



## **Introduction**

Chiwundura constituency is located in the Midlands province in-between the Gweru - Harare and Gweru - Mvuma main roads. It consists of Gunde business centre, Connemara business centre, St Patrick's Mission, Muchakata Growth Point, and Guinea Fowl area. The major economic activity in the constituency is farming, artisanal and small scale mining. The major roads into the constituency are mainly gravel and require off road vehicles. The constituency has ten Wards of which eight are rural namely; Wards 5, 9, 10, 12, 13, 16, 17, and 18 while two, have a combination of rural and urban populations namely; Ward 11 and 14.

## **Population Demographics**

According to the 2012 census, the total population of Midlands Province was 1 614 941<sup>1</sup> of whom 776,787 were males and 838,154 females. The population in Midlands Province was relatively young with 43% age below 15 years and about 4% age 65 years and above. As of 2011, Chiwundura constituency had a population of 62,765<sup>2</sup>. Women numbered 30,825 (49%) while men numbered 31,940 (51%). In addition in 2011, Chiwundura constituency had a total of 14,898 households, and an average of 4 people per household. Ward 14 had the highest population in the constituency, probably because it is rural-urban, while Wards 13 and 16 had the lowest populations of 1,758 and 1,119 respectively. Wards 5, 10, 11, 12, and 17 had higher female populations in comparison to males. Wards 9 and 16 had higher male populations and this was most pronounced in the latter Ward where the difference was significantly higher.

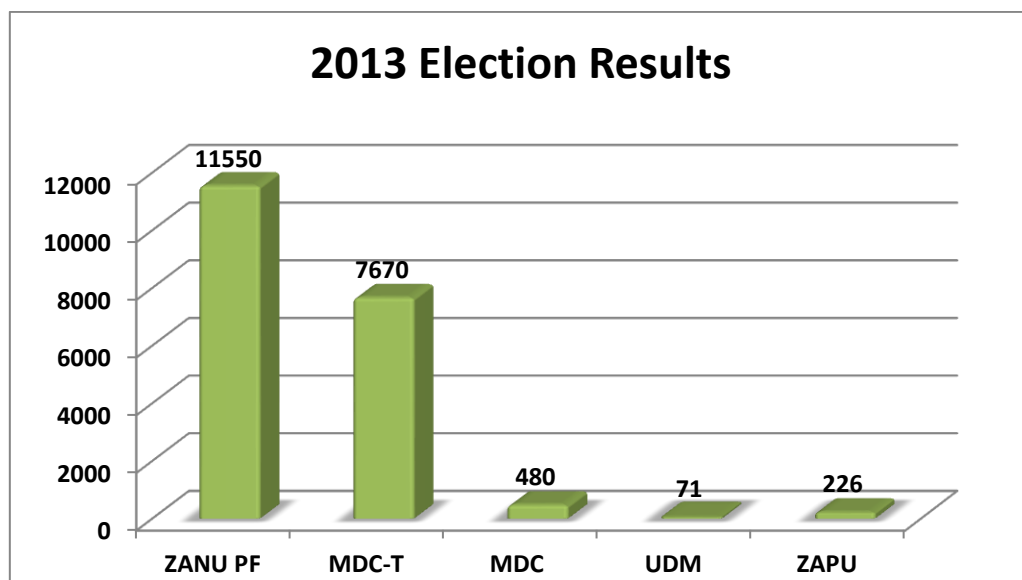
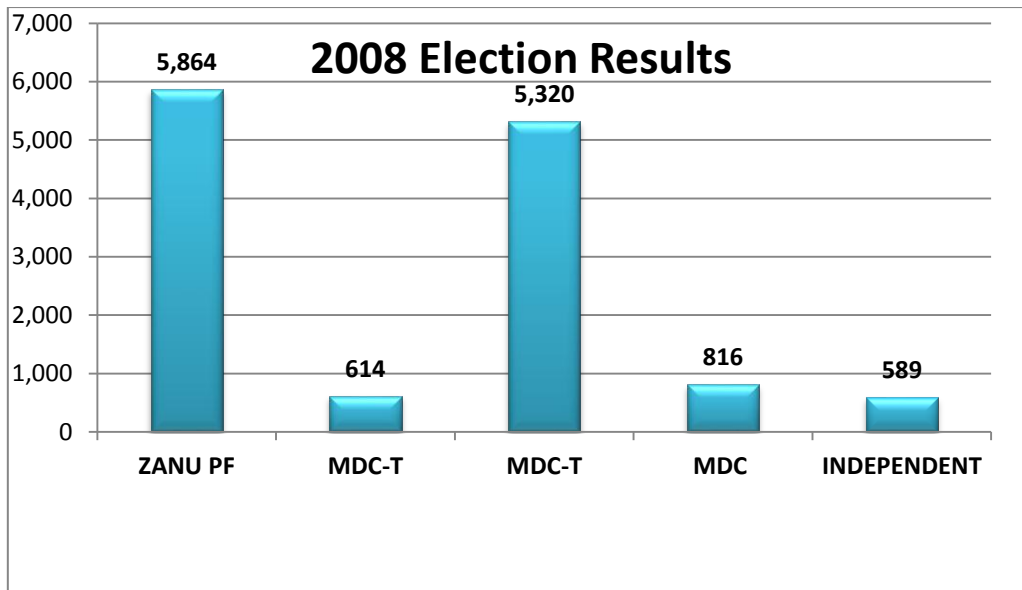
## **Previous Election Results**

