



**SADC ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION (SEOM) TO  
THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HIS EXCELLENCY MANUEL DOMINGOS AUGUSTO**

**MINISTER OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA**

**AND HEAD OF THE SEOM**

**TO THE 2018 HARMONISED ELECTIONS**

**IN**

**THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

**HELD ON**

**30 JULY 2018**

Your Excellency Mr John Dramani Mahama, Former President of the Republic of Ghana and Head of the Commonwealth Election Observation Mission;

Your Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe, former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Head of the African Union (AU) Election Observation Mission to the Republic of Zimbabwe;

Your Excellency Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, Executive Secretary of the Southern African Development Community (SADC);

Honourable Justice Patrick Matibini, SC, Speaker of the National Assembly of Zambia and Head of Mission of the SADC Parliamentary Forum;

Hon. Justice Semistocles S. Kaijage, Chairperson of the National Electoral Commission of Tanzania and Head of Mission of the Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries;

Ambassador Ashraf Gamal Rashed, Member of the COMESA Committee of Elders;

Distinguished Members of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC);

Esteemed Members of the SADC Organ Troika on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation;

Distinguished Members of the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC);

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Representatives of the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe;

Leaders and Representatives of Political Parties;

Local and International Election Observation Missions;

Members of the Diplomatic Corps and International Organisations;

Religious Leaders;

Members of the Media;

Members of Civil Society, Women and Youth Organisations;

Distinguished Guests;

"Kwaziwayi".

"Linjani"

"Good morning"

It is my privilege to welcome you all to this august event, the presentation of the Preliminary Statements of the International Electoral Observers to the Harmonised Elections in the Republic of Zimbabwe that took place on Monday, 30 July 2018.

I am honored to present the Preliminary Statement of the SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM).

**Your Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

In accordance with the established practice to observe the National Elections in SADC Member States, His Excellency João Manuel Gonçalves Lourenço, President of the Republic of Angola and the Chairperson of the SADC Organ on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation constituted the SADC Electoral

Observation Mission (SEOM) to observe the elections following an invitation extended by the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

This practice is in conformity with the SADC Treaty; the SADC Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Cooperation and the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015).

In this regard, President João Lourenço mandated Dr. Stergomena Lawrence Tax, the Executive Secretary of SADC to facilitate the deployment of the SEOM to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

Furthermore, the Chairperson appointed me in my capacity as the Minister of External Relations of the Republic of Angola to lead the SEOM to the Republic of Zimbabwe.

**Your Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen**

As you may know, SADC has now employed the Long Term Election Observation Methodology as stipulated in the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. To this end, we deployed the SADC Electoral Advisory Council (SEAC) in March, 2018, to assess whether the political and security environment was conducive to the holding of democratic elections; as well as gauge the state of preparedness of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

It is significant to note and appreciate, therefore, that both the SEAC and the Long Term Observation Mission observed that there had been a remarkable transformation in the exercise and protection of civil and political rights in Zimbabwe compared to the 2008 presidential run off. Further to this, the SEOM notes that Zimbabwe has welcomed international election observers, some of whom were previously barred or not invited to observe elections in Zimbabwe. This is a commendable move towards electoral transparency and confidence building in the electoral process.

**Your Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

The Mission notes that the 30 July 2018 Harmonized Elections in Zimbabwe were regulated by the Constitution of the Republic of Zimbabwe and the Electoral Act.

According to Section 158 (1)(a) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, 2013, General Elections should take place not more than thirty days before the expiry of the five-year period in terms of Section 143 of the Constitution. By proclamation call the President sets the date for a General Election after consultation with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission.

Pursuant to Section 144 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, His Excellency Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa, on 30<sup>th</sup> May 2018, issued a proclamation setting the 30 July 2018 as the date for Presidential, Parliamentary, and Local Government Elections, referred to as the Harmonised Elections.

**Your Excellencies;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

As part of its observation process, the SEOM engaged a wide range of stakeholders constituting state and non-state actors beginning with the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe; ZEC, Political Parties, Council of Chiefs, media, representatives of regional and international organisations, academia, faith-based organisations; and civil society as well as persons with disabilities, women and youth.

The SEOM will continue with long term observation of the post-election phase – the findings of which will be incorporated into the final report of the Mission.

Our assessment takes note of the major positive aspects related to the administration of the legal and constitutional framework and its transformative effect on the political and security context. We also take note of those areas that require improvement in order to enhance the electoral system and democracy in general.

## **1. FINDINGS OF THE SADC ELECTORAL OBSERVATION MISSION TO THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE**

The Mission wishes to share the following Preliminary Findings of the 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2018 Harmonised Elections:

### **1.1 The Legal and Constitutional Framework**

The Constitution promotes key principles for conducting democratic elections which include:

- (a) The right for all political parties to function and campaign freely within the law;
- (b) The will of the people to be demonstrated through elections that are conducted in a free, fair, transparent and efficient manner; and
- (c) State-owned media to be impartial and afford fair opportunity for the presentation of divergent views and opinions.

The SEOM further notes that the Constitution introduced new institutional mechanisms that promote democracy and good governance, which had to be factored into existing or new legislation in order for the laws of the country to be aligned with the Constitution. The Mission was informed by the ZEC that the process of aligning the Electoral Act with the Constitution is ongoing.

The Mission further notes that on 28th May 2018, the Government published the Electoral Amendment Act, 2018, whose key positive aspects include a new *Electoral Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates and other Stakeholders*. The Code of Conduct is an essential framework enabling a climate of tolerance in which election activity may take place without fear, coercion, intimidation or reprisals.

The Mission also notes that public funding for political parties is based on the Political Parties (Finance) Act where funding is available based on achieving at least 5% of the parliamentary vote. The Act also prohibits political parties and candidates from accepting funding from individuals and entities who are foreigners and not resident in Zimbabwe.

**1.2 Mandate and Appointment of ZEC Commissioners**

Elections in Zimbabwe are conducted and managed by the ZEC which is one of the five *Chapter 12* institutions of the Constitution whose purpose is to promote democracy in Zimbabwe. The other four are the Human Rights Commission, the Gender Commission, the Media Commission, and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission, which have a complementary role to play in the electoral context, particularly in conflict prevention, management and resolution.

The SEOM notes that the involvement of the public and political parties in the appointment of ZEC Commissioners is a commendable practice as it potentially lends credibility to the electoral management body. The ZEC is made up of a chairperson appointed by the President after consultation with the Judicial Services Commission (JSC) and the Parliamentary Committee on Standing Rules and Orders, which also includes ruling party and opposition parties; and eight other members appointed by the President from a list of not less than twelve (12) nominees submitted by the Committee. The appointment of the Commissioners is based on stakeholder consultations, public nomination processes, and public interviews in Parliament. The ZEC's mandate includes:

- (i) Conducting and managing elections and referenda in Zimbabwe in a transparent, impartial and independent manner;
- (ii) Establishing a voter registration system that results in a credible Voters' Roll;
- (iii) Creating and consolidating structures that facilitate good relations between and among stakeholders in elections; and
- (iv) Designing and developing a voter education programme that informs and educates the electorate in Zimbabwe.

In line with the ZEC mandate, the SEOM notes that the ZEC has made a number of positive improvements to the management of the elections, which include the following:

- (i) Introduction of a Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) system on 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 through Statutory instrument 109 of 2017, following the disagreements between contesting political parties in 2013 over transparency and management of the voters roll. This is consistent with the provisions of the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections;
- (ii) ZEC is now fully in charge of the registration of voters and management of the voters' roll;
- (iii) The introduction of Polling station specific registration which confines each voter to cast ballots at only one polling station of their choice within the precincts of their homes, to allay fears of multiple voting;
- (iv) The establishment of the Multi-Party Liaison Committee as a platform for political party dialogue and engagement on issues related to the election process;
- (v) The positive engagement with civil society organisations, particularly in respect of civic and voter education.

Further to this, and in the context of electoral conflict prevention, management and resolution, the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) has been operational since February 2018, and has evidently contributed to the enhancement of the climate of peace and political tolerance by facilitating commitments to *the Peace Pledge* signed by 21 political leaders ahead of polling day. In addition, the Human Rights Commission now has the mandate to observe the elections in Zimbabwe, and deployed observers in this respect.

Despite these highly significant initiatives by the ZEC and other Chapter 12 Institutions, the SEOM also took note of the varied concerns raised by stakeholders in respect of ZEC and its management of some aspects of the electoral process. The following were the main issues raised by stakeholders:

- (i) delays in the release of the voters' roll to political stakeholders;
- (ii) alleged lack of transparency in the procurement and printing of the ballot papers;
- (iii) the layout of the ballot paper, which was alleged to have favoured one candidate over others;
- (iv) alleged lack of impartiality by the ZEC and bias towards one political party over others; and
- (v) lack of a pro-active communication strategy with respect to the concerns of political parties.

The Mission finds that some of the issues raised were due to residual historical distrust towards state institutions, particularly the Electoral Management Bodies, for example, the Registrar General whose Office in the past was responsible for the registration of voters.

Other challenges were seemingly due to ZEC's apparent inability to employ a comprehensive communication strategy that could have engendered greater transparency while enhancing confidence amongst stakeholders.

**1.3 Registration and Preparation of the Voters' Roll**

The Mission finds that there has been a general consensus amongst the stakeholders consulted that the introduction of the BVR has had the potential effect of rendering improved confidence to the electoral process. Further to this, the Mission also notes that independent civil society organisations were permitted to conduct an audit of the voters roll to ascertain its veracity.

Although the introduction of the BVR was a significant development in the electoral process of Zimbabwe, some stakeholders expressed concerns over the resultant voter's roll. It was the view of the opposition and some civil society groups that the Voters' Roll was shared late and in a format that was not analyzable and therefore, not consistent with the provisions of the Constitution.

The aggrieved stakeholders also expressed concern that the time allocated for inspection and verification of the voters' roll was inadequate for both registered voters and political parties. Furthermore, the electronic copies of the voters' roll were only made available after the nomination process.

**1.4 Concerns about Postal Voting**

The SEOM notes that there has been considerable confusion amongst stakeholders regarding the procedures for postal voting. This may have arisen from the apparent conflation of *special voting*, which has since been repealed, with *postal voting*. The SEOM notes that the Electoral Act does not require observation or supervision of the postal voting process.

**1.5 Diaspora Voting**

Despite the concerns raised by stakeholders regarding the lack of facilities for diaspora voting, the Mission notes that the Constitution of Zimbabwe makes no such provision; and the Electoral Act limits voting to within the voters constituency, with the limited exception of postal voting. Further, the Mission also takes note of the judgment of the Constitutional Court of Zimbabwe delivered on 30 May 2018, which confirms that there is no constitutional provision for diaspora voting.

**1.6 Role of the Police in National Elections**

Thus far, the Mission has found the conduct of the Police to have been of a high professional standard which has contributed to the peaceful



dispensation experienced during this election. With a few exceptions for which justifications were proffered, the Police permitted political parties to exercise their freedom of assembly and association during the campaign period. The Mission also commends the Police for developing a booklet on the code of conduct for their officers during elections which was based on the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.

### **1.7 Role of Traditional Chiefs in National Elections**

Traditional leaders at whose apex are the Chiefs play a critical role in the rural economy of Zimbabwe. They are responsible for the implementation of customary law and the allocation of rural land. The Mission noted concerns by stakeholders that some traditional leaders were using their influence to intimidate or coerce the rural population into supporting the ruling party. Nonetheless, the Mission observes that the Constitution of Zimbabwe prohibits traditional leaders from furthering the interests of any political party or acting in a partisan manner. Furthermore, the Mission notes the High Court of Zimbabwe judgment, which ordered the leadership of the Traditional Leaders not to be partisan. The SEOM also notes that the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission has advised stakeholders such as traditional leaders to desist from voter intimidation.

### **1.8 Women Participation**

The Mission notes that Zimbabwe has provided for legislated gender quotas in the Constitution to facilitate parity in governance structures. To this end, 60 seats are allocated to women on Proportional Representation (PR) basis. This is an important initiative not only in the national context but also in the endeavor to fulfil relevant provisions of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development and the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. However, the Mission notes that this provision will fall away in the next elections in 2023. Furthermore, despite the existence of the gender quota, there has been comparatively lower participation by women in this election as candidates despite their superior numbers in the voter register.

### **1.9 Persons with disabilities**

The Mission also noted the concerns raised by the visually impaired that there is no provision for braille ballot papers, and the procedure is that the visually impaired voters are permitted to be accompanied by a trusted person who assists them to cast their votes. However, this procedure does not protect the secrecy of the vote of the visually impaired.

## 1.10 Access to the Media

The Mission notes that the Electoral Law provides for indirect and direct access during elections for political parties to the public broadcaster. While the law also affects private media, its requirements are more stringent in relation to State-owned media on account of them being public institutions.

The Mission noted, in this regard, that the public broadcaster and the State-owned newspapers were in favour of one political party, contrary to the relevant provisions of the Constitution, the Electoral Act, and the Revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections, which requires State-owned media to be impartial.

### Your Excellences;

### Ladies and Gentlemen;

On Election Day, the Mission observed a total of 178 polling stations of which 52% were in rural areas and 48% in urban constituencies. The following was observed by the Mission during opening, voting and closing of polling stations on election day in this regard:

- (i) The environment at all of the polling stations observed was peaceful, and all the polling stations opened and closed on time without any disruption of the procedures;
- (ii) The voting process in most of the observed stations was carried out in accordance to the set procedures;
- (iii) Most of the polling stations were accessible to persons with disabilities;
- (iv) The police were present at all polling stations and were found to be professional, attentive and discreet;
- (v) Some voters were turned away, among other things, because they were at the wrong voting station while some could not be positively identified;
- (vi) Some voters in need of assistance were assisted mainly by persons of their choice, and in certain cases, by the election officer and police;
- (vii) During closing and counting, the reconciliation process took place in the presence of party agents and the reconciliation numbers were announced to all present;

(viii) At all the polling stations observed, the V.11 form, which confirms the results of the particular polling station, was duly completed and signed by the party agents.

**Your Excellences;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

In summary, the pre-election phase and the voting proceeded in a peaceful and orderly manner, and were largely in line with key provisions of the Legal and Constitutional Framework and in conformity with the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections. The peaceful environment provided the people of Zimbabwe the opportunity to exercise their constitutional right.

SEOM will continue to assess the post-election period covering the counting, tallying and tabulation of results; and other relevant aspects of the result management process.

**Your Excellences;  
Ladies and Gentlemen;**

In view of the above, the SEOM presents the following recommendations:

**2. LEGAL FRAMEWORK**

The Mission urges the Government of Zimbabwe to consider expediting alignment of outstanding aspects of the Electoral Law to the new Constitution.

**2.1 Voters roll**

The Mission urges ZEC to endeavour to avail the voter's roll, as and when, required by stakeholders to allow enough time for inspection and verification.

**2.2 Public Communication by ZEC**

Given the concerns raised by certain stakeholders on the alleged partiality of the ZEC, the Mission calls on ZEC to consider adopting a pro-active communication strategy which engages stakeholders at every relevant stage of the electoral processes in order to build confidence and a sense of ownership amongst key stakeholders and the general public.

**2.3 Postal voting**

The Mission urges the ZEC to conduct sensitisation programs regarding postal voting particularly related to its modalities and management.

**2.4 Diaspora Voting**

The Mission advises that, consideration should be given to permit voting by Zimbabweans in the diaspora.

**2.5 Media**

The Mission advises the ZEC and the Media Commission to ensure that the Constitution and Electoral Law are enforced with respect to the conduct of the media.

**2.6 Women and gender balance**

In line with the Constitution of Zimbabwe, and the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development of 2008, the SEOM encourages all stakeholders to review the political and social environment, with a view to promoting women and gender balance in positions of political leadership.

**2.7 Provisions for persons with disabilities**

While the Mission commends ZEC for introducing mechanisms for voters with disabilities to access polling stations, the Government and ZEC are urged to continue to establish user-friendly polling stations to cater for people with disabilities, including the provision of braille ballot papers.

**Your Excellences;**

**Ladies and Gentlemen;**

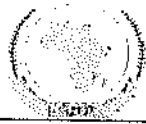
In conclusion, the Harmonised Elections of 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, represent a political watershed in Zimbabwe's history as they may open a new chapter leading towards socio-economic recovery and consolidation of democracy.

The Mission wishes to commend the people of Zimbabwe for conducting themselves in a peaceful, orderly and exemplary manner during the pre-election phase and voting day. In the event of any disputes around the outcome of these elections, candidates are strongly urged to channel their grievances through established dispute resolution mechanisms as provided by the law; and refrain from any form of violence.

Tatenda  
Siyabonga  
Thank you  
Muito Obrigado  
Merci beaucoup

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AFRICAN UNION  
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UNION AFRICAINE  
UNIÃO AFRICANA

AFRICAN UNION ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION (AUEOM) TO ZIMBABWE  
30 JULY 2018 HARMONISED ELECTIONS

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Harare, 1 August 2018

**INTRODUCTION**

On 30 July 2018, Zimbabweans went to the polls to elect the country's next President, Members of the National Assembly and Local Government Representatives. They are the first post-independence elections to be held without former President Robert Mugabe who ruled for 37 years and are widely seen as an important moment in the country's democratic transition.

The African Union (AU) participated in the elections following an invitation from the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe by deploying both long- and short-term election observers on the 1 July 2018 and 23 July 2018, respectively. The Mission which is led by H.E. Hailemariam Desalegn Boshe, former Prime Minister of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and assisted by H.E. Minata Samate Cessouma, the AU Commissioner for Political Affairs, comprises of sixty-four (64) observers – 14 long-term and 50 short-term observers – drawn from AU member states and institutions.

In this preliminary statement, the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM) offers a summary of key observations from the electoral process thus far, including the political context, legal framework, election administration, campaign, participation of women and media environment, as well as election day voting and counting process. This statement is preliminary because it is issued while the tabulation and announcement of results are ongoing and, therefore, an assessment of the entire electoral process cannot be provided at this stage.

**SUMMARY OF KEY FINDINGS**

**The Pre-Election Environment**

***Political Context***

The elections took place in a generally peaceful and calm environment with no major incidents of violence and restriction on the activities of political parties and candidates observed. The process was highly competitive as evidenced by the high number of presidential, national assembly and local council candidates. As an indication of the marked improvement in the political space, the AUEOM notes a very low threshold requirement for registration of political parties and candidates to contest the elections.

**Legal Framework**

Zimbabwe's 2018 elections were conducted under an improved legal framework consisting of the 2013 Constitution, The Electoral Act, other Acts and Legislation, Rules and Regulations promulgated by Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). Some of the improvements noted in the legal framework that the AUEOM notes include:

- The new 2013 Constitution provides a comprehensive framework to govern the elections;
- The new Electoral Act and various Regulations supplemented and streamlined electoral dispute resolution by establishing the Electoral Court with exclusive jurisdiction to hear electoral appeals, applications and petitions;
- The creation of Multi-Party Liaison Committees (MPLC) to enforce the Code of Conduct and assist ZEC in managing inter-party conflict.

Despite these improvements, the legal framework contains several gaps – for example, various regulations and the Electoral Act are not properly aligned with the 2013 Constitution.

**Electoral Administration**

Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) is the sole body established under the Constitution with the responsibility to prepare, conduct and supervise elections, register voters, conduct and supervise voter education, undertake boundary delimitation, accredit observers and receive and consider complaints.

The AUEOM found that the Government of Zimbabwe wholly funded the 2018 elections, which were substantially conducted by ZEC, with some technical support from international organisations.

Despite some financial challenges and logistical issues, the Mission observed that ZEC carried out all the stages of the electoral process in accordance with the electoral timeline and was fully prepared. It made concerted efforts to engage electoral stakeholders at various stages of the process through the establishment of the Multi-Party Liaison Committees (MPLCs). While this is a good practice, the Mission however observed that this platform for interaction and resolution of disputes was not fully utilised by all concerned. The Mission notes that meetings were not consistently held, with some political parties expressing dissatisfaction regarding the manner in which ZEC conducts and reacts to



issues during MPLC meetings. Overall, there was low confidence among many of the opposition parties that the Mission consulted regarding the impartiality of ZEC and its ability to conduct transparent and credible elections.

