



**ZIMBABWE
PEACE
PROJECT**



TELICOMP

Independently monitoring the constitution making process

Weekly Report

Shadowing the Outreach process

26 July – 1 August 2010

Introduction

This weekly Report presents outreach-related experiences between 26 July and 1 August particularly focusing on incidents that may either enable or disable the consultation process. Outreach processes need to be democratic, transparent and inclusive to ensure outcomes that reflect the input of the broad and diverse spectrum of society.

Outreach coverage

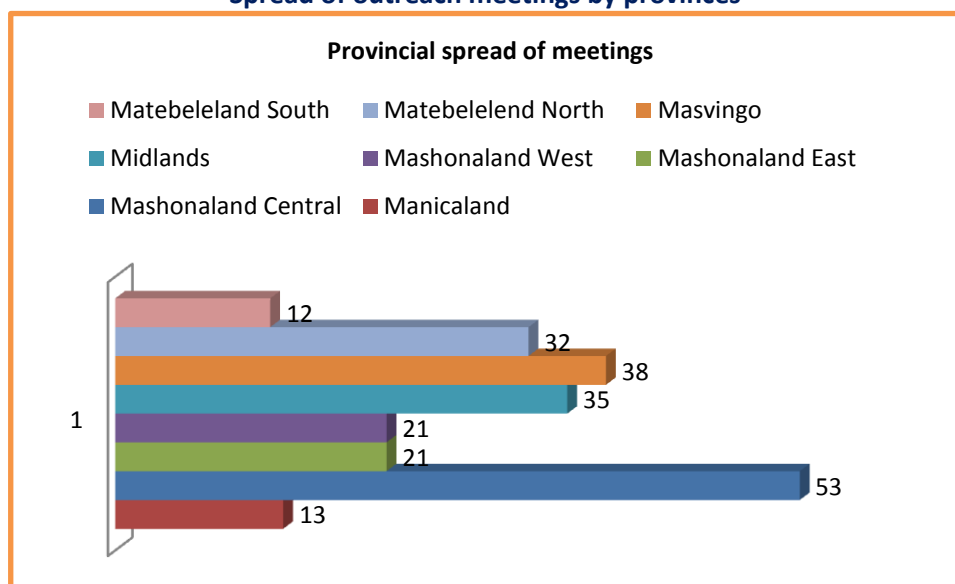
Constituencies covered

The week under review saw the COPAC programme spreading its outreach consultations into 29 constituencies that include Mazowe West, Mazowe North, Mazowe South and Mazowe Central in Mashonaland Central province; Gutu Central, Gutu North, Gutu West and Mwenezi West in Masvingo province; Chimanimani East, Chimanimani West and Mutasa North in Manicaland province; Shurugwi North, Shurugwi Urban, Zvishavane-Runde, Zvishavane-Ngezi and Zvishavane-Shurugwi in Midlands province; Zvimba East, Zvimba West, Mhangura and Makonde in Mashonaland West province; Goromonzi South, Wedza North, Wedza South, Goromonzi West and Chikomba East in Mashonaland East province; Binga North and Binga South in Matabeleland North province as well as Insiza North and Insiza South in Matabeleland South province.

Meetings held

A total of 225 outreach meetings with a provincial spread of 23.6% [53] in Mashonaland Central province, 16.9% [38] in Masvingo province, 15.6% [35] in Midlands province, 14.3% [32] in Matabeleland North province, 9.3% [21] in Mashonaland West province, 9.3% [21] in Mashonaland East province, 5.8% [13] in Manicaland province and 5.3% [12] in Matabeleland South province were held during the period under focus.

Figure 1
Spread of outreach meetings by provinces



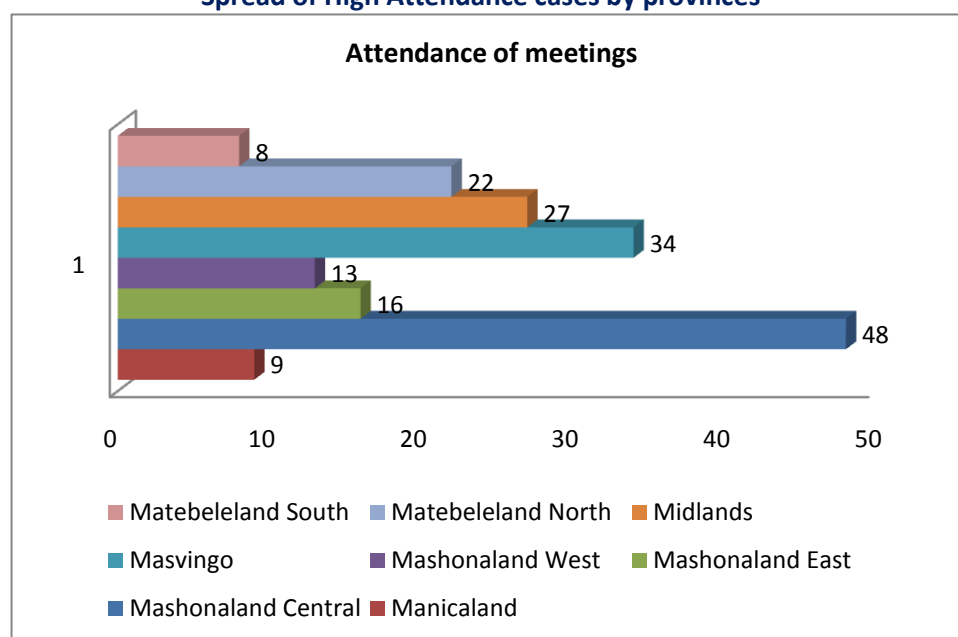
Profile of Outreach Meetings

Highly attended meetings

Attendance records remain skewed towards “higher attendance” cases. Of the 225 outreach meetings that were successfully held in the week under review, 78.7% [177] were “high” attendance” cases while

21.3% [48] were “low attendance” cases. Of the 177 higher attendance cases recorded, 27.1 % [48] were in Mashonaland Central province, 19.2% [34] in Masvingo province, 15.3 % [27] in Midlands province, 12.4% [22] in Matabeleland North province, 9% [16] in Mashonaland East province, 7.3% [13] in Mashonaland West province, 5.1% [9] in Manicaland province and 4.5% [8] in Matabeleland South province. However the bulk of these “higher attendance” cases are between 100 – 150 people attending at each meeting.

