



**Zimbabwe Election
Support Network**
Promoting Democratic
Elections In Zimbabwe

Report on the Glenview South 12 April 2025 By-election



Photo Credit: Zimbabwe Electoral Commission

1. Background

At the invitation of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) observed the Glenview South by-election that was held on 12 April 2025. The by-election in which the Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party won, was held after a vacancy arose following the death of Honourable Gladmore Hakata who served as the Constituency Member of Parliament under the Citizens Coalition for Change (CCC) during the 2023 Harmonised Elections.

2. Legal Framework

The by-election was held under Section 50 of the Electoral Act (Chapter 2:13) for the National Assembly following the passing of the incumbent. Through Statutory Instrument (S.I.) 16 of 2025 (Proclamation 1 of 2025) gazetted on 24 February 2025, the President set 13 March 2025 as the date for the Nomination Court sitting and 12 April 2025 as by-election day, if two or more candidates were nominated on the nomination day. As such the Nomination Court sat on 13 March 2025 to nominate candidates for the by-election.

3. Observation methodology

To effectively gather, disseminate and communicate objective information about the by-election, ZESN trained and deployed one static observer and 14 mobile observers in the National Assembly by-election in Glenview South Constituency. The observers' deployment strategy ensured that ZESN observed the Collation Centre, in addition to the opening, voting and closing of several polling stations in the by-election.

The findings and recommendations of this preliminary statement are made in reference to the Electoral Laws of Zimbabwe, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Principles and Guidelines Governing the Conduct of Democratic Elections as well as other regional and African election guidelines and principles. This preliminary statement is based on reports received from the ZESN observers.

4. Pre-election Observations

4.1. Nomination of candidates

ZESN deployed two accredited observers to the Nomination Court, which sat on 13 March 2025 to consider nominations for the by-election.

Upon its opening, the Court announced that Tsitsi Tranquillity Tawomhera of the Zimbabwe African National Union–Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) had pre-submitted her nomination papers on 11 March 2025, two days prior to the sitting, as permitted by the law. By midday, three candidates had submitted their nomination papers (including the

pre-lodged papers). After the lunch hour, two additional candidates arrived and completed the submission of their nomination papers before 3:00 pm.

Electoral contestants are permitted to submit their nomination papers before the sitting of the Nomination Court, in keeping with provisions of section 4 subsection 3 of the Electoral Act. Only one of the five electoral contestants took advantage of this provision. The remaining four contestants submitted their nomination papers on the day of the sitting of the Nomination Court. This gave the four contestants less time to rectify any anomalies that could have needed to be addressed if their papers were not in order.

Mukanda Perpetua (NCA), Madzokere Tungamirai (Independent), Makwangadze George (Independent), Chakaredza Tonderai (Independent) and Tsitsi Tawomhera (ZANU-PF) were duly nominated as candidates for the by-election.

4.2. Electoral Campaigns

ZESN tracked electoral and political developments in Glenview South ahead of the by-election, scheduled for 12 March 2025. While the political environment was relatively peaceful, ZESN received reports of heightened tensions, such as those witnessed between youths from the NCA party and the ZANU-PF, who traded allegations of defacing each other's posters.

A tour of the Constituency revealed that the tearing and defacing of posters was an occurrence that was widespread and had been done in defiance of Section 152 of the Electoral Act which states that; *"from the date on which an election is called until its result is declared, no person shall deface or remove any billboard, placard or poster published, posted or displayed by a political party or candidate contesting the election."* There is, thus, a need for greater political literacy amongst party supporters on the legal provisions contained in Section 152 of the Electoral Act on Regulations on defacing property for political purposes.

Another incident that marred the peaceful campaign period was the Glenview South Ward 32 Councillor's property, including cars and part of the councillor's house, which were damaged. The motive and perpetrator of the attack are yet to be established. ZESN observed that the fielding of three candidates from the opposition who ran as independent candidates, but campaigned under the banner of the former CCC president, also stirred tensions.

Generally, all electoral contestants appear to have been granted an opportunity to canvass for votes. ZANU-PF had the most visible campaigns, though. The party's rallies were addressed by high-ranking officials within the party, including the Chairperson for Mashonaland East province, the Chairperson for Harare province, Secretary for Youth Affairs, Provincial Political Commissar, Harare Provincial Youth Chairperson and a representative of the Chairperson of the Youth League.

Door-to-door campaigns were reportedly utilised by the ZANU-PF party, NCA party, and one of the three independent candidates (George Makwangwaidze). Tonderai Chakaredza, one of the independent candidates, reportedly distributed fliers. All electoral candidates reportedly produced posters for their campaigns.

5. Polling day political environment

The polling day environment was largely peaceful in all the places where ZESN observers visited. Peace goes a long way in enhancing electoral credibility and integrity.

5.1. Set up and opening of polling stations

Prior to the setting up of polling stations, voters' rolls were displayed outside to enable the electorate to check their names, a good practice from the ZEC that serves to lessen the number of redirected and turned-away voters on polling day. ZESN observers reported that at the polling stations observed, they were opened on time with all the essential polling materials such as ballot boxes, ballot papers, indelible finger markers, voters' rolls and the ZEC official stamps available.