***Voter Registration***

Following concerns about the inadequacies of the 2013 Voters Roll, the ZEC undertook an ambitious process to create a new roll by introducing the Biometric Voter Register (BVR) system in order to enhance its accuracy and inclusiveness – a process its undertook from 18 September 2017 to 2 December 2017. At the end of the registration process, a total of 5,695,706 were registered, of whom 2,622,516 are males (46.1%) and 3,073,190 are females (53.9%).

Given that it was the first time Zimbabwe is using a BVR system to register voters, many stakeholders have shown keen interest in the procurement of kits, roll out and integrity of the system. While ZEC consistently assured stakeholders and undertook necessary steps to ensure the integrity of the BVR system, some opposition parties and civil society organisations expressed numerous concerns about the accuracy, completeness and inclusivity of the register. Another concern by political parties and candidates was the late submission of the Final Voters Register by ZEC. These concerns were further reinforced by the failure of ZEC to carry out a proper and independent auditing exercise, which impacted stakeholder confidence in the register.

***Political Participation***

The 2018 contest witnessed a high level of participation of political parties and independent candidates in all cadres of representation. The number of presidential candidates has increased significantly from 5 in 2013 (all of whom were male) to 23 in 2018 (of which 4 were women). The increased number of candidates and political parties participating in the 2018 elections is evidence of the improved political space currently prevailing in the country. The AUEOM observed that political parties and candidates were able to freely associate and function without much inhibition to their rights.

***Election Campaign***

The AUEOM observed that the election campaign was largely peaceful, and parties and candidates were able to exercise their fundamental rights of association, free speech and assembly without inhibitions or restrictions. Political parties and candidates adopted various campaign strategies during the campaign period. These included the use of posters,

billboards, caravans, rallies, t-shirts, 'vuvuzelas', door-to-door visitations, rallies and social media postings. All these strategies were implemented in a peaceful manner in adherence to the Code of Conduct for political parties and candidates.

While the campaign was largely peaceful, there were a few isolated violent incidents observed in Kwekwe district in Midlands province as well as reports of tearing down of posters of political opponents. There were also allegations made against the ruling party of using state resources in its campaign activities, particularly public space and government vehicles. Opposition parties also complained about the ruling party's use of school children to attend rallies without parental consent, use of school buses and buses belonging to the Zimbabwe Military Academy (ZMA) and the Zimbabwe Electricity Transmission and Distribution Company (ZETDC) to ferry party supporters to campaign rally grounds, use of traditional leaders for campaigning and the distribution of food aid and agricultural inputs as a means of vote buying, as well as subtle acts of intimidation. While the AUEOM did not confirm several instances of these practices and cannot determine the extent to which these activities have impacted on the credibility of the electoral process, it is important to underline that such activities could have provided an unlevelled playing field in the electoral contest.

***Women's Participation***

The AUEOM notes the constitutional guarantees of equality of participation of Zimbabwean men and women in all spheres of public life, as well as specific provisions in the electoral act on women's participation in the electoral process. While the legal framework adequately provides for women's political participation and, indeed, the state took special measures to promote women's participation such as the reserved seats for women in the National Assembly, overall, women's representation as candidates was generally low. For instance, although women constituted 54% of the registered voters in the 2018 elections, only 7% of the candidates contesting the elections at all levels were female.

However, the Mission was pleased to see that 4 out of the 23 presidential candidates were women, and that the majority of polling staff on election day were women.

***The Media***

Although the AUEOM has recommended in the past for measures to be undertaken to guarantee equal access to the State Broadcaster to all contestants during election period and for the full implementation of the Broadcasting Service Act to ensure balanced and

pluralistic media, regrettably, these recommendations were not implemented. The media environment still remains largely polarized.

While the Electoral law mandates ZEC to regulate the media during elections through the establishment of a Media Monitoring Committee, it has been unable to effectively operationalize this Committee, leading to a media environment that has operated without any systematic regulation during the 2018 election period. As a result of the foregoing, both private and state-owned media houses have exhibited a noticeable degree of polarization characterized by biased reporting and inequitable coverage of political parties and candidates contesting the elections.

***Civil Society Participation***

The AUEOM observed a high level of involvement of civil society organisations in civic and voter education and monitoring of the elections. The Mission notes ZEC's close collaboration and cooperation with various civil society organisations and other relevant stakeholders in sensitising voters, particularly women, youth and minority groups, which impacted positively on the electoral process. However, the Mission notes concerns expressed by civil society organisations regarding the levy of a fee for accreditation of domestic observers which, to some extent, impacted on their level of participation in the electoral process. While the imposition of fees and/or charges on domestic observer groups is lawful, it contravenes Zimbabwe's international obligations, particularly Article 12(3) of the 2007 African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance, which requests State Parties to create conducive conditions for civil society organisations to exist and operate within the law.

**Election Day**

On Election Day, the AUEOM observed the opening and closing in 23 polling stations (18 in urban and 5 in rural areas) and voting in 345 polling stations (74% in urban and 26% in rural areas) in 43 districts of the country's 10 provinces. Below is a summary of the Mission's observations on Election Day:

- The vast majority of polling stations visited opened on time, with only 2 that opened approximately half an hour late due to receipt of incorrect materials and delay in setting up the polling stations.
- Despite the large voter turnout, voting took place in a generally peaceful and orderly environment.

- The secrecy of the vote was guaranteed in all polling stations visited.
- The vast majority of polling stations visited had a large number of party agents present – mostly representing Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and Movement for Democratic Change – Alliance (MDC-A) parties – and were given access to observe, which demonstrates a substantial level of transparency.
- A number of voters were seen turned away in some polling stations we visited due to various reasons, including being in the wrong stations, failure to verify voter's identification, failure to find the voter's name on both the voters and exclusion lists, and duplicate registration. However, corrective measures were taken by polling staff.
- Security personnel were visibly present inside and outside the polling stations visited but their presence was mostly discreet, non-intrusive and professional.
- Most polling stations visited were accessible and priority was given to voters with special needs, including persons with disabilities, the elderly, pregnant women and women with babies. Separate queues to cater for both men and women were observed, in line with ZEC's Polling Station Guidelines.
- We observed campaign materials in 28 out of 345 polling stations visited. However, no campaign activities were observed.
- We observed that ZEC was generally well-prepared for the polls as all essential election materials were available in adequate quantities in all the polling stations visited throughout the day.
- More than half of the number of polling staff were women in all polling stations. Women were also well represented as party agents and observers in all polling stations visited.
- Poor lighting was observed in most of the polling stations using tents. Although this was a challenge, voting and counting was not compromised.
- We observed that polling staff largely adhered to the prescribed voting procedures. Overall, we assessed the performance of polling staff and conduct of polling as mostly very good. However, there is room for improving the procedures for counting the ballot papers in order to make it simple and less cumbersome.

Conclusion

The 2018 elections is an important moment in Zimbabwe's democratic transition and provides an opportunity for the country to change course, in particular, broadening the political space and allowing citizens to exercise their constitutional rights in a democratic way. By and large, the process was peaceful and well-administered.

Recommendations

The AU/OM offers the following preliminary recommendations for consideration by the Zimbabwean stakeholders for improvement on their electoral processes in future:

- **Legal framework:** There is need to align and harmonise the electoral laws to comply with the Constitution.
- **Political Environment:** Continue to maintain the current open and free political environment, and all stakeholders must refrain from acts that may undermine the integrity of the electoral process or threaten the country's peace and stability.
- **Women's participation:** Consider putting in place mechanisms to increase women's participation in the electoral process, particularly as candidates.
- **Media:** In light of the partisan and polarised nature of the media in Zimbabwe, consider full implementation of the Broadcasting Service Act and ensure equal access to the State Broadcaster to all contestants during elections.
- **Voters Register:** ZEC should avail the final voters register to political parties, candidates and other relevant stakeholders within a reasonable time to allow for a comprehensive voter audit and verification, as well as facilitate effective participation in the process.
- **MPLCs:** ZEC should foster dialogue and consultation with stakeholders to enhance confidence in the electoral process and put measures in place to efficiently operationalise the Multi-Party Liaison Committee meetings to improve communication with stakeholders.

Harare, Zimbabwe

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**SADC**  
Parliamentary Forum  
Forum Parlementaire  
Fórum Parlamentar



**PRELIMINARY  
MISSION  
STATEMENT**

**BY THE  
SADC**

**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ELECTION OBSERVATION  
MISSION TO THE 2018 ZIMBABWE HARMONISED  
ELECTIONS**

**DELIVERED BY**

**MR JUSTICE DR PATRICK MATIBINI, SC., FCI Arb, MP  
HEAD OF MISSION AND SPEAKER OF THE NATIONAL  
ASSEMBLY OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA AS WELL AS  
A MEMBER OF THE SADC PF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**ON 1 AUGUST 2018**

**AT HARARE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE CENTRE IN  
HARARE, ZIMBABWE**

**SALUTATIONS**

- Honorable Manuel Domingos Augusto, Head of SADC Electoral Observation Mission (SEOM) and Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Angola,;
- Your Excellency Hailemariam Desalegn, Head of the African Union Election Observation Mission and Former Prime Minister of the Republic of Ethiopia;
- Esteemed Heads and Members of International Election Observation Missions;
- Justice Priscila Makanyara Chigumba, Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) and ZEC Commissioners here present;
- Members of the Diplomatic Corps;
- Esteemed Leaders of Political Parties;
- Members of Civil Society Organisations;
- Media Representatives;
- Distinguished Guests;
- Ladies and Gentlemen

It is my singular honour and privilege to present the SADC Parliamentary Forum Election Observation Mission's Preliminary Statement on the 2018 Zimbabwe Harmonised Elections.

**1. INTRODUCTION**

In line with its goals of protecting electoral integrity within the SADC Region, the Southern African Development Community Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF),<sup>1</sup> constituted a 22-Member Election Observation Mission to the 2018 Zimbabwe Harmonised Elections following an invitation by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). The Mission comprised a Pre-Election Technical Assessment Mission which was in the country from 14 to 26 July and the main Short Term Observation Mission which arrived in Zimbabwe on 26 July to 02 August 2018.

The Mission comprises Members of Parliament drawn from five National Parliaments of SADC countries, namely Angola, Botswana, Namibia, South Africa and Zambia and is supported by officials from the SADC PF Secretariat and National Parliaments.

I was honoured to be the Head of the Mission while Hon. Agnes Limbo from the National Assembly of the Republic of Namibia is the Deputy Head of Mission.

This Mission is the fifth SADC PF Election Observation Mission to be deployed in Zimbabwe, with similar Missions having been deployed during the 2000, 2002, and 2013 general elections as well as the 2013 constitutional

<sup>1</sup> The SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF) is a Regional inter-parliamentary forum for national Parliaments of SADC Member States established in 1996 and was approved by the SADC Summit in 1997 as a consultative and deliberative body in accordance with Article 9 (2) of the SADC Treaty. It is currently composed of 14 National Parliaments, namely Angola, Botswana, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Eswatini, Tanzania, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

referendum. The SADC PF Election Observation Mission to the 2018 Harmonised Elections is also the 42<sup>nd</sup> Election Observation Mission to be deployed to a Member State since 1999 when SADC PF started observing elections in the SADC Region.

The purpose of this Preliminary Statement is to share with ZEC and other stakeholders the Mission's findings and recommendations, which are aimed at strengthening electoral institutions and promoting the integrity and efficacy of elections' freeness, fairness as well as the overall credibility and integrity of elections in Zimbabwe and the entire SADC Region.

This Preliminary Statement details the Mission's findings, overall assessment and recommendations to date. The Mission is well aware that this Preliminary Statement is being issued when the tabulation, verification and declaration of results is still ongoing. SADC PF will continue to observe the post-election developments and will capture these in a more detailed Final Report that will be compiled and published within 60 days from the date of this Preliminary Statement. SADC PF will, in line with established practice, formally present the Mission's Final Report to ZEC and share experiences for electoral reforms in line with the SADC Model Law on Elections which SADC PF is currently finalising.

## **2. TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The Mission's Terms of Reference were based on the revised *SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections (2015)* and the *African Charter for Democracy, Elections and Governance (2007)*, among other international election instruments. More specifically, the Mission's observation work was guided by the following points of inquiry that are contained in the SADC PF's *Benchmarks for Assessing Democratic Elections in Southern Africa (2013)*:

- i) Political Context and the Campaign Environment;
- ii) Constitutional and Legal Framework;
- iii) Electoral System and Boundary Delimitation;
- iv) Electoral Management;
- v) Media Coverage;
- vi) Role of Security Forces;
- vii) Role of Traditional Leaders;
- viii) Gender Mainstreaming;
- ix) Participation of Youths;
- x) Electoral Dispute Resolution;
- xi) Voter Education;
- xii) Registration of Parties and Nominations;
- xiii) Political Party Funding and Campaign Funding;
- xiv) Voter Registration and the State of the Voters Roll;
- xv) Voting Operations and Polling Arrangements;
- xvi) Vote Counting;
- xvii) Declaration of Results;
- xviii) Complaints and Appeals Procedures;
- xix) Good Practices;
- xx) Areas of Improvement; and



xxi) Overall Assessment of the entire Electoral Processes.

**3. DEPLOYMENT PLAN**

The Mission deployed its Teams in five of Zimbabwe's 10 provinces, namely; Harare Metropolitan, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland East, Manicaland and Midlands. The teams were deployed as follows:

PROVINCE	TEAM MEMBERS	M/F	COUNTRY
Harare	<b>Team 1</b>		
	Mr Justice Dr Patrick Matibini, SC., FCI Arb, MP, Head of Mission	M	Zambia
	Hon. Agnes Limbo (Deputy Head of Mission)	F	Namibia
	Chongo MUSONDA - Staff	M	Zambia
	John CHELU - Staff	M	Zambia
	Cleophas Gwakwara- Staff	M	Zimbabwe
Mashonaland West	<b>Team 2</b>		
	Hon. Botlogile Tshireletso- (Team Leader)	F	Botswana
	Hon. Jorge Augusto	M	Angola
	Geoffrey Zulu-Staff	M	Zambia
Mashonaland East	<b>Team 3</b>		
	Hon. Chunga Ponde Mecha- (Team Leader)	M	Zambia
	Hon. Sedirwa Kgoroba	M	Botswana
	Victor Fernandes-Staff	M	Angola
Manicaland	<b>Team 4</b>		
	Hon. Stevens Mokgalapa- (Team Leader)	M	South Africa
	Hon. Elizabeth Phiri	F	Zambia
	Rumbidzai Chisango-Staff	F	Zimbabwe
Midlands	<b>Team 5</b>		
	Hon. Ruth Andriano Mendes - (Team Leader)	F	Angola
	Hon. Hlomane Patrick Chauke	M	South Africa
	Bonnet Moeng-Staff	M	Botswana
Secretariat	Sheuneni Kurasha - Mission Coordinator		SADC PF Secretariat
	Unaro Mungendje - Finance and Logistics		SADC PF Secretariat
	Mr Tawanda Mubvuma - Rapporteur		Resource Person
	Ms Cecilia Njovana - Mission Secretary		Parliament of Zimbabwe

**4. OBSERVATION METHODOLOGY**

The Mission held consultations with stakeholders including ZEC, political parties, civil society organisations (CSOs), media, security forces, academia and the general electorate. The Mission also observed political campaign rallies, witnessed door-to-door campaigns by political parties and candidates and monitored the mass media. Consultations were held with other Election Observation Missions including SADC, African Union, Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC (ECF - SADC), Commonwealth, European Union, Carter Center, National Democratic Institute (NDI)/International Republican Institute (IRI) and local observers. The Mission also reviewed the constitutional and legal framework governing Elections in Zimbabwe as part of its methodology.

**5. GUIDING PRINCIPLES FOR THE SADC PF MISSION**

In carrying out its observation work, the Mission was guided by the key observation principles of impartiality, neutrality, comprehensiveness, transparency, inclusiveness and objectivity.

**6. MISSION FINDINGS**

**6.1 Political Context and the Campaign Environment**

The Mission noted that the 2018 Zimbabwe Harmonised Elections are the second elections to be held under the new Zimbabwe Constitution adopted in 2013 and the first elections following the political transition which saw the former President Robert Mugabe resigning on 21 November 2017 and being succeeded by former Vice-President, Emmerson Mnangagwa on 24 November 2017. In addition, the Mission noted that the elections were duly proclaimed through Statutory Instrument 83 of 2018 issued in terms section 158 of the Zimbabwean Constitution, declaring 30 July as the Election Day and 8 September as the day for presidential election runoff, if need be.

Stakeholders, including political parties, candidates and the electorate indicated that more democratic space had opened-up in the build-up to the 2018 elections. The environment allowed political parties to campaign unimpeded throughout the country and citizens to enjoy the rights enshrined in the Constitution. It was also indicated that although the Public Order and Security Act had not been aligned to the new Constitution, the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) granted authority to all political parties to hold public assemblies including rallies and demonstrations in a professional and timely manner.

Against years of international isolation, the 2018 elections are viewed by a broad range of stakeholders within and outside Zimbabwe as crucial in restoring the legitimacy of the State and the country's re-engagement with the international community.

Overall, the Mission observed that in spite of the 2018 elections having been a very tight contest, Zimbabweans are commended for exercising political tolerance and maturity which contributed to peaceful environment during the campaign period and on Election Day. However, the Mission took note of isolated cases of election related offences in the pre-election period such as inter-party and intra-party violence, intimidation and defacing of campaign posters.

The Mission urges Zimbabweans to continue in the spirit of tolerance and harmony in the post-election period.

**6.2 The Constitutional and Legal Framework**

The Mission observed that Constitution of Zimbabwe, the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13] and the regulations issued in terms of the Act, comprehensively provide for all aspects of organising and conducting elections in Zimbabwe.

The Constitution provides for the protection of citizens' fundamental rights and liberties, which include freedoms of expression, assembly and association, movement, freedom of conscience and religious belief, as well as participation in elections. Section 58 of the Zimbabwean Constitution in particular, provides for the freedom of assembly and association and Section 61 provides for freedom of expression and freedom of the media. Section 66, subsection 2 (a) of the Constitution safeguards the citizens' right to move freely within Zimbabwe while Section 67 provides for the political rights.

The Mission is generally satisfied that the afore-stated rights and freedoms were respected and exercised without undue hindrance during the campaign period and on Election Day.

The Mission welcomes the various electoral reforms introduced through the Electoral Amendment Act of 25 May 2018, which include statutory limits on the amount of contingent ballot papers to be printed in an election and the setting of timelines for determination of election results petitions. The reforms responded to some of the recommendations made by observers during the 2013 elections. The reforms also contributed towards improving the legal framework governing elections in Zimbabwe.

The Mission noted the significant progress that Zimbabwe has made in improving the constitutional and legislative framework governing elections in the country in line with the *SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections*.

**6.3 ZEC and Election Administration**

ZEC is established by the Constitution as the body responsible for the preparation, conduct and supervision of Elections and Referenda in Zimbabwe. Furthermore, the Constitution expressly mandates ZEC to ensure that elections and referenda in Zimbabwe are conducted efficiently, freely, fairly and transparently.

The Mission notes the low levels of confidence expressed by some political parties in ZEC, in particular, with regards to the design, printing, storage and transportation of ballot papers. Cognisant of progress made in addressing these matters in other SADC countries, the Mission urges ZEC to engage stakeholders with a view to drawing lessons from these countries in the post-election period.

The Mission notes that ZEC has adequately prepared and managed all aspects of the electoral process such as training and deployment of electoral officers, procurement of electoral materials, registration of voters, provision of voter education and other logistical arrangements timeously and in accordance with the electoral timetable.

The Mission took note of concerns regarding the inadequacies of ZEC's communication strategy which was perceived to be reactionary in some instances as opposed to being proactive.