In the year 2000 elections, the MDC won the Chiwundura National Assembly seat; the party however lost the seat in subsequent elections held in 2005, 2008 and 2013. In the 2013 elections, ZANU PF increased the number of votes received by 5,686 signifying an increase of 49% compared to votes received in the 2008 election. The MDC-T on the other hand received 1,736 more votes in 2013 as compared to 2008, an increase of 23% in votes received.

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<sup>1</sup> Census Report 2012

<sup>2</sup> Chiwundura Constituency Profile, Parliament of Zimbabwe



Chiwundura has been predominantly a ZANU PF safe seat since the 2005 elections. In 2008 the MDC-T lost the National Assembly by-election for the same constituency because the party fielded two candidates, who collectively garnered 5,934 votes which outnumbered the 5,864 votes received by the ZANU-PF candidate, albeit by only 70 votes. This represents the closest the party has come to regaining the seat. In 2013, ZANU-PF won the seat with an even bigger margin of 3,880 votes.

### Background to the by-election

In terms of Section 39 (2) of the Electoral Act (Chapter 2:13) President Mugabe set the 15 July 2017 as the date for the Chiwundura National Assembly by-election. The seat fell vacant

following the death of Kizito Chivamba of ZANU PF, who was a member of the National Assembly for the constituency, on 19 April 2017.

### **Political Environment**

The political environment in Chiwundura Constituency is relatively tense with numerous reports of political intolerance and violence in the build-up to the by-election. According to the May 2017 Monthly Monitoring Report by the Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP), a day prior to the primary elections, a number of ZANU-PF youths who had been paid to carry out campaigns on behalf of contesting candidates clashed near the Sino-Zimbabwe cement company. An MDC-T youth activist, Ashley Mdtshwa, was caught in the crossfire and left seriously injured after he was attacked by the same youths. Mdtshwa is reported to have been stabbed by the ZANU-PF youths at Gambiza business centre on 21 May 2017 for reasons that are still unclear but believed to have been political.

