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(IPLG)
BEYOND 2018

ZESN POST ELECTION CONFERENCE

"A Post Mortem of the 2018 General Elections"

Context for 2018

- The 1st post Mugabe election (23 Candidate, 4 females)
- Two 'default' successors
- Stakes vs citizen frustrations
- Youth vote
- The more liberal space (for political rivals)
- Internal strife within parties and enclave constituencies for some key politicians being challenged
- Had the military interest related to restore legacy vanished?

Zimbabwe Elections Fundamentals

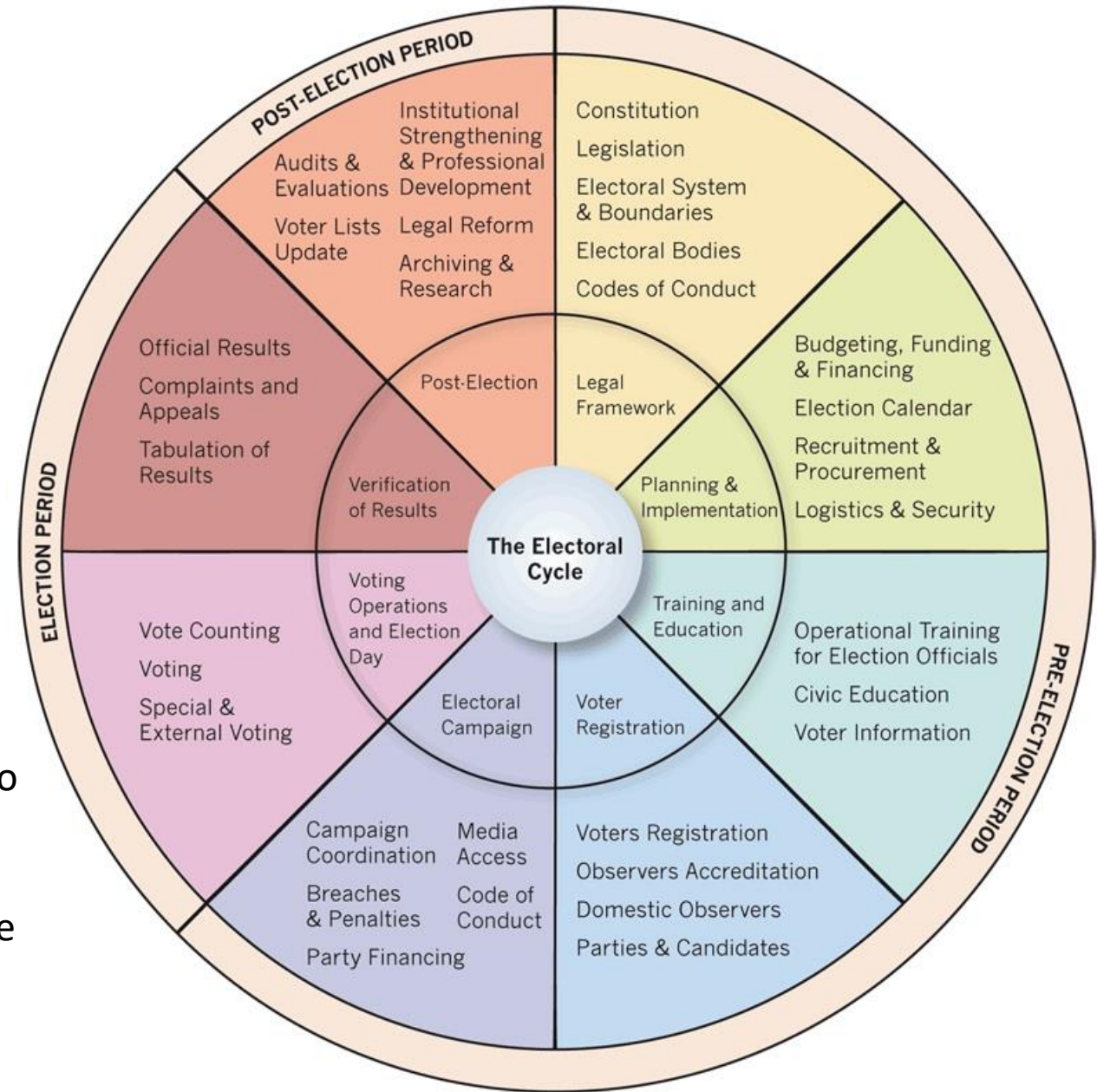
- Does our electoral system necessarily address our nation building agenda or it fractures us with every plebiscite
- First past the Post and Proportional System, Hybrid (gendered/quotad)
- Constitution of Zimbabwe (Amendment 20 of 2013)
- The Electoral Act (Cap 2:13)
- The Electoral Regulations
- (the electoral system is couched as a very technical legal web)

The Electoral Cycle

Stage- specific challenges??

