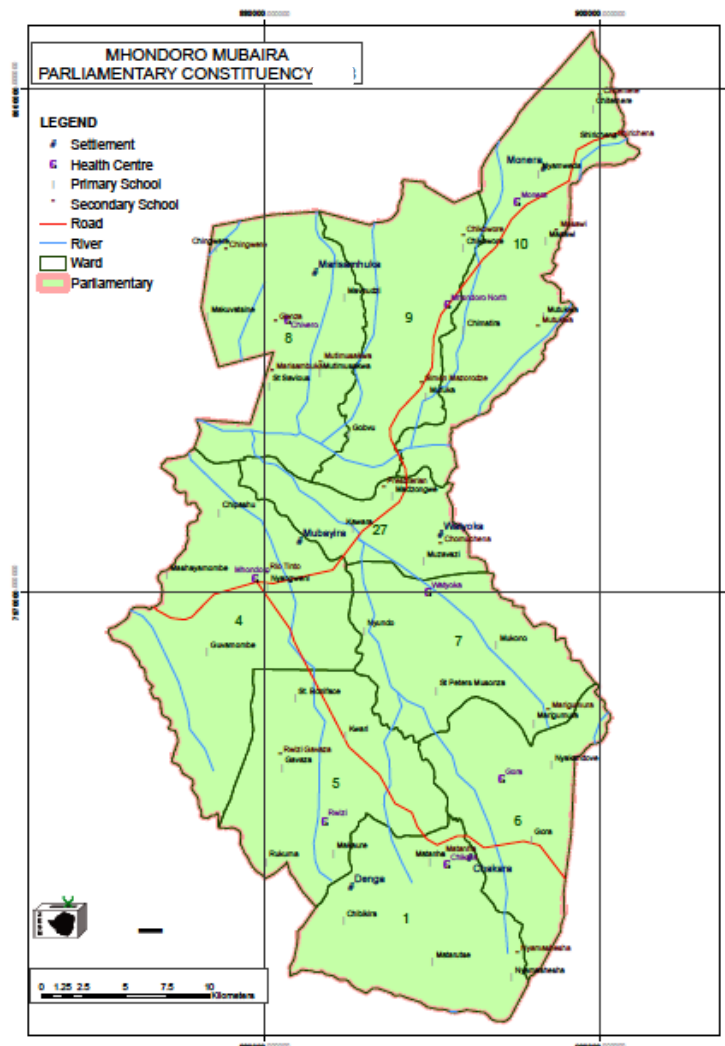


Zimbabwe Election Support Network



CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Mhondoro Mubaira Constituency



1.0 Introduction

Situated in Mashonaland West Province, Mhondoro Mubaira Constituency consists of nine (9) wards covering areas such as Mubaira Growth point, Marisamhuka, Watyoka, Denga, Chakara and Monera. The constituency is predominantly rural with people heavily reliant on subsistence farming for survival. The road infrastructure in the constituency is old due to lack of maintenance and is in need of urgent resurfacing.

ZIMPLANTS, a subsidiary of one of the largest multinational platinum mining enterprises in the world, has helped ease the high rate of unemployment in the area. The remaining commercial farms in the constituency provide seasonal work for the people residing in this Constituency. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) has allocated 58 polling stations for the by-election an increase of 2 polling stations from the 2013 harmonised election.

1.1 Population Demographics

According to the ZimStat Census Report of 2012, Mhondoro Mubaira constituency has a total population of 52,770 of which 27,720 are females and 25,050 are males.

1.2 Previous Election Results

The constituency is a stronghold of ZANU PF having wrestled it from the MDC-T in the 2005 election amid allegations of coercion and violence. In 2008 the constituency was won by Sylvester Nguni shaking off stiff competition from Bright Kaungwa of the MDC-T. In the 2013 harmonised elections ZANU PF represented by Sylvester Nguni regained the seat. The votes for ZANU PF increased from 6,906 in 2008 to 10,153 in 2013, a rise of 3,247 representing a 47% increase in votes received. The MDC party lost 603 votes in 2013 as compared to what the party received in 2008, representing an 11% decrease in votes received.

Table 1: Comparison of 2008 and 2013 Election Results

| Year | Candidate | Political party | Number of votes |
|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 2013 | Nguni Sylvester Robert | ZANU PF | 10,153 |
| | Manhando Honest | MDC-T | 4,473 |
| | Manera Christopher | MDC | 847 |
| | | | |
| 2008 | Nguni Sylvester Robert | ZANU PF | 6,906 |
| | Kaungwa Bright | MDC-T | 5,076 |
| | Monera Christopher | MDC | 1,702 |

Source: www.zec.org.zw

1.3 Background to the by-election

The Mhondoro Mubaira constituency by-election will be held on the 5th of March 2016. The seat fell vacant after the Member of Parliament Sylvester Nguni was expelled from ZANU PF and was subsequently recalled from Parliament on allegations of fanning factionalism within the party and working to unseat the President through unconstitutional means. According to the Constitution of Zimbabwe, Section 129 (1) (k) the seat of a Member of Parliament becomes vacant if the member ceases to belong to the political party of which he or she was a member when elected to Parliament. In accordance with the Electoral Act, Section 39 (2) the President proclaimed the date of the by-election as 5 March 2016.

1.4 Nomination and Contesting Parties

The nomination court sat on Wednesday 6 January 2016 in Chinhoyi to receive nominations for the Mhondoro Mubaira constituency. Two candidates successfully filed their nomination papers and will contest the by-election. The MDC formations are not taking part in this by-election maintaining their call for electoral reforms before they can participate in any electoral process.

Below is the list of candidates who managed to successfully submit their papers to the nomination court.

Table 2: List of Contesting Candidates for the Mhondoro Mubaira By-Election

| CANDIDATE | PARTY | GENDER |
|-------------------|---------------|--------|
| George Gangarahwe | ZANU PF | Male |
| Rodwell Nyanganya | Freedom Front | Male |

1.5 Voter Registration

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission registered voters in the constituency using the polling station based voter registration system from the 9th and 18th January 2016. The Commission used the 2013 ward-based voters' rolls as the basis for the registration exercise. In 2013 the registered voters for Mashonaland West province were 712,667¹ while Mhondoro Mubaira constituency had 29,545 registered voters.

1.6 Voter education

Cognisant of the importance of voter education in the successful holding of electoral processes ZEC carried out voter education for pre-nomination 30 December, 2015 to 3 January 2016. The exercise was followed up by voter education for voter registration which ran from 7-16 January, 2016. The Commission will conduct voter education for Inspection of the voters' roll and voter education for polling from 9-13 February and 24-28 February 2016 respectively.

1.7 Conclusion

Elections are a vehicle by which the electorate can choose representatives. Therefore it is imperative for all contesting candidates to observe the stipulated electoral codes of conduct, which when observed, help usher in an enabling environment that supports the holding of credible elections. ZESN continues to promote democratic elections and therefore urges candidates to respect the right to vote and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Constitution.

¹ Source- ZEC 2013 Harmonised Elections Report