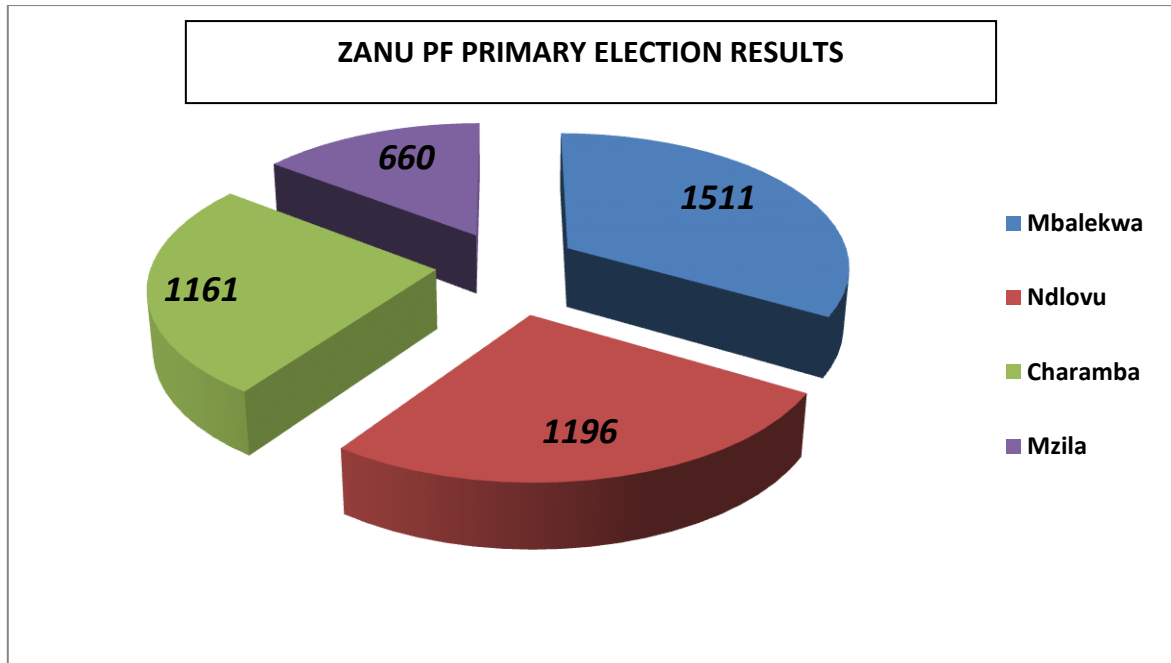
The Chiwundura ZANU-PF primary elections were also held amid serious factional skirmishes. This could explain why the candidate, who won the primaries, Mr Pearson Mbalekwa, is not the one standing for ZANU-PF in the by-election amid reports that he was barred from representing the party's Political Commissar<sup>3</sup>. The other political parties did not conduct primary elections. The NCA candidate, Takudzwa Guzete was chosen by the party's board members as the party does not hold its primaries in the form of a poll given that they are in the process of building their membership. Brighton Mudzviti of Free Zimbabwe Congress was appointed by party's National Executive Council on the basis of his seniority as the National Youth Chairperson of the party.

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<sup>3</sup> The Chronicle, 24 May 2017 *'Kasukuwere blocks Chiwundura primaries winner'*

Figure 1 below depicts the results of the ZANU-PF primary elections. The pie chart only shows votes for the top four out of 21 contenders.

*Figure 1: Results of the ZANU PF primary election*



*Source: The Chronicle 24 May 2017*

### **Voter Registration and Voter Education Processes**

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) established a road map to the by-election scheduled for 15 July 2017. Table 2 below shows the dates set for the election-related events. The Geographical Information Systems (GIS) mapping and polling station demarcation exercise which ended on 4 April 2017 established 68 polling stations; an addition of one polling station from the 2013 list for the constituency. According to ZEC, the voters roll will be polling station based.

Table 2: By-election roadmap

Activity	Date
Polling station based voter registration	1 to 7 June 2017
Voter education for pre-nomination	19 to 23 June 2017
Voter education for voter registration	30 May to 5 June 2017
Voters' roll inspection for registered voters	24 to 28 June 2017
Voter education for polling	5 to 9 July 2017
Election day	15 July 2017

**Source: ZEC**

Voter registration for the Nomination Court took place on 26 May 2017 at the following places:

- District Voter Registration Centre
- Provincial Voter Registration Centre
- Head Office Voter Registration Centre

The polling station based voter registration was conducted in line with the set dates from 1 to 7 June 2017<sup>4</sup>. ZEC used a multipronged approach in conducting voter registration including registering voters at the specific polling stations and conducting door to door voter registration. In addition the district and provincial officers were open to voter registration. In line with Section 40C (b) of the Electoral Act (2:13), ZEC is expected to open up voter education to other players so as to increase public awareness on the road map to the by election. ZESN will conduct voter education for polling in the constituency from 5 to 9 July 2017.

