



# THE ROLE OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE POST-ELECTION REFORM AGENDA

LESSONS FROM THE REGION

PRESENTED TO THE ZESN POST ELECTION CONFERENCE, BULAWAYO

BY

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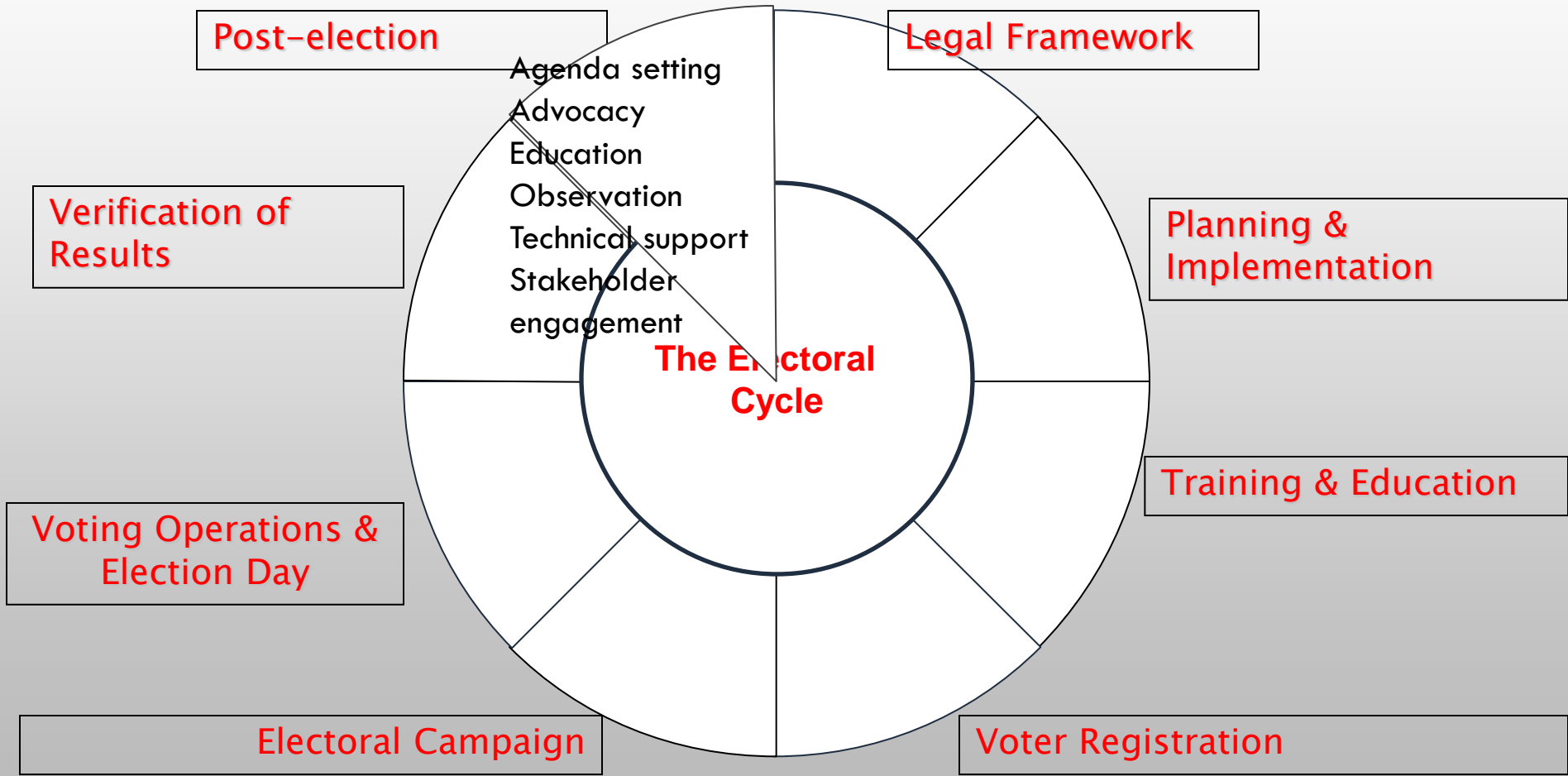
# MAPPING THE POST ELECTION REFORMS LANDSCAPE

- IMMEDIATE POST ELECTION
  - RESULTS DISPUTES & PETITIONS
  - POSSIBLE POST ELECTION VIOLENCE/POLITICAL TENSIONS
  - REPEAT ELECTIONS /BY-ELECTIONS
  - OBSERVER REPORTS/PUBLICATIONS
  - ENGAGEMENT OF THE MEDIA/STAKEHOLDERS ON FINDINGS

# MAPPING THE POST ELECTION REFORMS LANDSCAPE

- MEDIUM & LONG TERM POST ELECTION LANDSCAPE
  - COOLING DOWN OF POLITICAL TEMPERATURES/REDUCED POLITICAL ACTIVITY
  - EMB EVALUATIONS/AUDITS
  - TARGETED STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENTS
  - DISINTEREST BY VOTERS/BACK TO NORMALCY (ARTIFICIAL)
  - POOR FUNDING OF ELECTION RELATED PROJECTS

# GENERAL ROLE IN THE POST ELECTION



# ROLE OF THE CSO IN THE POST ELECTION REFORM AGENDA

- CONSOLIDATION OF THE AGENDA
  - ELECTION REPORTS/EXPERT ANALYSIS
  - FORMULATION OF RECOMMENDATIONS/AGENDA SETTING
  - STRATEGY DEVELOPMENT
- INITIATING POST ELECTIONS DIALOGUE/ENGAGEMENT
  - JOINT PLATFORMS/THEMATIC APPROACH
  - WITH EMBS/PARLIAMENT/PPS/COMMISSIONS
  - SET UP OF A SPECIAL PURPOSES VEHICLE TO MIDWIFE THE REFORMS
- TRACKING REFORMS
  - ADVOCACY/EDUCATION CAMPAIGNS
  - PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION

# ASSESSING THE POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT FOR PROCESSING REFORMS

POLITICAL ENVIRONMENT	CIVIL SOCIETY OPTIONS
OPEN POLITICAL SPACE, POLITICAL WILL FOR ELECTION REFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fully participate in reform debate;</li><li>• proactively submit recommendations;</li><li>• mobilize citizens in support of your priorities;</li><li>• public opinion research.</li></ul>
OPEN POLITICAL SPACE, BUT NO POLITICAL WILL FOR GENUINE ELECTION REFORM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advocacy to get electoral reform on the policy agenda;</li><li>• build public demand for reform through a media campaign and other outreach activities;</li><li>• engage decision-makers; explain problems and how reform will solve them.</li></ul>
CLOSED POLITICAL SPACE – NO POLITICAL WILL	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Advocacy to have an inclusive reform process;</li><li>• parallel civic process – sample election law;</li><li>• vigilant watchdogging;</li><li>• engagement of the international community;</li><li>• public opinion research.</li></ul>

# CSO OPERATIONAL ENVIRONMENT IN THE POST ELECTION REFORM AGENDA

Duty bearers

Advocacy

CSO platform

Public  
awareness/fe  
edback

Citizens

# LESSONS FROM THE REGION - KENYA

- CSO ENGAGEMENT IN KENYA'S POST 2017 ELECTION ENVIRONMENT
  - EFFORTS ANCHORED IN A PRE-ELECTION LANDSCAPE WHERE 3 BROAD CSO FRAMEWORKS EMERGED;
    - **MEDIATION & FACILITATIVE** ORIENTED GROUPS – MAINLY INVOLVED IN MEDIATING POLITICAL TENSIONS
    - **ADVOCACY & RIGHTS** MONITORING GROUPS – TRACKED AND DEFENDED HUMAN RIGHTS & ELECTORAL JUSTICE ISSUES AND UNDERTOOK PUBLIC INTEREST LITIGATION.
    - **ELECTION OBSERVATION & MONITORING** GROUPS – INVOLVED IN OBSERVING THE ELECTORAL PROCESSES PROVIDING INFORMATION AND



# LESSONS FROM THE REGION

- INVOLVEMENT OF CSO IN THE POST ELECTION REFORM AGENDA
  - MEDIATION PLATFORMS SUCH AS THE FAITH-BASED DIALOGUE REFERENCE GROUP SUPPORTED A POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO ADDRESS POLITICAL TENSIONS
    - ‘HANDSHAKE MOMENT’
    - INITIATION OF DIALOGUE PROCESS/PROMOTION OF PEACE
  - ADVOCACY & OBSERVATION GROUPS CREATED A JOINT PLATFORM – THE TECHNICAL WORKING GROUP ON ELECTIONS (TWG) TO CONSOLIDATE THE REFORM AGENDA
    - SYMPOSIUM FOR ELECTION OBSERVERS HELD IN 2018
    - CONSOLIDATION OF ELECTION FINDINGS
    - REPORTS/PUBLICATION/POPULARIZATION OF THE ELECTORAL REFORMS AGENDA
    - SHARING OF RESOURCES FOR CONTINUOUS ENGAGEMENT

# LESSONS FROM THE REGION

- THEMATIC APPROACH TO ADVANCING REFORMS
  - 8 THEMATIC AREAS IDENTIFIED; ELECTION MANAGEMENT, LEGAL FRAMEWORK, HUMAN RIGHTS, TECHNOLOGY, POLITICAL PARTY PROCESSES, INCLUSION OF SIGS, SECURITY & MEDIA
- PREPARATION OF THE NEXT ELECTION CYCLE
  - RESEARCH INTO NEW EMERGING ISSUES : ELECTION TECHNOLOGY
  - ELECTORAL CYCLE APPROACH TO ELECTORAL REFORMS
- OUTPUTS SO FAR
  - POINTS TAKEN: A CSO PROPOSAL SETTING THE ELECTORAL REFORM AGENDA PUBLICATION
  - EVALUATION CONFERENCES WITH IEBC RESULTING IN A REPORT BY THE EMB
  - TARGETTED STAKEHOLDER MEETINGS WITH PARLIAMENT, POLITICAL PARTIES, JUDICIARY TO DISCUSS THEMATIC PROPOSALS
  - SUSTAINED PUBLIC DEBATE ON ELECTORAL REFORMS

# KEY LESSONS FOR ZIMBABWE

- CONSOLIDATE THE AGENDA
- CREATE JOINT CSO PLATFORMS FOR ENGAGEMENT
- SUPPORT TO PEACE BUILDING/POLITICAL SETTLEMENT TO DE-ESCALATE TENSIONS
- WORK WITH DUTY BEARERS INCLUDING POLITICAL PARTIES
- KEEP AGENDA ALIVE/PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT
  - TRACKING THE REFORM PROCESS
  - ACTIVE ADVOCACY CAMPAIGNS
  - SUSTAINED MEDIA CAMPAIGN
  - RESEARCH & DOCUMENTATION
  - BUILD CAPACITY/TRAINING
  - JOINT IMPLEMENTATION OF ACTIVITIES/POOLING FUNDS

The image features a light gray background with a subtle gradient. In the top-left and bottom-right corners, there are several realistic water droplets of varying sizes, some overlapping. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. In the center of the image, the word "SIYABONGA" is written in a bold, black, sans-serif font.

**SIYABONGA**