5.2. Political parties' agents

Party agents representing ZANU–PF, the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA), and three (3) Independent candidates were generally present across most polling stations observed. However, in a few instances, agents from certain independent candidates and the NCA were not deployed to some of the polling stations. The gender composition of party agents varied across locations, with both male and female representatives participating in the electoral process, which contributes to inclusivity and representation within the broader democratic framework.

In several polling stations, multiple agents from the same political party or candidate were present and only the designated number of agents were inside the polling station at any given time.

ZESN commends political parties and independent candidates for their efforts in deploying party agents, to promote transparency and accountability. The deployment of party agents not only allows political parties to monitor the polling process closely but also enhances their ability to make informed interventions where necessary, thereby contributing to the overall credibility and integrity of the electoral process.

5.3. Polling officials, voting process and procedures

On average, each polling station was staffed by seven (7) election officials, in line with standard deployment practices. Observations indicate a commendable level of gender inclusivity, with both male and female officials actively participating in the electoral process. Notably, Presiding Officers comprised individuals of both genders, with a slight predominance of female officers across most polling stations observed. This reflects positively on efforts to uphold gender parity and inclusiveness in the administration of electoral duties. Polling procedures were duly followed in

accordance with the law, for example, checking voters' names on the voters' roll and checking their fingers for ink before they could be allowed to vote. Ballot papers were stamped with an official ZEC stamp before being issued to voters.

5.4. Assisted Voters

Overall, the numbers of assisted voters were low. None of the polling stations that ZESN observers visited recorded more than 6 (six) assisted voters. At Glenview 3 Shopping Centre A, five voters requested and received assistance to cast their ballots. At Glenview 4 Shopping Centre Tent B 4 (four) voters were assisted to vote. While the Electoral Act permits those needing assistance to bring their own helper, most of the assisted voters did not take advantage for this provision and were therefore assisted by ZEC officials in keeping with the provisions of the Electoral Act.

Assisted voting on account of illiteracy and visual impairment was mostly done by polling officials in the presence of the police in line with Section 59 of the Electoral Act on voting by illiterate or physically handicapped voters.

5.5. Voter turnout

The voter turnout in the Glenview South by-election was 17.2% after 4,833 voters turned out to vote. In light of voter apathy, ZESN continues to encourage registered voters' participation and voting in peace in all National Assembly elections as these are important and accord voters the opportunity to choose leaders of their choice who will be responsible for legislative oversight, representing citizens' interests, shaping policy, and strengthening democratic governance and accountability.

5.6. Redirected and turned away voters

The number of turned-away voters was very low with none of the polling stations having more than 15 people turned away. Some of the highest numbers of turned away voters were reportedly recorded at Glenview 1 Primary School E and Glenview 7 Primary School B. In some of the instances voters brought photocopies of their national identification documents, driver's licenses, or were not registered in the Constituency.

Across most polling stations the number of redirected voters was very low with none exceeding 6 (six) voters. ZESN observers noted that redirected voters were mostly recorded at polling centres with more than one (1) polling station, for instance at polling station at Glenview 3 Shopping Centre which had three (3) polling stations.

6. By-election Results

Tsitsi Tawomhera of the ZANU-PF party won the Glenview South National Assembly seat by-election that were held on 12 April 2025¹. The table below shows the results of the by-election.

GLENVIEW SOUTH

¹ <https://x.com/ZECzim/status/1911296905834795413>

2025 By-elections				2023 Harmonised Elections			
Candidate	Sex	Party	Votes	Candidate	Sex	Party	Votes
Tsitsi Tawomhera	F	ZANU-PF	3,404	Hakata Gladmore	M	CCC	15,203
Chakaredza Tonderai	M	(Independent)	993	Muchuwe Offard	M	ZANU-PF	3,112
Makwangadze George	M	(Independent)	681	Chinyadza Justice	M	UZA	216
Madzokere Tungamirai	M	(Independent)	234				
Mukanda Perpetua	F	NCA	77				

Comparison of the 2023 and 2025 National Assembly results for the Glenview South Constituency demonstrate that ZANU-PF party has largely retained the support it received in 2023. In 2023 the party received 3,112 votes and in 2025 the party received 3,404 voters. It would appear as if the majority of CCC supporters stayed away from the by-election since in 2023, over 15,000 of them voted. The few that turned out to vote during this by-election divided their vote among the three (3) Independent candidates.

7. Conclusion and Recommendations

The Network acknowledges and commends NCA and ZANU-PF for fielding female candidates in the by-election, a step towards addressing the marginalisation of women within Zimbabwean political participation.

In light of the foregoing observations, The Network offers the following recommendations to improve the pre, polling and post-electoral periods in future elections.

- Voters are encouraged to inspect the voter's roll whenever it is posted outside polling stations, ahead of an election/by-election, to allow for the identification of the polling stations they are supposed to cast their vote in.
- Political parties are urged to restrain their supporters from campaigning in a manner that infringes on the Code of Conduct for political parties and electoral contestants.