Figure 2
Spread of High Attendance cases by provinces

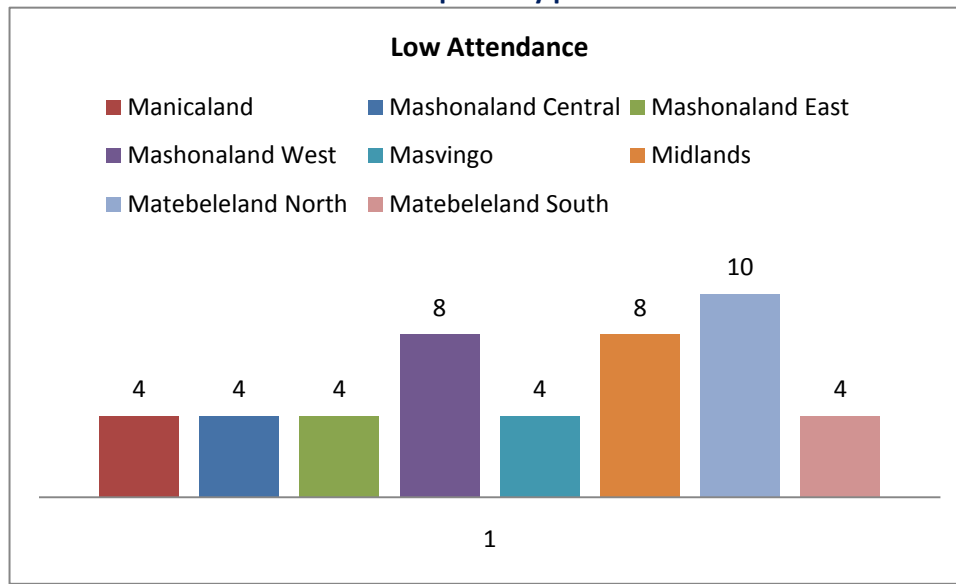


Among the sampled cases of “higher attendance” reported in Mashonaland West province are meetings that were held on 26 July at Herbert Chitepo Primary School in Ward 35 of Zvimba West where 400 people were in attendance and also at Little England Settlement in Ward 26 of Zvimba East on 27 July where a record 500 people were in attendance. Those reported in Mashonaland Central include meetings that were held on 31 July at Stockberry Farm in Ward 30 of Mazowe North where 780 people were in attendance, at Tara Store in Ward 30 of Mazowe West on 31 July where 570 people were in attendance and another one that was held on 29 July at Masasa Farm in Ward 23 of Mazowe West where 420 people were in attendance. In Manicaland, reported cases include a meeting that was held on 27 July at Chimanimani Central Primary School in Ward 1 of Chimanimani East where 540 people were in attendance and another one that was held on 30 July at Fairfield Hall in Ward 14 of Chimanimani East where 193 people attended. Those reported in Midlands province include a meeting that was held on 27 July at Zaoga Church Msuki Business Centre in Ward 13 of Zvishavane Runde which had around 400 people in attendance.

Lowly attended meetings

Cases of low attendance remain generally on the low side although they still maintain a visible presence in Matabeleland North. Of the 48 cases of low attendance recorded in the week under review, 10 were reported in Matabeleland North, 8 in Mashonaland West, 8 in Midlands, 4 in Manicaland, 5 in Mashonaland West, 5 in Mashonaland Central, 4 in Masvingo and 4 in Matabeleland South.

Figure 3
Low attendance spread by provinces



Among the “low attendance” cases reported were those observed at St Joseph in Ward 7 of Wedza South of Mashonaland East where 39 people attended, Shenjere Primary School in Ward 25 of Gutu South in Masvingo where 61 people were in attendance, Musipani Primary School in Ward 11 of Zvishavane-Runde where 52 people were in attendance, Concession Country Club in Ward 18 of Mazowe West in Mashonaland Central where 60 people were in attendance and also at Chinhoyi Hall in Ward 3 of Chinhoyi in Mashonaland West where 17 people were said to have attended.

