
ZIMBABWE ELECTION SUPPORT NETWORK



PRESS STATEMENT

ZESN COMMENDS THE PEACEFUL CONDUCT OF GUTU SOUTH WARD 24 BY- ELECTION

6 July 2014 - Gutu - Zimbabwe Election Support Network observed the Gutu South Ward 24 by-election held on the 5th of July 2014. The ward seat fell vacant after the death of councillor Bakuri Kufakunavo of ZANU PF. ZESN observers commend the peaceful and professional conduct in the local authority by-election by the electorate and the election management body. Tinopiwa Chatukuta of ZANU PF was contesting against Namatirai Chinyakata of MDC-T and Tarwirei Mugadza of NCA.

At 5 of the 6 polling stations in the ward where ZESN observers observed the opening, the stations opened on time with all materials in place. Voting procedures were smooth although a number of voters were turned away due to various reasons. An analysis of the reasons possibly point to the inadequacy of the voter education that was provided prior to the by-election. Some of these reasons include not having an identity card, being in the wrong ward, while some voters brought party agents to assist them.

It is commendable that the use of voting slips was not as prevalent in this by-election as has been observed in the past 5 by-elections observed by ZESN in 2014. This is a welcome development as party agents and observers had complained in the past that they were unable to verify the authenticity of the voting slips.

ZESN commends ZEC for recording gender disaggregated data of those who voted. ZESN however recommends that these vital statistics be made public at the same time that the verified results of the by-election are released to the public and interested stakeholders, like political parties and civic organizations to inform their programmes.

Gutu South Ward 24 results

Candidate	Party	Results
Tinopiwa Chatukuta	ZANU PF	852
Namatirai Chinyakata	MDC-T	318
Tarwirei Mugadza	NCA	33
Rejected		17

Source ZEC

In addition, ZESN applauds ZEC for affording the eligible voters of Gutu South Ward 24 an opportunity to elect another councillor as provided for in the legislative framework governing the conduct of by-elections in Zimbabwe. This shows that ZEC also places high importance on local governance and ZESN believes that local authority by-elections help further strengthen democratic consolidation at the grassroots level. ZESN continues to promote citizen participation in electoral processes at all levels, thus the organization deployed a team of 5 accredited observers to observe this by-election. // **End**

ZIMBABWE ELECTION SUPPORT NETWORK PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE



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