media reforms relating to television is not yet in place. Television is still dominated by the Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings and is yet to be opened up to other players. The use of hate speech has not reduced. The state-owned media is still spinning hate language against non-ZANU PF parties.

The COPAC draft constitution has been a key sticking issue, since the formation of the GNU. Three years on, the constitution reform process is yet to be finalized and the process is in danger of being averted. The COPAC draft is being debated by a committee set up by the Principals after the Second Stakeholders Conference failed to solve the diverging views from the political parties. The draft is yet to be taken to Parliament and to the people. The constitution is the bedrock of democracy and it will change the nature of elections and usher in a new political dispensation. ZESN is calling for the finalization of this process in accordance with Article VI of the GPA. The Elections Roadmap has been completely put aside and the timelines have not been respected by the political parties. If there is no progress on the outstanding issues, Zimbabwe might experience a repeat of the 2008 elections. SADC will reject the disputed election resulting in another GPA or GNU 2.

### *Election news quotes*

*ZEC believes the US\$50 million was merely an initial allocation, just part of the total budget for the referendum and the elections. The state has always provided for the total election budget and ZEC believes after proclamation the state will provide the adequate funding required for ZEC to fulfill its mandate," Dr. Petty Makoni ZEC chairperson for public relations and communication committee.*

*The Herald 26 November 2012*

*"We have one chance left- 2013 to prove that this party is ready to govern. Tikapotsa ipapo vamwe vava kundofudza mombe," Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai.*

*The Herald, 19 November 2012*

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## ZVAKAGONEKWA NEZVAKASARIRA MUNA 2012 SEZVO TATARISANA NESARUDZO

### Munyori weZESN

2012 igore rakaitika zvizhinji kwazvo kunyanya kune vemapato ezvematongerwo enyika asi hapana zvizhinji zvakashanduka kuzvizvarwa zvemuZimbabwe. Kugadziriswa kwebumbiro remutemo kwakaenderera mberi paine kusawirirana pakati pemapato ari muhurumende. Chinyorwa chebumbiro remutemo chakazobuda musu wa18 Chikunguru 2012. Pakazove nekukandirana kwemashoko pakati pemapato ezvematongerwo enyika. Izvi zvakazoteverwa nekuwirirana kuti paitwe musangano mukuru wechipiri wevamiriri vemapato ese ane chekuita nekugadzirwa kwebumbiro remutemo muna Gumiguru 2012.

Nyangwe zvawo musangano uyu wakaitwa pasina mhirizhonga, hauna kukwanisa kujekesa danho raifanira kuzotorwa pakugadziriswa kwebumbiro remutemo. Pakagadzirwa komiti ine makurukota ehurumende matatu akamiririra mapato matatu ari muhurumende pamwe nevatungamiri veCOPAC kuti vagadzirise pane makakatanwa. Sezvo nguva yafamba kudai, hazvichakwanisiki kuti paitwe sarudzo dzekugamuchira kana kuramba bumbiro remutemo muna 2012. Dzave kuitwa muna 2013 kana makakatanwa achinge agadziriswa. Pfungwa huru iri kusimudzwa neruzhinji inoti, vemapato ematongerwo enyika vanofanira kukoshesa kugadziriswa kwebumbiro remutemo nekuti rine chekuita nemafambisirwo achaitwa sarudzo dzemuZimbabwe.

Bumbiro remutemo ndiro rinopa hwaro hwekuti sarudzo dzifambiswe sei muZimbabwe, nekutaura zvinotaririrwa pakunyoresha kuvhota pamwe nekutaura kuti nzvimbo dzekuvhota dzinotarwa sei. Ndiro zvakare rinojekesa kuti vatungamiri vanosarudzwa sei pamwe nekudorongodza zvinofanira kuitwa panotangwa mapato matsva ezvematongerwo enyika uye nekuti anofanira kushanda sei. Parizvino mapato ezvematongerwo enyika atadza kuita zvakabvumiranwa muchibvumirano chezvematongerwo enyika. Nyaya yekuti sarudzo dziitwe munaKurume 2013 haisi kufadza nekuti ichakanganisa kugadziriswa kwebumbiro remutemo.