#### **6.4 The Role of Security Forces**

The Mission observed that ZRP trained its officers in election instruments, human rights and police duties during elections. ZRP, also constantly liaised with ZEC and other stakeholders including the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC) and CSOs in providing security to the electoral process. Stakeholders also commended the professional manner in which ZRP had policed public assemblies during the campaign period. On voting day ZRP played an important role in guaranteeing public safety and providing security without interfering with the electoral processes across the country.

#### **6.5 Voter Registration and the State of the Voters' Roll**

The Mission notes that the 2018 Zimbabwe Harmonised elections were the first elections in which ZEC assumed full control for the compilation of a new voters roll. ZEC used biometric technology for compilation of a new voters roll which ushered polling station based voting for the first time in Zimbabwe.

The SADC PF Mission learnt that ZEC undertook an extensive biometric voter registration exercise from 14 September 2017, culminating in a total of 5,695,706 voters, of which 3,073,190 were female while 2,622,516 were male, at the closure of the voters roll of the 2018 elections on 8 February 2018. The Mission took note that a local civil society organization, the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), carried out an independent audit of the voters roll and concluded that the roll was a significant improvement over the 2013 Preliminary voters roll. In particular, the audit did not identify anomalies in the 2018 voters roll that affected a large percentage of registrants or that were concentrated amongst registrants, of a particular area, gender or age. Furthermore, the audit also revealed that the 2018 voters roll has a significant number of new registrants, as well as more urban and young registrants when compared to the one used during the 2013 elections.

#### **6.6 Civic and Voter Education**

The Mission commends ZEC for the collaborative approach to voter education which saw ZEC accrediting a record number of CSOs to undertake voter education. The voter education efforts benefited from the amendment to the Electoral Act to provide for the direct receipt of foreign donations to fund voter education activities by CSOs as opposed to via ZEC as was the case previously.

Voter education assumed a multi-pronged approach which included print and electronic media adverts, door to door campaigns, distribution of posters, pamphlets and leaflets, roadshows, use of bill boards and operation of an electoral information dissemination call centre, including in local languages. In addition, the Mission observed that the contesting political parties also played a significant role in providing voter education to their members during the build-up towards the 2018 Zimbabwe Harmonised Elections.

**6.7 Legislation Governing Regulation of Political Parties**

The Mission observed that Zimbabwe has no law governing the establishment, registration and operation of political parties. Political parties only need to make announcements that they have been established. The absence of a law governing the registration and operation of political parties has led to the proliferation of political parties, thereby presenting administrative challenges for ZEC in determining the number of political parties when organising meetings and designing the ballot papers. Drawing from experiences elsewhere in the SADC region, there is need to promulgate a law to govern the registration and operations of political parties.

**6.8 Political Party Funding**

The Mission noted that political party and campaign funding in Zimbabwe is regulated by the provisions of the Political Parties (finance) Act [Chapter 2:11]. According to the Act, political parties and candidates that would have garnered a minimum threshold of five percent of the votes cast during the most recent elections are entitled to a proportional allocation of state funding as determined by government annually.

**6.9 Media Coverage of the Elections**

The SADC PF Mission noted the critical role played by the media in enhancing awareness on the election process including voter registration, voter education and candidate nominations and communicating the political choices available for the voters. This went a long way in promoting public interest and encouraging public participation in the Elections.

The Mission took note of the trend of acute polarisation that generally characterised the coverage by mainstream media, both private and public print and electronic media prior, during and post the 2018 Zimbabwe Harmonised Elections. Further, the Mission expresses its concern regarding the continued trend of bias by the public media towards the ruling party in its coverage of elections as was observed during the 2013 elections. The SADC PF Mission, therefore, urges for ethical and balanced reporting during elections.

The Mission also noted the robust use of social media especially in urban areas, by various political parties, candidates and other stakeholders as a tool for communication. The Mission however, received concerns on the abuse of social media and the negative impact it has on political participation of women.

**6.10 Gender Mainstreaming and Participation of Women**

The Mission notes that out of the 23 Presidential candidates, only 4 candidates were women, while out of the 1631 direct election National Assembly candidates, only 240 (14.7%) were women. The same pattern replicated itself in the local authority elections where out of 6576 candidates, 1132 (17.21%) were women. The SADC PF Mission noted that most of the political parties did not have deliberate policies to promote the inclusion of women as candidates in accordance with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.

The Mission commends the provision in the law for 60 quota seats for women in the National Assembly and the 'zebra system' for Senatorial seats where the law requires that the first candidate on the list should be a woman.

**6.11 Electoral Dispute Resolution Mechanisms**

The Mission commends the amendment to the Electoral Act to provide for the setting up of Multi-Party Liaison Committee's (MPLCs) at least 12 months prior to the date of election as opposed to soon after the sitting of Nomination Courts as was the case before. The MPLCs are a strategic platform for alternative dispute resolution and consensus building between political parties and ZEC. The Mission witnessed the MPLCs in operation at national and provincial levels.

**6.12 Voting, Counting and Declaration of Results**

ZEC deployed sufficient numbers of staff to manage polling stations and the officers were evidently trained and they managed the process professionally. Voting proceeded smoothly in most polling stations observed by the Mission teams. The Mission also commends the polite and helpful way Electoral Officials liaised with political party agents in resolving issues during the voting, verification and counting process.

There were adequate polling stations with clear signage in most cases. Most polling stations visited by the Mission's teams on Election Day opened at 0700 hours and closed at 1900 hours in line with the law.

Voting materials were available in adequate quantities and voting proceeded smoothly in a peaceful environment. The polling station design guaranteed the secrecy of the vote. Voters who were already queued up by 1900 hours were allowed to vote in line with the law.

The counting process was done in a stringent and orderly manner following procedures. All reconciliations were done in consultation with and to the satisfaction of party agents. However, some polling stations particularly temporary structures, did not have adequate lighting and this slowed the counting process.

The Mission commends the posting of results for each polling station outside the respective polling station.

**7. GOOD FEATURES AND PRACTICES FROM THE 2018 ZIMBABWE HARMONISED ELECTIONS**

The Mission observed the following features and good practices from the 2018 Zimbabwe Harmonised Elections:

- i) The mature and tolerant manner in which Zimbabweans conducted themselves prior to the elections, on Election Day and in the immediate post- election period.
- ii) Higher voter turnout at most polling stations.
- iii) The peaceful and conducive environment in which the 2018 elections were held.

- iv) Timely distribution of election materials and deployment of trained polling officers as well as security personnel.
- v) The stringent and orderly manner in which ZEC managed the voting and counting process on Election Day.
- vi) Use of technology by ZEC during the voter registration and verification exercise.
- vii) The provision in the law for the setting up of Multi-Party Liaison Committee's (MPLCs) at least 12 months prior to the date of election as opposed to soon after the sitting of Nomination Courts as was the case in the past.
- viii) ZEC's preparation of a comprehensive and credible voters' roll during their first attempt at applying biometric technology.
- ix) The introduction of polling station based voters roll and polling station specific voting.
- x) Introduction of legal provisions to ensure the mainstreaming of gender in the entire electoral process.
- xi) Opening-up of funding regulations to enable CSOs to receive external funding directly as opposed to via ZEC for purposes of conducting voter education.
- xii) Provisions in the law which limits the maximum number of ballot papers that can be printed for any election to not more than 10% of the number of registered voters eligible to vote in the election.
- xiii) Decentralised structure of the ZEC which allowed the ZEC to effectively discharge its mandate working hand in hand with stakeholders at Constituency, District, Provincial and National levels.
- xiv) Prioritisation of special groups such as those with disabilities, the elderly and pregnant mothers during voting in order to ensure they exercise their right to vote.
- xv) The high number of polling stations to ensure that all voters have easy access to the polling stations.
- xvi) Nationwide civic and voter education by ZEC assisted by CSOs and political parties to generate interest in and knowledge of the voting process.
- xvii) The provision within electoral legislation for the establishment of an Electoral Court which is required to resolve post electoral disputes within 3 months of being lodged with it and the resolution of possible appeals to the Supreme Court and which appeals are required to be determined within 6 months.
- xviii) Counting and declaration of ballots at polling stations and the posting results outside the polling station.
- xix) The legal requirement for announcing of the election outcome within five days.
- xx) The Gazetting of the polling day, (30<sup>th</sup> July 2018) as a public holiday to enable as many Zimbabweans as possible to exercise their democratic right to vote.
- xxi) Number of women in ZEC including the Commissioners and electoral officials.

- xxii) Public denouncing of political violence by the leaderships of the main political parties as well as other stakeholders such as religious groups and civic society.
- xxiii) The use of national IDs to as proof of identification during voting instead of having separate voting cards and readily accessibility of national IDs for those who would have lost them during election period.

**8. AREAS FOR IMPROVEMENT**

The Mission observes the following as areas requiring improvement to further enhance the credibility and integrity of elections in Zimbabwe:

- i) The need to promulgate the law to govern the regulation of political parties in Zimbabwe.
- ii) The need for ZEC to improve on its communication strategy for purposes of confidence building with stakeholders.
- iii) The need for ZEC to engage political parties and stakeholders to establish consensus on measures to enhance transparency in the management of elections in particular the printing, storage and transportation of ballot papers.
- iv) The need to strengthen the legal framework governing media coverage of elections in order to enhance fair, balanced and responsible reporting by the media especially the public media.
- v) The need to develop strong legal and administrative mechanisms to encourage and support the adoption of women as candidates so as to ensure gender parity in political and decision making positions in line with the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.
- vi) Need to improve lighting in polling stations especially in temporary structures.
- vii) The need to streamline the counting process to make it less tedious.
- viii) The need to standardise timelines for the verification of ballot papers.

**9. PRELIMINARY ASSESSMENT OF THE 2018 ZIMBABWE HARMONISED ELECTIONS**

Based on its overall findings of the electoral processes to date, the Mission is satisfied that there existed a conducive and peaceful environment in which the Elections were conducted. This accorded Zimbabweans the opportunity to freely express their will in voting for the candidates of their choice.

The observed pre-election period from 14 July, the Election Day and immediate post-election period as at 31 July 2018, was observed to be peaceful, free and transparent.

SADC PM will continue to observe the post-election process, including the final declaration of results and post-election developments, and will pronounce itself ultimately in its Final Report.

I thank you

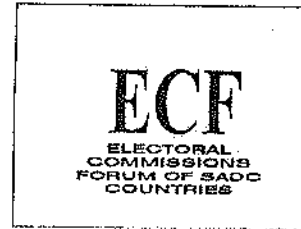


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**PRELIMINARY STATEMENT OF THE ELECTORAL  
COMMISSIONS FORUM OF SADC COUNTRIES (ECF-SADC)  
ON THE HARMONISED ELECTIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF  
ZIMBABWE  
30 JULY 2018**

**Introduction and background**

1. The Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC (ECF – SADC) Countries received an invitation from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission dated 22 May 2018 to observe the Harmonised Elections of the Republic of Zimbabwe scheduled for 30 July 2018. In line with its mandate of strengthening co-operation amongst Electoral Commissions in the SADC region, the ECF-SADC fielded an Observer Mission for this election.
2. This is the fourth time that the ECF – SADC has observed elections in the Republic of Zimbabwe, the last being the Harmonised Elections of 31<sup>st</sup> July 2013.
3. The ECF-SADC Election Observer Mission was led by Honourable Justice Semistocles S. Kajage, the Chairperson of the National Electoral Commission of Tanzania. The Mission comprises twenty-seven (27) observers from the Electoral Commissions of Angola, Botswana, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique, South Africa, Tanzania, Zambia and Zanzibar. The Mission commenced its work on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2018.

**Guiding Election Observation Instruments and Values**

4. ECF-SADC election observation missions are guided by the Principles for Election Management, Monitoring and Observation in the SADC Region (PEMMO) (2003), the revised SADC Principles and Guidelines for Governing Democratic Elections in the SADC Region (2015) and the African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance (2004).
5. Consistent with the above mentioned instruments, ECF-SADC Election Observer Missions are guided by the values of impartiality, neutrality, transparency, and objectivity.

**Observation Methodology and Activities undertaken**

6. The observation mission employed complementary data collection methods including (i) documentary review (ii) electronic and print media (iii) paying courtesy visits to the host Commission (iv) conducting refresher training for the members of the Mission (v) observing campaign rallies (vi) hosting a seminar with local stakeholders (vii) the polling and (viii) counting processes.
7. The Mission also interacted with other international Observer Missions in order to exchange information. The various activities undertaken enabled the Mission to gather strategic and comprehensive information so as to assess the administration and management of the 2018 Harmonised Election of the Republic of Zimbabwe.

**Deployment**

- 8. The Mission's deployment began on the 26<sup>th</sup> July 2018 and six (6) teams were deployed to four provinces of Zimbabwe, namely; Bulawayo, Mashonaland Central, Manicaland, Midlands and two teams in Harare.
- 9. The Mission was able to attend the final rallies of political parties; these were of the ZANU-PF and MDC-Alliance held over the weekend of 27 – 29 July 2018. The Mission found these rallies to be generally peaceful.

**A. Pre-Election Phase**

The section of the statement shall cover the pre-election activities of the Mission.

**i. Pre-Assessment Mission**

- 10. A pre-assessment mission to Zimbabwe, comprising three electoral commissions, was undertaken from 14<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> May 2018. This was a solidarity visit to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, a member Commission, to establish its preparedness for the election. The Mission also took the opportunity to meet with other key electoral stakeholders, including the Electoral Institute of Sustainable Democracy in Africa, Election Support Network of Southern Africa, organisations under the umbrella of the National Association of Non-Governmental Organisations and the Mass Public Opinion Institute.
- 11. The Mission noted that the stakeholders were complimentary to the ZEC regarding the management of the registration process. However, a number of concerns were raised. These included: the removal of the special votes from the legislation, the absence of a substantive CEO, the logistical capacity of the ZEC to manage postal votes, some officials of the ZEC being drawn from the security sector, and poor or delayed information to stakeholders.

**ii. Consultation with Stakeholders**

- 12. The Mission held a stakeholder seminar at Rainbow Towers Hotel, Harare on 25<sup>th</sup> July 2018 with stakeholders representing different sectors of society. These included, but were not limited to, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, the legal fraternity, the media, academia, political parties and non-state actors. This accorded the Mission an opportunity to understand the conditions in which the elections would take place.
- 13. Issues raised by stakeholders
  - i. The existence of many 'final versions' of the voter's roll
    - Stakeholders highlighted that they had been given access to a number of differing versions of the voters roll. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission did, however, release a voters roll in order to be scrutinised by independent organisations.

- ii. Reactive communications strategy by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission with the electoral stakeholders.
    - Stakeholders stated their displeasure at the reactive nature of communications from the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. They were of the view that the Commission needed to be proactive in its communications approach with stakeholders.
  - iii. Accreditation fees for observers
    - Concerns were raised regarding the accreditation fees for both local and international observers. Stakeholders informed the Mission how these fees would influence their ability to deploy large numbers of observers. The Mission learnt that the accreditation fees were provided for in the law and that electoral reforms were necessary to address this matter.
  - iv. Build up to the elections with an acting Chief Elections Officer (CEO)
    - The Commission does not have a permanent CEO. The stakeholders opined that this position is critical to operational decisions of the Commission.
  - v. A number of stakeholders highlighted their lack of confidence and trust in the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission.
  - vi. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission is unable to fully monitor the media as per the provisions of the Electoral Act.
    - Stakeholders alleged that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission has not been able to address media related issues including the distribution of airtime to political parties on the state media platforms.
14. The Mission paid a courtesy visit on the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission on 27<sup>th</sup> July 2018. This visit was undertaken in the spirit of collaboration and cooperation with the Commission as a member of the Forum. It was at this meeting that the Mission engaged ZEC on the recommendations raised during the harmonised elections of 2013 and the pre-election visit in May 2018. The Mission appreciated that ZEC was able to implement some of the recommendations.
15. The Mission held bilateral meetings with the SADC Election Observation Mission (SEOM) and the SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC PF). The Mission also participated in the Heads of International Observation Missions meeting organised by the SEOM and African Union (AU) Election Observation Missions on 29<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> July 2018 respectively. Missions were able to share their observations on the pre-polling, polling, and post-polling phases.

**B. Election Phase****Polling Day**

16. On polling day, the Mission observed the following:

Most polling stations visited opened on time and opening procedures were followed.

Election materials were adequate in most polling stations visited.

The layout in most polling stations allowed for smooth flow of voters and the secrecy of the vote was safeguarded. However, there were inconsistencies in set-up and management of polling stations.

Signage to polling stations was not always visible.

Voters with special needs were given priority to vote. This included expectant and nursing mothers.

Indelible ink markers were used, but the application varied between the stations visited.

International and domestic observers were visible at most polling stations visited.

Party agents were present in most polling stations visited, though they represented few political parties. They did not have copies of the voters roll.

The practice of marking ballot boxes in the colour of the ballot paper was not universally applied.

Persons with disabilities were assisted. It was further noted that a number of polling stations had ramps which facilitated access for persons with disabilities.

Women were well represented in the complement of polling staff. In general, staff seemed adequately trained to perform their duties.

A number of polling stations visited were staffed with young female officers.

Security personnel were visible, but did not interfere with the voting process.

Some polling staff voted at the polling station where they were based, while others had to travel to their stations to cast their votes.

Generally, polling took place in a peaceful and secure environment. Even in situations when queues were long, the voters remained calm and orderly.

### Counting and Management of Results

17. The Mission observed the closing and counting processes and noted the following:

There was insufficient lighting at some of the polling stations.

The counting procedures were followed but the exercise itself was strenuous.

- i. Party agents were present during the counting and were required to confirm the results on the tally sheet.

### LESSONS LEARNT

18. The following lessons were drawn from the 2018 Harmonised Elections of the Republic of Zimbabwe to be adopted as best practices in the SADC region:

The provision of adjustable polling booths used by voters with disabilities.

The gender consideration in relation to the appointment of the Chairperson and the Deputy Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission.

The partnership between the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and civil society organisations to strengthen voter education initiatives.

Introduction and utilization of the legally established Multiparty Liaison Committee.

The designation of members of the Commission to specific portfolios during the electoral period.

### AREAS NEEDING IMPROVEMENT

19. The Mission reiterates the following recommendations made during the 2013 Harmonized elections:

- i. Regular stakeholder engagements to strengthen communication between the Electoral Commission and its stakeholders.
- ii. Voter education to be strengthened to deal with prohibited conduct such as undue influence on voters.
- iii. The rights of the persons with disabilities to cast their vote in secret must be upheld through the adoption of new electoral innovations.
- iv. The need to educate stakeholders on the results system that gives tabulation and compilation of results to minimize uncertainty and public suspicion.

The need to use different colour-coded ballot boxes for each of the three elections (Presidential, National Assembly and Local Authority) for ease of identification.

v The need to broaden the scope of postal voting to accommodate all Zimbabweans living abroad.

**KEY RECOMMENDATIONS**

20. The ECF – SADC Mission makes the following key recommendations to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission:

- i. There is need to standardise the training of all polling staff to ensure that processes are actioned uniformly.
- ii. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission should continue to develop and maintain the voters roll to ensure that it is accurate, complete, inclusive and verifiable.
- iii. There is need for the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to develop a dedicated communications strategy which should also include managing communications with all observer missions.
- iv. Stakeholders should be encouraged to use the existing alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to deal with post-electoral matters, as provided for in the Electoral Act.
- v. The need to enact legislation for the registration and management of political parties.
- vi. The need for the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to urgently finalise the appointment of the Chief Elections Officer to ensure execution of the operations of the Commission.
- vii. The media monitoring role of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission needs to be strengthened to ensure compliance with the Electoral Act.
- viii. Processes for guaranteeing that polling staff are able to cast their ballots may need to be enacted to ensure that they are not disenfranchised.

**CONCLUSION**

- i. The ECF- SADC Mission commends the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission for their efforts in managing the Harmonised Elections and mobilising voters to participate in the poll.
- ii. The Mission also congratulates the people of Zimbabwe on the manner in which they conducted themselves during the electoral period.

- i. The contesting political parties are commended for their role in the electoral period. They showed a spirit of tolerance and ensured that their supporters remained calm and restrained throughout the electioneering process.
- v. As the electoral process is not yet complete, the ECF-SADC encourages the people of Zimbabwe to remain tolerant, peaceful and to accept the outcome of the election results.

