

A clean and up-to-date voter's roll key to credible elections

Staff reporter

The existence of an accurate and up-to-date voter's register goes far in fulfilling the democratizing function of elections. Before elections are held, State authorities should ensure that there is in place a clean voter's roll to allow all eligible voters to fully participate in the elections. Unfortunately the current voter's roll is in shambles and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) recently admitted that the voter's register is in a bad state.

The Centre for Community Development In Zimbabwe (CCDZ) is worried about the reports of ghost voters and allegations of tampering with the voter's roll by some players in the Inclusive government. We reiterate our calls that ZEC must be fully in charge of all electoral issues, including the compilation of the voter's roll. CCDZ and other civil society organizations have unearthed various anomalies in the ongoing voter registration process including the politicization of the whole exercise. In some areas, CCDZ witnessed deliberate efforts to disenfranchise some citizens because of their political affiliation.

In rural areas some traditional leaders are denying known MDC activists proof of residence to register as voters whilst those believed to be ZANU-PF supporters are being registered without any hassles. Although the proof of registration requirement has been waived, we still believe that many people have been unfairly treated by partisan traditional leaders

The ongoing voter registration exercise must be insulated from party politics. In some areas, CCDZ volunteers witnessed people being assisted to register as voters at some centres by politicians and war veterans. In Midlands at Zalova Farm, some war veterans ferried voters who went straight in front of the queue and were assisted without producing any proof of residence or completing the affidavit forms.

There are some instances where some headman (traditional leaders) brought villagers to registration centres and simply said: "Ndauya nevanhu vangu kuzonyoresa" (I have come with my people to have them registered).



People who came for Mobile Voter Registration at Seke Community Hall

There are some instances where some headman (traditional leaders) brought villagers to registration centres and simply said: "Ndauya nevanhu vangu kuzonyoresa" (I have come with my people to have them registered).

The SADC and AU guidelines governing conduct of democratic elections recognize the importance of voter registration in the electoral process. The SADC guidelines underscore the need for transparency in all electoral matters including voter registration. We reiterate our calls for government to urgently put in place mechanisms to ensure that all eligible voters are registered including the so-called 'aliens' who continue to be turned down in some areas.

HEADLINES

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KUZEYA NYAYA DZEKUNYORESA KUVHOTA NECCDZ

Letters to the Editor

Thank you very much for the Sports for Peace Tournament. It is the innovative way of bringing us together in Murewa. It will be difficult for perpetrators to harm others in the community, if we create friendship through sports. I wish you carry these tournaments frequently to consolidate peace.

Frank, Ward 5, Murewa

I applaud the call for peace in the next harmonized elections by President Mugabe. I think it is a good message, if it is implemented. The 2008 fiasco should not be repeated in any way. It derails our gains of the liberation struggle.

Mushandu, Chivi

Please tell the observers to also come to areas in the outskirts. I am told the SADC observers were in the country during the referendum, but we did not see any of them here, where it matters most. They should also come at least three months before and

wait another three months after the election, or else we will be in trouble.

Benson, Bindura

Cdes, can you help me, I want to register the problem is that the Registrar General's office is 15km away from where I stay and there is also need of paying \$10 to get the I.D.I do not have that kind of money as I am an unemployed and unpowered youth.

Poor Youth, Mhangura

Would you please arrange meetings between our community and the people who want to be voted for so that we can understand what they are offering to us, lest we vote for people we do not know again. We should not vote for people who will sleep in parliament again, we no longer want regrets after voting such people.

Obrien, Holy Cross, Chirumanzi

ZESN calls for Imperative Electoral Reforms before elections

Harare- 18 JUNE 2013 - The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) is calling for meaningful reforms before Zimbabweans go for polls this year. This call comes in the wake of the proclamation by President Robert Mugabe on Thursday the 13th of June setting 31 July 2013 as the election date for the harmonized elections and the call for extension by SADC during its Extra Ordinary Summit in Maputo over the weekend.

ZESN continues to reiterate its call for a number of imperative electoral reforms to be in place before the election. This will include the realignment of laws such as the Access to Information and Protection of Privacy Act (AIPPA) and the Public Order and Security Act (POSA) with the new Constitution. In previous elections these pieces of legislations were used to curtail a number of freedoms that are now enshrined in the new Constitution hence their review is important.