Vatungamiri vezvematongerwo enyika vakawirirana kuti havadi mhirizhonga kubudikidza nekutsinhira kuitwa kwesarudzo murunyararo. Mukuru wenyika akashoropodza zvikuru mhirizhonga pazuva rekucherechedza rusununguko rweZimbabwe nepamusangano mukuru wechipiri wevamiriri vemapato ese ane chekuita nekugadzirwa kwebumbiro remutemo. Izvi zvakabatsira kuti musangano uyu uitwe pasina mhirizhonga. SADC yakaitawo rupande rwayo pakukurudzira kutaurirana kwakanaka pakati pemapato ezvematongerwo enyika. Zviri pachena kuti SADC haichadi kuti Zimbabwe ive nedzimwe sarudzo dzisingagamuchiriki.

Mutemo unotaura nezvekufambiswa kwesarudzo wakadzikwa muna 2012 wakaunza shanduko dzakanaka. Shanduko idzi dzinosanganisira kuti zvabuda musarudzo zvinofanira kushambadzirwa mumazuva mashanu, zvinyorwa zvemazita evanhu

vachavhota zvinofanira kuve panzvimbo yekuvhota, kuve nedare rinogadzirisa makakatanwa anoita panguva dzesarudzo uye kuti ZEC ndiyo inofanira kugadzira nekuchengetedza chinyorwa chinotaridza mazita evanhu vakanyoresa kuti vanoda kuvhota.

Chimwe chakaitwa chakanaka kugadzirwa kwemutemo unokurudzira kuremekedzwa kwekodzera nekusununguka kwevanhu pamatanho ese, pamwe nekuona kuti kodzera dzemuZimbabwe dzasimudzirwa nekuchengetedzwa muZimbabwe.

Nyangwe mutemo uyu wakatora nguva yakareba usati wagadzirwa, uchabatsira kuti komishoni inoona nezvekodzera dzevanhu itange kushanda. Asi pane zvakanaka zvinofanira kugadziriswa kuti sarudzo dziitwe zvakanosununguka pasina kubiridzira. Semuenzaniso, makomishoni mazhinji haasi kukwanisa kuita basa nekuti hapana zvekushandisa.

Pane mitemo zvakanaka zvakare inofanira kugadziriswa inosanganisira mutemo unotaura nezvekuungana kwevanhu unonzi Public Order Security Act (POSA) pamwe nemutemo unotaura pamusoro pekuwana mvumo yekutapa zvinenge zvichiitika munyika unonzi, Access to Information Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA). Mitemo iyi inotadzisa vanhu kusununguka kutaura zvavanoda nekutadzisa vanhu kuita misangano.

Komiti yemubatanidzwa wemapato inoona kuti zvisungo zvabvumiranwa zvaitwa inonzi JOMIC, hapana zvayakawanisa kuita paiitika mhirizhonga muna2012. Bazi rakapihwa basa rekuona kuti munyika muve nekuregererana nekuwadzana hapanawo zvizhinji zvarakawanisa kuita. Asi zvakanosha kuti munyika muve nekuregererana kunyanya takatarisa kwatiri kubva sezvizvarwa zveZimbabwe panyaya dzezvematongerwo enyika.

Mitemo ine chekuita nekufambiswa kwemashoko kubudikidza nenhepfenyuro nematerevhizhoni haisati yadzikwa. Pachine terevhizhoni imwe chete yeZimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings uye vamwe vangande kupindawo mune zvenhepfenyuro havasi kupihwa mukana.

Kushandiswa kwemutauro unotaridza ruvengo hakusati kwadzikira uye mamwe mapato achiri kushandisa mutauro unotaridza ruvengo kune mamwe mapato ezvematongerwo enyika.

Kugadziriswa kwebumbiro remutemo neCOPAC ndechimwe chezvisiri kufadza kubva pakagadzirwa hurumende yemubatanidzwa. Makore matatu atopfuura basa iri richingopfuurira mberi. Izvi zvinoreva kuti basa iri rinogona kutadza kubudirira. Makomiti akasarudzwa neVatungamiri venyika pamusangano mukuru wechipiri wevamiriri vemapato ese ane chekuita nekugadzirwa kwebumbiro remutemo achiri kukurukura pamusoro pechinyorwa chebumbiro remutemo. Makomiti aya akagadzirwa mushure mekunge vamiriri vemapato ematongerwo enyika vatadza kuwirirana pane dzimwe nyaya. Chinyorwa ichi chinofanira kuzoendeswa kudare reParamende nekuruzhinji rwevanhu.