Signed on this 1<sup>st</sup> August 2018 in Harare, Zimbabwe.

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Justice Semistocles Kaijage  
Mission leader  
Electoral Commissions Forum of SADC Countries





**NORDIC AFRICAN CENTER  
ELECTION OBSERVATION MISSION TO ZIMBABWE**

PRESS STATEMENT 1/07/2018

**"Voter education inadequate for the election of Senators and allocation of parliamentary seats reserved for women and people with disabilities"**

The Nordic African Election Observation Mission in Zimbabwe wishes to applaud the people of Zimbabwe for turning up in large numbers to cast their votes during the 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, harmonized elections. The Mission would like to urge the Zimbabweans, having cast their votes, to continue maintaining peace and calmly wait for the results being announced by Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC).

The Nordic African Election Observation Mission is set-up by the Nordic Africa Center for Local Democracy and Electoral Support (NAC-OES), a Danish based NGO. The Mission deployed international election observers to Bindura, Shamva, Guruve and Mazowe Districts in Mashonaland Central as well as in and around Harare District in Harare Metropolitan Province.

During its elections observatory tour of duty, the Mission's primary focus was placed on three key areas namely; Women, Ethnic Minorities and the Persons With Disabilities' Participation in the electoral process.

Part 3 (1) (a)(b) and (d) of the Zimbabwean constitution provides for the election of the 80 members to the senate. In this regard, the Mission observed and noted with concern that despite these constitutional provisions there has been insufficient constitutional and voter education on the electoral process with regards to the election of the 6 people from each of the 10 provinces into which Zimbabwe is divided, the election of the 16 chiefs as well as the election of the two (2) people with disabilities to the Upper Chamber.

Further, Part 4 article 124 (1) (b) of the constitution also provides for an additional sixty (60) women members to the National Assembly, six from each of the provinces into which Zimbabwe is divided, elected through a system of proportional representation based on the votes cast for candidates representing political parties in a general election for constituency members in the provinces. The Mission was appalled that a number of voters it interacted with expressed either ignorance or had inadequate knowledge on the proportional representation system and how it is used at intra - party level and calculated to second and allocate the percentage of votes to women to take up the 60 seats reserved for them in the National Assembly.

The Mission, however wishes to reaffirm its position that the polling day was calm, peaceful, full of enthusiasm with a relaxed atmosphere prevailing. Voting processes were conducted in a transparent manner and most polling stations were accessible by the Persons With Disabilities through the inbuilt or the tempoal provision of the rumps at the entrances to the polling stations. Most Polling stations' staff were quicker in the ushering, inspection of identity cards, issuing of ballot papers, inking and direction of the voter to the booth and the eventual vote casting. The voters needing redirection were respectfully redirected, the pregnant women, women with babies and the aged were given priority and quickly ushered in to cast their votes.

Despite observing significant queues before the opening of the polling stations and commencement of voting in the morning, the Mission was impressed that at a number of polling stations observed, queues of people who wanted to vote were cleared by the afternoon, unlike the situation in the previous election Zimbabwe has had held.

"The Mission was pleased to note a high level of participation by women, senior citizens, people with disabilities and visible ethnic minorities noted in the polling stations observed by the Mission." Said Mr. Emmanuel Kamwi, who is the Lead Observer for the Nordic Africa Election Observation Mission to Zimbabwe:

The Mission was pleased to see and interact with the large numbers of national citizen observers deployed and also the presence of atleast 3 different party agents in all stations observed.

In conclusion, it is the considered view of the Mission that it is too early to make substantive comments on the outcome of the election. The Mission is hopeful that the queues, voter enthusiasm and commitment by Polling staff observed on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2018, will be matched by compilation of results and a commitment to honouring the choice of the Zimbabwean electorate.

Issued by



Charlie Inggs

Election Expert and Press Contact Person

For further information please contact: Phone: +263 7 7482 1483

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# COMESA ELECTION OBSERVER MISSION TO THE 30<sup>th</sup> JULY 2018 HARMONISED ELECTIONS IN THE REPUBLIC OF ZIMBABWE

## PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

### 1. Introduction

In response to an invitation from the Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe, the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) deployed a mission to observe the 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018 Harmonised Elections.

The COMESA Observer Mission is led by Amb. Ashraf Rashed, a member of the COMESA Committee of Elders. The Mission is comprised of observers from five Member States of COMESA, DR Congo, Kenya, Malawi, Sudan, Zambia as well as the Secretariat.

### 2. Mandate of the Mission

The Mission anchored its assessment on the legal framework governing elections in Zimbabwe and the regional, continental and international standards on the conduct of democratic elections.

## 2.1 Deployment

COMESA initially deployed a Pre-election Mission from 21<sup>st</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> May 2018 to assess the level of preparedness on the part of all key stakeholders. This included consultations with the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), the Chief Justice, political parties, relevant Government ministries, the Commissioner General of Police, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), independent think tanks and selected members of society who raised pertinent issues on the electoral process, which were shared with ZEC and the Government, with the Mission's recommendations.

Following the Pre-election Assessment Mission, a short-term Observer Mission arrived in Zimbabwe on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2018. The Mission endeavoured to observe a significant number of polling stations covering the ten provinces including voting and counting. The provinces observed are Bulawayo, Harare, Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Mashonaland West, Masvingo, Matebeleland North, Matebeleland South and Midlands.

Based on its observation, the Mission is pleased to report the following:-

## 3. Preliminary Findings

The findings are based on the Mission's observations on the pre-election, voting day and the counting of votes at the polling stations.

**3.1 General Observation**

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) was able to effectively conduct the elections despite some challenges, as well as allegations raised during the Pre-election Assessment Mission, that in our view largely emanated from mistrust and lack of confidence in the electoral process due to past experiences. The Mission observed a significant improvement in the current electoral process as compared to previous elections. In general, the election took place in an orderly, calm and peaceful environment.

**3.2 Election Campaigns**

The Mission observed that campaigns were peaceful compared to previous elections, notwithstanding some acts of violence, particularly during the party primaries.

Candidates had the opportunity to campaign freely and made use of the significant political space which was noted during the elections.

In addition, the Mission appreciates:

- i. the progress made in the implementation of the new provisions of the Electoral Act;
- ii. the establishment of the Inter-Party Dialogue to promote engagement among political parties with the aim of reaching consensus.

### **3.3 Media Coverage**

Several stakeholders raised concerns with regards to the unbalanced media coverage for political parties especially on the public-owned media during the campaigns.

### **3.4 Civic and Voter Education**

The Mission commends the efforts made by ZEC in collaboration with accredited Civil Society Organisations in conducting voter and civic education. This significantly contributed to the higher voter turnout in all the polling stations observed by the Mission.

### **3.5 Biometric Voter Registration**

The Mission also commends ZEC for the introduction of the Biometric Voter Register (BVR) which limited the possibility of multiple registration. In addition, the decision to use a polling station-based system of voting, as well as to cap the number of voters per polling station to a maximum of 1,000 contributed to the efficient management of the voting process.

The Mission acknowledges the efforts by ZEC to ensure that all voters were registered within the stipulated time frame. However, political parties and civil society

organisations raised concerns with regards to the voters' roll.

### **3.6 Gender Representation and Participation**

The Mission notes with appreciation the considerable number of female candidates contesting the elections as compared to the past elections. However, the Mission expresses concern towards expressions of violence targeted at female candidates.

The high presence of females as voters, party agents, election officials and police officers at most of the polling stations observed is a welcome development.

## **4. Polling Day Observations**

The Mission observed the opening, voting and counting of the votes at polling stations.

### **4.1 Opening of Polling Stations**

Almost all polling stations observed opened on time and adhered to opening procedures as stipulated by ZEC. All required voting materials were available.

### **4.2 Voting**

Zimbabweans turned out in large numbers in polling stations that the Mission observed as manifested by the

long queues forming way before voting started. Voting processes progressed smoothly in a calm, well-organised and orderly environment. Local and international observers had full access to all polling stations and were welcomed by all stakeholders.

The Mission observed that polling was mainly conducted in schools, and in some instances in tents. The Mission also observed that ZEC provided adequate voting booths which were arranged in a way that ensured privacy and secrecy of the vote.

In some polling stations voters complained about long queues and slow progress of the voting process. In the Mission's view this was due to the large numbers of voters present at each polling station at the time of opening.

Most of the voters were able to cast their votes without any challenges. However, few voters were reported to have been turned away because they did not either possess valid national identification or did not appear in the voters' roll, while others were redirected to their polling stations.

Voters with special needs, including the elderly, expectant mothers, persons with disability were given priority, and assisted to cast their votes.

Furthermore, at several polling stations the Mission was informed by the Electoral Officials that over 50% of registered voters had cast their votes by early afternoon.



The Mission observed that though the ballot papers were printed in black and white, they were generally readable.

**4.3 Collaboration between different Government Organs**

The Mission observed smooth collaboration between relevant government organs. Security was adequately provided. Police officers were present at all polling stations and they conducted their duties in a professional manner, without interfering with the voting process. In some regions, the Zimbabwe Red Cross Society was available to provide assistance when needed.

**4.4 Presence of Party/ Candidate Agents**

With regards to agents of parties and candidates, the Mission noted their presence in all polling stations particularly those representing ZANU-PF and MDC-Alliance. The Mission did not note complaints from party or candidate agents during the voting process or the counting of votes.

**5. Closing of the polling process and counting of votes**

The Mission observed that the closing and the counting processes took place on time as scheduled, in adherence to the laid-down ZEC procedures and in a calm and peaceful environment and in the presence of agents and observers.

## 6. Best Practices from the Zimbabwe 2018 Harmonised Elections

The COMESA Observer Mission noted the following best practices:

1. The establishment of the Inter-Party Dialogue forum for engagement among political parties with a view of building consensus on key issues;
2. The use of Biometric Voter Register;
3. The use of Short Messaging Services (SMS) to verify voter registration status as well as the identification of polling stations.

The COMESA Observer Mission appreciates the following electoral practices:

1. The invitation of regional and international observers as well as the presence of local observers created a level of confidence amongst stakeholders and enhanced the credibility of the process;
2. The adequate training of Electoral Officials who were observed to be performing their duties in a professional and impartial manner;
3. The use of the polling station-based voting system that restricts each voter to a particular polling station;
4. The high level of transparency witnessed during the voting and counting of votes.

## 7. Key Preliminary Recommendations

The Mission recommends that:

1. Whereas the capping of voters at polling stations to 1,000 is a positive development, ZEC may consider increasing efficiency in casting of ballots by further reducing the number of voters per polling station.
2. To enhance the clarity of ballot papers, ZEC may consider printing the ballot papers in colour, as was the case with the Biometric Voters' Roll.
3. Given that media monitoring reverts to ZEC after proclamation, it is recommended that ZEC considers putting in place a strategy to ensure balanced media coverage for all parties and candidates on public owned media (electronic and print).
4. The inclusion of the diaspora in the voting process will be a positive development taking into consideration that the Constitution stipulates that all Zimbabweans have the right to vote.

## 8. Conclusions

Based on the observations above, the Mission notes that the electoral and polling processes in Zimbabwe were

generally peaceful, transparent and adhered to national, regional and international standards.

The Mission also notes that this is an important opportunity for Zimbabwe to build on a new foundation. The 2018 Harmonised Elections represent a turning point; an epic moment for Zimbabwe and the Mission implores that the same constructive spirit observed during the voting day, and also during the campaign period will continue to prevail as the country embarks on completing the tallying process and subsequent announcement of the final results. The Mission urges contestants and all other stakeholders to respect the will of the people, maintain peace and to resort to legal channels in addressing any disputes that may arise.

The Mission congratulates all citizens of Zimbabwe for turning out in large numbers to exercise their democratic right to vote, and for ensuring that the process was orderly and peaceful.

The COMESA Mission will continue to observe the completion of the tallying process, and will issue a more comprehensive report in due course.

Finally, the Mission wishes the People and Government of the Republic of Zimbabwe continued peace, progress and prosperity.

**Ambassador Ashraf Rashed**  
**Head of COMESA Election Observation Mission to the**  
**Republic of Zimbabwe's 2018 Harmonised Elections**  
**Harare, Zimbabwe**  
**1<sup>st</sup> August 2018.**

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**IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF ZIMBABWE  
HELD AT HARARE**

**CASE NO. CCZ 42/18**

In the matter between

**NELSON CHAMISA**

**APPLICANT**

**AND**

**EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA**



**JOSEPH BUSHA**

**1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT**

**MELBAH DZAPASI**

**2<sup>ND</sup> RESPONDENT**

**NKOSANA MOYO**

**3<sup>RD</sup> RESPONDENT**

**NOAH MANYIKA**

**4<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**PETER WILSON**

**5<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**TAURAI MTEKI**

**6<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**THOKOZANI KUPE**

**7<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**DIVINE MHAMBI**

**8<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**LOVEMORE MADHUKU**

**9<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**PETER MUNYANDURI**

**10<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**AMBROSE MUTINHIRI**

**11<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**TIMOTHY JOHANNES CHIGUVAIRE**

**12<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**JOICE MUJURU**

**13<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**KWANELE HLABANGANA**

**14<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**EVARISTO CHIKANGA**

**15<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**DANIEL SHUMBA**

**16<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**VIOLET MARICHIYA**

**17<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**BLESSING KASIYAMHURU**

**18<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**ELTON MANGOMA**

**19<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**PETER GAVA**

**20<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**WILLIAM MUGADZA**

**21<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT**

**ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

**22<sup>ND</sup> RESPONDENT**

**THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION**

**23<sup>RD</sup> RESPONDENT**

**THE CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER**

**24<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

**25<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT**

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**SUPPORTING AFFIDAVIT OF ZIYAMBI ZIYAMBI**

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I, the undersigned **Ziyambi Ziyambi** do hereby make oath and state the following, which is within my personal knowledge and to the best of my information and belief, true and correct:

1. I was the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent's Chief Election Agent during the 2018 presidential elections held on 30<sup>th</sup> July 2018. The facts that I depose to herein are known to me.
2. I have read the Application filed by the Applicant as well as the affidavits attached thereto and I wish to address the averments made in several affidavits (attached to the application) which relate to my scope of duties during the pre-election period, election day, and post-election period.
3. I have also read the opposing affidavit deposed to by 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent in this matter and I fully associate myself with the averments made therein.
4. It is necessary that from the outset, I set out the procedure for conduct of elections, which process the Applicant is well versed with, but which he either elected to dispense with or failed to implement.

#### Conduct of elections

5. Section 55 (2a) as read with section 95 of the Electoral Act ("the Act") provides that each presidential candidate is entitled, through his or her Chief Election Agent, to assign an election agent at each and every polling station in Zimbabwe for the purposes of observing whether the electoral processes at the polling station concerned are conducted in accordance with the Act. The assigned election agents are entitled to be present from the period of at least thirty minutes before the poll opens until close of poll.
6. Section 54(1) (b) of the Act provides that , thirty minutes before the commencement of the poll, the presiding officer at every polling station shall ensure that the ballot boxes to be used at every polling station are empty and further that the presiding officer shall show the interior of the empty ballot boxes to all the officials assigned to the polling station including the election agents for all the candidates present. Thereafter, the presiding officer shall immediately seal the ballot boxes in the presence of all the election agents. Further, the ballot boxes shall not be opened except in terms of section 62 of the Act.

7. In terms of section 54A of the Act , the presiding officer at every polling station shall count and record the total number of ballot papers received from 23<sup>rd</sup> Respondent at the polling station before polling opens. Once again, election agents observe this pre voting audit process.
  
8. Section 62 of the Act then guides the presiding officer on the procedure to be followed for unsealing the ballot boxes at the close of poll and for the purposes of counting and recording votes cast. The material aspects to point out from this procedure are that:-
  - a. The assigned election agents for all the candidates are entitled to be present and to observe the unsealing of the ballot boxes.
  - b. The assigned election agents for each candidate are entitled to observe the counting process.
  - c. The assigned election agents are entitled to observe the unsealing of each sealed packet containing unused and spoilt ballot papers and the register of assisted voters.
  - d. Independent election monitors and observers are also entitled to observe this process before the data is captured on V11 forms.
  - e. Election agents confirm the results recorded in the V11 forms after counting by appending their respective full names, name of political party represented, date and signature .
  
- I have attached hereto, as **Annexure "SA1"**, a copy of the V11 form as prescribed by section 64 of the Act which bears the entry sections for the above stated process.
  
9. In addition to assigning a particular election agent per polling station, a candidate is also entitled to assign "roving" election agents for each ward, who are entitled to move from one polling station to another noting feedback from the stationed election agents for the same candidate.
  
10. Section 64 of the Act then provides that after the close of poll and counting process as outlined above, a copy of the V11 form reflecting



the election outcome for each candidate per polling station is to be posted outside the polling station, another copy is sent to the Ward Elections officer and each election agent is issued with a copy of the V11 form bearing the results of the election.

11. I have to date, received reports from all the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent's polling station agents and roving agents to the effect that, the strict procedural provisions outlined above were observed at their respective polling stations and wards and further to that, all the election agents have to date delivered to me, the V11 forms issued to them at close of poll and counting.
12. 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent's election agents also reported a few set back challenges that were faced at different polling stations, for example in Norton, one polling station had to delay polling because a wildfire broke out at a farm where the tent was pitched. In order to protect the public the fire had to be put out first before polling could commence. In another constituency, a woman collapsed and died at a polling station.
13. I detain the court with this outline of polling procedures in order to demonstrate that the Act itself makes provision for immediate audit processes by candidates through their assigned election agents, before, during and at a close of poll. The measures equally enable agents to raise alarm through the roving agents once irregularities in the number of ballot papers, contents of ballots prior to poll or voter intimidation has been observed during the poll.
14. Further, the outline demonstrates that any analysis of the election results which concludes, as Applicant does, that there were anomalies, but without taking into account the total number of ballot papers provided per polling station and the number of unutilised ballot papers would be highly inaccurate.
15. It further demonstrates how the 23<sup>rd</sup> Respondent's V11 forms as issued to the election agents for all candidates at close of poll are the best evidence to any election petition given that the data thereon is captured immediately after the counting of votes as well as an audit of not only the votes cast and spoiled ballots, but also, the number of ballots issued to a polling station prior to poll as well as the number unused ballot papers at close of poll.

**AFFIDAVIT BY JAMESON TIMBA**

14. The averments made in this affidavit and conclusions of law reached are disputed.

15. **AD PARAGRAPHS 1 – 4**

15.1. Save to state that the averments which Mr Timba associates himself with have been disputed and challenged by the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent , no issues arise in respect of the averments made in these paragraphs.

18. **AD PARAGRAPHS 5- 5.2.**

18.1. The averments made in these paragraphs are disputed. The Act is clear that the design of the ballot paper is the prerogative of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Respondent . In any event , the deponent fails to demonstrate how the final design of the ballot paper disadvantaged him and aided the 1<sup>st</sup> Respondent.

19. **AD PARAGRAPHS 6 - 11**

18.1. The averments made in these paragraphs are disputed. **Annexure "T"** clearly proves that the Applicant's Chief Election agent was granted audience more than twice by 23<sup>rd</sup> Respondent, both private audience and through the multiparty liaison meetings , the latter where all parties had an equal opportunity to air their grievances.

16. **AD PARAGRAPH 12**

16.1. The averments made in this paragraph are disputed . To my knowledge , all the lawful demands made by the Applicant were met by 23<sup>rd</sup> Respondent. The rest of the demands made by Applicant were outrageous , a point which was noted by independent pre election monitors. One such body being the team of Elders , chaired by the former Secretary General of the United Nations, Mr Koffi Annan .

17. AD PARAGRAPHS 13-16, 8

- 17.1. The averments made in these paragraphs are disputed.
- 17.2. The Applicant's Chief Election Agent Mr Jameson Timba as well as the MDC Alliance Chief election agent Mr Morgan Komichi were present during the verification process of the presidential election results . Applicant was afforded all the rights to verify the election results as anticipated by the provisions of section 110 of the Act.

