



**Special Vote  
Chaos Dents  
2013 Election**



**Zanu-PF Mani-  
festo: Plan to  
Fight NGOs**



**Feya Feya rocks  
Kuwadzana**

## **Special Vote Chaos Dents 2013 Election**

THE special voting for members of the security forces, which began on Sunday, July 14 and ended on Monday, 15 July 2013, has been described as chaotic by observers amid logistical inefficiencies.

Reports coming from many parts of the country on Sunday, July 14, indicated that the first day of the special voting had been marred by slowness of the process, insufficient ballot papers, late opening of the polling stations and even failure of some polling stations to open.

Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC)

Spokesperson Thabani Nyoni said the confusion could show Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC)'s lack of preparation.

*"The way ZEC has conducted the special voting so far has convinced even the doubting Thomases that delivering a credible election to the people of Zimbabwe will be a miracle.*

*"The people of Zimbabwe deserve a full explanation before an apology," Nyoni said.*

Nyoni cited late opening of voting centres, absence of a printed copy of the voters' roll, no ink, and no ballot paper as a sign that ZEC might have been misled-

ing Zimbabweans about its state of preparedness.

Voting reportedly failed to take place in Umguza on July 14 as ballot papers are reported to have arrived around 1500hrs while in some places the papers did not arrive.

Police officers were still waiting for the ballot papers at Mt. Selinda High in Chipinge and St Columbus High School in Mutasa North well after 10.00 am on the second day of voting on July 15 which could have been some of the extreme cases.

An estimated 69 000 police officers, 2000 prison officers, 164 soldiers and ZEC officials have reportedly applied to vote in



the special voting exercise which is set aside for those civil servants who will not be able to vote on July 31 due to work commitments such as ensuring peace and security during the harmonized elections.

The security forces who ostensibly applied for the special voting are believed to be more than the entire force, raising questions from analysts whether it is true that all police officers are registered voters and whether the number is realistic.

The actual police complement of Zimbabwe as per the civil servants salary schedule is pegged at 41 133 according to Hon. Tendai Biti who presides over the Ministry of Finance.

Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) Spokesperson Assistant Commissioner Charity Charamba reportedly defended the numbers arguing the force had been swelled by inclusion of the police constabulary, which is a reserve force.

Youth Agenda Trust (YAT) criticized the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) for the way it handled the special voting exercise, alleging that police details in some areas were being coerced to write down the serial numbers of their ballot papers for inspection by their seniors.

*“YAT is also disturbed to note that ZEC was not even able to open polling stations on time, provide enough voting material and was seriously understaffed. “As Youth Agenda, we feel that the chaos that we saw was stage managed and deliberately created to manipulate the outcome of the elections.*

*“YAT is also now convinced that information circulating in the media that ZEC and the Registrar General’s office are working with a shadowy Israeli organisation to rig the July 31 elections is true and that the two government entities are not willing to conduct a free and fair election,” the youth organisation said.*

Tamuka Chirimambowa, a political scientist said that he believed the bungling by ZEC was a deliberate ploy, querying why a Commission, which was not sufficiently prepared for elections, insisted they were prepared.

*“If ZEC creates a shambolic election, in the event of a Zanu-pf defeat it will create grounds of contesting the outcome. Given the politicized nature of the judiciary such a court challenge will provide plan B for Zanu-Pf to impede the transition to democracy in Zimbabwe,”*



*Police officers waiting for the polling station to open*

said Chirimambowa, adding the Electoral Act has already been violated by the delays caused by late arrival of ballot papers.

The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) said its observers had noted that at Dangababi Primary School in Bubi District Matabeleland North voting commenced at 1500 hours, while at Fatima High School in Lupane District and Bubi Tazela Hall the ballot papers only arrived after 14.00 hrs on July 14.

ZESN also complained in a statement that Zimbabwe Election Commission (ZEC) had not kept the nation abreast on how many people registered in the last phase of mobile voter registration which ended on July 9.

ZEC gave updates on how many people it had registered in the earlier phase carried out in May.

ZESN bemoaned the low number of young people on the Zimbabwean voters’ roll as per June 19 as compared to other countries such as Kenya, South Africa and Zambia.