Furthermore, the legislative framework include media reforms, specifically that public media should be accessible to all citizens and political players in a fair and equitable manner. The timing on accreditation and deployment of observers and the creation of a conducive electoral environment is necessary for the holding of credible elections. Further we demand that adequate time and attention be dedicated to effectively complete the voter registration exercise which is now overlapping with election preparations.

Given the short period to elections we therefore appeal to the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) and the African Union (AU) to urgently deploy both long and short term observers to promote a human rights environment conducive for credible, free and fair elections. We strongly believe that, some of the aforementioned reforms can still be put in place if there is a political will of ensuring the holding of credible election.

We call upon the Government of Zimbabwe to release adequate funds for the polls forthwith in order for ZEC to start all the necessary preparatory work including a comprehensive voter education exercise and other logistics for the elections.

We call upon ZEC to immediately release the election calendar to enable all stakeholders to plan within the election calendar. We urge ZEC to organize a credible election consistent with laws of Zimbabwe and in accordance with regional international principles and guidelines governing the conduct of elections. We further urge ZEC to demonstrate high levels of professionalism, integrity and competence and to demand its independence for political interference. Despite its serious concerns on the absence of significant reforms before the elections, ZESN remains dedicated to the promotion of democratic elections in Zimbabwe and is ready to observe all the processes leading to the harmonized elections.

ZESN restates that Zimbabwe these impending elections should be done properly and in accordance with SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections and other regional and international principles in order to avoid a repeat of the inconclusive 2008 elections.

PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE

For comments and further details contact

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Political Tension Rises ahead of elections in Gokwe Gumunyu Constituency

The people in Gokwe Gumunyu Constituency are living in fear as a result of political intimidation from supporters of ZANU PF. Recently the aspiring Parliamentary candidate for ZANU PF in Gokwe Gumunyu Mr Chimire Katopa sent his campaign team taking people's details such as their identity cards number and cellphone's numbers. People were asked to disclose their political party of choice. This left a lot of people especially in wards 17, 32 and 6 gripped by fear.

The political tension has also been signified by the burning of Lot Naison Taruvinga's home by ZANU PF supporters on Monday night of 03 June 2013. The culprits only identified as T.Chidhume, M.Chiyeza, T.Chiherera, C.Matinga, Mapwangiro and Mangena went to Mr Naison Taruvinga's house home in Hamunya area ward 19 at midnight and started throwing stones at his house. They broke windows, roofing sheets and the beam falling in the process.

Mr Taruvinga who was sleeping with his wife in the house was injured during this attack. The culprits later disappeared into the darkness of the night. A report was made to the police at Tchoda police base and another report was sent to JOMIC.

Tafaranashe Gumbo an aspiring candidate for the same constituency on an MKD ticket said 'The people in Gokwe Humunya constituency are living in fear of being murdered for expressing their freedom of association as the country moves towards the harmonized elections. This is the reason why we need palatable conditions for free and fair elections, definitely we cannot afford to go for elections without key reforms which guarantee the security of the voters and their voting conditions that give all the candidates equal opportunities to canvas for support. Irrespective of the political party they belong to. "I am deeply worried about the security of the people who live in Mashame and Hamunya ward 17 because there are elements who think this community belongs only to ZANU PF and are ready to attack those with divergent ideas.", said Gumbo.

"We knows the culprits and very soon we are going to name and shame them if they do not change their deviant behavior. I encourage the people in this constituency to learn to live together despite their political differences .let us all emulate the late John Nkomos words 'peace begins with me, peace begins with you, peace begins with all of us', said one village head in ward 17 Gokwe.", said one village head in Gokwe's Mashame area.

Voter education roars into life in Chitungwiza

By Bridget Manavire

It is a warm Friday afternoon and residents in Chitungwiza are readying themselves for a voter education meeting taking place in Unit L that will spell their voting rights.

Chitungwiza is one of the hot spots for politically-motivated violence during political parties' campaigns, hence any political gathering has the potential to be explosive.

But this afternoon it is different as communities with varying political party beliefs and from different political parties gather to learn about voting and their right to do so.

They are also here to impress on voting peacefully, hence shunning any form of political violence before and after the much-anticipated harmonised elections set for this year.

There are benefits that can accrue from voting peacefully and these residents are aware that it is their vote that can change and improve the order of life in their community. They desperately need better roads, clean water and electricity.

The communities wish they had equipped schools and hospitals; and that fees for both are within reach. Harmonised elections are not easy for most residents as one has to vote for three to four candidates at a single go; Councillor, Member of Parliament /Senator and President.