Bumbiro remutemo ndiyo nheyo yehutongi hweruzhinji. Ndiro richashandura mafambiro esarudzo pamwe nekuunza maonero matsva ezvematongerwo enyika. Naizvozvo, ZESN iri kuti bumbiro remutemo ngaripedze kugadziriswa sezvakanyorwa muchibvumirano chemubatanidzwa wehurumende.

Zvinofanira kugadziriswa sarudzo dzisati dzaitwa ngazvigadziriswe uye nguva dzakatarwa ngadziremekedzwe nemapato ematongerwo enyika.

Kana zvinofanira kugadziriswa zvikasagadziriswa, Zimbabwe inogona kuve nesarudzo dzakafanana nedzemugore ra2008. Izvi zvichaita kuti SADC irambe kugamuchira zvinobuda musarudzo idzi zvoita kuti tive neumwe mubatanidzwa wehurumende wechipiri.

*"Nyangwe zvawo musangano uyu wakaitwa pasina mhirizhonga, hauna kukwanisa kujekesa danho raifanira kuzotorwa pakugadziriswa kwebumbiro remutemo".*



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# Ballot Update

Bulletin

## AN ANALYSIS OF NOVEMBER 2012:

### INTRODUCTION

This update presents a summary description of some political developments in the constituencies. The Zimbabwe Election Support Network remains dedicated to the promotion of democratic elections in Zimbabwe. In line with this objective, we continue to analyse the political environment in the 210 constituencies where observers are deployed. This update is informed by observations from these constituencies and broadly captures national political developments in Zimbabwe.

### The GPA

The GNU continues to be plunged into turmoil with several issues threatening its capacity. The looming primary elections have caused commotion within political parties fuelling squabbles and infighting. The deliberate exclusion of the GPA principal and leader of the MDC Professor Welshman Ncube in the COPAC meeting which sought to map a way forward to the referendum has brought to attention how leaders are deliberately ignoring the decision reached at the SADC Troika Summit which recognised Professor Ncube as the true Principal of the GPA and leader to the MDC. The period also witnessed tension mounting between Deputy Prime Minister Professor Arthur Mutambara and Professor Ncube over the dismissal of legislators and councillors thus intensifying rivalry between them.

### Constitution making process

The constitution making process is in motion with the formation of a committee set to produce a report which will be reviewed in parliament and set pace for the referendum. ZESN has observed that this effort comes amidst the deadlock reached after the just ended second all stakeholders' conference. ZESN has noted that the committee has been set up as an attempt to unravel the impasse amongst principals in the GNU over the constitution making process. ZESN observes that the committee comprises of a three member cabinet team drawn from ZANU PF and the two MDC formations which will be joined in group discussions by the three COPAC co-chairs and Honourable Edward Mkhosi, Honourable Paul Mangwana and Honourable Douglas Mwonozora and chaired by Hon Minister Eric Matinenga. ZESN reiterates its call to the Principals urging them to finalize the constitution making as the country's future hinges upon the constitution. The constitution is the supreme law of the land and is meant to benefit future generations hence leaders ought to put their self-seeking interests aside and advance the cause of the nation. This latest stalemate has raised doubts about Zimbabwe ability to get the draft to a referendum in time for elections which the President says will be held in March 2013.