*“ZESN is also very concerned about the distribution of polling stations released on 10 July as compared to the official registration figures from 19 June.*

*“Twenty percent (75 of 394) of urban wards have more than 1,000 voters per polling. Of particular note, Epworth Local Board Ward 7 has 7,920 registered voters, but only one polling station.*

*“Unlike the Constitutional Referendum voters will be required to vote in the ward in which they are registered,” the organization said, emphasizing its forecast that there could be congestion on the polling stations in urban areas.*

## Zanu-PF Manifesto: Plan to Fight NGOs

THE Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (Zanu-PF) has revealed an orchestrated plan to continue muzzling Zimbabwean civil society organisations in its manifesto launched on 5 July 2013 at a rally in Highfields, Harare ahead of the harmonized elections on July 31, 2013.

*"An obvious and unacceptable threat to the goals of the people is posed by NGOs that roam the country to peddle influence and whose number of more than 3000 is scandalously disproportionate to the country's population," read the Election Manifesto which, also alleged that Zanu-Pf's electoral opponents and NGOs were formed on the "alter of treachery".*



Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) Spokesperson Thabani Nyoni said Zanu-Pf was in the habit of blaming others for its shortcomings.

*"We understand that ZANU-PF is a party that always blames everything on others, first it was PF ZAPU (as dissidents), then followed ZUM, then followed the white farmers, then followed the MDC and now we have NGOs and the West.*

*"In fact, the growing role and relevance of NGOs has been justified by ZANU-PF's government's abdication of their responsibility to provide for human dignity, survival and material growth," Nyoni said.*

Nyoni added that the civil society already knew that for Zanu-Pf this election "like all other elections is not about the security of the citizens but the security of the party's regime" and that the party was "intolerant of diversity".

The party is not new to struggles against the NGO sector as in two successive years in December 2011 and December 2012 Zanu-pf made similar resolutions against the civil society formations at its Annual National People's Conferences in Bulawayo and Gweru respectively.

The conference resolutions were followed by a sustained attack, which saw more than eight non-governmental organisations being raided for ostensibly "deviating from their mandate" while human rights activists, and the lawyers representing them, were being arrested amid domestic and international disapproval.

Masvingo provincial governor, Titus Maluleke, summoned 45 organisations in March 2013 and demanded to know their funders and copies of their work plans.

An organization based in Masvingo, Conflict Transformation Reconciliation And Development (COTRAD) revealed that an Assistant Provincial Policing Officer and a Deputy Provincial Central Intelligence Organisation (CIO) boss attended the meeting.

Analysts said the development showed that the governor, with the aid of the security establishment, was overstepping his mandate to implement party policies.

Bulawayo Metropolitan province governor, Cain Mathema, a few months on in May 2013 lashed out at organisations such as Bulawayo Agenda and Radio Dialogue, calling them "spy" organisations formed through the American and British intelli-

gence initiatives for regime change.

Mathema called on all organisations to be banned and included in his verbal firing line the Catholic Commission for Peace and Justice (CCJP), the organisation that documented President Robert Mugabe's government-led attack on Matabeleland civilians during the Gukurahundi in the early 1980s.

*"It is these organisations which also invited sanctions that are causing suffering to our people and none of them should have their license renewed," Mathema said.*

Notwithstanding that the attack on civil society organisations in 2013 received widespread condemnation, including from the United Nations (UN), the party once again made its intentions of fighting the independent voices clear in its manifesto which was launched ahead of the forthcoming July 31 elections.

## Feya Feya rocks Kuwadzana

THE Feya Feya campaign trail for credible, free and fair elections being driven by 83 Zimbabwean civil society organisations greeted the streets of Kuwadzana in Harare's western high density suburb with an edutainment musical concert on Saturday, June 13, at Kuwadzana 6 Crèche Grounds.

The development comes as civil society organisations made good on an agreement and pledge made at the Feya Feya Launch Conference in Bulawayo on June 27 where 83 organizations from across the country said they would collaborate to call for credible, free and fair elections.

Election Resource Centre (ERC), Combined Harare Residents Association (CHRA), Heal Zimbabwe Trust, Zimrights and Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition (CiZC) organized the event which saw popular musical dance Group Malaika, dance-hall maestro, Dadza D, Shinsoman, and YOZ taking turns to rock the crowd.



