

# Zimbabwe Election Support Network



## CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

### *Dangamvura Chikanga Constituency*

#### **1.0 Introduction**

Dangamvura Chikanga constituency is located in Manicaland Province. This constituency consists mainly of Mutare city's high density suburbs of Dangamvura and Chikanga and other suburbs which exclude Fern Valley and Green Side. The constituency's infrastructure is old and suffers from a lack of maintenance hence needs urgent face-lifting.

Manicaland Province consists of seven rural and three urban district councils. The constituency consists of ten wards (6, 7, 8, 9, 13, 15, 16, 17, 18 and 19) of Mutare Municipality. In the 2013 July 31 Harmonised Elections, the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) allocated the province 1303 and the constituency 37 polling stations.

#### **1.1 Population Demographics**

According to the ZimStat Census Report of 2012, the total population of the province was 1 752 698, in 2012 when the last census was conducted, with 830 697 males and 922 001 females. Females constitute approximately 53% and males 47% of the population.

The composition of population by age group and sex is 0-4, 5-9 and 10-14 years age groups had the highest proportions of the population each with over 16%. The 70-74 years age group had the least proportion (1, 2%). It can further be observed that the

proportion of the young population, that is those with their age under 15 years, was 44% while that of the population age 65 years and above was about 3 %.

## 1.2 Previous Election Results

The constituency is a stronghold of the opposition MDC T. In 2008 it was won by Giles Mutsekwa who was appointed a Minister in the government of National Unity. In 2013 the MDC T had two candidates contesting in the Constituency (Giles Mutsekwa and Arnold Tsunga). Arnold Tsunga emerged as the winner, however a party with more than one candidate participating risks splitting the votes and infighting by the candidates. The votes for ZANU PF increased from 3654 in 2008 to 9 336 in 2013 a rise of 5682 or by 156%. The MDC party lost 495 supporters in 2013 and the other candidates had less than 100 votes in the 2013 election.

**Table 1: 2008 and 2013 Election Results**

Year	Candidate	Political party	Number of votes
<b>2013</b>	Tsunga Arnold	<b>MDC-T</b>	<b>11757</b>
	Duru Reketai Micah	ZANU-PF	9336
	Mutsekwa Giles Tariyafero	MDC-T	3851
	Mawire Pflugamai	MKD	86
	Msonza Jonas	MDC	468
	Machiri Didmas	Independent	70
	Maundike Kuziwa	Independent	95
<b>2008</b>	<b>Mutsekwa Giles Tariyafero</b>	<b>MDC-T</b>	<b>9965</b>
	Binari Yard	ZANU PF	3654
	Muza Nomore	MDC	1073
	Maeresera Taziveyi Rajab	Independent	310

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

### 1.3 Background to the by-election

The Dangamvura Chikanga constituency by-election will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. The seat fell vacant after the Member of Parliament Arnold Tsunga was expelled from MDC-T for joining the United Movement for Democratic Change (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. 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.

### 1.4 Nomination and Contesting Parties

The nomination court sat on Thursday 16 April 2015. The main opposition political parties of the MDC formations withdrew from participation till there are electoral reforms that guarantee credible elections. Seven candidates will contest the by-elections, four will be representing political parties and three will be independent candidates. Most of the candidates will be contesting in Dangamvura Chikanga for the first time, except for Kudzai Maundike and Pflugamai Mawire who took part in the July 31 Harmonised Elections. All the contesting candidates are males, reflecting that the political parties have a long way to go in ensuring gender balance. Elections remain a male dominated space in Zimbabwe.

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

**Table 2: List of Contesting Candidates for 10 June By-Election**

CANDIDATE	PARTY	GENDER
Piwai Gashirai	Freedom Front	Male
Mawire Pflugamai	MKD	Male
Teedzai Maxwell	Transform Zimbabwe	Male
Esau Mupfumi	ZANU PF	Male
Ruramai Musiiwa	NCA	Male

Kadzere Chengetai Richard	Independent	Male
Mundenda James	Independent	Male
Maundike Kuziva	Independent	Male

### **1.5 Registered Voters'**

According to the ZEC Delimitation Report 2008, Manicaland had 709 664 registered in December 2007. In 2013 the registered voters' for the province were 849 499<sup>1</sup>, an increase of 139 835 or 20%. The constituency had 27 215 registered voters' in 2008. The registered voters as at 19 June 2013 stood at 30 680<sup>2</sup>. The registered voters increased by 3465 or 13%.

### **1.6 Conclusion**

ZESN continues to promote democratic elections and therefore urges candidates to respect the right to vote and fundamental freedoms enshrined in the Constitution.

---

<sup>1</sup> Source- ZEC 2013 Harmonised Elections Report

<sup>2</sup> Voters' roll obtained in June before the completion of the voter registration exercise.