Cancelled meetings

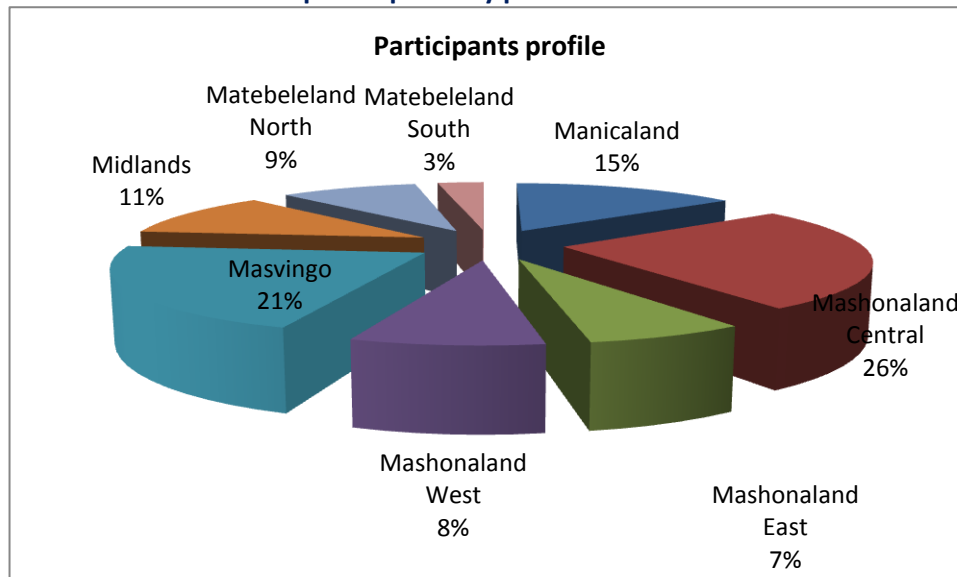
Incidents in which outreach meetings are cancelled either because the COPAC team or people had failed to turn up at scheduled venues remain on the decline. A total of 8 cancellations were reported, one being in Manicaland province and seven in Midlands province. In Manicaland province, an outreach meeting that had been scheduled for 27 July at Chimanimani Central Primary School in Ward 1 of Chimanimani East was reportedly called off after suspected ZANU PF youths chased away students from Mutambara Mission who they allegedly suspected to have been influenced by the school head, an alleged victim of the 2008 Elections. This incident happened in full view of COPAC team members who stood helplessly and later drove off after the alleged perpetrators had threatened to beat them up. In Midlands Province, meetings that were scheduled at Mapirimira in Ward 5 of Zvishavane-Runde on 29 July, at Sasula Primary School in Ward 10 of Zvishavane-Runde on 30 July and also at Senami in Ward 3 of Ngezi on 28 July were reportedly called off due to the late arrival of the COPAC teams.

Profile of Participants

A total of 46 465 people were reported to have attended outreach consultations in the one week under review. Of this total, 26% [11627] were in Mashonaland Central, 21% [9607] in Masvingo, 15% [6742] in

Manicaland, 11% [5069] in Midlands, 8% [3697] in Mashonaland West, 7% [3103] in Mashonaland East , 9% [4128] in Matabeleland North and 3% [1392] in Matabeleland South.

Figure 4
Participants spread by provinces

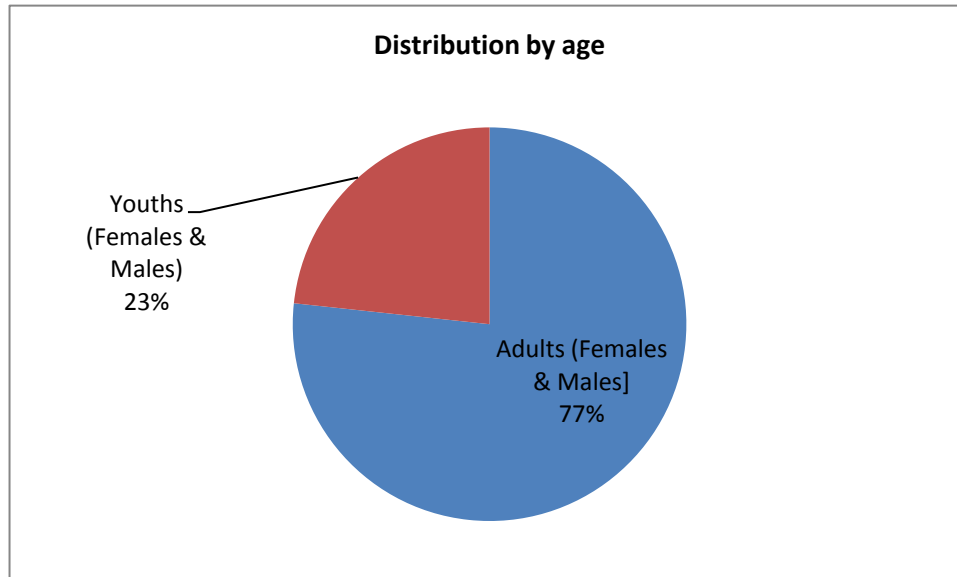


However, high attendance only adds value to outreach consultation processes if these participants are given enough space to express their personal views during meetings. There is also fear that most of these attendance records may have been a result of forced attendance, especially where high participants turnout are most visible in politically volatile provinces.

Distribution of participants by Age

Distribution of participants by age remains heavily skewed towards the adult population. Of the total of 46 465 people reported to have attended meetings, 76.7% [35 638] were adults while 23.3% [10 827] were youths.