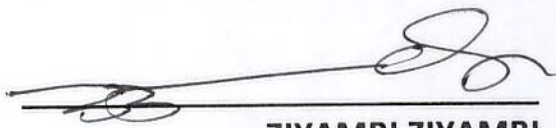
AFFIDAVIT BY MORGEN KOMICHI

18. AD PARAGRAPHS 1-7

- 18.1. The averments made in these paragraphs are disputed.
- 18.2. I am not in a position to comment on averments which relate to 23<sup>rd</sup> Respondent, however, I can confirm that Mr Morgan Komichi participated in the presidential election verification exercise. He was however, very disappointed that Applicant lost the election.
- 18.3. Further and as has been alluded to above, the provisions of the Act provide a simple and straight forward audit process which commences 30 minutes before the poll opens at each polling station and ends with each candidate receiving all the v11 forms from every polling station through their election agents.

THIS DONE AND SWORN TO AT HARARE THIS .....<sup>12th</sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2018

SWORN

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**ZIYAMBI ZIYAMBI**

BEFORE ME

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
**COMMISSIONER OF OATHS**

**JOHN MUGOGO**  
 LLB (HONS) ZIMBABWE  
 Legal Practitioner, Conveyancer,

'S1'

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ELECTORAL REGULATIONS, 2005

Form V.11

POLLING STATION RETURN

Section 64(1) (c) of the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13]

Presidential	
National Assembly	
Local Authority	

Tick applicable

Section A

Details of polling station

Name of Polling Station  
Ward  
Constituency  
District  
Province


Section B

Ballot paper account before poll  
Ballot paper received

Book	Serial numbers		Number of ballots
	From	To	
Book 1			
Book 2			
Book 3			
Book 4			
Book 5			
Book 6			
Book 7			
Book 8			
Book 9			
Book 10			
		Total	

Section C

Ballot paper account after close of poll  
*To be completed before unsealing of ballot boxes*

Total number of ballot papers expected to be in ballot boxes

To be determined before opening of ballot boxes by adding up the counterfoils for issued ballots

Unused ballot papers after polling

Unnumbered ballot papers

Unused ballot papers after polling	Serial numbers		Totals
	From	To	

ELECTORAL REGULATIONS, 2005

Cancelled ballot papers	
Ballot papers not accounted for	
<b>Total</b>	

**Section D**  
**Polling station results return after counting**

	Name of candidate (surname first in alphabetical order)	Political party or independent	Votes received
1.			
2.			
3.			
4.			
5.			
6.			
7.			
8.			
	<b>Total Votes Received</b>		
	<b>Total Votes Rejected</b>		
	<b>Ballot Papers Unaccounted For</b>		
	<b>Total Valid And Rejected Votes Cast</b>		

**Declaration by Presiding Elections Officer**

I hereby certify that the above is a correct statement of all votes cast at this polling station.

Full names of Presiding Elections Officer	
Signature of Presiding Elections Officer	
Date	
Name of witness (Polling Officer)	
Signature of witness	

**Declaration by candidates/ election agents**

I hereby declare that this return is a correct statement of all votes cast at the above mentioned polling station.

	Name	Name of political party	Independent candidate	Designation	Date	Signature
1.						
2.						
3.						
4.						
5.						

*Copies of this form must be produced and they must be distributed as follows:*

Presidential election	National Assembly election	Local authority election
Affix copy outside of polling station	Affix copy outside of polling station	Affix copy outside of polling station
Provide copy to each election agent and observer present at polling station	Provide copy to each election agent and observer present at polling station	Provide copy to each election agent and observer present at polling station
Seal copy in the ballot box.	Seal copy in the ballot box.	Seal copy in the ballot box.
Send original return to Ward Collation Centre and copies to Presidential Constituency Centre, Pro-	Send original return to Ward Collation Centre and copies to National Assembly Constituency Centre,	Send original return to Ward Collation Centre, Provincial Command Centre and National Com-

ELECTORAL REGULATIONS, 2005

Provincial Command Centre and National Command Centre.	Provincial Command Centre and National Command Centre.	Command Centre.
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[Form substituted by s. 87 of 2013]

- Form V.12
- Form V.13
- Form V.14

[Forms V.12, V.13 and V.14 repealed by s.184 of 2013]

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**We Will Never Allow That "Small Boy" To Rule This Country: Mahiya**

Addressing election observers in Harare on Friday, Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (Zec) deputy chair Commissioner Emmanuel Magade said they have reported the MDC Alliance to the police to ensure their security saying they were threatened.

Magade said the MDC Alliance which held a demonstration on Wednesday, threatened to hunt down Zec officials from their homes and harm them. Said Magade

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I can confirm that such threats have been issued. Some unkind and uncharitable things have been said about us. We find it totally, totally despicable and unconscionable and deplorable. What we have done as law abiding citizens is to refer those threats to the police and other law enforcement agencies. Our wish and our ambition is that we should have an incident-free election. It is very regrettable that people like us who are supposed to be neutral umpires.

More: Chronicle

Emmanuel  
Magade

MDC Alliance

Zimbabwe  
Electoral  
Commission

Emmanuel Magade is currently the acting chairperson of Zimbabwe Electoral Commission . He was the Dean of Law at the University of Zimbabwe. He was appointed as a Zec commissioner in June 2015 and has served as the deputy chairperson since March 2017. His current...  
Read More About **Emmanuel Magade**



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Chamisa and his thugs were seen once more storming the office of Justice Chigumba without an appointment. They demanded to see her at once. Their small minds immersed in inferiority complex were talking loud, almost doing what they know best: rudeness and total disregard of the person who holds such a high office in the land. On a woman called Justice Priscilla Chigumba. Curiously we share the concerns of the majority of the population that ZEC should be more transparent in their execution of their mandate and partiality to all political parties.

The problem we have with MDC-Alliance is their total disrespect of women. It would appear as if Chamisa and his thugs are fighting the woman: Justice Chigumba more than their grievances. Chamisa is wholly disturbed by the fact that it is a woman in charge, hence their rudeness in dealing with her: mistreating her because she is a woman. It is inconceivable for an aspiring presidential candidate to just march in and force himself into the office of ZEC, demand to see her without prior appointment. This is absolute rudeness on the part of MDC-Alliance is insulting; it is telling all that this woman is not worth the office, the office must be occupied by a man; that is their inherent message as a matter of fact.

We know too that if the Head of ZEC was a man and not Chigumba the woman, Chamisa would not have done what he did, just storming into the office and demand to see Justice Chigumba. Chamisa would not dare storm into Mnangagwa's office and shout of top of his head the way he did to Chigumba in that video. This is the reality we women of Zimbabwe have to live and cope with daily: absolute rudeness coming from some of our men folk. Chamisa is an advocate who should know better than he does, not to behave the way he did, it did not matter how wrong Justice Chigumba may be, she does not deserve disrespect. But he did it because he is Chamisa the future Evader of

a mere woman and deserves bullying.



We women should come together and denounce this rudeness meted on another woman. Just twelve days ahead of harmonised elections, sex accusations are surfacing to reduce her: they are to pin her down as a woman with loose morals because "them men" have better morals than her! My foot. Those men, misogynistic in nature, know too well what devastating effect it has on women when you confront her using sex as a weapon of Zimbabwe mass destruction. We do not demand to know Justice Chigumba's private life by no account. We have nothing to do with her private sexual life. But is it those twisted men, women haters will turn around any story and make it sexual so that it's sellable to Zimbabwe societies that curiously frown at sex. Zimbabwe is a society that put measure of a decent woman in terms of her sexual life.

For argument sake if it was a men who had sexual relationship/s with multiple women, that man would be considered a decent man by Zimbabwe standards. Zimbabwe is a very promiscuous society: Sex is the glory of men and not women. Zimbabwean men cheat their wives almost on daily basis: there are small houses dotted around Zimbabwe from prominent men with money. There is no mention of the men having multiple sexual partners on social media. But they will seek, scrutinize her, will want to know all about Justice's Chigumba's private especially sexual life in detail to flash it on social media to denigrate her, to reduce her to a slut, they have already called her a "Hure" in the presence of Chamisa. Who gives them the right to dwell into other people's private lives? We shall never stop to denounce this uttermost rudeness on our women. Amai Mujuru was treated the same as all of the women in powerful positions: was shamed using sex: a Zimbabwean weapon of mass destruction. Any woman who dares to assume a powerful position in public offices will be targeted and will be humiliated with unprintable words. Enough is enough! We want our dignity as women period!

Sis Thoko was treated in the same, conspiracy-minded treatment she got from Chamisa and the whole MDC-Alliance right up to the thugs outside the Harvest House, to apportion absolute rudeness and name-calling of sexual nature that will shame her. (Chigumba is loose because she has a sexual relationship with a married man!) Advocate Jessie Majome was mistreated the same way was told she is some old woman fit to go back to the reserves to herd donkeys. Majome was supposed to be reduced and diminished, belittled and deprecated by none either than her own Party MDC-Alliance and Chamisa never said a word about it.

Now the playground for MDC-Alliance is ZEC offices targeting the very woman who chairs the Big Office and a very important place for all future citizens of this country: Justice Chigumba. ZEC has become an office where MDC-Alliance can exercise their misogynistic language of hate towards women. They feel they can permit themselves, force themselves on the premises without the due appointment. I ask everybody to see the video once more of Chamisa and his thugs forcing themselves into the ZEC offices to go and exhibit hatred towards Chigumba, shouting: kicking and screaming on top of their heads at the secretary's desk. Then you ask yourself a second question: is this the quality of a future president of the Republic of Zimbabwe?

The worth of note is the video of Ruvheneko Parirenyatwa with Justice Chigumba: indeed the video is worth watching once more. What is striking most in that video is the civility of the interview?

Chamisa could learn the same to highlight his grievances to Justice Chigumba without calling her names and without exhibiting disregard for her as a woman without being rude to her, without mistreating her, but to respect the office and authority she holds at the same time putting the grievances he deems fit to redress before the harmonised elections with civility. We should be a civilized nation and not marauding thugs that enter offices to disrupt work.

Reading a today's article written by Jonathan Matika: "Why women will know their place in Chamisa's Zimbabwe: this article, written by a man, made many of us hope that there are men out there who genuinely appreciate our plight as women. Thank you Jonathan Matika, for that today's insightful article on Bulawayo 24. We sincerely can never say all men in Zimbabwe are misogynistic. On the other hand, the content of the article makes one to despair from the onset: If indeed Chamisa came to power, what will be the plight of women in his administration. How are women going to develop their potential in a misogynistic government poisoned by a misogynistic attitude of a young man?

Chamisa rates women as the second class has a conspiracy-minded attitude towards women. If he casually bat using his sister, his ability to sleep with any woman, but he is a pastor, tells us he can prove his sexual competency on any woman in Zimbabwe: the body language between his wife and himself will inform us that she is put at her place in their home; the man is supreme in Chamisa's home. What does that tell us about Chamisa, the future president of this country? Is that the language from a pastor: the man of God and a learned advocate? Whether Chamisa wins or loses these elections we shall never stop to fight for our rights as women. We shall talk and talk: we shall fight and fight for our rights as women. We know we shall be told off by those men with an inferiority complex, insult us with all sorts of names one can imagine.

We demand that Justice Chigumba is treated with respect in as much as all other human beings in the land. We demand you Chamisa and your kitchen cabinet to respect women. Stop insulting Justice Chigumba using sex as a Zimbabwean weapon of destruction even if it's your thugs that do the insulting on your behalf. We are mothers and grandmothers of this land. Please stop those insults of sexual nature Justice Chigumba at once as they insult all women in the land. Stop witch-hunting her private life at once! We are sick and tired of being insulted and our private lives exposed to destroy us emotionally. You are such cowards; cowards! We are behind Justice Chigumba because she is a woman, a mother and a sister of this great nation. (She will solve her problems in ZEC alone.) We come to her defense because she is a woman and nothing else. When MDC-Alliance attacks Justice Chigumba using sexual insults you are insulting all women in the land. So please stop it at once!

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ZEC chairperson Justice Priscilla Chigumba

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# Kofi Annan team says 'shocked' and 'appalled' by anti-Chigumba vitriol

🕒 22nd July 2018

📁 Politics (<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/category/news/zimbabwe/politics/>), Zimbabwe (<https://www.newzimbabwe.com/category/news/zimbabwe/>)

● By Staff Reporter

EMINENT global personalities visiting Zimbabwe have expressed shock at the attacks, especially from opposition forces and activists, aimed at Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) chairperson Justice Priscilla Chigumba.

Former Irish President Mary Robinson and former UN secretary general Kofi Annan said they had been appalled at how Chigumba had been exposed to the attacks without shielding from the media and authorities.

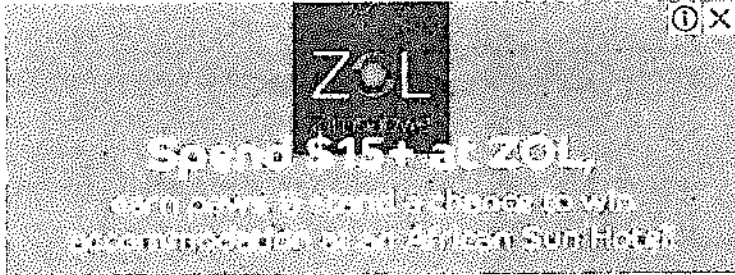
● "We were quite shocked when we met with chair of the Electoral Commission she was accompanied by two women commissioners.

"They have been vilified on social media and even threatened. It's unacceptable," Robinson said.

Chigumba has been accused of having a sexual relationship with a minister with the opposition demanding that she resigns on the basis that she is now conflicted. Robinson added: "Yes you can criticise them for being a little too legalistic.

"When Kofi (Annan) asked who defends them, there was silence. It's not allowed to vilify them on social media or elsewhere."

Annan weighed in, imploring the media to work as a buffer to defend the country's

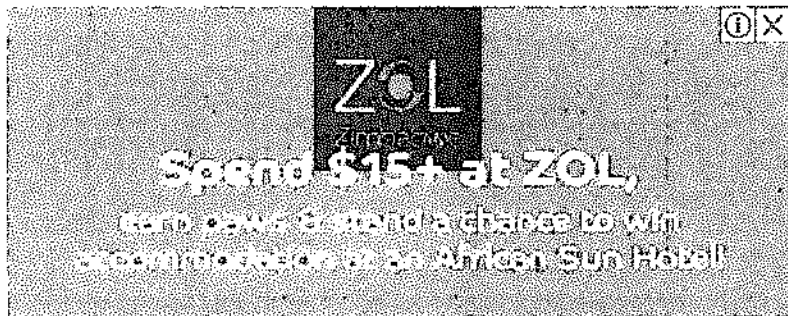


“It’s not about the election because they are not an end. You must defend them.

“Even going forward, help defend women’s rights. Often when there is violence, women tend to stay away,” the respected Ghanaian said.

Robinson added that she had also been shocked by personal attacks on other candidates in the election.

“We were also shocked by attacks on fellow candidates. Political leaders must take the lead in helping stop this,” the UN human rights commissioner said.



Chamisa and Mnangagwa meet Ex-UN chief Kofi Annan  
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## Manufacturing dissent – the cost of election propaganda in Zimbabwe

By refusing to accept the election results and alleging fraud, Nelson Chamisa has kept tensions high.

08 AUG 2018 / BY DEREK MATYSZAK

The response of Zimbabwe's main opposition party, the Movement for Democratic Change (MDC) Alliance, to the defeat of their presidential candidate suggests that its supporters might be victims of their own propaganda. Nelson Chamisa lost with 44.3% of the vote to Emmerson Mnangagwa of the ruling Zimbabwe African National

Zimbabwe's elections are won and lost in rural areas, home to about 70% of the voter population. The 2018 general election was no different. Viewing elections through an urban lens can be highly misleading, as rural voters are often motivated by different considerations to those of their urban counterparts.

Without ignoring the fact that ZANU-PF has considerable and ardent support among rural voters, it is clear that clientelism plays an important role. Many rural voters in Zimbabwe seem to view elections as an opportunity to show fealty to those in power rather than an exercise of democratic choice.

Loyalty is rewarded in the form of food aid and free agricultural inputs. Backing the 'wrong' candidate can attract harsh reprisals – an election 'promise' ZANU-PF has a reputation for keeping. A rural voter then may make a pragmatic and carefully considered calculation as to who will win and vote with head rather than heart. To win an election, the candidate needs to look as if he or she will win.

The MDC Alliance did a remarkable job at persuading many that Chamisa had massive nationwide support. It was aided and abetted by opposition-leaning political analysts who willingly spread Alliance spin.

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The MDC Alliance did a remarkable job at persuading many that Chamisa had massive nationwide support



As this spin would have it, Zimbabwe's intelligence services had done their own opinion poll that showed that Mnangagwa was intensely disliked and would get no more than 11% of the vote. Deposed ex-

president Robert Mugabe, it was claimed, enjoyed massive residual support in some provinces.

Mugabe's statement on the eve of polling that he would not vote for his 'tormentors' was seen as a cue to this support base to vote for Chamisa. Chamisa, only just the minimum age for a presidential candidate at 40, was presented as the natural choice for the 60% of the voter population under 40, rather than the 75-year-old Mnangagwa who represented the old order.

Insiders, it was said, knew the rural population was 'fed up' with ZANU-PF's misgovernance and that ZANU-PF had lost its ability to command the rural vote. The mood throughout Zimbabwe was one of euphoria, not experienced since independence in 1980. The election would be the country's second liberation.

There was scant evidence to support this spin. An opinion poll conducted just a month before the election by Afrobarometer gave Mnangagwa a slim lead. This evidence was brushed aside. If Chamisa didn't win, the MDC Alliance insisted, it could only mean that the election was rigged.

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Zimbabwe's elections are won and lost in rural areas, home to about 70% of the voter population



The MDC Alliance appears to have been convinced by its own propaganda. Chamisa declared that he had won resoundingly before the tally of the votes had been completed by the Zimbabwe Electoral

Commission (ZEC). Then, as soon as it became apparent that Mnangagwa had won, MDC Alliance supporters claimed the election was rigged.

The evidence? Of course Mnangagwa couldn't have won because of the mood in the country, and the large number of Mugabe's supporters, fed-up rural voters, and the youth who would have voted for Chamisa.

There was, however, the small problem of conflicting evidence in the form of Xs on ballot papers. The votes are tallied at the polling stations and the results entered onto a V11 form. Party representatives are invited to sign the V11 and are given a copy.

The V11s go to the ward counting centres. The totals from the polling stations in the ward are calculated and entered on a V23. The process is repeated as the tallies are forwarded to constituency and provincial levels.

Despite these safeguards, the MDC Alliance alleged that ZEC had altered the numbers on the returns. The allegation was readily believed, as throughout the latter part of the electoral period, ZEC seemed to go out of its way to earn the distrust of opposition parties through opaque procedures and manifest bias towards ZANU-PF.

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MDC Alliance officials said they would render the country ungovernable if they didn't get their way



In response, ZEC published spreadsheets showing all the totals at each level of counting, inviting anyone with documentary evidence

stop Chamisa from claiming he had copies of returns proving fraud, but then declining to reveal them.

Before the polling, MDC Alliance officials said they would render the country ungovernable if they didn't get their way. Chamisa had threatened that if the vote were stolen, he would get what was rightfully his, not through the courts, but through people taking to the streets in anger.

A jumpy military command placed battle-hardened troops on high alert – with tragic consequences. When a small but destructive band of demonstrators gathered to protest against the count, the military was almost immediately deployed, ignoring the presence of the police who ought to have been able to contain the situation without difficulty.

Trigger-happy soldiers went on a rampage, indiscriminately firing on civilians in Harare's city centre, leaving at least six dead and many more wounded. Over the next few days the military imposed an unofficial curfew in MDC Alliance stronghold areas, beating residents at whim. For many, it seemed that a thin veneer of civilian rule had been stripped away.

By refusing to accept the election results and alleging fraud, Chamisa has kept tensions high. He has also retained support among party cadres that might otherwise have dissipated had he conceded defeat. This has been accomplished at considerable cost.

