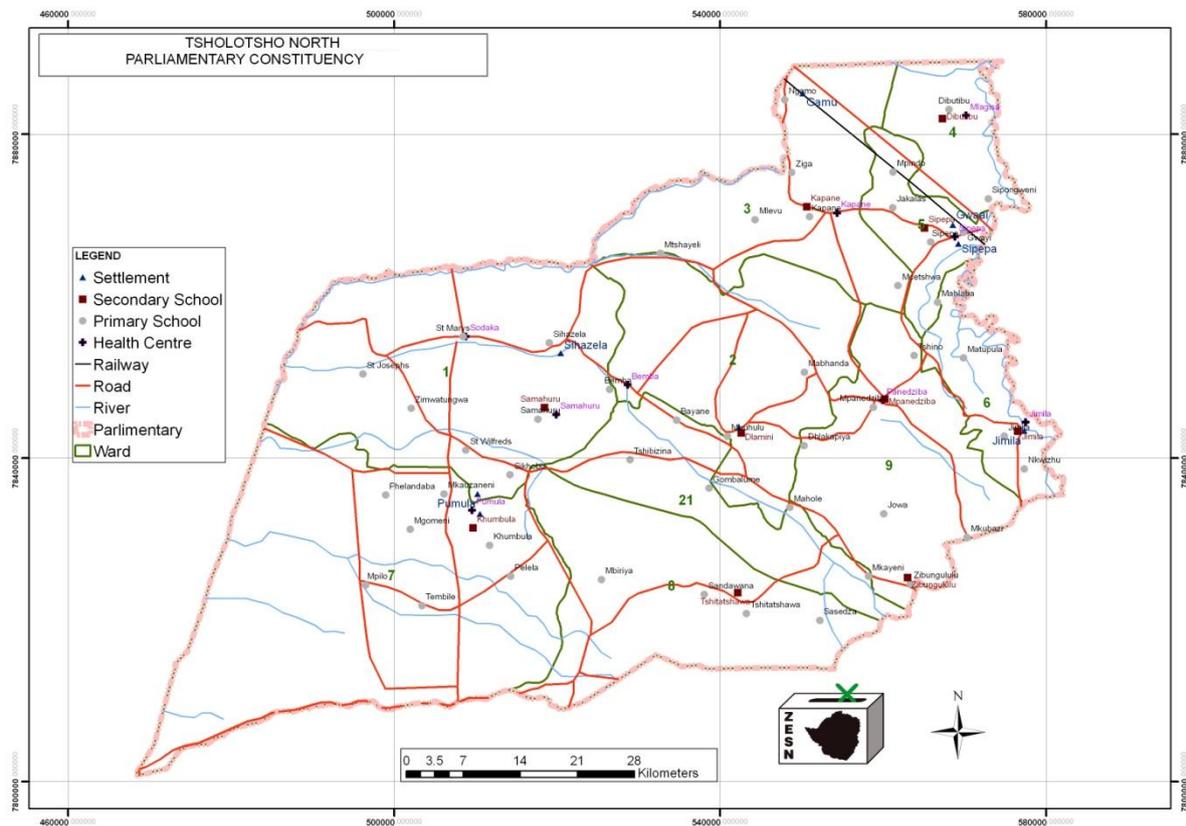


# Zimbabwe Election Support Network



## CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

### *Tsholotsho North Constituency*



## **1.0 Introduction**

Tsholotsho North constituency is located in Matabeleland North. The province has 13 National Assembly and 6 senatorial constituencies. It was created from Tsholotsho constituency and comprises of Pumula, Sihazela, Dhlamini, to the west and Jimila, Sipepa, Gwaai, Mlagisa and Ngamo to the north and borders Gwayi River to the east. According to the ZEC 2008 delimitation report, the constituency consists of 10 wards (ward 1 to 9 and 21) of Tsholotsho Rural District. The constituency is primarily rural and people derive their livelihood from subsistence farming of drought resistant crops (ZESN, 2008). There are also timber plantations and Game as revenue base for the constituency. According to Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) Harmonised Report, Matabeleland North was allocated 784 polling stations during the 2013 Harmonised elections, of which Tsholotsho North had 69 polling stations.

## **1.1 Population Demographics**

According to the ZimStat Census Report of 2012, the total population of the province was 749 017 in 2012 with 360 776 males and 388 241 females. Males constituted 48 percent and females 52 percent of the total population. The population in Matabeleland North is young since the sizeable proportion of the population belongs to the younger age group (ZimStat report 2012).