## Umnyaka ka-2012: osekwenziwe lokusaseleyo ukhetho lungakenziwa. *Kulotshwe yi-ZESN*

Kungabe kukunengi okubalwe njengempumelelo ngamabandla ezombusazwe lonyaka kodwa kuzulu, kunengi okungaguqukanga ngitsho lakancane. Ukulotshwa kwesisekelo sombuso esitsha kuqhubekela phambili lanxa nje bekuphikiswana njalo nje. Isisekelo sombuso esingakapheleli sakhitshwa yiKhomithi ekhokhela loluhlelo mhlaka 18 kaNtulikazi ngemva kokuba sokuphume amanga aluhlaza ngalo umsebenzi. Kwathi ngemva kokudonselana kwamabandla ezombusazwe akuhulumende womanyano, kwenziwa umhlangano wesibili wezinhlanguzo eziphatheke kumbe ezilokwenza lokulotshwa kwesisekelo sombuso esitsha, i-Second All-Stakeholders Conference ngenyanga kaMfumfu lonyaka. Lanxa nje umhlangano lo wahamba kuhle, awuzange ube lampumela eqhubela phambili ukulotshwa kwesisekelo sombuso esitsha lesi.

Amabandla ezombusazwe aphuma kulo umhlangano ephikisana okwamagama osekudale ukuthi kubunjwe iKhomithi yabaphathintambo abathathu lobukhokheli be-COPAC ukuthi baxazulule ingxabangoza le kutholakale indlela yokuqhubekela phambili ngohlelo lokubhalwa kwesisekelo sombuso esitsha. Sokusobala-ke ukuthi ireferendum ayiseyikuba khona lonyaka kodwa ngomnyaka ozayo, u-2013 nxa amabandla evumelana. Inengi seliqale imikhankaso yokuthi isisekelo sombuso senziwe ngokuphangisa njengoba kuyiso esiphawula indlela yokuphathwa kokhetho lendlela amabandla ezombusazwe okumele aziphathe ngayo.

Kuze kube lamhlanje, amabandla ezombusazwe akuhulumende sehluleke kanengi ukulandela izimiso zesahluko VI wesivumelwano samabandla la ese-Global Political Agreement (GPA); inkulungo yokuthi kube lokhetho ngomnyaka ozayo ingaphambanisa uhlelo lokulotshwa kwesisekelo sombuso esitsha. Amabandla ezombusazwe lonyaka agcizelele indingeko yokuthi kube lokuthula elizweni, ukhetho luphathwe ngokubekezelelana lokuzwana. Lokhu sikukhunjuzwa njalo zinkulungo zikamongameli welizwe emkhosini wokunazwa kukazibuse waleli lasemhlanganweni wezinhlolonhlobo wezinhlanguzo eziphatheke ekulotshweni

kwesisekelo sombuso, i-Second All Stakeholders Conference esola udlakela kwezombusazwe okungabe kwadala ukuthi lowo mhlanguzo uhambe kakuhle. Lonyaka inhlanguzo yamazwe angezansi yeAfrica, i-SADC layo ibonakale ithatha amanyathelo abanzi okukhuthaza amabandla ezombusazwe akuleli ukuba ahlale exoxisana njalonje ukuze udaba lweZimbabwe luphutshe kakuhle.

Umthetho wokuphathwa kokhetho, i-Electoral Amendment Act yesibili ka2012 lawo waletha inguquko engconywa. Izinto ezibaliseka ukuphiwa kwe-ZEC amandla okuqhuba umsebenzi wokubhalisa abavotayo lokuphatha uluhlu lwamabizo abo, i-voters' roll. Ngalo umthetho, impumela yokhetho sokumele imenyazelwe kungakedluli insuku ezinhlangu emva kokuvota, i-voters' roll layo isizaqunywa ibe lezixha eziqondane lalabo abavotela endaweni yinye ngayinye yokuvotela. Okunye njalo okubekuhle lonyaka, yikuphuthiswa komthetho onika amandla kuKhomishini ebona ngokulondolozwa kwamalungelo oluntu kuleli. Lanxa nje kethethe isikhathi eside kakhulu ukuthi iKhomishini le isungulwe ngokusemthethweni, ukumiswa kwalo umthetho kuzadala ukuthi iKhomishini ebona ngezamalungelo oluntu isebenze.