Figure 5
Distribution of participants by Age



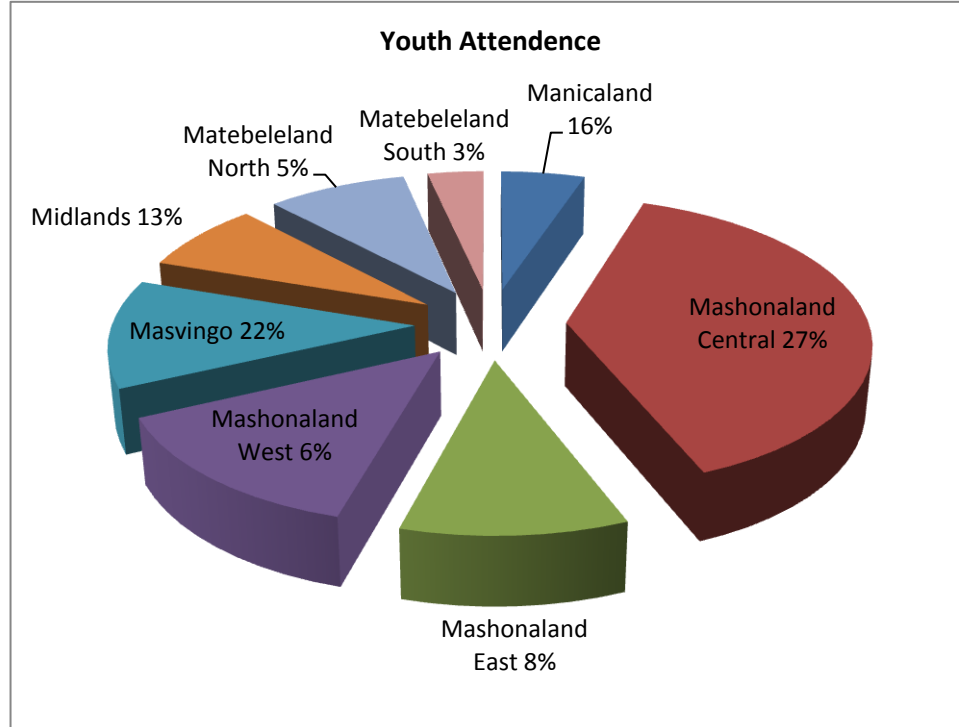
Distribution of Adult Participants by provinces

Distribution of the 35 638 participants by provinces was 24.6% [8752] in Mashonaland Central, 19.5% [6963] in Masvingo, 14.2% [5057] in Manicaland, 13.2 % [4703] in Midlands, 10.2% [3636] in Matabeleland North, 8.6% [3063] in Mashonaland West, 6.6% [2340] in Mashonaland East and 3.2% [1124] in Matabeleland South.

Distribution of Youth participants by provinces

A total of 10 827 youths reportedly attended outreach meetings in the period under review, 26.6% [2875] being from Mashonaland Central province, 22.4% [2649] from Masvingo province, 15.6% [1 685] from Manicaland province, 12.6% [1366] from Midlands province, 8% [863] from Mashonaland East province, 5.9% [634] from Mashonaland West province, 4.5% [492] from Matabeleland North and 2.5% [268] from Matabeleland South.

Figure 6
Youth attendance spread by provinces



However, while records suggest an increase in youth's attendance, the bulk of these youths could have been school children. This suspicion may not be far off the mark given that most of the high youth's attendance records were encountered at venues located at schools. In resettlement farming areas, the possibility of forced youth's attendance cannot be ruled out.

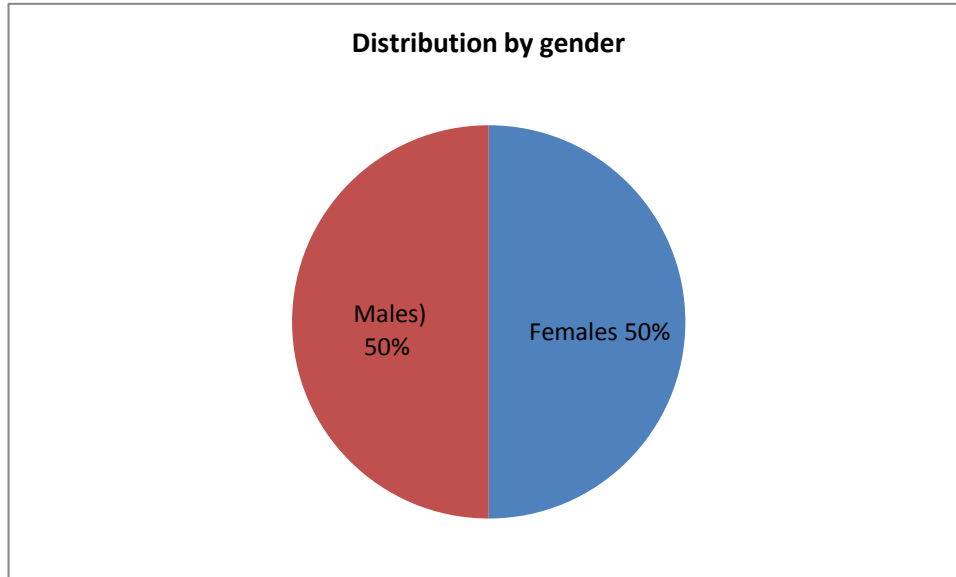
In Masvingo, cases of high youth attendance were reported at Nyamandi High School in Ward 11 of Masvingo Central where 71.2% [635] of the 892 people in attendance were youths, at Mutero Secondary School in Ward 11 of Gutu Central where 73.2% [500] of the 680 people in attendance were youths, at Cheninga Primary School in Ward 25 of Gutu South where 59% [230] of the 390 people in attendance were youths and also at Majuda Business Centre where 54.3% [261] of the 481 people in attendance were youths.

In Manicaland, cited cases of high youth attendance include meetings at Farrfield Hall in Ward 14 of Chimanimani East where 71.5% [138] of the 193 people in attendance were youths, at Biriri Hospital in Ward 18 of Chimanimani East where 64.5% [109] of 169 people in attendance were youths.

Distribution of participants by gender

Gender analysis of participants point to an almost balance in male and female participation, though slightly skewed towards the males. Of the total number of participants recorded, 50.4% [23 413] are male participants while 49.6% [23 052] are female participants.