**Derek Matyszak, Senior Research Consultant, Peace and Security Research Programme, ISS**

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# Mourners shocked as Nelson Chamisa reveals what he will do if he loses 2018 presidential elections

Muza Mpo



50 SHARES

...ing president, Nelson Chamisa yesterday told tens of thousands of party members that he would quit politics if President Emmerson Mnangagwa wins the next elections, insisting the opposition party will form the next government.

...ing mourners at the funeral of the late MDC-T leader, Morgan Tsvangirai in ... village, Buhera, Chamisa, whose leadership of the party is under contestation, ... uniting the party to face off with Mnangagwa.

... declared he would quit politics "if Mnangagwa wins the next election".

... are ready to form the next government and in September we will," Chamisa declared ... from the crowd.

... rai, who succumbed to cancer of the colon last week, was buried at his rural ... under a tense atmosphere, as internal power struggles stole the show.

former President Robert) Mugabe failed to plan his succession, but our president (Tsvangirai) did. God has a plan for everything. When a great leader dies, his protégé takes over.

"When I was appointed vice-president, people did not understand him," he said, dismissing the idea for an extraordinary congress to elect a substantive party leader.

"In a nutshell, our constitution is clear. You cannot just wake up and rush into an extraordinary congress.

There is an elaborate process to be followed and we will be consulting the whole membership.

"We are a people's party and we will make sure nobody wrecks it at whatever cost.

"We will convene special meetings and we will not accept any noise in the cockpit. If you disobey our orders, we will deal with you."

National People's Party (NPP) leader and former Vice-President, Joice Mujuru announced she was ready to join hands with the MDC-T ahead of elections later this year.

"This event has reminded me of the event in Gweru (where she walked hand in hand with Tsvangirai)," she said. "We agreed with Tsvangirai in the presence of (his cousin Hebson) to advise that we will work together.

"The memorandum of understanding represents the wishes of Zimbabweans. We are ready to work with you, let us work together," she said, sending the crowd into a frenzy.

Mujuru and Tsvangirai signed a memorandum to enter into a coalition, but talks collapsed over the deal and the two formed separate alliances.



"Tsvangirai worked hard and suffered at the hands of Zanu-PF," he said.

"The people made money, but he died a pauper.

"He was used as a golem by some people to make money.

"Everyone knows this man won the 2008 elections, but being a man of the people, he decided to walk to State House skipping dead bodies.

"I followed Mugabe to rule and the fact that the current President Emmerson Mnangagwa allowed government to assist with his treatment and funeral means he acknowledges that he is a hero."

"My younger brother, Manase, threw down the gauntlet and demanded that the party stick to its democratic values to settle the current leadership dispute.

"This is not a popularity contest and you should stick to constitutionalism. Follow the rules of the party and go back to the people.

"I do not force myself on people. Respect these people and do not handle them like a pauper," he said.

"I was a man, who lived a life of service and sacrifice.

"Tsvangirai persevered the brutality of a vile regime and would want to see you all united following procedure.

"The family we are watching to see to it that his legacy is not washed away down the drain."

"At his death, Tsvangirai's family has been thrust into the limelight after seemingly

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Tsvangirai's golf partner, identified as Majuru, described the MDC-T leader as a rare breed amongst African politicians.

"The Tsvangirai that I knew and the one portrayed by the media, especially the State, are different," he said.

Tsvangirai was an honest man and honesty is a rare trait in African politics.

"His death should be a wake up call to those in power to redefine and broaden the definition of a hero."

Joshua Nkomo, a brother to Tsvangirai's late wife, Susan, also waded into the succession debate.

"It is good that if there is someone whom the people want, go back to the constitution and re-visit democratic tenets," he said.

"We would be saddened that at a time we are celebrating the life of a hero, people are trying to outdo each other."

Kenyan opposition leader, Raila Odinga described Tsvangirai as an African icon and international statesman.

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# We Will Not Issue Voters' Roll With Photographs Because of Privacy, Security Reasons: Chigumba

Maveric June 25, 2018



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**Cash Barons Will Soon Be Making Losses, We Are Flooding Market With Foreign Currency: Mangudya**



**We Will Never Allow That "Small Boy" To Rule This Country: Mahiya**

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission chairperson Justice Priscilla Chigumba has said that the electoral body will not issue a voters' roll with photos to contesting parties because of security and privacy reasons. She said that this was meant to protect the electorate as some unnamed individuals had threatened to track down "their victims' door to door." Addressing the media on Monday, Chigumba said,

The public is being advised that the voters' roll being distributed by the Commission is authentic. Our lawyers advised us that providing a voter's roll with photos of registered voters was a violation of privacy and not necessary according to the constitution since it was going to be online... Following threats by some unscrupulous individuals to track down their victims' door to door, the Commission will not issue the voters' roll with photographs in an effort to protect voters.

However, the Commission will print voters' rolls with photographs for every polling station. Section 20(5) of the Electoral Act states that in the event of any discrepancy between an electronic copy and a printed copy of a voters' roll, the latter shall be deemed to be the authentic record of the voters' roll.

However, critics have pointed out that it is illogical for Zec to refuse to put people's photographs when it is already providing information which is actually more difficult to access such as dates of birth and national identification numbers and addresses.

	Zimbabwe
Priscilla	Electoral
Chigumba	Commission

Priscilla Chigumba is a Zimbabwean lawyer, a judge of the High Court of Zimbabwe and the Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). Justice Chigumba succeeded Justice Rita Makarau as the chairperson of ZEC.



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Chigumba was appointed the chairperson of ZEC on 31 January 2018. Read More About Priscilla Chigumba

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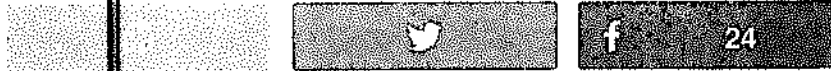
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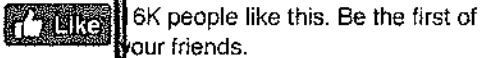
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3	MWASA STEPHEN MASHAYIWA	DEF		
4	MWASA MUSAHA	MDC-ALLIANCE		
5	MWASA PETER	DEF		
6	MWASA PETER	DEF		
7	MWASA PETER	DEF		
8	MWASA PETER	DEF		
9	MWASA PETER	DEF		
10	MWASA PETER	DEF		
11	MWASA PETER	DEF		
12	MWASA PETER	DEF		
13	MWASA PETER	DEF		
14	MWASA PETER	DEF		

SAMPLE

	Name of candidate	Name of party	Symbol	Photograph
15	MWASA MASHAYIWA	ZANU PF		
16	MWASA DONALD	APS		
17	MWASA DONALD	INDEPENDENT		
18	MWASA MASHAYIWA	DEF		
19	MWASA MASHAYIWA	PRC		
20	MWASA MASHAYIWA	NPF		
21	MWASA MASHAYIWA	DEF		
22	MWASA MASHAYIWA	DEF		
23	MWASA MASHAYIWA	DEF		

SPECIMEN

SAMPLE

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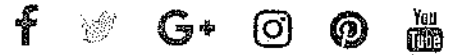
**David Coltart** ●  
@DavidColtart

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**ZESN have just produced a report which states that in 21% of polling stations no V11 was posted outside with the Presidential results on it as required by section 64(1)(e) of the Electoral Act. If true this will be a serious violation of the law.**

*MDC Alliance official David Coltart's tweet*

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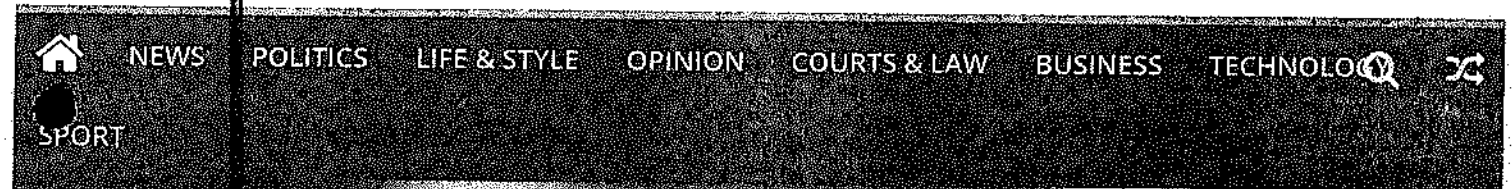


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News

# Coltart exposes the MDC Alliance on the V11 forms saga

August 6, 2018 Staff Writer 0 Comments David Coltart, elections 2018, mdc alliance, ZEC

MDC-Alliance senior official Mr David Coltart has exposed the hypocrisy by coalition president Mr Nelson Chamisa after he went on social media pleading with party members to bring V11 forms for use in challenging the July 30 election results.

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The position conflicted with Mr Chamisa's claim that the V11 forms showed that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission rigged the election in favour of Zanu-PF candidate, President Mnangagwa.

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Mr Chamisa has been telling journalists that they would challenge the Presidential election, saying V11 forms indicated that they had won the election.

But Mr Coltart has been calling for party members to bring V11 forms to verify the election results.

"Citizens, please respond to this call. We particularly need V11 forms from Mashonaland Central and West provinces where it appears the main focus of rigging was," said Mr Coltart on his Twitter handle.



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Independent Member of Parliament Mr Temba Mliswa laughed off Mr Coltart's call.

"Conflicting statement. On one hand @nelsonchamisa says he has the V11 forms on the other hand @davidcoltart appeals for them. These are forms signed for by all agents and copies given to each before posting outside the centre," said Mr Mliswa on his Twitter handle.

Addressing journalists in Harare on Friday, Mr Chamisa claimed they had gathered adequate evidence to prove that ZEC had rigged the election.

The call for V11 forms by Mr Coltart gives credence to an assertion that the MDC-Alliance failed to field election agents in most polling stations.

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This also seemed to be confirmed by ZEC commissioner Dr Qhubani Moyo while responding to one of the MDC-Alliance activists on social media.

**RELATED ARTICLE>>> [MDC Alliance's Chamisa mounts legal challenge against result](#)**

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Chamisa's election petition was late and should be dismissed: ZANU-PF lawyers  
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13, 2018 | under Life

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"Am sick and tired of dishonest people who want to blame others for their faults. You spend so much time insulting us instead of organising agents, now you want to claim V11 forms from where you were never present," posted Dr Moyo on his Facebook page.

In another post, Dr Moyo said: "This provocation by Sydney Chisi is clear invitation for some of us to begin to speak about the dishonest presentation about the V11 forms by some political parties that had no election agents in half of the constituencies yet claim omnipresence. The sooner some political parties stop blaming us for all their shortcomings the better for them."

One political analyst said the contradiction by the MDC-Alliance showed they did not have any evidence to back their claim that the elections were rigged.

Unpacking the MDC Alliance election results petition  
posted on August 12, 2018 | under Opinion

Mnangagwa and cronies devastated by Chamisa ConCourt case: Jonathan Moyo  
posted on August 12, 2018 | under Politics

Disaster: Chamisa also missed the recount deadline  
posted on August 13, 2018 | under Courts & Law, News

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"They are clutching at thin air. ZEC did their work professionally. This was equally supported by the report by the Zimbabwe Election Support Network which corroborated ZEC's figures. How can they call for V11 forms if they were present in those polling stations?" said the analyst.

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# ZESN disowns 'missing' v11 forms claims

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Opposition official David Coltart

**CLAIM:** Opposition officials, citing a report by the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), say 21% of the nearly 11,000 polling stations used for the July 30 general election did not post presidential election results (v11 forms)

**CONCLUSION:** False. ZESN's preliminary assessment report does not say 21% of polling stations did not display the presidential results form. The ZESN report, based on a statistical sample of 750 polling stations out of the total 10,985 used for Monday's election, said party polling agents present at 93% of the surveyed polling posts got copies of the presidential election results.



David Coltart

@DavidColtart

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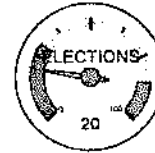
ZESN have just produced a report which states that in 21% of polling stations no V11 was posted outside with the Presidential results on it as required by section 64(1)(e) of the Electoral Act. If true this will be a serious violation of the law.

MDC Alliance official David Coltart's tweet

What does the law say

Section 64 (1) sub section (e) of the Electoral Act requires the presiding officer to, without delay and in the

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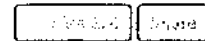
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ZESN's methods

ZESN is Zimbabwe's largest independent election watchdog. It deployed over 6,500 observers across the country for the July 30 polls.

For its preliminary report, ZESN took a sample of 750 polling stations (just under 7% of total) "to provide truly representative information on the conduct of voting and counting in near real time."

By the time ZESN published its preliminary statement on July 31, observers in 739 out of the surveyed 750 polling stations had reported back.

Key findings

- Observers were allowed in at 100% of surveyed polling stations
- At 99% of polling stations the seals on the presidential ballot box were intact when counting commenced
- At 3% of polling stations, an MDC Alliance agent requested a recount of the presidential ballot paper
- ZANU-PF polling agents requested recounts at 2% of the polling stations.
- At 97% of the polling stations, MDC Alliance agents signed the presidential results form
- ZANU-PF agents signed the presidential results form at 99% of the polling posts.
- At 93% of polling stations all party agents present were given a copy of the presidential results form.
- At most polling stations, the presidential results were posted immediately after counting finished.
- Presidential results were posted less frequently for Bulawayo and Matabeleland North than other provinces

As for the supposed 21% of polling stations where v11 forms were not posted as stipulated, ZESN director Rindai Chiptunde Vava, said: "We did not produce a report that states those statistics."

By ZimFact staff

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ZESN disowns 'missing' v11 forms claims



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## ZESN's Presidential Results Projection from Sample-Based Observation

**Harare – 03 August 2018** – The Sample-Based Observation (SBO) Project is an initiative of the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), the largest local observer group in Zimbabwe. ZESN is a coalition of 36 Non-Governmental Organizations formed in 2000 to coordinate activities pertaining to elections. Its major focus is on the promotion of democratic processes and free and fair elections in Zimbabwe. The organisation is strictly nonpartisan. ZESN observes elections so that citizens can exercise their fundamental right to vote and to provide independent non-partisan information on the conduct of elections to citizens, political contestants and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC). All of ZESN's activities are in accordance with the Declaration of Global Principles for Citizen Election Observation and Monitoring, the laws of Zimbabwe and, in particular, the ZEC's Code of Conduct.

ZESN closely monitored the pre-election period in accordance with its electoral cycle approach to the observation of electoral processes in Zimbabwe. As such, 210 long term observers were deployed in the run up to the harmonised election to observe and report on the pre-election environment. In addition, ZESN also conducted an audit of the voters roll.

As part of its comprehensive effort to observe the 2018 Harmonised Elections, ZESN trained and deployed over 6,500 observers to every ward, constituency, district and province of the country. Out of these, 750 were Sample-Based Observation observers. The SBO is an advanced Election Day observation methodology which allows ZESN to confidently comment on the voting and results tabulation processes, including an independent verification of the Presidential results as announced by the ZEC. SBOs have contributed to systematic election observation efforts around the world and in 12 countries in Africa such as Cote d'Ivoire (2016), Malawi (2009 and 2014), Zambia (2008, 2011, 2015 and 2016), Ghana (2008, 2012 and 2016), Uganda (2011), and Nigeria (2011, 2012 and 2015). In all cases the SBO accurately projected the vote tabulation outcomes including presidential results.

SBO observers were deployed to a nationally representative sample of polling stations throughout the country. This random sample was representative in terms of the geography of the country, the distribution of polling stations and the distribution of registered voters across Zimbabwe. SBO observers witnessed the entire voting and counting process at sampled polling stations and recorded the official result as announced by the polling officials. By 12 noon 31 July, ZESN had received reports from all 750 sampled polling stations and had verified and analysed their data; therefore, this report is based on a 100% response rate.

### Key Findings from the Pre-Election and Election Day Processes

As highlighted in ZESN's preliminary statement released on July 31, the electoral process was marked by improvements from previous elections as well as lost opportunities that could have measurably increased confidence in the integrity of the election.

Key findings in the pre-election period included:

- The pre-election environment was more peaceful and open than in previous elections including the broad invitation of international observers; however, incidents of intimidation to manipulate voters was still noted throughout the country. The signing of the National Peace Pledge and the Code of Conduct by the political parties during the campaign period is commendable, though there were limited enforcement mechanisms.
- ZEC did not address concerns raised by stakeholders with regards to the design, printing, and dispatch of ballot papers and did not permit meaningful observation of the production of ballot papers or testing of indelible ink.
- The voters roll has improved from 2013; however urban registration lagged behind rural registration with 73% of people in urban areas registered to vote compared to 82% in rural areas.
- State media and other state resources were abused throughout the pre-election period to the advantage the ruling party.

Key findings from ZESN's observation on Election Day include:

- At 99% of polling stations polling officials were present when ZESN observers arrived prior to opening, and 97% of polling stations opened by 7:15 am.
- 98% of polling stations were set up in a manner that allowed voters to mark their ballot papers in secret.
- At 6% of polling stations many voters (26 or more) were turned away and not permitted to vote, but for Harare province this affected 19% of polling stations.
- At 45% of polling stations many voters (26 or more) were assisted to vote. This was particularly prevalent in Manicaland, Mashonaland Central, Masvingo, Matabeleland North, and Matabeleland South provinces.
- At 98% of polling stations all polling agents present were given an official copy of the V11 results form and/or the official results were immediately posted. At only 2% of polling station were official copies of the V11 results form not provided to all polling agents and the official results not immediately posted.

### SBO Methodology

The SBO percentage estimates for turnout, vote for each candidate, and rejected ballots are based on the official results as announced by polling officials at the 750 sampled polling stations. At these polling stations there were 383,272 registered voters and 324,948 votes were cast. The SBO data is based on these actual votes. The SBO is not an exit poll. No voters were asked whom they voted for. Since the SBO is based on a sample of polling stations it produces estimated ranges within which the results announced by the ZEC should fall. The ranges are based on the SBO estimates plus or minus a margin of error.

### Turnout

The SBO data shows overall turnout at 84.7%, with a margin of error of +/- 0.7%, with all provinces with turnout over 80%. There were 11 (1.5%) polling stations with turnout over 95% of which 5 (0.8%) had turnout of 100% or more.



## Presidential Results

Below are the SBO estimated ranges for each of the major candidates. As noted, the official results as announced by the ZEC should fall within these estimated ranges.

<b>SBO Estimates and ZEC Official Results for the 2018 Presidential Election</b>				
<b>Presidential Candidate</b>	<b>SBO Estimate</b>	<b>Margin of Error</b>	<b>SBO Estimated Range</b>	<b>ZEC Announced Official Results (3 August)</b>
Nelson Chamisa (MDC Alliance)	45.8%	+/- 2.0%	43.8% to 47.8%	44.3%
Emmerson Mnangagwa (ZANU-PF)	50.7%	+/- 2.0%	48.7% to 52.7%	50.8%
All Other 21 Candidates	3.5%	+/- 0.2%	3.3% to 3.7%	
Rejected Ballots	1.4%	+/- 0.1%	1.3 % to 1.5%	

## Conclusion

ZEC's announced official results are consistent with the SBO projections. The percent vote for each candidate as officially announced by the ZEC fall within the SBO estimated ranges. Because the SBO estimated range for the leading candidate falls above and below 50%, the SBO cannot definitively confirm whether or not there should have been a runoff.

ZESN calls upon the ZEC to urgently release on its website polling station level results for all elections, including the presidential election, to enhance transparency and accountability. This is even more important given concerns raised by some stakeholders about the process. We encourage all Zimbabweans to be peaceful and if there are any disputes related to this electoral process, the aggrieved parties should seek peaceful redress and exercise restraint. ZESN also calls upon security forces to avoid being heavy handed in their efforts to restore order.

