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**ZIMBABWE ELECTION SUPPORT NETWORK**



**MID DAY STATEMENT: MT DARWIN WEST CHIRUMHANZU-ZIBAGWE  
BY-ELECTION**

**Harare-27 March 2015**-ZESN is observing the by-elections in Mt Darwin West and Chirumhanzu-Zibagwe constituencies. As of midday, ZESN observer reports show that the opening of polling in the Mt Darwin West and Chirumhanzu-Zibagwe by-elections proceeded smoothly with most polling stations opening on time and having adequate personnel and voting materials.

ZESN has deployed 45 static and mobile observers in the two constituencies. Based on reports from our observers each polling station has an average of 8 polling officials. ZESN observers have reported that there are few critical incidents and that voting is going on peacefully.

At all polling stations where ZESN is observing there are police officers inside despite provisions in the law which states that they must be outside the polling station. Section 19 of the Electoral Act as read with Schedule 2 of the Electoral Regulations 2005 as amended by Statutory Instrument 32 of 2008 allows only members of the Electoral Commission, electoral officers on duty, political party election agents and accredited observers within the polling station.

ZESN observers have reported on the use of voter registration slips issued in 2013 as well as in 2015 at polling stations in both constituencies. The continued use of voter registration slips is worrisome given that it is difficult to authenticate them giving rise to fears of voters from other areas voting in the by-elections.

ZESN will continue to observe voting throughout the day and the counting process at the end of the day and the collation of results at ZEC Constituency Centres.

Citizens can participate and receive regular updates on the by elections on the official ZESN social media platforms; Facebook: *Zimbabwe-Election-Support-Network (ZESN)* and Twitter handle: *@ZESN1*

**PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE**

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