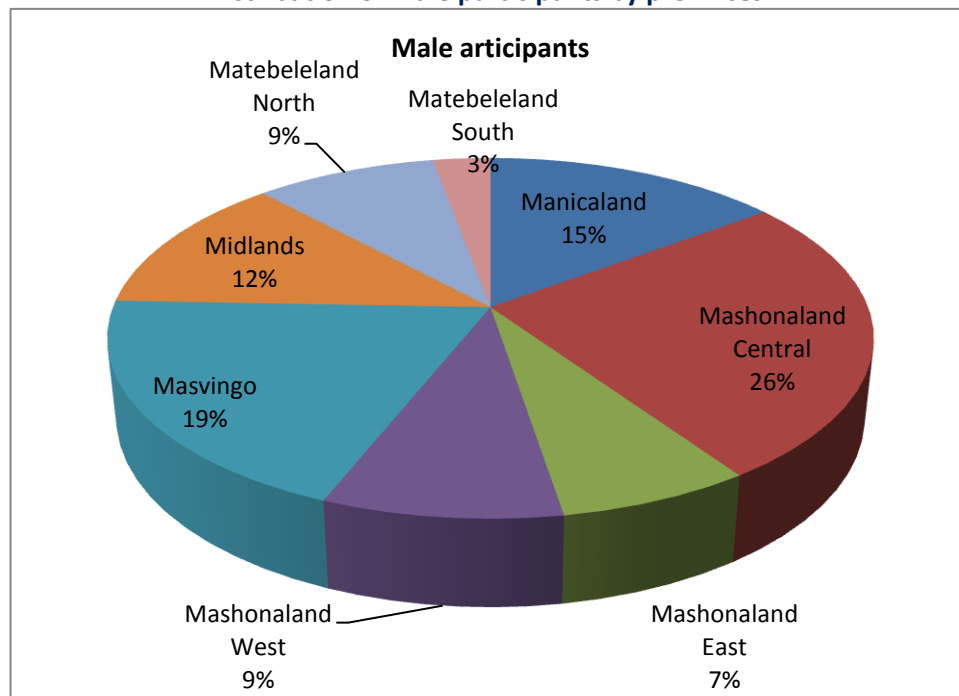
Figure 7
Distribution of participants by gender



Male participants

Provincial spread of participants by gender show that of the 23 413 recorded male participants, 6033 are from Mashonaland Central province, 4594 from Masvingo province, 3271 from Manicaland province, 3128 from Midlands province, 2123 from Matabeleland North province, 2031 from Mashonaland West province, 1561 from Mashonaland East province and 672 from Matabeleland South province.

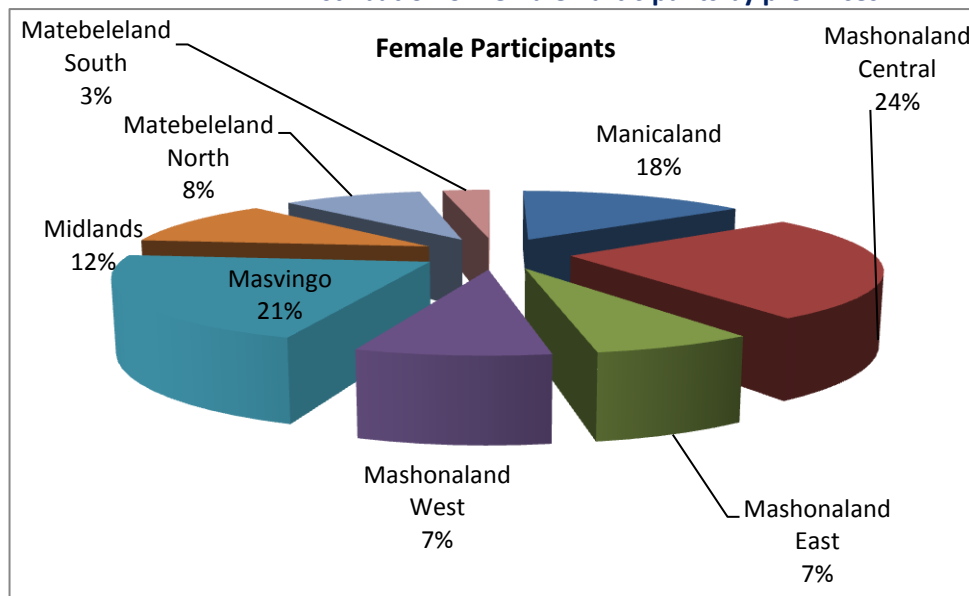
Figure 8
Distribution of male participants by provinces



Female participants

The 23 052 female participants record include 24.5% [5594] from Mashonaland Central province , 21.7% [5013] from Masvingo, 18.1% [3471] from Manicaland province, 12.8% [2941] from Midlands province, 8.7% [2005] from Matabeleland North, 7.2% [1666] from Mashonaland West province, 7.1% [1642] from Mashonaland East province and 3.1% [720] from Matabeleland South.

Figure 9
Distribution of Female Participants by provinces



The Operational Environment

The operational environment is still visibly polarized along party lines with the two main political parties, MDC T and ZANU PF struggling to outdo each other at the outreach meetings and even devising desperate and clandestine means of influencing outreach debates in their favour.

