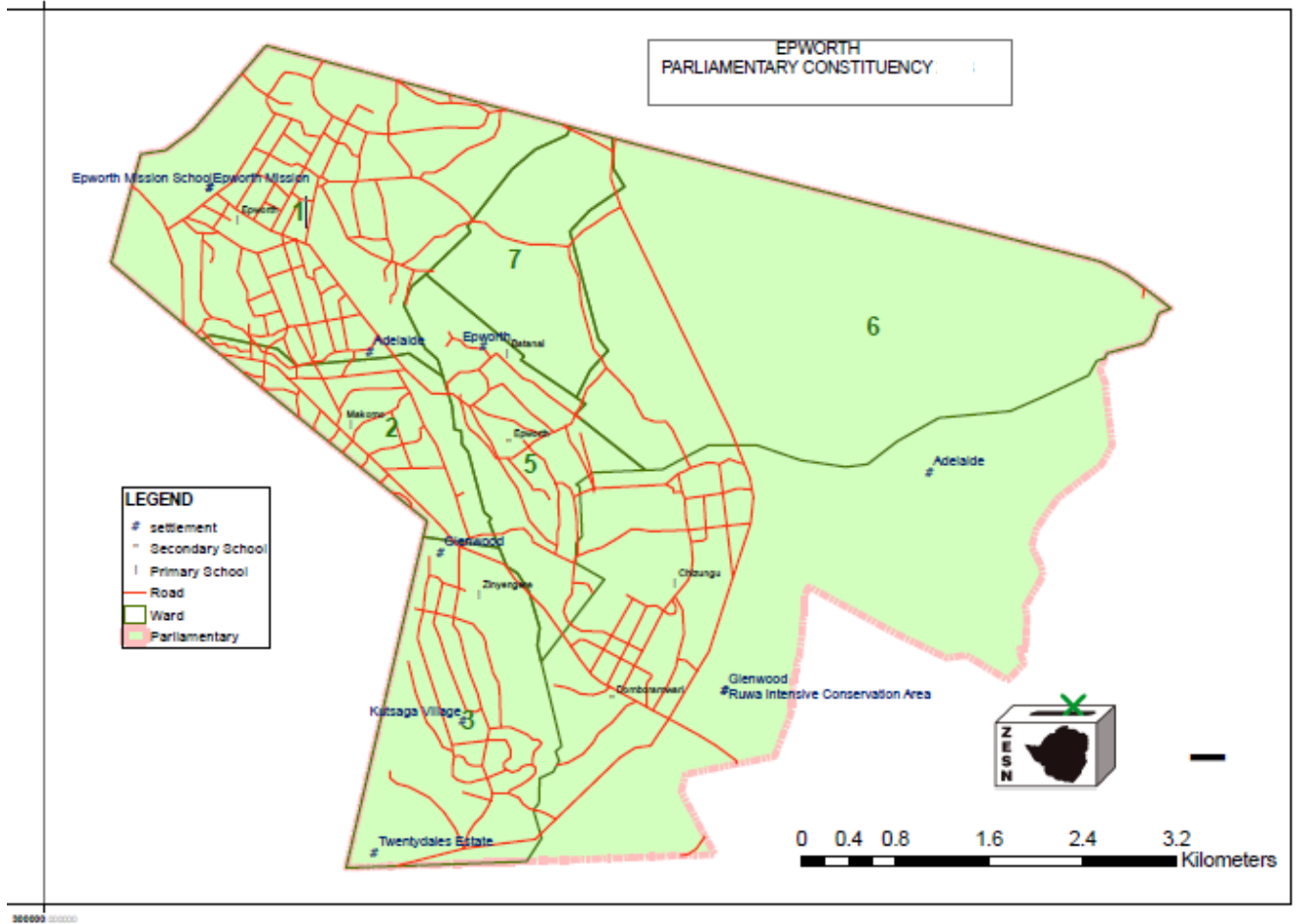


# Zimbabwe Election Support Network



## CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

### *Epworth Constituency*



## 1. Introduction

Epworth constituency is located in Harare Province. It comprises the following areas Stopover, Zinyengere, Pentagon, Magada, Overspill, Maulana, Donhoro, Munyuki and Danastein. It is situated to the south east and 12 kilometres from Harare Central Business District area. Being located at the fringes of Harare, most of the settlements of the constituency are largely informal with shacks and poorly built houses. The area has experienced perennial problems from the absence of service delivery of water supply, sewerage reticulation and little to no road service. The area has registered high unemployment levels among the youth and harbours most of the City's newest dwellers in search of greener pastures. Consequently the economic activities of the area are predominantly street vending, informal manufacturing as well as buying and selling of commodities on the informal market, from neighbouring countries such as South Africa, Zambia and Mozambique.