ZESN will continue to observe the post-electoral environment in pursuit of its mandate of promoting democratic electoral processes in Zimbabwe. //End/

---

### **PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE**

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**Facebook: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)**

**Twitter handle: @ZESN1**

**Website: www.zesn.org.zw**

## ANNEXURE 1

Distribution of All Polling Stations and Sampled Polling Stations by Province				
Province	All Polling Stations		Sampled Polling Stations	
	Stations	Percent	Stations	Percent
Bulawayo	428	3.9%	28	3.7%
Harare	1,175	10.7%	78	10.4%
Manicaland	1,438	13.1%	99	13.2%
Mashonaland Central	973	8.9%	66	8.8%
Mashonaland East	1,244	11.3%	86	11.5%
Mashonaland West	1,322	12.0%	90	12.0%
Masvingo	1,324	12.1%	92	12.3%
Matabeleland North	877	8.0%	60	8.0%
Matabeleland South	664	6.0%	46	6.1%
Midlands	1,540	14.0%	105	14.0%
Total	10,985		750	

Distribution of Registrants at All Polling Stations and at Sampled Polling Stations by Province (figures based on ZEC's List of Polling Stations)				
Province	All Polling Stations		Sampled Polling Stations	
	Registrants	Percent	Registrants	Percent
Bulawayo	258,567	4.5%	17,177	4.5%
Harare	900,728	15.8%	58,140	15.2%
Manicaland	733,370	12.9%	48,098	12.5%
Mashonaland Central	531,984	9.3%	34,169	8.9%
Mashonaland East	633,410	11.1%	41,063	10.7%
Mashonaland West	655,133	11.5%	44,113	11.5%
Masvingo	617,212	10.8%	45,256	11.8%
Matabeleland North	339,135	6.0%	25,289	6.6%
Matabeleland South	264,185	4.6%	18,597	4.9%
Midlands	761,982	13.4%	51,370	13.4%
Total	5,695,706		383,272	

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**FOOD DEFICIT MITIGATION  
STRATEGY**

**(FDMS)**

**FOOD FOR ASSETS / PUBLIC WORKS  
PROGRAMME**

**OPERATIONAL MANUAL**

**MINISTRY OF PUBLIC SERVICE, LABOUR AND SOCIAL WELFARE**

**(MoPSLW)**

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Food Insecurity Post Agricultural Season in Zimbabwe

The 2nd Round Crop Assessment Survey shows whether there will be a national cereal deficit or not owing to the prevailing conditions. In the event of an unfavorable weather pattern the likelihood of a drought is quickly predicted and mitigation measures are put in place.

The Zimbabwe Vulnerability Assessment conducted in the second quarter also comes in handy providing levels of food insecurity in the rural districts. ZimVac Rural Livelihoods Assessment (RLA) survey also monitors issues of chronic malnutrition in areas that are traditionally food secure.

*Once all data on food insecurity and general vulnerability is available Government together with partners put in place interventions to assist vulnerable populations.*

2 The Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy

In response to the food insecurity of the 2009/2010 agricultural season, the Government in partnership with Donors and Humanitarian partners developed a Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy (FDMS).

The FDMS follows *four phased cycle of* delivery of assistance to the vulnerable households and is guided by the following principles and assumptions:

- That it is fundamentally the responsibility of the Government of Zimbabwe to provide social protection to its citizens so that they can manage vulnerability associated with exogenous shocks.
- That since Zimbabwe is part of the international community; support from donor partners is welcome to complement Government efforts.
- That to mitigate the effects of the seasonal drought, the Government of Zimbabwe will be complemented by the donor community.
- That the Grain Marketing Board (GMB) will continue to be supported to purchase grain locally.

2.1 Objectives of FDMS

The FDMS seeks to:

- Mitigate the effects of drought on **NON LABOUR CONSTRAINED** households through public works / cash transfers and food for asset programmes,
- Avail free food assistance to the chronically ill, **LABOUR CONSTRAINED** older person headed households, and child headed households,
- Increase food access by **NON -RESOURCE CONSTRAINED** households through improved market distribution, and
- Mitigate the impact of future drought through the rehabilitation of existing irrigation schemes.

Whilst the FDMS will be implemented in a 4 phased cycle, the strategy takes cognizance of the fact that in order to support crop production partners will alternate between productive community works, C/F for Asset (C/FFA) programmes and general vulnerable group feeding (VGF) food distributions as follows:

April to June	<i>Harvests, Assessments &amp; Programming</i>
July to September	<i>Productive Community Asset Programmes (C/FFA) Input Scheme Programmes (Crop /Livestock)</i>
October to December	<i>General vulnerable group feeding programmes Input Scheme Programmes (Crop /Livestock)</i>
January to March (PEAK HUNGER)	<i>General vulnerable group feeding programmes</i>

*The period July to December will also be complemented with free input distribution (Presidential Input Support Programme) in order to promote household and national food security.*

2.2 Promoting Effective Partnerships

The FDMS calls for increased cooperation between government and Donor agencies working to ensure food security in the country. Whilst phase 1 of the strategy will be wholly funded by Government, phases 2, 3, and 4 have an equal contribution by both Government and Donors.

In order to avoid creating community disharmony, Government and Donors will operate in the same ward and targeting the same group. As such, assistance will alternate from one month to the other, with one month beneficiaries receiving a cash transfer from the government and donor support the following month.

2.3 Targeting Mechanisms

To ensure that assistance is channelled to those districts and areas that have the highest levels of food insecurity, a targeting methodology based on vulnerability assessments (2<sup>nd</sup> Round of Crop Assessments and May ZIMVAC) will be developed for the national, district and community levels.

2.3.1 National Level Targeting

The FDMS will be implemented in most food insecure districts as identified by the 2<sup>nd</sup> crop assessment and the ZIMVAC. Assistance will depend on the level of vulnerability and food insecurity.

2.3.2 District Level Targeting

Within the District, the FDMS is expected to be implemented in wards with high levels of food insecurity and vulnerability. The District Drought Relief Committees will identify wards that are most food insecure and vulnerable using the May-June ZIMVAC results.

2.3.3 Community Level Targeting

Beneficiary selection process for **non labour constrained** households will be to a greater extent **self targeting** by use of a remuneration rate which is far below the prevailing wage rate in agriculture. Therefore, households whose opportunity cost of labour is higher will be most **unlikely** to participate in the programme as they could be engaged in other more paying activities and be able to feed their families.

However, the **self targeting mechanism** will be **modified** so as **not to exclude non labour constrained households** in the following categories:

- Female-headed households
- Elderly headed households with labour.
- Large households caring for orphans.
- Disabled persons households with labour
- Vulnerable and disadvantaged households.

For targeted, free cash / food distribution, priority would be given to:

- Child headed households
- People living with chronic illness
- People living with disabilities
- Older person headed households.

2.4 Identification of works / community assets

The community, through its local level committees have the authority to identify and prioritise community projects to be executed through productive community works or cash/ food for assets C/FFA) programmes. However, proposed projects must have a clear link to food security, poverty reduction and empowerment of local communities.

2.5 **Supervision & Verification of Works**  
 Supervision and verification of community works will be conducted by the Ministry of Rural Development Promotion & Preservation of National Culture & Heritage through Local authorities and other technical agencies like District Development Fund (DDF). The Drought Relief Committees will arrange logistics.

2.6 **Modalities for cash / food distribution**  
 The District Drought Relief Committees will arrange logistics for food / cash distribution.

3 **Promotion and Public Relations**  
 The Ministry of Labour and Social Services (MLSS), RDCs and Implementing partners will undertake an intensive campaign to educate and inform people about the existence of the strategy. Part of the information to be given out includes strategy objectives, geographical coverage, the target groups, eligibility criteria, and who to contact for more information.

The MLSS, assisted by the Ministry of Local Government, will organise workshops at the district level to promote the objectives of the strategy and lay out modalities for stakeholder participation in FDMS implementation.

At the local level, promotion will be done through Local Governance Structures, local leaders, schools, Community-based Organisations (CBO), NGOs, and traditional leaders.

4. **ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE OF FDMS**

National level

The FDMS will be coordinated through a technical committee, chaired by the Ministry of Labour and Social Services. The following are members of the Technical Committee:

- |  |
|--|
| Ministry of Public Service, Labour and Social Welfare (Chair)  |
| Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development  |
| Ministry of Local Government, Public Works & National Housing  |
| Ministry of Rural Development Promotion & Preservation of National Culture & Heritage  |
| Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development  |
| Ministry of Health and Child Care  |
| Ministry of Transport & Infrastructure Development   |
| Ministry of Finance  |
| Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Economic Empowerment   |
| Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion   |
| Grain Marketing Board (GMB)  |
| Department of Agricultural Research and Extension (AGRITEX)  |
| Partners (World Bank, Food Agricultural Organization (FAO), World Food Programme (WFP) and its selected implementing partners) |
| Donors and NGOs (eg. USAID, DFID, CARE, etc)   |

Provincial Level

At the Provincial Level, the Provincial Drought Relief Committee (PDRC) will oversee the implementation of the FDMS in their respective districts. The PDRC will co-opt other members whom they see as key in the operationalising the FDMS strategy.

District level

At the District level, the District Drought Relief Committees (DDRC) will oversee implementation of the FDMS in their respective wards. The DDRC will co-opt other members whom they see as Key in operationalising the FDMS strategy.

Ward level

A ward food / cash distribution committee will be constituted. The headman, village heads and representatives of women and youths religious groups will be members of the committee.

Village level

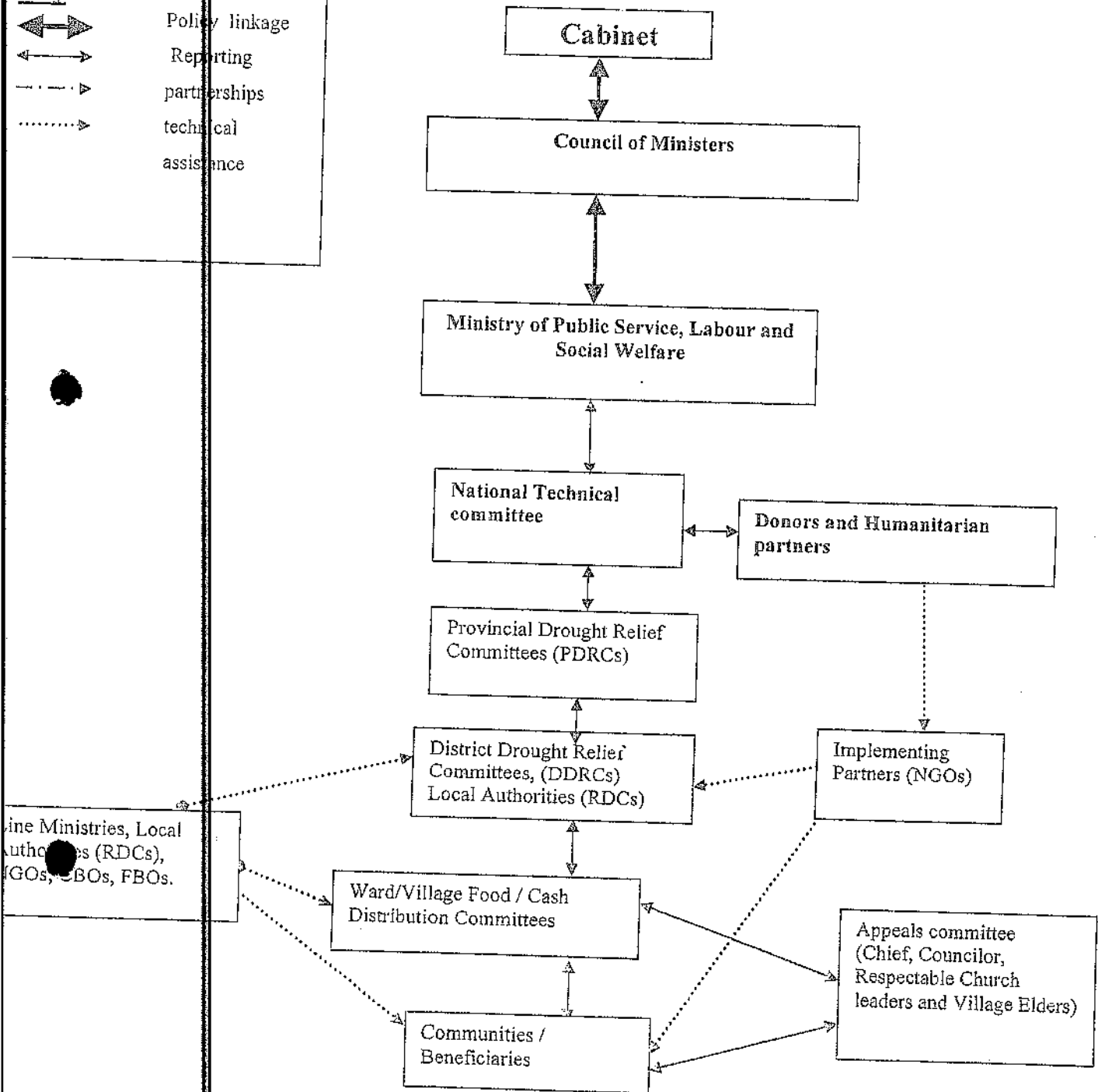
A village food / cash distribution committee will be constituted. The village head, representatives of women and youths will be members of the committee.



# FOOD DEFICIT MITIGATION STRATEGY ORGANISATIONAL STRUCTURE

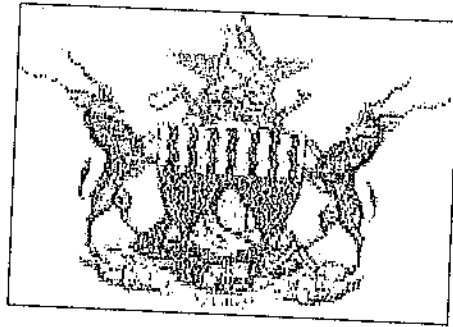
**Key**

- ↔ Policy linkage
- ⇄ Reporting
- - - - - partnerships
- ⋯⋯⋯ technical assistance



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Government of Zimbabwe

**Food Deficit Mitigation Strategy  
through PUBLIC WORKS**

2010 - 2011

Ministry of Labour and Social Services

1. **Rationale**

This strategy document is a food deficit mitigation strategy addressing how government intends to mitigate the effects of the 2010 to 2011 localised crop failure across districts of Zimbabwe. However, government is cognizant of the fact that Zimbabwe, like most Southern African countries, is a drought prone country. In this respect, a comprehensive drought mitigation policy will need to be developed to provide long term drought management initiatives. Meanwhile, there is need to address short term food requirements of food insecure households.

2. **Background**

The 2nd Round of crop assessment shows that there will be a national cereal deficit owing to the current drought. It is however gratifying to note that there was a 3 percent increase in annual production in the 2010/2011 agricultural season as opposed to previous season. Despite the marginal increase, a significant population will suffer food deficit. It is also important to note that even in districts that were considered self sufficient by the crop assessment, pockets of localized food insecurity may exist. These would be captured by the ongoing ZIMVAC survey and targeting adjustments would be made accordingly. In the mean time, this strategy will address the food requirements for the most affected areas in a phased manner.

It is against this background, that the Government of Zimbabwe proposes the following phased delivery of assistance to the vulnerable households under the following principles and assumptions:

- That it is fundamentally the responsibility of the Government of Zimbabwe to provide social protection to its citizens so that they can manage vulnerability associated with exogenous shocks.

- That since Zimbabwe is part of the international community; support from donor partners is welcome to complement Government efforts.
- That to mitigate the effects of the 2009/2010 drought, the Government of Zimbabwe will be complemented by the donor community through the Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP).
- That the GMB is and will continue to be supported to purchase grain locally.
- That in order to reduce dependence syndrome associated with free food handouts, the 2010/2011 mitigation will proceed on a public works or food for assets basis.

### 3. Policy Strategic Objectives

- To mitigate the effects of drought on **NON LABOUR CONSTRAINED** households through public works / cash transfers and food for asset programmes.
- To avail free food assistance to the chronically ill, **LABOUR CONSTRAINED** older person headed households, and child headed households.
- To increase food access by **NON -RESOURCE CONSTRAINED** households through improved market distribution.
- To mitigate the impact of future drought through the rehabilitation of existing irrigation schemes.

### 4. Proposed Food Deficit Mitigation Strategies

It is proposed that the 2010/2011 drought intervention programme be implemented in line with the above strategic objectives:

#### 4.1 Strategic objective 1: Phased food distribution to address food requirements of non labour constrained households.

Support will follow four phases as follows:

**4.1.1 Phase One – July to May 2011**

The second crop assessment indicated that three districts of Chivi, Mangwe and Mberengwa had cereal production that would last for one to three months. This implies that these districts have a food deficit stretching for about 10 months. Currently, the total number of food insecure households receiving assistance in these districts is 15 764. However, given the localized severity of the current drought, the number of households assisted will be scaled up by 10 percent, thus a total of 17 340 (see annex 1) households will be assisted. Government is therefore required to provide fully for this phase up to September there after the Donor pipeline will reduce the burden on the fiscus.

**4.1.2 Phase two – October to May 2011**

The second crop assessment also shows that an additional eight districts, with a total of 63 304 (annex 1) vulnerable households will require food assistance for seven months from October 2010 to May 2011. During this period, donor funds that will have been mobilized through CAP will start to trickle in so that Partners will be able to complement Government efforts. These resources will build up on a Government program that will already be running thus resulting in reduced Government spending by about 50%. During the same period the beneficiary households will also be paid through agricultural input packs in addition to food packs or cash transfers.

**4.1.3 Phases three and four: January to May 2011**

In phase 3, a total of 68 628 households will require food assistance for 4 months whilst an additional 55 788 will need assistance for only one month. During this period, January to May 2011, it is assumed that donor pipeline substantially increases such that the program could be run entirely on donor food. However, the delivery mechanism will remain the same.

**4.2 Strategic objective 2: Free food distribution to labour constrained households**

Free food distribution to households headed by the elderly, people living with disabilities, chronically ill, and child headed households will continue to be provided by the donors through their distribution mechanisms. However, all donors will continue to draw beneficiaries from local beneficiary registers already in place. Whilst results are not yet out, normally 10 percent of all households fall within this category. The ongoing ZIMVAC will come up with specific figures of households falling under this category. In the mean time, the Donor partners will be encouraged to continue assisting this group.

**4.3 Strategic objective 3: improved cereal availability on the market for non resource constrained households in both rural and urban areas.**

Internal redistribution of grain will depend on a viable and competitive market. There is need to capacitate both private grain buyers and GMB to purchase grain from farmers with surplus for onward sale on the market. In this respect, Government will set up a funding mechanism with financial institution such that all players including GMB could borrow funds to purchase grain. It is recommended that this strategy be pursued by the Ministry of Finance, Financial Institutions, GMB, and other grain buyers.

**4.4 Strategic objective 5: Rehabilitation of irrigation schemes**

It should be noted that Government as a matter of policy is determined to encourage food self sufficiency through irrigation schemes were possible. In this regard, rehabilitation of irrigation schemes will be part of the envisaged public works. However, this will entail additional costs.

**5. Beneficiary selection**

Beneficiary selection process for non labour constrained households will be to a greater extent self targeting by use of a remuneration rate which is far below the prevailing wage rate in agriculture. Therefore, households whose opportunity cost of labour is higher will be most unlikely to participate in the programme as

they could be engaged in other more paying activities and be able to feed their families.

However, the self targeting mechanism will be modified so as not to exclude non labour constrained households in the following categories:

- Female-headed households
- Elderly headed households with labour.
- Large households caring for orphans.
- Disabled persons households with labour
- Vulnerable and disadvantaged households.

For targeted, free cash / food distribution, priority would be given to:

- Child headed households
- People living with chronic illness
- People living with disabilities
- Older person headed households.

This programme will be harmonized with the current donor programmes in terms of harmonized implementation modalities.

**6. Institutional Delivery Framework**

The Steering Committee will be established and be responsible for giving the overall policy guidance to the program and will be responsible for ensuring that the program achieves its objectives. The Committee will report to Cabinet on implementation progress.