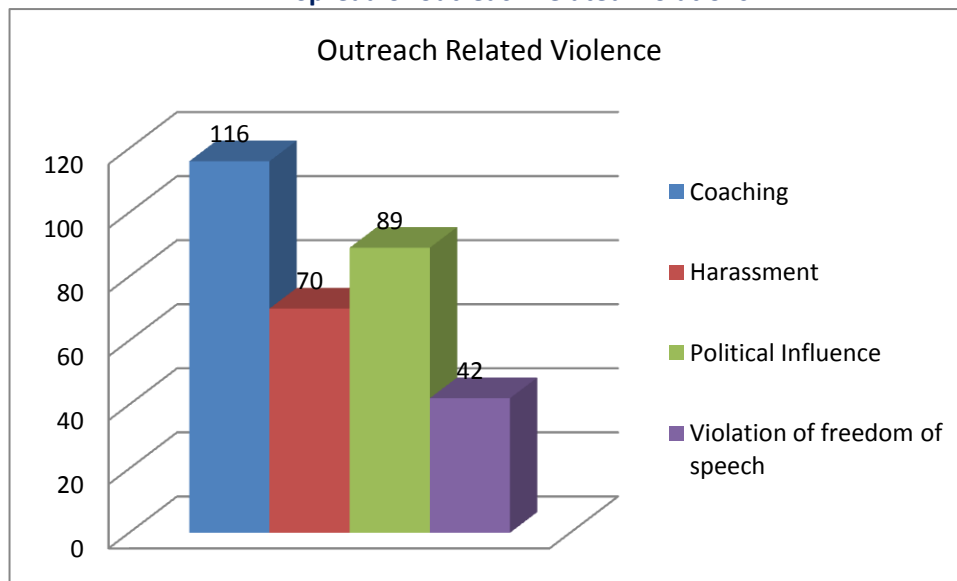
ZZZICOMP reports even refer to isolated incidents in which political parties resorted to using *opening prayer sessions* to intimidate the public from expressing personal views during outreach consultations. For instance, at an outreach meeting that was held on 29 July at Blackforby Farm in Ward 23 of Mazowe West in Mashonaland Central, an opening prayer reportedly given by one of the local ZANU PF leadership took more than ten minutes in which all expected responses on Talking Points were outlined. The prayer, as further alleged, concluded with a warning on participants who may depart from the path outlined in the prayer. Though isolated, such practices need to be condemned as it not amounts to both abuses of religion and citizen rights of self expression.

The impression from ZZZICOMP reports is that outreach consultations especially in the most parts of Mashonaland Central, Manicaland, Mashonaland West, Mashonaland East, Midlands and Masvingo provinces were conducted under a climate of fear and dominance by political parties, in some cases, outreach meetings even resembling a political party rally where there were no members of the general public but party political activists.

Outreach –related violations

Outreach consultations remain stressed and prone to incidents of intimidation, coaching, political interference and breaches of freedom of speech. A total of 319 outreach-related violations were reported in the period under review. Of these violations, 36.4% [116] being violations through coaching, 21.9% [70] violations were cases of harassment, 27.9 % [89] violations were of political interference while 13.2% [42] violations were breach of freedom of speech.

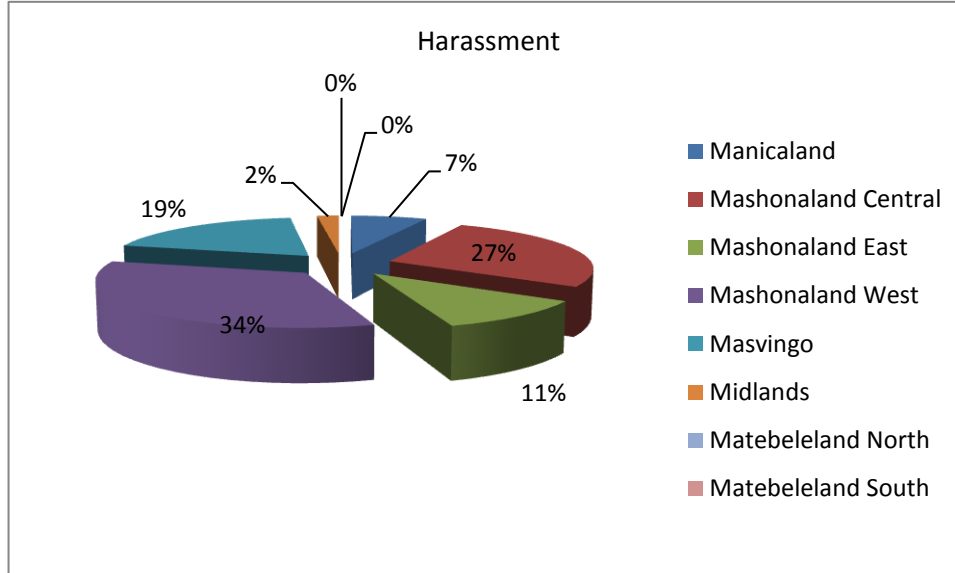
Figure 10
Spread of outreach-related violations



Intimidation/harassment

Incidents in which members of the public were reportedly intimidated in order to dissuade them from expressing personal views on the constitution making process remain dotted throughout the eight provinces. Of the 319 reported outreach-related violations, 21.9% [70] were cases of harassment, 40 of which were recorded in Mashonaland Central while each of the remaining provinces had an average record of six cases.

Figure 11
Spread of incidents of harassment by provinces



At a meeting that was held on 28 July at Mutero Secondary School in Ward 11 of Gutu Central in Masvingo, ZANU PF members were reported to have threatened the school headmaster and his pupils, accusing them of being pro-MDC while on 29 July at Rasa Business Centre in Ward 19 of Gutu Central, known ZANU PF members were seen organizing meetings at which people suspected of likely to defy laid down party constitutional positions were reportedly threatened with unspecified punishment. At a meeting that was held on 27 July at Stephen Business Centre in Ward 6 of Gutu West in the same province, political intimidation was reportedly so pronounced that some of the participants who had expressed personal views at the meeting had to seek for security after the meeting.

