

1.0 Introduction

Makokoba constituency is a suburb located in Bulawayo Province. It was the first black African township in the city. The suburb is named after the actions of Mr Fallon, the Native Commissioner, who used to walk around the city with a stick. The name comes from the word "*ukukhokhoba*" which in the local Ndebele language means "bending and walking with a stick". The province has 12 National Assembly and six Senatorial constituencies. It comprises the following high density suburbs: Makokoba Township, Mzilikazi Township, Nguboyenja Township and ThornGroove. The famous bus terminus 'eRenkin' and Mpilo Hospital are part of the constituency. Ward seven and eight of Bulawayo Municipality make up the constituency.

Makokoba constituency is a highly populated township. In the years past, the township realised a high increase in population which has not matched an increase in accommodation. The suburb derives its livelihoods from sports (soccer and volleyball), arts and culture, theatre, singing and dancing, transport touting, vocational entrepreneurship, small scale entrepreneurship and vending. In the 2013 July Harmonised Elections, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) allocated the province 392 polling stations.

1.1 Population Demographics

According to the ZimStat Census Report of 2012, the total population of the province was 653 337 in 2012 when the Census was conducted, with 303 346 males and 349 991 females. Males constituted 46 percent and females 54 percent of the total population. The population in Bulawayo like in Matabeleland north is generally young since the sizeable proportion of the population belongs to the younger age group (ZimStat Report 2012). The number of females generally exceeds that of males for those ages 35-39 and 70-74.

The composition of population by age group and sex is as follows: The 0–4 and 20-24 years age groups had the highest proportion of the population each (13 and 12 percent respectively) while the older age group (75 years and above) had the least proportion (about 1%). It can further be observed that the proportion of the young population that is

those aged less than 15 years was 34%. The average size of household is 3.9, whilst the rate of natural increase from 2002 to 2012 is 1.8%¹.

1.2 Previous Election Results

The Constituency is a stronghold of the MDC- T. In 2005 and 2008, the Makokoba Constituency was won by Thokozani Khuphe and in 2013 by Gorden Moyo. The MDC obtained the highest votes in 2005, when the party won by 12 138 and after the split votes were divided between the MDC and MDC T.

Table 1: 2008 and 2013 Election Results

| | Candidate | Political party | Number of votes | Winning candidate |
|------|--------------------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| 2013 | Dube Tshinga Judge | ZANU PF | 3,539 | |
| 2013 | Moyo Gorden | MDC-T | 7,099 | Moyo Gorden |
| 2013 | Ncube Patriciah | FZC ² | 45 | |
| 2013 | Ndlovu Thabile | MDC | 1,547 | |
| 2013 | Wilson Harry Peter | MKD ³ | 24 | |
| 2013 | Dube Thomeki | AKE ⁴ | 48 | |
| 2013 | Masoka Zenzo Lot | ZAPU | 206 | |

¹ The rate of natural increase is the difference between fertility and mortality and does not take into account any growth due to migration

²FZC- Free Zimbabwe Congress

³ MKD- Mavambo Kusile Dawn

⁴ AKE- Alliance Kumbul'Ekhaya

| 2008 | Ncube Welshman | MDC | 2,475 | |
|------|--------------------------|------------------|-------|-------------------------|
| 2008 | Dube Tshinga Judge | ZANU PF | 1,407 | |
| 2008 | Khuphe Thokozani | MDC-T | 4,123 | Khuphe Thokozani |
| 2008 | Masunga Tevera | ZDP ⁵ | 41 | |
| 2008 | Sibanda Tony | UPP ⁶ | 113 | |

Source: www.zec.org.zw

1.3 Background to the by-election

Makokoba by-election will be held on the 10th of June 2015. The seat fell vacant after the Member of Parliament Gordon Moyo was expelled from MDC T after joining the United Movement for Democratic Change (UMDC) and hence was subsequently recalled from parliament. 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 10 June and 16 April 2015 as the date for nomination court.

1.4 Nomination and Contesting Parties

The nomination court sat on Thursday 16 at Tredgold Building in Bulawayo (Court 5). Seven candidates will be contesting the by-election, five will be representing political parties and two will contest as independent candidates. The ZANU PF candidate, Dube Tshinga Judge will be contesting in this constituency for the third time. Table 2 below lists the candidates and parties contesting the by-election.

⁵ ZDP- Zimbabwe Development Party

⁶ UPP- United People's Party

Table 2: Candidates Contesting Makokoba By-election

| Party | Candidate Name |
|----------------------------------|--------------------|
| ZANU PF | Dube Tshinga Judge |
| National Constitutional Assembly | Ngwenya Marble |
| Mavambo/Kusile/Dawn | Wilson Harry Peter |
| ZAPU | Ndlovu Jonathan |
| Transform Zimbabwe | Nkomo Sehlelo |
| Independent | Msipa Sibangilizwe |
| Independent | Dlodlo Joana |

1.5 Registered Voters' and Voter Registration

According to the ZEC 2013 July 31 Harmonised Election Report, there were 6 441 157 registered voters in the national register. Bulawayo province had a total of 320 598 registered voters in 2013, up from 313 459 in 2008 and 339 990 in 2005. In terms of the registration statistics Bulawayo is one of the provinces with the least number of registered voters nationwide. According to the ZEC Delimitation Report the constituency had 27 285 registered voters in 2008. In 2013⁷ the registered voters reduced to 26 196, a reduction of 1 089 or a 4% decrease.

The ZEC conducted voter registration from the 22nd to the 28th of April 2015. The Constituency was allocated seven voter registration centres, of which three were in ward 8 and four in ward 7. The ZEC used the 2013 Harmonised elections voters' roll, as the baseline

⁷ Voters' roll used- June 19 2013

for voter registration, there was no re-registration of voters, first voters were the ones who were registering.

1.6 Voter Education

Voter education began immediately after proclamation of the by-election. The voter education is divided into these phases; voter education for pre-nomination, voter education for voter registration and inspection, and voter education for polling.

1.7 Conclusion

In conclusion ZESN urges all contesting candidates and their parties in the by election to observe peace and tolerance. Citizens should enjoy their political rights to freely join, campaign for any political party of choice.