The Steering Committee will be structured as follows:

Ministry of Labour and Social Services (Chair)
Ministry of Agriculture, Mechanization and Irrigation Development
Ministry of Local Government, Urban and Rural Development
Ministry of Women Affairs, Gender and Community Development

- Ministry of Regional Integration and International Cooperation
- Grain Marketing Board (GMB)
- Ministry of Finance
- Ministry of Youth, Indigenization and Empowerment
- Ministry of Economic Planning and Investment Promotion
- Department of Agricultural Research and Extension (AGRITEX)
- World Bank
- Food Agricultural Organization (FAO)
- World Food Programme (WFP)
- Consortium for Southern Africa Food Security Emergency (C-SAFE)
- National Association for Non-Governmental Organizations (NANGO)

**7. Government / Donor Partnership Arrangement**

- The Government, WFP/CSAFE will need to agree to the use food as a means to pay the labour provided for by the beneficiaries.
- The existing NGO arrangement is to be used as a delivery mechanism for the food and inputs to participants.
- The identification/ supervision of public works are the responsibility of Government through its structures outlined above.
- Targeted feeding to continue as per current arrangements ( ie chronically ill, disabled, ART beneficiaries, child headed households etc).
- Use synchronized registers to avoid double dipping and synchronized benefits to avoid intra program competition.

This strategy paper will be complemented by an implementation manual which will be developed through consultation between Government, donors and other partners.

❖ Also it should be noted that the total costs of the strategy will be worked out once the Government has approved the strategy paper.



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IN THE CONSTITUTIONAL COURT OF ZIMBABWE

CASE No. CCZ 42 18

HELD AT HARARE

In the matter between:

NELSON CHAMISA

APPLICANT

And

EMMERSON DAMBUDZO MNANGAGWA

1<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT

JOSEPH BUSHA

2<sup>ND</sup> RESPONDENT

MELBAH DZAPASI

3<sup>RD</sup> RESPONDENT

NKOSANA MOYO

4<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

NOAH MANYIKA

5<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

PETER WILSON

6<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

TAURAI MTEKI

7<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

THOKOZANI KHUPE

8<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

DIVINE MHAMBI

9<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

LOVEMORE MADHUKU

10<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

PETER MUNYANDURI

11<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

AMBROSE MUTINHURI

12<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

TIMOTHY J. CHIGUVARE

13<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

JOICE MUJURU

14<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

KWANELE HLABANGANA

15<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

EVERISTO CHIKANGA

16<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

DANIEL SHUMBA

17<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

VIOLET MARIYACHA

18<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

BLESSING KASIYAMHURU

19<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

ELTON MANGOMA

20<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

PETE GAVA

21<sup>ST</sup> RESPONDENT

WILLIAM MUGADZA

22<sup>ND</sup> RESPONDENT

ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

23<sup>RD</sup> RESPONDENT

THE CHAIRPERSON

OF THE ELECTORAL COMMISSION

24<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

THE CHIEF ELECTIONS OFFICER

25<sup>TH</sup> RESPONDENT

REGISTRAR  
CONSTITUTIONAL COURT  
15 AUG 2018  
P.O. BOX 870, CHIRUSEWAY  
ZIMBABWE TEL: 012 791 861/5

SUPPORTING AFFIDAVIT OF DOUGLAS HOTO

I the undersigned DOUGLAS HOTO swear that:

1. I am an actuary. I hold the necessary qualifications to undertake the analysis that I undertake herein. I attach hereto as Annexure "DH1" my curriculum vitae.
2. I have been asked to study the report by Dr. OTUMBAR EDGAR OUKO relied upon by the applicant to relate to what he says are the mathematical aspects of the election.

- 3. This report is a brief analysis of the information in the petition by an expert in Statistics. I have not had sight of the materials that the expert has relied upon and make no assumptions or conclusions as regards the reliability or authenticity of the materials from which the figures are drawn.
- 4. The analysis is premised on trying to establish whether claims made by the expert can be of significance in terms of the Presidential Election from a quantitative analysis i.e. based on the numbers given and adjusted for any discrepancies fully established and corroborated by irrefutable evidence.
- 5. The analysis does not consider qualitative views opinions or enuendos that the experts may have about non mathematical issues.
- 6. In arriving at any conclusions it is important to note in statistical analysis significance of numbers is of utmost importance.
- 7. The following information is relied upon in the expert report:

(a)

Registered voters	5659583
Total votes cast (as announced on TV by ZEC)	4847547
Voter turnout	85.65%

(b)

Registered voters	5659583
Total votes cast(ZEC Disc)	4846312
Voter turnout	85.63%

- 8. The difference between the alleged ZEC disc figures and those allegedly announced on TV is 1235. In the context of the nearly 5 million votes under review this is not significant when one considers the differences in votes between the Applicant and the First Respondent.
- 9. As a percentage of the registered voters it is 0.02%. That difference, therefore, is **not significant** from a Mathematical perspective.

- 10. In order for one to win the election they should get 50% of the votes plus one vote. We can use the 4846312 voted as the figure for the total votes cast discussion. This is because this figure gives a lower difference between the applicant and first respondent.
- 11. The minimum number of votes required to win is thus  $(4846312/2) + 1 = 2423157$ .
- 12. The declared votes for the first respondent are 2455559 giving a winning margin of  $(2455559 - 2423157) = 32402$ .
- 13. The votes for the applicant as declared are 2151620 and they are the short by  $(2455559 - 2151620) = 303939$
- 14. Note that expert claims that ZEC announced a voter turnout of 72 % or 4032000 without proving any evidence. From the above we can safely assume that this is false.

**Parliamentary Votes versus Presidential Votes**

15. The total votes assigned to the two elections by the expert report are as follows:

Presidential	4774878
Parliamentary	4734161
Difference	40711

16. The gap is found in 21 constituencies. There is a mixture of strong holds for MDC Alliance and ZANU PF.

17. In the MDC strong holds namely Hwange East, Hwange West Chinhoyi and Binga South the data is as follows:

Presidential votes	67972
Parliamentary Votes	48516
Difference	19456
Average difference per constituency	4864
Outlier constituency difference	8753*

this refers to Binga South which had the largest difference.

18. In the MDC strong holds the Zanu PF vote is as follows:

Presidential vote	29875
Parliamentary	27977
Difference	1898
Average per constituency	475

19. In the ZANU PF strong holds the situation is as follows:

(This involves the following 8 constituencies: Mt Darwin West, Zvishavane Ngezi, Hurungwe Central, Mtoko South, Mwenezi West, Chipinge central, Chimanimani East and Muare North)

Presidential Votes	145231
Parliamentary votes	93479
Difference	51752
Average per constituency	6469
Difference per outlier constituency	12488*

\*this refers to Mutare North.

20. MDC Alliance Numbers are as follows

Presidential Votes	66591
Parliamentary	41122
Difference	25469
Average difference	3184

21. From the above analysis the following emerges:

Increase in votes from Parliamentary to Presidential:

Zanu PF	$(1898+51752)=53650$
MDC Alliance	$(25469+19456)=44925$

22. Absolute difference between Zanu PF and MDC Alliance is as follows:

$$53650-44925=8725$$

23. From my initial findings this difference, if assumed to be the alleged bias, is far less than 32402 required to reduce the margin of ZANU PF to below 50%. Therefore it has no significance. I must add that there is no basis that has been established as regards why this should be assumed to be bias against the applicant or that this should be accordingly deducted from the first respondent's tally.

**Alleged Voting behaviour anomaly**

24. The expert chose 4 constituencies to illustrate this point namely Kadoma Central, Chipinge Central, Muzvevze and Gokwe Mapfungautsi.

25. The claim is that there are outlier polling stations in a local area to suggest manipulation/intimidation.

26. Those qualitative aspects cannot be deduced from the analysis provided.

27. In fact on average out of 20 to 25 polling stations only 2 showed that anomaly. And the number of votes at those were too small to be significant.

28. However, what emerges from the expert analysis is rather interesting. It suggests that in the rural areas Zanu PF would get 60% of the vote with MDC Alliance getting 40% and vice versa in Urban areas.

29. Going by this finding the following emerge:

Total votes for MDCA and ZanuPf= (2151620+2455559)= 4607179

Split by population distribution in Zimbabwe 69% rural and 31% urban it will be as follows:

Rural	3178953
Urban	1428226

30. Accordingly the votes will come out as follows:

MDCA	= (1428226*.6+3178953*.4)=2128517
ZANU	= (.6*3178953+.4*1428226)=2478662

31. The following analysis emerges

Party	Actual votes announced	Estimate above	Difference
MDCA	2151620	2128517	19134
ZANU PF	2455559	2478662	23103

32. As can be seen above this independent estimate as inadvertently suggested by the expert confirms the reasonability of the results announced and has an error margin of less than 1% for both MDCA and ZANU PF.

**Alleged Double Counting of some polling stations and different polling stations with identical numbers**

33. The expert observed the above anomaly. If true, it should be adjusted for.

34. The check used by the expert to establish the alleged duplication, which I have had no opportunity to verify or analyse because of the absence of the materials he used, produces the following data:

35. The alleged additional votes for the first respondent are 6787, which again won't be significant in relation to outcome as already alluded to above. Further the expert advises as follows:

Total votes with those alleged discrepancies	4774939
Total votes per ZEC	4774878
Difference	61

36. This is a difference of 61! In about 4.8 million. This is referred to as quest for spurious accuracy! Needless to say it's all insignificant.

**Conclusion**

37. The evidence given by the expert when analysed only serves to confirm that the results are reasonable.

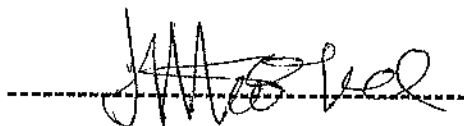
SWORN TO AT HARARE THIS <sup>13<sup>th</sup></sup> DAY OF AUGUST 2018.

SWORN:



**DOUGLAS HOTO**

BEFORE ME:



**COMMISSIONER OF OATHS**

<p><b>GIVEMORE MADZOKA</b>  LEGAL PRACTITIONER, NOTARY PUBLIC  COMMISSIONER OF OATHS  ADVOCATES' CHAMBERS, 4TH FLOOR  CORNER 3RD / KWAME NKRURMAH  TEL: 04- 252858</p>
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# CURRICULUM VITAE – DOUGLAS HOTO

32 Honeybear Lane  
 Borrowdale  
 P O Box BW1736, Borrowdale  
**HARARE**  
 Tel : 860054  
 Mobile: +263 772 234 047

## PERSONAL DETAILS

Name : Douglas Hoto  
 Date of Birth : 17 February 1965  
 Place of Birth : Chivi, Masvingo Province, Zimbabwe  
 Gender : Male  
 Nationality : Zimbabwean

## EDUCATIONAL PROFILE

BACHELOR OF SCIENCE HONOURS DEGREE IN MATHEMATICS  
**University of Zimbabwe – Zimbabwe**  
 Attained the degree in 1998 with an Upper Second Class

## PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

SENIOR EXECUTIVE PROGRAM  
**London Business School**  
 May - June 2006

FELLOW OF THE INSTITUTE and FACULTY OF ACTUARIES OF THE UNITED KINGDOM 1999 (FIFA)

FELLOW OF THE ACTUARIAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH AFRICA (FASSA)

## DIRECTORSHIPS AND OTHER RESPONSIBILITIES

Former Chairman: Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency (ZIMSTAT)  
 (currently HR Committee Chairman)

Former Director: Insurance and Pensions Commission (IPEC)

Former Chairman: Actuarial Society of Zimbabwe

Director: Rainbow Tourism Group (RTG)  
 (currently Audit Committee Chairman)

Trustee: The S V Muzenda Scholarship Trust (Foundation)

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Current Employment:  
 1 March 2012 to date

**Group Chief Executive Officer, First Mutual Holdings Limited**  
**(previously named Afre Corporation)**  
 (A diversified insurance group listed on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange).

Responsible to the Board of Directors for the overall direction and strategy for the businesses of First Mutual Holdings, namely:

First Mutual Health Company;  
 First Mutual Life Assurance Company;  
 First Mutual Wealth Management;  
 FMRE Life & Health;  
 FMRE Property & Casualty (Zimbabwe);  
 FMRE Property & Casualty (Botswana);  
 Pearl Properties (2006) Limited; and

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1 Jul 2007 to 29 Feb 2012	<b>Chief Executive Officer, Altfin Holdings</b>
	<p>Responsible to the Board of Director for the overall direction and strategy for the business of Altfin Holdings namely: Altfin Insurance Company (AICO); Life and Altfin Assurance Company (ALAC); and Altfin Health Insurance Company (AHIC).</p> <p>Also responsible for developing the growth strategy of the Company in the Non-Banking Financial Services Sector.</p>
1 Jan 2007 to 30 Jun 2007	<b>Actuarial Consultancy</b>
	<p>Independent Consultant in the field of Insurance and Actuarial Services.</p>
1 Aug 2004 to 31 Dec 2006	<b>Group Chief Executive, First Mutual Limited</b> (A diversified insurance group listed on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange)
	<p>Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Reporting to the Board of Directors for the overall strategies and direction of the group.</li></ul> <p>Duties include but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Achieve the set financial targets for the group and the FML;</li><li>- Grow the share price of the company progressively;</li><li>- Create a positive image of the group in the market;</li><li>- Minimise the number and severity of audit reportable conditions;</li><li>- Successful implementation of group IT systems;</li><li>- Produce an appropriate Risk management plan for the group and manage all risks i.e strategic, financial, operational, commercial and technical risks;</li><li>- Corporate Governance:<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Full compliance with accounting, audit and reporting requirements of the ZSE, RBZ and Commissioner of Insurance;</li><li>2. Full compliance with solvency ratios prescribed by regulatory authorities;</li><li>3. Recruit, develop and retain key Human Resources for the group.</li></ol></li></ul>
1 Oct 2003 - 31 Jul 2004	<b>Managing Director, First Mutual Life Assurance Company (Pvt) Ltd</b>
	<p>Responsibilities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Responsible to the board of directors and Group Chief Executive for the overall direction and profitability of the company;</li><li>- Responsible for setting the strategy and vision and their implementation working with the divisional executives;</li><li>- Marketing and market development for the company through the marketing executive;</li><li>- Maintenance of key IT systems necessary to run the business;</li><li>- Control, the budgetary process and ensure that there is the effective use of company resources;</li><li>- Involved in the holding company (First Mutual Limited) in the overall policy direction and providing technical input on insurance matters to other group companies;</li><li>- To provide IT services to other group companies in respect of shared infrastructure and applications.</li></ul>

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1 Dec 2002 - 30 Sep 2003

**Business Unit Executive – Life Pensions and Information Services,  
First Mutual Life Assurance Society of Zimbabwe****Duties:**

As above but responsible to the Group Chief Executive.

1 Aug 2000 - 31 Aug 2002

**Business Unit Executive – Pensions and Actuarial,  
First Mutual Life Assurance Society of Zimbabwe****Duties:**

- Responsible for running the Employee Benefits of First Mutual Life Assurance Society of Zimbabwe;
- Chairman of the Investment Management Committee of First Mutual Life Assurance Society;
- Overall Actuarial responsibility for both Employee benefits and Ordinary Business Branch business in First Mutual Life Assurance Society of Zimbabwe

8 Mar 1999 - 31 Jul 2000

**Process Owner – Actuarial and Product Development,  
First Mutual Life Assurance Society of Zimbabwe****Duties:**

- Overall responsibility for being the in-house Actuary at First Mutual Life;
- Actuarial valuation of the Society's business both for statutory and internal purposes;
- New product technical specification/product profitability analysis;
- Research and development;
- EB valuations;
- Quality control of EB records;
- Investment management committee secretary;
- Chairman of FML budget committee

1 Feb 1998 - 7 March 1999

**Actuarial Consultant (Corporate and Individual Life)  
Old Mutual Zimbabwe****Duties and Responsibilities:****Capital Management Process:**

- This mainly involved performing quarterly internal valuations for employee benefits and calculating the profitability of each of the products;
- Monthly profit reporting;
- Bonus investigation for employee benefits Deposit Administration product.

**Expense Monitoring and Investigation for Individual Life Business:**

- This involved calculating the fees the business generates and comparing with the actual expenses. A report was given to General Management every month;
- Individual Life product development and maintenance;
- Individual Life business quotations.

**Other Actuarial Investigation:**

- Mortality and expenses;
- Individual life business rules specifications for the new system developed.

1 Feb 1997 - 31 Jan 1998

**Actuarial Consultant (Corporate and Individual)  
Old Mutual Headquarters, Cape Town, South Africa**

**Development Actuary's Division:**

- Investigating business cases for developing new products;
  - Product developments based on the business cases;
  - Pricing and profit testing of the products.
- I was specifically tasked to develop a business case for savings product in the lower end of the market

**Corporate Actuary's Division:**

- I subsequently moved to the Corporate Actuarial Division where I was involved in compiling a report about Reasonable Benefit expectations of the policy holders in the wake of demutualisation proposal.

1 Feb 1995 - 31 Jan 1997

**Actuarial Consultant Pensions Actuarial (Assistant Divisional Manager Status)  
Old Mutual Zimbabwe**

**Duties:**

- Overall responsibility for a portfolio of pension schemes done by a team of 6 staff members including at least on department manager;
- Passing all the valuations for the pensions actuary's signature;
- Assisting and representing the pensions actuary in presentation of valuations to clients;
- Doing internal presentations to other departments with Old Mutual;
- Training of staff and maintenance of the workflow;
- Resolving of premium rates for risk business and expenses for administration business;
- Line management functions for team being led;
- Participating in Old Mutual's Actuaries development program as a facilitator.

01 Dec 1992 - 31 Jan 1995

**Department Manager (Pensions Actuarial Department)  
Old Mutual Zimbabwe**

**Duties:**

- Checking valuation calculations done by sub-ordinates;
- Analyzing of surplus for valuation results;
- Proof reading of draft reports;
- Reconciliation of the analysis figures;
- Training of new clerks in the department;
- Passing of payments not exceeding a department head's limit;
- Taking the valuation results to the pensions Actuary for signature.

1 Sep 1990 - 30 Nov 1992

**Actuarial Clerk (pensions Actuarial Division)  
Old Mutual Zimbabwe**

Duties

- Data validation for pension fund valuations;
- Doing actual pension fund valuation calculations;
- Doing tenders for new business;
- Preparing draft valuation reports;
- Doing transfer value calculations;
- Doing benefit changes quotations.

1 Feb 1990 - 31 Aug 1990

**Teaching Assistant in the Department of Statistics  
University of Zimbabwe**

1 Jan 1989 - 1 Jan 1990

**Mathematics Teacher  
Hippo Valley High School**

**SECONDARY SCHOOL EDUCATION**

1984 - 1985

Attained A' Levels at Goromonzi High School

1980 - 1983

Attained O' Levels at Musume Secondary School, Mberengwa

**PROJECTS UNDERTAKEN**

An integration of the Defined Benefit Schemes with State Scheme (NSSA) - 1995

A report on the Reasonable Benefit Expectations of Old Mutual's Policyholders in the wake of demutualization (1997)

Demutualisation of First Mutual Life Assurance Society between 2001 and 2003

Valuation of the NSSA Workmen's Compensation Fund

Valuation of NSSA Pension and other benefit schemes

Setting up of African Actuarial Consultants Company as company from a Division of First Mutual Life Assurance Society

Setting up of Tristar Insurance Company

Setting up of First Mutual Reinsurance Company

Creation of Pearl Properties Limited from the portfolio of First Mutual Life Assurance Company and listing it on the Zimbabwe Stock Exchange (2006)

Setting up of Altfin Life Assurance Company (ALAC) 2007

Setting up of Altfin Health Insurance Company (AHIC) 2010

Conversion of Pension Schemes in Zimbabwe to US Dollars 2009 - to date

**REGIONAL PROJECTS**

Demutualisation of the Mukuba Pension Scheme Trust in Zambia 2009 - 2011.

Setting up the Actuarial Management Principles for Smile Life Insurance Company of Malawi in 2009 - 2010.

Conversion of the Zambian Workman's Compensation Fund from Defined Benefit to Defined Contribution Scheme.

REFEREES

: Mr. D E H Murangari.  
Former Chief Executive  
Mwana Africa Limited.  
Tel : +263 772 222 692

: Mr Oliver Mtasa  
Chairman  
First Mutual Holdings Limited  
100 Borrowdale Road  
**HARARE**  
Tel : +263 773 466 717