



## ZHOCD BY ELECTIONS STATEMENT

### *"The Elections We Want"*

We the leaders of the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD), comprising the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops Conference (ZCBC), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) and Union for Development of Apostolic and Zionist Churches in Zimbabwe (UDACIZA) take note and appreciate the by elections proclamation made by His Excellency the President ED Mnangagwa on the 6th January 2022, which set the 26th of March 2022 as the date for the elections for both parliamentary and local authority vacant seats.

The contested seats became vacant following the recall of some parliamentarians and local authority representatives, whilst some were due to natural causes.

Informed by our recent communication, *The Elections We Want: Choosing Leadership as a Theological Imperative*, which advocated for an election process which is characterized by peace and tolerance, before, during and after the elections; An election whose process and outcomes will not be contested because it is transparent.

Being aware that the Nomination process for the by election candidates was done on the 26th of January 2022 in line with the dictates of the electoral laws in Zimbabwe. The ZHOCD commends ZEC and the political parties on how the processes went.



We understand that the by elections are necessary constitutional process to ensure that the power of the electorate in choosing their parliamentary or local authority representatives remains with them.

We are encouraged to see the citizens across the political divide preparing to participate in this critical process.

We implore ZEC and all the stakeholders to ensure that:

- There is fairness and equity to enable all the political parties to campaign within the confines of the law and any expected dictate.
- That all political parties gain fair access to every community in Zimbabwe without undue political hinderance.
- The secrecy of the ballot be guaranteed for all citizens,
- The principle of non-discrimination must be observed as voters must be allowed to cast their ballot without regard to their race, sex, political allegiance, religion, national origin, language or any other basis,
- The promotion of peace by all stakeholders is guaranteed as its of paramount importance (citizens, candidates and political parties, Government and Chapter 12 Commissions, Church etc). This should be the utmost priority for all,
- Professional and non-partisan conduct of our security forces as they discharge their constitutional duties within the by elections context,



- Hate language, dehumanizing of people, name calling, pulling down of each other in public spaces must not be promoted during the election period
- The 2013 Constitution and the Electoral Act remain the key guiding documents for electoral processes,
- There be no loss of a single soul that is lost before, during and after the by elections due to political violence,
- There be inclusive and sustained electoral dialogue for the good of development of the nation post-election period.
- The Election Management Body and other relevant institutions provide timely, accurate and complete information to the electorate to enable them to make informed decisions throughout the election period,

We pray that the by elections will reflect the nation God has envisioned for us, one that is united in its diversity.

We hope that this process and its outcomes will positively inform the broader election processes that are to happen in the 2023 harmonized elections.

As the Church, we will continue to engage in dialogue processes that will ensure that emerging issues towards the process of by elections are comprehensively addressed.



The election process in Acts 1 was punctuated by prayer before, during and after the process. This was in recognition that whilst an election is a human activity, it is God who ‘knows people’s hearts’ and can lead the voters as they seek the Lord.

Drafted and Released by ZHOCD Leadership:

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