



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

**Press Statement**

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## **PRELIMINARY STATEMENT ON THE GLEN VIEW SOUTH NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BY-ELECTION**

**12 April 2025** - In line with its mission to promote democratic free and fair electoral processes through objectively and impartially observing elections in Zimbabwe, the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) observed the Glenview South National Assembly by-election on 12 April 2025. The by-election in which the Zimbabwe African National Union - Patriotic Front (ZANU-PF) party won, were 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.

### **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. The Nomination Court sat on 13 March 2025 to consider nominations for by-election. 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.

### **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.

### **Pre-election Observations**

The pre-election period in Glenview South, leading up to the April 12th by-elections, were characterised by vigorous campaigning and escalating political tensions. ZESN observed that ZANU-PF, through its candidate Tsitsi Tawomhera, undertook extensive outreach activities, including door-to-door canvassing, public roadshows, and targeted voter mobilisation efforts and the distribution of food hampers to the elderly. The party also inaugurated a borehole at Glenview 3 Shopping Centre. Their final campaign rally featured prominent party officials such as the ZANU-PF Women's League Chairperson.

Independent candidates, notably Tonderai Chakeredza, Tungamirai Madzokere, and George Makwangwaidze, engaged in active campaigning, primarily through door-to-door visits and the dissemination of campaign literature. Disputes arose among residents concerning George Makwangwaidze's voter registration eligibility. Tonderai Chakeredza's posters were vandalised.

The NCA, represented by Perpertia Mukanda, initially conducted a lower-profile campaign, prompting some residents to mistake their activities for non-political endeavours. However, they later held a campaign rally. The political climate deteriorated, marked by incidents of inter-party clashes, including defacing of posters and physical confrontations between ZANU-PF and NCA supporters.

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) was also observed conducting preparatory activities, including the identification and allocation of polling stations.

Section 152 of the Electoral Act contains provisions that prohibit the defacing or removal of political campaign posters. ZESN condemns the destruction of political posters and implores political parties to adhere to provisions of the Electoral Act and Political Parties Code of Conduct as well as to embrace tolerance of divergent views throughout the electoral process.

### **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.

### **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.

## **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.

## **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.

## **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.

**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.

**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.

**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 2025.

The table below shows the results of the by-election.

**Table 1. Glenview South National Assembly By-election results**

GLENVIEW SOUTH								
2025 By-elections					2023 Harmonised Elections			
Candidate	Sex	Party	Votes		Candidate	Sex	Party	Votes

<b>Tsitsi Tawomhera</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>ZANU-PF</b>	<b>3,404</b>		<b>Hakata Gladmore</b>	<b>M</b>	<b>CCC</b>	<b>15,203</b>
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	<b>F</b>	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.

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

The Network acknowledges and commends ANC 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 should make efforts to increase the political literacy of their supporters so as to raise the level of interest in local authority elections. The turnout during the by-elections clearly indicates that voters seem to have less interest in by-elections.

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. //ENDS

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FOR COMMENTS AND FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

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