

ZIMBABWE ELECTION SUPPORT NETWORK



ZESN STATEMENT ON THE ALLEGED ABUSE OF DONOR FUNDS

Harare – 16 February 2015 - The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) has noted the unfounded, malicious and highly prejudicial claims made against the organisation by The Herald in a front-page article in its edition of 16 February 2015. Moreover, this “news article” was published without the reporter seeking comment from the ZESN Director or Board Chairperson.

ZESN categorically states that the organization is not under any investigation whatsoever with regards to alleged abuse of donor funds. The network conducts annual audits, which have never been qualified.

Last year ZESN engaged Baker Tilly Gwatidzo Chartered Accountants to conduct its annual audit and an unqualified report was issued. In addition, Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) was engaged to independently conduct an assessment of the current financial systems and procedures review parallel to the exercise on institutional capacity assessment and evaluation that the organisation was undertaking. PWC also presented an unqualified report.

ZESN will remain resolute in supporting and advocating for the creation of a more conducive environment for the holding of democratic elections in Zimbabwe, as it has done for the last 15 years.

ZESN will not be deterred by these unfounded claims seeking to tarnish its image, and will consider and rigorously exercise all its legal options against The Herald should such unfounded articles continue to be published in such an unethical and unlawful manner.

PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE

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