The aforementioned has to be explained to voters and it is not easy for many voters who are illiterate, hence the voter education campaigns.

One of the well-executed voter education campaigns happened in 1979 as Zimbabweans went to vote in the first democratic election. The "one man, one vote" campaign was heard far and shaped the elections that ushered Zanu PF into office with a majority.

In ensuing years and with one sided elections in which Zanu PF dominated, there came a time when it seemed voter education was not necessary.

A one party-State loomed on the horizon as citizens became ignorant of their voting rights. But with the much-anticipated 2013 harmonised elections, government and a number of non-governmental organisations have gone out to meet the people, the communities and educate them about the vote and its processes.

They are also on the ground calling for a peaceful vote. The Daily News recently attended a voter education meeting coordinated by Centre for Community Development Zimbabwe, (CCDZ) held in Chitungwiza's Unit L community hall where multitudes of voters participated.

The meeting called on Chitungwiza residents to shun politically-motivated violence and concentrate on exercising their democratic right to vote.

Hundreds of people packed the Chitungwiza hall where Phillip Pasirayi, director of CCDZ ran through the formalities of voting peacefully.

Pasirayi told the Daily News his organisation was going into communities promoting peace, targeting traditional leaders and the youths as Zimbabweans prepare for the elections.

"Youths and traditional leaders are the most vulnerable to politicians' schemes. "Because of poverty, youths are used to perpetrate violence and traditional leaders are used to practice segregation to villagers who support a different view," said Pasirayi.

The CCDZ director said it was encouraging that Chitungwiza residents were becoming aware that violence did not pay.



CCDZ Director, Philip Pasirayi urging residents to shun politically-motivated violence and concentrate on exercising their democratic right to vote

"We are empowering you, communities to focus more on holding your leaders accountable and scrutinising them," Pasirayi said.

"Do not be relegated to perpetrators of violence. Your voice is in your vote so you should register to vote," he said.

Pasirayi said there were still some areas where people who were known activists of political parties are being victimised, and in some cases being turned away from the registration exercises.

Residents attending the meeting said they were ready to vote in peace and in an environment where there is security and respect for their vote.

Fungai Mukotsangera, 38 complained that the days for voter registration were few.

"But if we have to sleep at the centres where the registration is taking place we will because we want to choose our leaders."

Panganai Kambanje, 41 said the company he was working for shut down and he needs a job.

"I am definitely going to the polls to vote for a leader who will provide jobs for us. And I want to be confident that vote will be respected," said Kambanje.

This article was first published by the Daily News

Iva nhengo yeCCDZ! Usasarire muzvirongwa zvinoita kuti izwi rako rinzwikwe pazvinangwa zvenyika yako.

Ikodzero yako kuti unzwikwe.

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Kuzeya nyaya dzekunyoresa kuvhota neCCDZ

Bepa remwedzi uno richaendererera mberi nenyaya yekunyoresa kuvhota iri kuita munyika yese sezvinosungirwa nebumbiro idzva remutemo richangobva kusainwa nemutungamiri wenyika semutemo.

Iyezvino shoko rekuti chirongwa ichi chichazoitwa kwemazuva makumi matatu kusvika musi wa9 July 2013 rinenge rakatekeshera semoto wemavivi. Tinotenda zvikuru, kana vanhu vachiziva zviri kuita munyika nesu ropa tinonzwa richifamba zvakanaka kuCCDZ. Tisati taenda kure, imi makanyoresa here kuvhota. Kana musina tsvagai kuti mazuva anosvikwa kwenyu ndeapi, monanga kunonyoresa kuvhota kuti izwi renyu nemafungiro zvibude pazuva resarudzo. Munotofanira kuti muzvisarudzire mega, hapana ane kodzero yekukusarudzirai. Udzaiwo vamwe kuti ndizvo zviri kuitika. Kune vanotinyorerawo vachitizivisa nekutichaira nezviri kuitika munharaunda menyu rambai makadaro, hwakakosha humbowo hwamuri kutipa.

Taona zvakakosha kumbogovanawo nevamwe zviri kuitika maererano nechirongwa ichi munzvimbo dzakasiyana-siyana. Zvichemo zvekuti pamazuva matatu arikuitwa panzvimbo imwe, kunyoreswa kwevanhu. Ruzhinji rwevanhu rurikugununa kuti rwuri kusiiwa pachena nekuda kwekuti, chirongwa chinopfura vachingori mumutsara. Vanozongoudzwa kuti vaende kumahofisi amudzviti kunonyoresa, zvazokonzera umwe muchinda akati fundei azobvunza kuti saka humobile hwacho huri pai kana tichinzi tizoenda kuhofisi. Maziviro atinoita kuhofisi kwavaMudede unochembera wakangomirira kubatsirwa.