Lanxa nje konke lokhu okuchazwe ngaphezulu sokwenzakele, kusesekekunengi okusamele kwenziwe ukuze ukhetho lube lukhetho olukhululekileyo njalo olungela kuqilibezelelana. Okunanzeleleka kalula yikuthi amaKhomishini la, lanxa esebunjiwe, awalamali yokuthi aqhube umsebenzi wawo. Imithetho efana labo-POSA (owenqabela ukuhlangana kwabantu bekhululekile) labo-AIPPA (ofakela abezindaba imigoqo eyenza basebenze bengakhululekanga) ilokhu incindezela uzulu, isephula amalungelo oluntu. Ukulungisiswa komthetho we-POSA sokudonse isikhathi esdlula umnyaka wonke kulokhu kusedale leSenethi. Imizamo yogatsha olubona ngokulandelwa kwezimiso zesivumelwano samabandla ezombusazwe akuhulumende womanyano, i-JOMIC, yokuletha ukuthula ezigabeni ezitshiyeneyo kayizange ibonakale kangako ngomnyaka ka-2012 lapho kubikwa

ukumemetheka kodlame kwezinye indawo zelizwe. Ugatsha lukahulumende olubona ngokukhumisana umlotha lokubambana kwezizalwane zakuleli, i-Organ on National Healing, Reconciliation and Integration (ONHRI) lalo alwenzanga lukhulu emsebenzini walo. Ukukhumisana umlotha lokuthula kuqatheke kakhulu kweleZimbabwe nxa sikhangelwa imbali yaleli lizwe. Ukulungisiswa komthetho oqondisa ukuphathwa kwezokusakaza kulokhu kungenzakali; umsakazo kamabonwakude (i-televizhini) silokhu sisodwa njalo siphethwe yi-Zimbabwe Broadcasting Holdings kungavulelwa abanye. Umsakazo lo olokhu usaphethwe nguhulumende ulokhu ubonakala usekela ibandla le-ZANU PF njalo uchothoza amanye amabandla.

Uhlelo lokubunjwa kwesisekelo sombuso esitsha osoluthethe imininyaka emithathu ngolunye lalo oluhlezi kudala ukungezwani phakathi kwamabandla akuhulumende womanyano. Uhlelo lolu lungaphelela emoyeni njengoba nje ukudonselana kungapheli, khathesi sokubunjwe iKhomithi yabaphathintambo lobukhokheli be-COPAC ukuthi ikhangele lokho okungavunyelwananga enhlanganweni wezinhlanguzo eziphatheke ehlelweni lolu owe-Second All Stakeholders Meeting. Kusamele isisekelo esingakapheleli siye ePhalamende lakuzulu wonke.

Isisekelo sombuso siyiyona nsika yombuso wentando kazulu, sizaguqula njalo indlela yokuqhubekela kokhetho kuleli okungaletha-ke inguquko enkulu kwezombusazwe. I-ZESN ilangathelela ukubona uhlelo lokubhalwa kwesisekelo sombuso esitsha kulandela izimiso zesahluko VI sesivumelwano samabandla ombusazwe akuhulumende womanyano, i-GPA. Uhlelo lokulungiselela ukhetho oluqotho lalo solutshiywe yisikhathi njengoba nje amabandla ezombusazwe engaluhloniphi lolohlelo aluvumelanayo. Nxa kungalungisiswanga konke okusamiyo ukhetho lungakenziwa, i-Zimbabwe ingehlelwa yilokho okwenzakala ekhethweni lomnyaka ka-2008. Inhlanguzo ye-SADC ingahle ikhankasele ukubunjwa komunye njalo uhulumende womanyano wesibili kweleZimbabwe.



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## Political tensions within the MDCs

ZESN has noted with apprehension the tension mounting between the MDC leader Professor Welshman Ncube and the Deputy Prime Minister Professor Arthur Mutambara over the dismissal of legislators and councillors. The Herald of Wednesday 21 November 2012 reported that Professor Ncube fired 8 legislators and 49 councillors for indiscipline and floor crossing to the MDC-T formation. ZESN observes that the relations between Professor Mutambara and Professor Ncube have since soured during the course of the year when the former lost MDC leadership to the latter during a Supreme Court ruling last year. The feud between the two gentlemen escalated even further when the SADC Troika meeting recognised Professor Ncube as the true principal to the GPA hence excluding professor Mutambara from the discussions. ZESN expresses profound disapproval over this power wrangle and views it as an attention seeking strategy and a platform whereby politicians are trying to exercise their political muscle to gain leverage over national matters. Politicians should desist from plunging the nation into unwarranted commotion and tension which is uncalled for. ZESN thus warns leaders to be wary of investing in squabbles which have potential of shipwrecking their political careers.