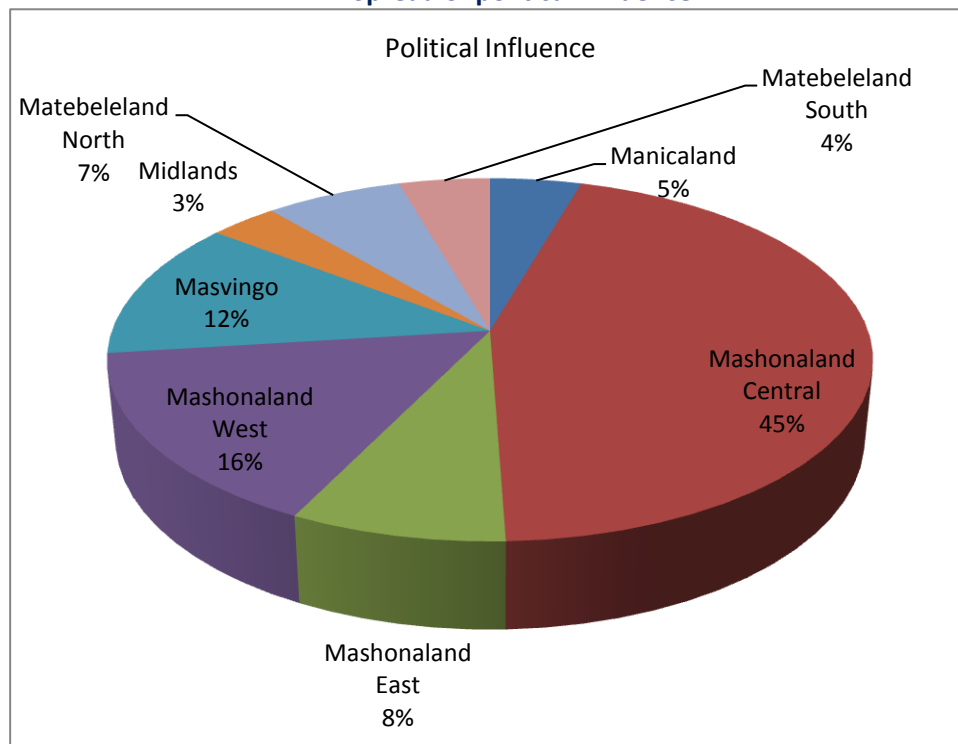
From Manicaland Province well-known war veterans were reportedly making threatening gestures to people who were expressing own views on the constitution at a meeting that was held on 27 July at Nechitima Primary School in Ward 3 of Chimanimani West. At another meeting that was held on 27 July at Ruwedza in Ward 1 of Chimanimani East in the same province, the presence of a well-known ex CIO member from nearby ward 15 was reportedly instilling fear in participants. At another meeting that was held on 27 July at Nyambeya Primary School in Ward 1 of Chimanimani East, outreach consultations reportedly resembled a ZANU PF party rally with all people in attendance being ZANU PF supporters. Observers further claim that a suspected MDC supporter who had raised the issue of Title Deeds during his contributions on the Talking Point of Land and natural resources was chased away from the meeting. On 26 July, a ZZZICOMP observer monitoring outreach activities at Kanyemba Primary School in Ward 12 of Mazowe District in Mashonaland Central Province claimed to have spotted two vehicles [Nissan Hardbody and twin cab Mitsubishi open truck] suspected to be from the CIO department ferrying suspected ZANU PF activists from outside Ward 12.

Political influence

Incidents in which political parties try to influence outreach outcomes, though subtle remain pronounced in all the eight provinces. Political interference takes various forms that include shuttling/ferrying party supporters from one venue to another, having party youths/supporters at venues vetting participants, allowing only known party supporters to contribute at meetings, using opening prayers to outline expected responses on Talking Points, among others.

Of the 319 cases of outreach-related violations, 89 were cases relating to political interference, 44.9% [40] being cases reported in Mashonaland Central province, 15.7% [14] in Mashonaland West province and 12.4% [11] in Masvingo province, 7.9% in Mashonaland East province, 6.7% in Matabeleland North province, 4.5 % in Matabeleland South province, 4.5% in Manicaland province and 3.5% in Midlands province.

Figure 12
Spread of political influence



From Mashonaland Central, ten suspected ZANU PF youths were reportedly vetting participants and those suspected of belonging to other political parties were immediately denied access to an outreach meeting that was held on 29 July at Nangura in Ward 25 of Mazowe West. At another meeting that was held on 27 July at Summersdale Farm in Ward 16 of Mazowe South of the same province, two male youths who had been seen actively contributing at Kanyemba Primary School reportedly participated at the Summersdale outreach meeting and were later ferried from the place by a suspected CIO vehicle Nissan Hardbody twin cab. This was also the case on 30 July at Rumanje Farm in Ward 27 of Mazowe West where about 45 people were reportedly ferried from outside the Ward by suspected members of the CIO while on 29 July at Blackforby Farm in Ward 23 of Mazowe West, where the 15 people who had made most of the contributions at this meeting were later identified as suspected ZANU PF supporters who had been ferried from outside the Ward.