## 2. The population demographics

Epworth has a total of 7 wards namely ward 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7. According to the ZimStat Census Report of 2012, Epworth has 167 462 inhabitants. The male population comprises of 83 983, while 83 479 are female.

## 3. Previous Election Results

The MDC T won in the constituency in 2005 and 2008. In the 2013 harmonised elections Amos Midzi, representing ZANU PF won the constituency with 15 468.

**Table 1: Previous Election Results**

Year	Candidates	Political Party	Number of Votes	Number of Registered voters
2008	Jembere Elish	MDC T	6,220	30,462
	Midzi Amos	ZANU PF	4,758	
	Bernard Muvengwa			
	Muzambwa	Independent	317	

	Chitauro Elvis	Candidate		
	Chopamba Michael	Independent	59	
	Chimhau Tonderai Victor	UPP	81	
<b>2013 Harmoni sed Elections</b>	Midzi Amos Bernard Muvengwa	ZANU PF	<b>15,468</b>	<b>35,703</b>
	Jembere Eliah	MDC T	7,951	
	Sibanda Nicholas	MDC	1,332	
	Muzambwa Chitauro Elvis	Independent	230	
	Mapanzure Jemeson	Independent	164	
	Chopamba Michael	MKD	103	

Source: [www.zec.org.zw](http://www.zec.org.zw)

#### 4. Background and legal framework

The Epworth by-election will be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2015. The seat fell vacant following the death of the then Member of Parliament Amos Midzi on June 9 2015. According to the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13], Section 39 (1) a vacancy in the membership of Parliament which exists otherwise than by reason of a dissolution of Parliament, shall be notified to the President and the Commission in writing by the Speaker of the House of Assembly, as soon as possible after the Speaker of the House of Assembly becomes aware of it. In accordance with the same Act, Section 39 (2), the President proclaimed the date of the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 as the date for the nomination court sitting and the date of the by-election as the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2015.

#### 5. Voter Registration and Registered voters

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) began voter registration for the by-election from 17<sup>th</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup> of August 2015. The ZEC used the 2013 Harmonised Elections Voters' roll as the baseline; hence there was no re-registration of those whose names were already appearing in the register. A total of 22 centres were established for the voter

registration exercise. Inspection of the voters' roll began on the 31st August until the 6<sup>th</sup> of September 2015. For this exercise the ZEC established 18 centres.

## 6. Nomination Process and Contesting Candidates

In view of the by-election to be held on the 19<sup>th</sup> of September 2015, the Nomination Court sat on the 12<sup>th</sup> of August 2015 from 10am at the Harare Magistrates Court to consider submissions for Epworth Constituency.

Four candidates will be contesting the by-election after successfully submitting their papers with the nomination court. These candidates represent the following parties, one independent candidate, Transform Zimbabwe, ZANU PF and ZAPU. Of the four candidates, only one is a woman and hence political parties are still a long way from meeting the 50/50 representation.

**Table 2: Contesting candidates**

Constituency	Party Name	Candidate	Gender
<b>Epworth</b>	Independent	Daniel Foya	M
	ZANU PF	Zalerah Hazvineyi Makari	F
	Transform Zimbabwe	Tsikirai Muchena	M
	ZAPU	Genacious Muzambi	M

### Voter Education

ZEC is currently engaged in voter education which is an essential and indisputable exercise. Voter education will run in phases; pre nomination voter education, voter education for voter registration and inspection, and pre polling voter education which will be carried out from the 6<sup>th</sup> to the 12<sup>th</sup> of September.

## **Polling Stations**

For the purposes of the by-election and in accordance with the electoral laws, 28 polling stations have been established in the constituency down from 39 polling station set up for the 2013 harmonised elections. These polling stations should be located in convenient and accessible places.

## **Conclusion**

ZESN calls upon Government to provide ZEC with adequate resources so as to enable the elections management body to fulfil its mandate of continuous voter education. ZESN urges political parties and contesting candidates to campaign peacefully.