## Primary elections: Source of conflict for parties

ZESN has noted that the looming primary elections have severed relations within political parties and resulted in great strife arising within parties threatening party structures and functionality. Relations have soured within political parties as controversy has arisen over the need to allow for new candidates within their party to contest for the primary elections or retain sitting legislators. ZESN has noted that political parties are merely politicking and trying to hold on to the reins of power. This stance by political parties reveals the extent to which greed has gripped political parties thus manifesting itself through strained relations within parties. ZESN believes that these squabbles threaten intraparty democracy and have a potential to derail party structures that could result in unnecessary fractures and instability which have potential of collapsing party cohesion.

## Human rights

The freeness and fairness of an election is gauged by the extent to which freedoms of assembly, association, expression and movement are upheld. In citizens' private spaces or the communities they live this is gauged by their ability to say what they want, to freely attend rallies/political meetings without fear or coercion and on Election Day the extent to which they vote freely. Governments also have a duty and prerogative to ensure that these freedoms are respected by upholding the constitution and more fundamentally by ensuring that there is rule of law.

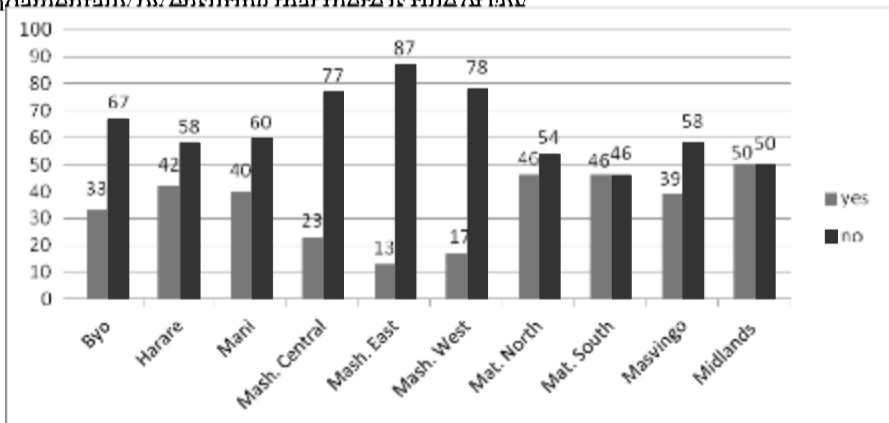
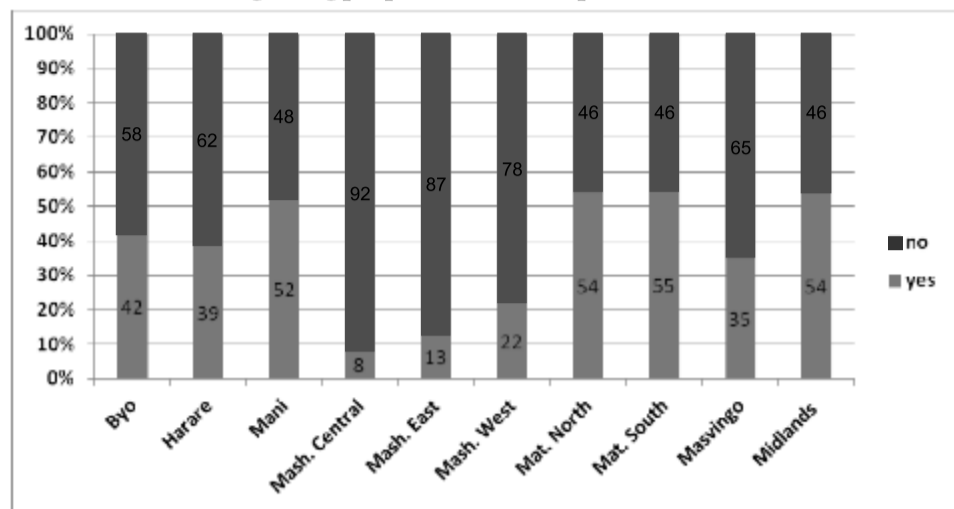