- What was ZEC/Electorate/ZESN/Political Parties doing?
- Independence of ZEC
- Proclamation by the President? Why not ZEC?
- BVR? (Custody and Control?)..who keeps the roll? Where is the server
- Primary elections and Campaigns
- Nomination Court
- Voter Education (why should ZEC approve those who do Education?)

Focus on the legal side of the election but silence on the administrative side



Lessons from July, 30 2018 (contd)

- Release the Roll (the ERC case)

- Voters roll is an audit tool

- difference between provisional and final roll

- the Mash West Story and the burden of proof?

- Announcement of Results

- what is announced?

- what is to announce?

- If results is wrongly announced by ZEC , change of result is only based on recount (what happened in Chegutu West?)

If voting made any difference they wouldn't let us do it. — *Mark Twain*

- What do you think?
- Does this apply in the USA?
- Does this apply in Zimbabwe ?

The people who cast the votes decide nothing. The people who count the votes decide everything.

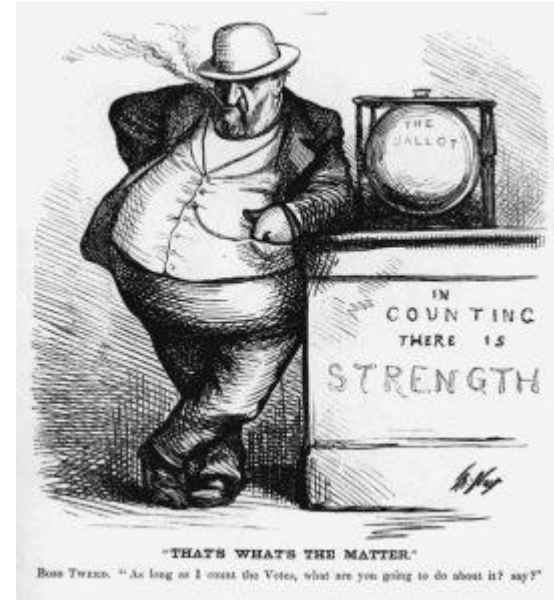
- Who is famed for saying these words ?
- Is this true about July 30, 2018?
- What do you say about the counting of the votes cast on July,31 2018?

In Counting there is Strength

Is this true ?