The organisations went on to craft 11 principles in line with the new Constitution and African Union (AU) and Southern African Development Community (SADC) benchmarks for free, fair and credible elections which are part of their demands ahead of the July 31 elections.

The open-air concert was staged to spread the message to the Kuwadzana community on the need for free, fair and credible elections when Zimbabwe votes in harmonized elections on July 31. Members of different political parties such as MDC-T and Zanu-PF turned up peacefully in party regalia.

The attendees managed to take home regalia such as T-shirts with messages "Certified to Vote" from the X1G Campaign, "Handei Tisu Anhu Acho" from the Dat is da Vote Campaign and the "Feya Feya" sweaters.

There have been concerns that the credibility of the forthcoming elections might be derailed by a partisan state media and contested Electoral Act amendments and polling date passed through Presidential decree on June 13 as well as rubbing of SADC recommendations which include a call for public pledge by the security forces to uphold the Constitution and to be non-partisan.

Exclusive mobile voter registration process, incidences of violence, barring of MDC-T rallies and of late, logistical bungling by Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) with regards to the special voting exercise have added to the concerns that some of the 11 Feya Feya principles will be violated.

***Below we reproduce the 11 Feya Feya principles:***

The Crisis in Zimbabwe Coalition is a broad based civil society network of over 72 active members comprising churches, women's groups, social movements, residents associations, labour unions, human rights lawyers, and health professionals. It was formed in August of 2001 to focus on democracy, human rights, good governance and sustainable development issues – working locally, regionally and internationally.

# FEYA FEYA 11 - PRINCIPLES WE ABIDE BY

- 1. That all members of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) don't show favoritism whenever they are carrying out any of their duties.**
2. That the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission and the government allow all political parties and all citizens to have a fair and equal chance to be covered in the public media; meanwhile they must protect journalists so they can work freely and without fear as stated in Section 61 of our Constitution.
- 3. That the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission uses all its powers and authority to permit every observer, whether local or regional or international, to operate freely and without fear of being excluded, threatened or arrested.**
4. That the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission always transmits and tallies the votes in any election in a transparent and timely fashion and make certain that they announce election results within 5 days of the polls as required in the amended Electoral Act and in our Constitution, within 5 days of the polls.
- 5. That everyone is free to decide whom they prefer to vote for without fear of being harmed or threatened and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission must protect the voter by ensuring that they can vote in secrecy.**
6. That the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission acts with honesty and integrity in counting every vote to ensure that everyone's vote counts so that the outcome is a fair one reflecting the true wishes of the people and that the results can be irreversible.
- 7. That members of the police, army and other security services don't show favoritism whenever they are carrying out any of their duties so that no one feels afraid of fully participating in elections especially women, youths, people living with disabilities and other vulnerable groups.**
8. That The Police and prosecuting authorities allow civil society organizations and citizens groups to do their lawful work without any hindrance or harassment and that the police do not allow themselves to be manipulated into arresting innocent people to serve political interests.
- 9. That Electoral Stakeholders such as Political Parties, ZEC, Government Institutions, the Media and the Judiciary, use their words and deeds to create a conducive environment for the holding of free and fair elections, to live up to the SADC Principles and Guidelines Governing Democratic Elections.**
10. That all contesting political parties and stakeholders in the elections should make sure that all eligible and willing citizens of the Republic of Zimbabwe, are allowed the opportunity to enjoy full and equal participation in the elections without being restricted or denied.
- 11. That international actors and solidarity partners do not encourage our country to make compromises that promote a lower standard which is outside the agreements of our regional blocs as expressed through the**

# ZAMBEZI NEWS

★ TEASER PARTY ★

SEASON  
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MAGAMBA NETWORK IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE "FEYA FEYA" CAMPAIGN

PRESENTS THE SCREENING OF THE

× ELECTIONS SPECIAL EPISODE ×

AND A BRAND NEW MUSIC VIDEO BY THE

EVEN MO LIL SWAGGERY BOYS - "BALLOTS IN THE BOX"

HOSTED BY COMRADE FATSO & MICHAEL KUDAKWASHE

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WED JULY 17 ★ BOOK CAFE ★ 5:30-7:30PM ★ FREE!



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