Fig 1: Respect for Human Rights in the Constituencies

## Fundamental freedoms

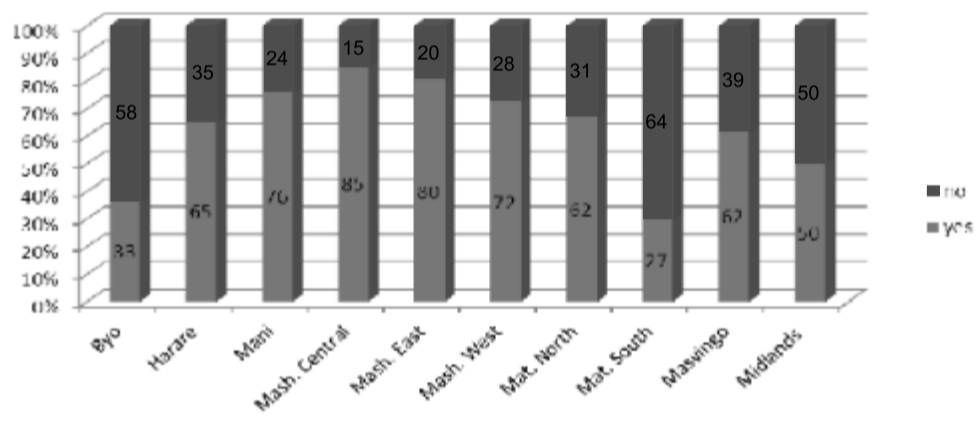
Observers report that citizens in the constituencies, experience discrimination by political party. Reports from the media show that the political parties are in campaign mode, especially after the announcement by the President that elections will be held in March. ZANU PF was reported to be also distributing farming inputs to its members through the 20million dollar presidential agricultural scheme.

As the country heads towards an impending referendum and elections this discrimination is likely to increase. The three Mashonaland provinces are the highest when it comes to disregarding people's freedom of speech.



## Discrimination by Political Party

Discrimination by political party is more prevalent in Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Manicaland, Mashonaland West and Harare. Ominously citizens are not free to wear party regalia without experiencing any problems. Observers report that the forms of media are not dependable and balanced. The least trusted sources are the state controlled newspapers. Observers report that citizens are constrained from reading newspapers of their choice but this is predominant in Mashonaland Central (69%) and Mashonaland Central (60%). The statement by the President that elections will be conducted has put the country in electoral mode. Equally in the communities there is more discussion about electoral reforms as Zimbabwe moves towards an impending election. SADC has said that Zimbabwe can only have elections upon putting in place the prerequisites for free and fair election. The earliest time Zimbabwe can have an election according to SADC would be June 2013. Observers reported that in the constituencies 51% of the citizens are having discussions about electoral reforms. There is a new Electoral law, which introduces clauses that will go a long way if implemented in sincerity, in ensuring that elections are somewhat free and fair.



## Conclusion

ZESN remains committed to monitoring Zimbabwe's political environment and analysing their implications for the conduct of elections in Zimbabwe. While some areas in Zimbabwe are experiencing human rights violations in various ways, observers have also noted areas where people's rights are respected. ZESN envisages a Zimbabwe where people's rights are respected and protected all the time.

## Human Rights Day Statement

December 10, 2012.

The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) joins the rest of the world in commemorating World Human Rights day which is set for the 10th of December. This year's celebrations run under the theme "*Inclusion and the right to participate in public*".

ZESN notes that this day comes against the background of continued calls for reforms to the various laws to enable the creation of a conducive environment for participation in national events such as elections. ZESN envisages a Zimbabwe where people's rights are respected and protected all the time. However, the continued presence of laws such as the AIPPA and POSA are inimical to the realisation of inclusion and full participation of the citizen in national issues particularly in issues of governance and elections. In the spirit of this year's theme ZESN urges the Government of National Unity to implement all the provisions of the Global Political Agreement especially those pertaining to the creation of a conducive environment before any elections are held in Zimbabwe.

As the world celebrates Human Rights Day, ZESN calls for the upholding of human rights and the right to participate in elections for all citizens.