The 0-4 and 10-14 age groups had a population proportion of 15 percent, while the 5-9 years age group had 14 percent. The 70-74 years age group had the least proportions (1.2 percent). Furthermore the young population, that is those aged less than 15 years, was 44 percent while that of the old population, age 65 years and above, was 5 percent.

## **1.2 Previous results**

### **1.2.0 Election Results**

In 2005 Professor Jonathan Moyo, contested as an independent after being expelled from ZANU PF. In 2008, the constituency he won again and was re-admitted back in the party in

2009. The MDC-T did not contest the seat in 2008, because of an agreement with Moyo. In 2013, the seat was won by Roseline Nkomo of the MDC T.

	<b>Candidate</b>	<b>Political party</b>	<b>Number of votes</b>	<b>Winning candidate</b>
2013	Prof. Jonathan Moyo	ZANU PF	4646	
2013	Ndebele Sethulo	MDC	1125	
2013	Dube Absalon	ZAPU	283	
2013	Roseline Nkomo	MDCT	<b>4874</b>	<b>Mrs. Roseline Nkomo</b>
2008	Ncube Ngezelwa Robert	MDC	3305	
2008	Dube Alice	ZANU PF	2085	
2008	Prof. Jonathan Moyo	INDEPENDENT	<b>3532</b>	Prof. Jonathan Moyo

<sup>1</sup> Source: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (2008); *A Profile of Constituencies: Understanding Elections in Zimbabwe*

### **1.3 Background to the by-election**

The Tsholotsho North by-election will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. The seat fell vacant after the Member of Parliament Roseline Nkomo was expelled from MDC-T, after joining the MDC Renewal and upon formation of the UMDC and 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. The

Research and Advocacy Unit (RAU) produced an analysis noting the variety of interpretations and inconsistency with implementation of Section 129 (1) of the Constitution<sup>1</sup>. In accordance with the Electoral Act, Section 39 (2) the President proclaimed the date of the election as 10 June and 16 April 2015 as the date for nomination court.

#### **1.4 Registered Voters'**

According to the ZEC 2013 Harmonised Election Report, there were 6 441 157 registered voters in the national register. Matabeleland North province had a total of 398 018 registered voters in 2013, up from 345 264 in 2008 and 342 745 in 2005. In terms of the registration statistics Matabeleland North is one of the provinces with the least number of registered voters, with just a few voters up from Matabeleland south and Bulawayo respectively. According to the ZEC delimitation report the constituency had 26 646 registered voters in 2008. In 2013 the registered voters' increased to 27 363<sup>2</sup>, representing a 3% increase in registered voters' from 2008.

#### **1.5 Voter Registration and Voter Education**

Voter registration is an essential and indisputable exercise. It is the prerequisite to any election in a democratic society and the ability to exercise the democratic right to vote is premised on the existence of a comprehensive, credible, complete, current, accurate, inclusive and dependable voters' roll, irrespective of the electoral system applied. ZEC intends to conduct voter education voter education as from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2015. Voter education and voter registration will run concurrently although voter registration will commence a day later and end a day after voter education.

#### **1.6 Contesting Parties and Nomination**

The nomination court was held on Thursday 16 at Tredgold building in Bulawayo (Maintenance court).

The ZANU PF candidate was uncontested in primary elections conducted in Tsholotsho North. The MDC-T is maintaining the boycott of the by-elections and hence will not contest

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<sup>1</sup> The full title of the paper is Strangers in the House: A Consideration of Section 129 (1) of the Constitution available at < <http://www.researchandadvocacyunit.org/publication/governance-programme-33>>

<sup>2</sup> Note: Figures are based on the 19 June 2013 voters' roll.

the by-elections. The MDC-T is still pushing for reforms, in accordance with the October 2014 Congress Resolutions, not to participate in any by-election until and unless all agreed reforms are implemented to the letter and spirit, including the provision of a biometric voters roll in a way that protects the will of the people and return the country to legitimacy<sup>3</sup>. Opinions on the boycott by the MDC-T have been diverse. The MDC-T, will forfeit seats in its traditional strongholds and this has ramifications for future elections.

The following candidates successful filed their papers and will contest in the June 10 polls:

- *Busani Ncube* *Independent*
- *Getrude Sibanda* *Independent*
- *Professor Jonathan Moyo* *ZANU PF*

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion ZESN urges all contesting candidates and their parties in the by election to observe peace and tolerate divergent views. ZESN also calls upon the government to conclude the alignment of Electoral provisions to the Constitution, in particular voter registration.

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<sup>3</sup> MDC-T 4<sup>th</sup> National Congress Resolutions, available at <http://nehandaradio.com/2014/11/02/mdc-t-4th-national-congress-resolutions/>