### **Contesting Parties and Nomination**

The Nomination Court for the Chiwundura by-election sat at the Gweru Magistrates' Court on 26 May 2017 in line with Subsection 17 (c) of Section 46 of the Electoral Act (Chapter 2:13) to receive nominations of candidates to contest in the by-election. Four candidates, all male successfully filed their papers. There are no female candidates contesting the by-election. Table 3 below shows the list of contesting candidates and their parties.

<sup>4</sup> ZEC Gweru District Deputy Officer, *The Herald*, 08 June 2017

*Table 3: List of Contesting Candidates for the Chiwundura Constituency By-Election*

<b>Name of Candidate</b>	<b>Political Party</b>	<b>Sex</b>
Guzete Takudzwa	NCA Party	M
Mudzviti Brighton	Free Zimbabwe Congress	M
Ndlovu Brown	ZANU-PF	M
Zulu Webster	Progressive Democrats of Zimbabwe (PDZ)	M

*Source: ZEC*

### **Brief Biographies of the Contesting Candidates**

#### ***Guzete Takudzwa - NCA***

Guzete Takudzwa was born in Chipinge on the 22<sup>nd</sup> of December 1986. He is a business man in Gweru and a holder of a qualification in Psychology. His interest in politics grew when he was on industrial attachment with the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) between 2011 and 2012. Takudzwa Guzete joined the NCA on 28 September 2013 as the Midlands Youth Chairperson when NCA transformed into a political party.

#### ***Mudzviti Brighton - Free Zimbabwe Congress***

Brighton Mudzviti he was born in Gweru on 15 November 1990 and is a resident of Ward 12 in Chiwundura. He worked as a general hand at Xinyu Mining Cooperative from 2005 to 2014. In October 2014, Mudzviti joined the Renewal Democrats of Zimbabwe (RDZ) and was elected Midlands South Provincial Youth Chairperson. Mudzviti asserts that he left RDZ for Free Zimbabwe Congress in November 2016 after being attracted by Free Zimbabwe Congress's youth-friendly policies where Mudzviti was elected the National Youth Chairperson.

#### ***Ndlovu Brown – ZANU PF***

Brown Ndlovu resides in Ward 16 of Chiwundura which consists of a number of resettlement areas. He attended school in Harare and subsequently worked in the City before concentrating on his mining activities in the Midlands province. Ndlovu has served in ZANU PF structures at the District level and is the Secretary for Transport in Chaminuka District.

### *Zulu Webster – Progressive Democrats of Zimbabwe*

Zulu Webster is an Information Technology (IT) professional. He was born in Gweru on the 31<sup>st</sup> of May 1969. He worked as IT personnel for 12 years before becoming the Director of several Civic Engineering Companies from 2014 to date. His political carrier dates back to 1999 when he joined the then Movement for Democratic Change (MDC). He moved to the United Movement for Democracy (UMD) in 2013 and finally landed at The Progressive Democrats of Zimbabwe in its formation in 2014.

### **Conclusion**

The pre-election period for the Chiwundura by-election has been marked by incidents of electoral malpractice and violence. In light of this, ZESN urges all the contesting political parties to exercise restraint and demonstrate political maturity by engaging in issue based campaigns which are peaceful. ZESN will be closely monitoring the political environment and the election administration in the run up to the by-election as well as observing electoral processes on Election Day. Appropriate recommendations will be proffered for considerations by ZEC and other stakeholders.