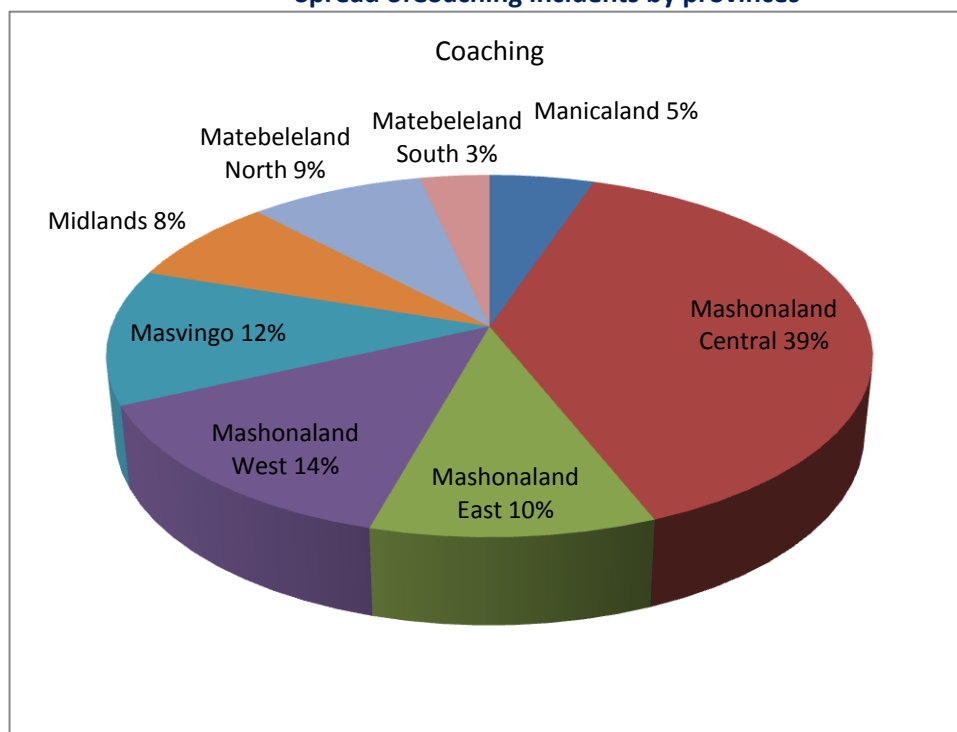
In Mashonaland East, ZANU PF was reportedly the only party which was contributing at an outreach meeting that was held on 29 July at Ferisi Primary School in ward 2 of Wedza North constituency. From another meeting that was held on 31 July at Nharira Primary School in ward 24 of Goromonzi West in

the same province, special police in plain clothes were reportedly spotted making contributions on some issues in what the observer interpreted as a move to help bring out the interest of one political party.

Coaching

Coaching malpractices were the most frequently committed outreach-related violations in the week under review. Of the 319 reported cases, 36.4% [116] were cases of coaching, of which 38.8% [45] were reported in Mashonaland Central province, 13.8% [16] in Mashonaland West province, 12.1% [14] in Masvingo province, 10.3% [12] in Mashonaland East province, 8.6% [10] in Matabeleland North province, 7.8% [9] in Midlands province, 5.2% [6] in Manicaland province and 3.4% [4] in Matabeleland South province.

Figure 13
Spread of Coaching incidents by provinces



At a meeting that was held in Mashonaland Central on 31 July at Graham Farm in Mazowe North, the ZANU PF leadership in the area is said to have gathered people around before arrival of COPAC teams and issued threats of unspecified action to anyone daring to express views different from what had been taught. CIOs were also seen ferrying people to this venue. On 26 July at Henyshott Primary School [Farm] in Ward 14 of Mazowe South in the same province, war veterans were spotted at the gate before the arrival of COPAC teams telling people to stick to issues discussed during the coaching session that was conducted in the morning of that day from 0930 am to 1130 am. At this meeting, only newly resettled farm owners were participating while the bulk of participants who were farm workers were reduced to mere seconding views of others.

In Masvingo province, cases of coaching were manifest at a meeting that was held on 28 July at Zimbizi Secondary School in Ward 17 and Mpata Primary School in Ward 22, both of Gutu Central where participants were reportedly seen reading from notebooks and warned by the COPAC management

team not to do so. In Manicaland, reported cases included a case on 28 July at Agritex offices in Ward 8 of Chimanimani West where suspected members of the MDC party had scripts with answers to the Talking Points questions. In Mashonaland West there were reports that at a meeting that was held on 29 July at Cooksey Hall in Ward 10 in Makonde/Chinhoyi, only the selected were allowed to participate and contribute to the process. People were also reportedly making politically influenced slogans.

Emerging Issues on Talking Points

Debates at outreach meetings continue to be along party lines and also personalised. There is high risk that party positions may take precedence over personal views.

Where debates have been open, Talking Points 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 13 have remained highly contested issues with high incidents of lack of consensus. Among the most contested issues is the unitary system versus devolution with proposals for devolution being visible in the Matabeleland region, Manicaland and Midlands. The issue of National Youth Service also generates animated debates with ZANU PF supporters in support of it while MDC supporters reject it vehemently.

Participants [even from different political persuasions] remain quick to strike consensus on Talking Points 5, 7, 11, 14, 15, 16 and 17.

End Notes on Talking Points

Talking Points

- 1 Founding Principles of the Constitution
- 2 Arms of the State
- 3 Systems of Government
- 4 Bill of Rights and Citizenship
- 5 Women and Gender Issues
- 6 Youth
- 7 The Disabled
- 8 Media
- 9 War Veterans
- 10 Land, Natural Resources and Empowerment
- 11 Labour
- 12 Elections, Transitional Mechanisms and Independent Commissions
- 13 Executive Organs of the State
- 14 Public Finance
- 15 Traditional Institutions and Customs
- 16 Religion
- 17 Rights of Minorities and Languages