



22 October 2022 By-Elections Brief

On the 22nd of October 2022, by-elections were held in six Wards; Ward 4 Insiza Rural District Council (RDC), Ward 2 Matobo RDC, Ward 24 of Buhera RDC, Ward 4 Guruve RDC, Ward 18 Mutare Municipality and Ward 6 Takawira RDC. The vacancies arose following the deaths of Councillors Saimon Chingwidze (ZANU-PF) of Ward 24 Buhera RDC; Tom Moyo (ZANU-PF) of Ward 2 Matobo RDC, Kudakwashe Chisango (MDC-A) of Ward 18 Mutare Municipality; Lencio Kafungura (ZANU-PF) of Ward 4 Guruve RDC, Johannes Kohli (ZANU-PF) of Takawira Ward 6 RDC and Lawrence Maphosa (ZANU-PF) of Insiza Ward 4 RDC. While the Zimbabwe African National Union Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) and the Citizen Coalition for Change (CCC) participated in all the by-elections, the Zimbabwe African People's Union (ZAPU) and the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) contested in some, but not all of them. ZimRights' Human Rights Monitoring and Response Action Zone as well as the Elections and Democracy Action Zone observed and recorded incidences of election-related human rights violations which took place in the mentioned places before and during the by-election. The Action Zones were able to come up with a report which captures key observations and a set of recommendations that are targeted at making the election process more peaceful and democratic.

Below are the results of the election:

ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
PRELIMINARY RESULTS FOR 22 OCTOBER 2022 BY-ELECTIONS

PROVINCE	DISTRICT	WARD	CANDIDATE	SEX	NO. OF VOTES RECEIVED	POLITICAL PARTY
Matabeleland South	Insiza RDC	4	Dube Daniel	Male	578	ZANU PF
			Gumedede Augustine	Male	415	CCC
Matabeleland South	Matobo	2	Ngwenya Sindiso	Male	270	CCC
			Nyirongo Liberty	Male	25	ZAPU

			Siwela Fadreck	Male	934	ZANU PF
Manicaland	Buhera RDC	24	Muzamba Joram	Male	692	CCC
			Muzokomba Enest	Male	1265	ZANU PF
Manicaland	Mutare	18	Chiwashira Lowness	Female	478	ZANU PF
			Machekeche Nyasha	Male	18	NCA
			Murindashaka Blessing	Male	711	CCC
Midlands	Takawira RDC	6	Dzingira Winny Netsai	Female	594	ZANU PF
			Marevengwa Amos	Male	314	CCC
Mashonaland Central	Guruve RDC	4	Chiguma Season	Male	1135	ZANU PF
			Kudvahakudadiwi Francis Wonder	Male	114	CCC

Key observations

1. Takawira RDC Ward 6 residents complained of intimidation from alleged members of ZANU PF who had been moving around intimidating and terrorising those they deemed to be supporters of the opposition. The political environment prior to the polling day was very tense and marred with intimidation and violence. In a typical case of retribution, a ZANU PF Minibus was badly damaged and had all the windows broken. In addition, a ZANU PF supporter homestead was also allegedly burnt and reduced to the ground. All these skirmishes happened at Holy Cross Business Centre in Takawira Ward 6. One of the elders from Takawira Ward 6 had this to say “*A seed of violence has been planted and it will take time for the community to heal and if this situation is not well managed the community will experience worse orgies of violence during 2023 general elections*”.
2. It is also allegedly reported that a significant number of youths were prevented from voting in Takawira Ward 6 as ZANU PF supporters barricaded all the roads leading to Gambiza Primary School polling station and, in the process, intimidated and prevented perceived CCC supporters including the youth from voting.
3. ZimRights’ voter mobilisers in Takawira Ward 6 also experienced intimidation as they were mobilizing people to go and vote. One voter mobiliser, quoted verbatim, complained as follows, “*zvino manje munoti kwai vanhu vano vhone musiwe Saturday ivo vanhu vachivhundutsirwa saka ma Human Rights acho atisikumaona isu panganzi pakaite ma election vanhu vachirohwa dai mambozama sevanhu vema human rights kumbouya*” (you are encouraging us to go and vote on Saturday, yet people are being intimidated. We do not see observance of human rights if, when an election is called, people are beaten. Can you try as human rights watchdogs to intervene). This statement amply demonstrates victimization in the Takawira Ward 6 in the run up to the by-election.

4. In Insiza, Citizen's Coalition for Change (CCC) members were attacked and injured by suspected ZANU-PF supporters whilst coming from a campaign trip in Ward 4. The assailants were using sticks, logs, fists, and stones during the attack. Four vehicles that were being used by CCC campaign teams were badly damaged, window panes and screens were smashed and engines were filled with sand. These acts severely affected their campaign. Hon Jasmine Toffa was hospitalized following a brutal attack with both her arms injured and fractured.
5. On Election Day, all the polling stations were set up in accordance with the law. Procedures and processes were administered and followed by ZEC. However, voters in Mutare Ward 18 noted that names on the voter roll were not arranged in alphabetical order. Voters had a hard time locating their names resulting in frustration and time wasting.
6. At Sikhamaswe polling station in Matobo Ward 2, ZANU-PF members allegedly mounted a desk with ZANU-PF regalia and banners on exhibition less than 300 meters away from the polling station which is a violation of the electoral laws. ZEC mobile supervisor officials and officers of the ZRP intervened and dismissed the grouping outside the polling station area and removed a ZANU-PF poster which was within prohibited proximity to the polling station.
7. Zimbabwe Republic Police maintained order and peace on election day since there had been tensions at Sikhamaswe and Tudi Primary School in Matobo as well as at Gambiza Primary School in Takawira Ward 6 following clashes between ZANU-PF and CCC party supporters prior to the by-election.
8. There was a sizable number of people who were assisted to vote in all the 6 Wards. The increase in number of assisted voters is a cause for concern and this points to the fact that people were not free to democratically exercise their right to choose candidates of their choice. In Takawira Ward 6 it is alleged that a sizeable number of well-known CCC supporters were assisted to vote by ZANU PF officials. People were also turned away from various polling stations after they had turned up to vote without proper identification documents such a national identity card or a valid passport.

Recommendations

1. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission should ensure that the voters roll displayed outside of polling stations is easy to read by arranging the names in alphabetical order or enlarging the font used to ensure legibility.
2. The National Peace and Reconciliation Commission and other stakeholders should conduct peace building initiatives targeting local communities and their leadership to promote

tolerance and reduce incidences of violence and intimidation in preparation for the much-anticipated 2023 harmonized elections.

3. The government should provide ZEC with enough resources for the commission to be able to discharge its constitutional obligations including carrying out robust and comprehensive voter education process which includes reaching out to the areas and communities considered marginalized. Civil Society Organizations should also be allowed to carry out voter education provided the materials and information to be shared with the electorate follows the provisions of the law.