## Annex 1 – List of polling stations for the Chiwundura by-election

	Local Authority	Ward Number	Polling Station	Facility
1.	Gweru Municipality	5	Matongo A	Primary School
2.	Gweru Municipality	5	Matongo B	Primary School
3.	Gweru Municipality	5	Senga A	Secondary School
4.	Gweru Municipality	5	Senga B	Secondary School
5.	Gweru Municipality	5	Senga A	Primary School
6.	Gweru Municipality	5	Senga B	Primary School
7.	Vungu RDC	9	Connemara	Primary School
8.	Vungu RDC	9	Game Park Farm	Tent
9.	Vungu RDC	9	Gokomere Farm Hall	Tent
10.	Vungu RDC	9	Nkululeko	Secondary School
11.	Vungu RDC	9	Riverdale	Primary School
12.	Vungu RDC	9	St Patricks	Primary School
13.	Vungu RDC	9	Zaloba	Primary School
14.	Vungu RDC	9	Zororo	Primary School
15.	Vungu RDC	10	Gambiza	Pre-school
16.	Vungu RDC	10	Gambiza	Primary School
17.	Vungu RDC	10	Simudzirainyika BC	Tent
18.	Gweru Municipality	11	Mkoba A Golf Course	Club House
19.	Gweru Municipality	11	Mkoba B Golf Course	Club House
20.	Gweru Municipality	11	Mkoba C Golf Course	Club House
21.	Gweru Municipality	11	Mkoba 5 Towerlight	Tent
22.	Vungu RDC	11	Gangarabwe	Pre-school
23.	Vungu RDC	11	Gumbure	Primary School
24.	Vungu RDC	11	Muchakata	Community Hall
25.	Vungu RDC	11	Masvori A	Secondary School
26.	Vungu RDC	11	Masvori B	Secondary School
27.	Vungu RDC	12	Chiwundura	Primary School
28.	Vungu RDC	12	Gunde	Primary School
29.	Vungu RDC	12	Mlezu	Primary School
30.	Vungu RDC	12	Nyabango	Primary School
31.	Vungu RDC	12	Zviseko	Primary School
32.	Vungu RDC	13	Bhudhe	Primary School
33.	Vungu RDC	13	Chikutubwe	Primary School
34.	Vungu RDC	13	Masori Rural Service Centre	Tent
35.	Gweru Municipality	14	Mkoba 14 BC	Tent
36.	Gweru Municipality	14	Mkoba 14 Raylands Estate/Maz	Tent
37.	Gweru Municipality	14	Mkoba 4 A	Primary School
38.	Gweru Municipality	14	Mkoba 4 B	Primary School

39.	Gweru Municipality	14	Mkoba 14 Infill-open space	Tent
40.	Vungu RDC	14	Anderson	School
41.	Vungu RDC	14	Boulder	Primary School
42.	Vungu RDC	14	Guma (Steingot)	Primary School
43.	Vungu RDC	14	Hozheri (Linslade Farm)	Primary School
44.	Vungu RDC	14	Hwahwa	Primary School
45.	Vungu RDC	14	Indiva (Haygold Farm)	Tent
46.	Vungu RDC	14	Mandindi	Primary School
47.	Vungu RDC	14	St Severino (Ruweri)	Primary School
48.	Vungu RDC	14	Tangwena	Secondary School
49.	Vungu RDC	16	Bambanani	Primary School
50.	Vungu RDC	16	Romac (Herbert Chitepo)	Primary School
51.	Vungu RDC	16	Insukamini Farm	Tent
52.	Vungu RDC	16	Keynshanburg	Homestead
53.	Vungu RDC	16	Lourdon	Primary School
54.	Vungu RDC	16	Meeting House	Community Hall-Tent
55.	Vungu RDC	16	Nkenyane	Primary School-Tent
56.	Vungu RDC	16	Stormvale	Homestead
57.	Vungu RDC	16	Worcestershire	Homestead-Tent
58.	Vungu RDC	16	Rayland	Open Space-Tent
59.	Gweru Municipality	17	Mkoba 15 BC	Tent
60.	Gweru Municipality	17	Mkoba19 BC	Tent
61.	Gweru Municipality	17	Mpumelelo A	Primary School
62.	Gweru Municipality	17	Mpumelelo B	Primary School
63.	Gweru Municipality	17	Mpumelelo C	Primary School
64.	Vungu RDC	18	Kushinga (Grain Thorpe)	Primary School
65.	Vungu RDC	18	Guinea Fowl	Primary School
66.	Vungu RDC	18	Fletcher	Secondary School
67.	Vungu RDC	18	Happy Valley	Homestead
68.	Vungu RDC	18	Plasworth Farm	Homestead