Dzimwe nyanzvi munyaya dzezvemutemo dzanga dzichikurudzira kuti dai chirongwa chekunyoresa kuvhota ichi chagona kuitwa chero panenge pachivhoteswa pachu, kuti munhu anogona chero kunyoreswa musi iwoyo, munhu nekubva angovhota. Zviri kuzeyewa kuti paonekwe kuti zvakamira sei, nekuti panotofanira kugadziriswa kuti sarudzo dzifambe mune zvakanaka. CCDZ inongoti kunyange zvakaoma kudai vana veZimbabwe havafanire kurasa mbereko nekufirwa nekuti “tisu anhu acho”.

Vamwewo ndivo varikunzi vakuita chioko muhomwe. Masabhuku euori aya, oti anoda kamuripo kuti anyore tsamba yekuratidza paunogara. Vamwe vashandi vekwamudzviti ndivo vakubhadharisawo mari vasati vakujambisa mutsara kuti utore chitupa. Vamwewo ndivo varikunyorera tsamba kuti vajambe mutsara wekubatsirwa pakunyoresa kuvhota. Vamwe ndivo varikuuya vari zvikwata-zvikwata zvevatongerwo enyika zvinova zvinotyisa avo vanenge vasina kwavakarerekerera kana kuti vasingade kutaridza kwavakarerekerera. Zvinonetsa chirongwa chakadaro kana chakuitwa nehuhwindi hwakadaro. Hachifanire kuti chitwi chichinzi abaiwa ngaabude sezvo chakakoshera tese.

Chimwe chirikunetsa inyaya yevashandi vashoma vanounzwa kuzoita basa iri. Chokwadi zvinosuwisa kunzwa kuti vanhu vaviri kana kuti vatatu vanenge vachitarisirwa kuita basa rese nemakuriro anenge akaita mitsara yacho nenguva shoma inenge iripo. Kana zvakarongeka, chokwadi munhu ane zvakakwana –zvinoti chitupa netsamba inoratidza panogara munhu, chii chingakonese kuti pamaminutes matatu munhu ange atobatsirwa kuchiuya mumwe. Imwewo



Hurukuro yakaitwa neCCDZ nezve kunyoresa kuvhota kuChegutu Hall

shasha yakabvunza pamusangano weCCDZ wakaitwa mwedzi wapfuura.

CCDZ
inongoti kunyange
zvakaoma kudai
vana veZimbabwe havafanire
kurasa mbereko nekufirwa
nekuti “tisu anhu
acho”.

Chimwe chakunetsa ndechekuti zuva racho resarudzo raswederwa zvikuru. Zuva resarudzo rakatarwa nemukuru wenyika ndi31 July asi mapato mamwe ari muhurumende yemubatanidzwa eMDC maviri arikutsika madziro. Vakatokwidza nyaya yavo kudare reSouthern African Development Committee (SADC) vachigununa kuti zuva resarudzo ranyanyoiswa padhuze, ipo paine zvizhinji zvinoda kugadziriswa. Zvinoda kugadziriswa izvi zvinosanganisira nyaya yenhepfenyuro kuti dzisarerekere rimwe divi, mutemo unogadziriswa kuganhira kwemauto nemapurisa (vanopindira mune zvevatongerwo enyika) nenyaya yekugadziriswa ZEC kuti rive bato rakazvimirira rega, risina kwarakarekerera. CCDZ inotsigiranawo nemawonero aya uye tinongoramba tichirwira kuti sarudzo idzi dzisadeure ropa sezvakaitika muna2008. Kwemwedzi uno tombogumira pano tinongoramba tichienderera mberi. Makasunguka kutipa pfungwa dzenyu pane zvinotokurukura uye munokwanisa kutinyorerawo nyaya dzinopinda mupepa revanhu rino. Tatenda, tinokushuvirai kuvhota murunyararo nerudo.

REGISTER TO VOTE!

It's YOUR RIGHT to participate in the general elections

1. Are you above 18 years?

2. REGISTER NOW to vote in the Harmonized ELECTIONS.

3. Are you registered as a VOTER?

4. Your VOTE counts, use it!

5. Registration is an ongoing process, take your National I.D. Proof of residence and REGISTER NOW.