

# ZIMBABWE ELECTION SUPPORT NETWORK



## PRE-POLLING PRESS RELEASE

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### ZESN OBSERVING MT DARWIN WEST AND CHIRUMHANZU-ZIBAGWE BY-ELECTIONS

**Harare-25 March 2015-** The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) a network of 31 non-governmental organisations working on the promotion of democratic elections in Zimbabwe will be observing the two parliamentary by-elections set for 27 March in Mt. Darwin West and Chirumanzu – Zibagwe constituencies.

The constituencies fell vacant following the appointment in 2013 of former Vice-President Joice Mujuru and the elevation of Hon Emmerson D Mnangagwa to the post of Vice-President of Zimbabwe in December 2014.

As part of its mandate to promote a democratic environment and electoral processes, ZESN has carried out voter education for voter registration, voter education for polling in Mt Darwin West and Chirumanzu-Zibagwe, has also observed the pilot voter registration in the two constituencies and will be observing the entire polling process. ZESN is deploying 45 observers for the two by-elections both static (Polling station based observers) and mobile observers.

ZESN urges citizens in the two constituencies to go out and exercise their right to vote. Political parties and traditional leaders are also urged to ensure that peace prevails during these elections and that the electorate exercises their right to vote without intimidation and fear of retribution.

As part of its obligation to gather and disseminate credible electoral information, ZESN will be releasing regular alerts, statements and information updates throughout the entire polling process. Citizens can receive updates on the following ZESN information outlets:

**Facebook:** *Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN)*

**Twitter handle:** @ZESNI

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