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## Press Statement



### **ZESN's response to Daily News and News Day Articles**

**Harare 21 February 2013** - The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) would like to clarify the two reports by the Daily News on 20 February 2013 and News Day on 21 February 2013 that during the raid at ZESN offices in Harare and Masvingo, radios and other gadgets were confiscated. The statements in these papers are not accurate and ZESN is concerned by the perceptions that this article may create.

The organization categorically states that the police did not find the organization in possession of any radios or communication gadgets. These reports came out following a police raid at ZESN's Harare offices in Belgravia. The police searched all offices after which they took documents pertaining to ZESN's projects and plans for observing the referendum.

The organization further clarifies that in Masvingo two break-ins happened where in the first break-in on Monday 19 February 2013, unidentified men took 8 boardroom chairs, several T-shirts, a printer and a computer. This morning again, 21 February 2013 around 0100hrs seven unidentified people (3 men and 4 women) who were armed with guns broke in through the window and took with them a PC monitor, a fan, a landline handset, three electricity adapters, a blackberry 8310 and 800 T shirts. They also took away two top drawers from the Field Officer's desk with all the contents. Both break-ins have since been reported to Masvingo Central Police Station.

The aforementioned items are the only things that ZESN can vouch as having been seized from its offices. ZESN therefore urges both newspapers to seek factual information from the organization before they report. Such articles are inflammatory and provocative to the organization and can be seen as an attempt to undermine the work of the organization. ZESN restates that, given the current political situation in the country, the misinformation may have negative repercussions on the work of the network and its members.

ZESN does not support or endorse any political party in its operations. The organization is also committed to remain impartial in its conduct and to operate within the confines of the Laws of Zimbabwe. We are therefore deeply concerned about these reports the ongoing onslaught on human rights groups particularly given that this year is an election year.

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#### **PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE**

FOR COMMENTS AND FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

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