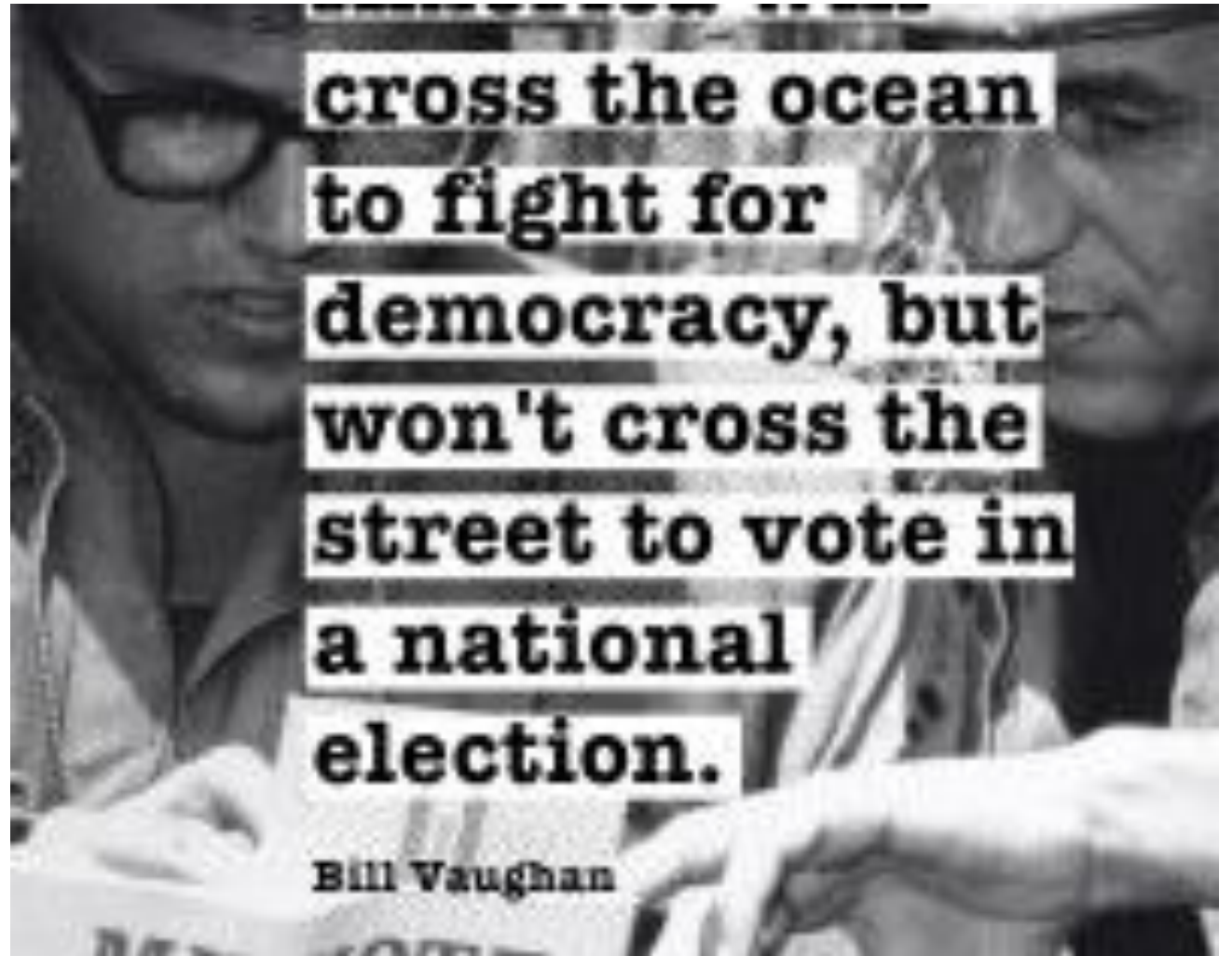
EDR

- Independence of the Judiciary
- Judges and the trappings of power
- Can we have judicial activism on the bench?
- courts working within political contexts



Participation versus voting?

- Postal ballots? (Rose camp story)
- Number of votes by time
- Did they vote in as much a way they participated on social media?
- Did Zimbabweans vote in as much as they attended rallies ?



Section 56 : All persons are equal before the law and have the right to equal protection and benefit of the law. Constitution of Zimbabwe.

- Did the police apply the law during the July 30, 2018 elections?
- Were the provisions of the law , the Electoral Act applied uniformly ?
- Did the liaison office act fairly ?

EDR, ZEC ?

- Did ZEC play its mandate as a neutral umpire ?
- Was the electoral Code of Conduct enforced ?
- Did ZEC's meetings with political parties achieve anything ?

The Courts

“The achievement of a vibrant and democratic society in which fundamental human rights and freedom are respected, protected and promoted is realised if citizens are able to vindicate their rights in court.”

Chief Justice Malaba

ADR...

“The bedrock of our democracy is the rule of law and that means we have to have an independent judiciary, judges who can make decisions independent of the political winds that are blowing.”

Caroline Kennedy

Post Ballot Issues

- August 1
- Complexities and contradictions of the post election environment
-

Beyond 2018

“We stand today at a crossroads: One path leads to despair
and utter hopelessness. The other leads to total extinction.

Let us hope we have the wisdom to make the right
choice.” —*Woody Allen*

Obrigado!!!

THANK YOU

GRACIAS

ARIGATO

SHUKURIA

JUSPAXAR

DANKSCHEEN

SIYABONSU

TASHAKKUR ATU

YAQHANYELAY

SUKSAMA

EKHMET

TINGKI

BIYAN

SHUTRIA

MAZVITA

GRAZIE

MEHRBANI

PALNES

KOMAPSUMIDA

E MAANE

GOZAIMASHITA

EFCHARISTO

BOLZIN

MERCII