



Ballot Update

Bulletin

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FREE

The Pros and Cons of Devolution: Can it Work in Zimbabwe?

By ZESN



Copac co-chairpersons from left Hon. Edward Mkhosi, Hon. Munyaradzi Paul Mangwana, Hon. Douglas Mwonozora during a Copac press conference

For devolved governments or structures to effectively do this they will need to adequately incorporate principles of accommodation of diversity, democracy, human rights and rule of law, equitable development and good governance. In other words, devolved government should enhance national unity through recognition of diversity and identities.

“Because it recognises diversity, devolution is said to be effective in fostering national unity among all the citizens of the country.”

Devolution is also expected to facilitate the reduction of economic inequalities among the various provinces and districts in Zimbabwe. There will obviously be need for financial and other resources to be equitably distributed by Central Government to the provinces and districts. Devolution is argued to be instrumental in the promotion of democratic governance in the

Devolution is the transfer of power from a central government to sub-national authorities such as those at state, regional, provincial, district or local level. Devolution can therefore be defined as the practice or form of decentralisation through which the authority to make and implement decisions in selected areas of public policy is conferred to elected sub-national levels of government by law.

The defining feature of devolution is the transfer of political powers and autonomy to sub-national units which are in turn politically accountable to the local communities as opposed to the centre. Such features also define forms of government such as federalism where sub-national units exercise some form of self-rule and shared rule based on some arrangements.

This is further complicated by the fact that states at times deliberately avoid terms such as federalism, for political or other reasons, even where such political systems are federal in everything but the name. Since Zimbabwe is essentially a unitary state, it is best to consider the notion of devolution in relation to unitary as opposed to federal states.

Devolution of power is often argued to be a means of enhancing participatory governance, transparency and accountability, good governance and equitable development. This means that the design, political culture and practice in devolved governments or structures are important in achieving objectives of devolution.

Devolved governments must incorporate principles of democracy, transparency and accountability. There is need to have a proper system of enhancing political accountability at the provincial and district level. In the specific case of Zimbabwe, a devolved government would be expected to ensure that provinces and districts that have hitherto been lagging behind in development by Central Government will be able to benefit as they will draw their own development priorities as well as make decisions on how available resources should be allocated to those priorities. Devolution of state power is also expected to contribute to the elimination of political violence and conflict in the country.

It also makes those in power more accountable to the people at the local level than would otherwise be the case under centralisation.

Because it recognises diversity, devolution is said to be effective in fostering national unity among all the citizens of the country. It facilitates the distribution of the power of self governance to the people in the various parts of the country therefore; it enhances participation in decision making and governance. Devolution can reduce oppression of some groups of people by those who are in power at the central government level since it recognises the right of communities to manage their own affairs. In this manner, devolution has the capability to protect and promote the rights and interests of minority groups and marginalised communities.

Devolution can also be argued to bring government closer to the people, and this can have the benefit of promoting social and economic development and the effective provision of appropriate goods and services to the people. Depending on the model utilised for the purpose of effecting devolution, it is possible for this form of decentralisation to facilitate the equitable sharing of national as well as local resources for the benefit of all citizens. Further, devolution will effectively facilitate the decentralisation of State organs as well as their functions and services from the capital city to the regions. The case for devolution in Zimbabwe is further argued by numerous developments in the country since the attainment of national independence in 1980.

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Election news quotes

“Our party's victory in the next elections is dependent on four provinces which are Mashonaland East, West, Central and Midlands. Why do I say that? I say so as new votes that can be turned in MDC's favour are more in these provinces while in others victory is certain,” Komichi said. **NEWSDAY 29 JUNE 2012**

Amal Mugabe told the Sunday Mail in an interview the revolutionary party stood a better chance to win this year's elections. “... I do not think it will ever happen that Zanu-PF will lose this election. I don't think it will. Never! I do not think Zanu-PF will ever lose the elections”. **THE HERALD 18 JUNE 2012**

Dr Martin Rupiya, Executive Director of the African Public Policy and Research Institute, says “...the military must not be discounted as it will play a critical role in the next elections and may influence the out-come.” **THE ZIMBABWE INDEPENDENT 22 JUNE 2012**

sms election related comments to: 0773 782 870



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Zvakanakira nezvakashatira kuti rimwe simba rehurumende ripihwe kumaporovhinzi nematunhu enyika: Zvingashande here muZimbabwe?

Chinyorwa ichi chakagadzirwa neboka reZESN

Kupa rimwe simba rehutongi kumaporovhinzi nematunhu (districts) inzira inoshandiswa pakuedza kuti masimba ekutonga nyika asawanikwa panzvimbo imwe chete. Izvi zvinoreva kuti maporovhinzi nematunhu anopihwa masimba ekusarudza nekuita zvimwe zvirongwa munzvimbo idzodzi. Pfungwa yakanyanya kukosha pachitiko ichi ndeyekuti, pane kuti masimba ehutongi ange ari panzvimbo imwe chete, maporovhinzi nematunhu anopihwa mamwe masimba kuti vatungamiri vemunzvimbo idzi vakwanise kushanda pamwe nevanhu vari munharaunda idzi pakuita zvirongwa zvinounza budiriro.

Pahurumende dzemhando iyi, panogona kunge paine hurumende yenyika yese nehurumende dzemaporovhinzi nematunhu. Naizvozvo vatungamiri vehurumende idzi vanobvumirana kuti hurumende yenyika yese itonge pane dzimwe nyaya zvimwe zvoitwa nehurumende dziri mumaporovhinzi nematunhu. Imwe mhando zvakare yehutongi uhu ndeyekuti, porovhinzi rimwe nerimwe rinove nehurumende yaro yakazvimirira. Asi kana takatarisana neZimbabwe zvinogona kunetsa nekuti Zimbabwe parizvino ine hurumende imwe chete. Zvingave nani kuti hurumende ipe mamwe masimba ehutongi kumaporovhinzi nematunhu.

Kupa masimba ehutongi kumaporovhinzi nematunhu enyika kunobatsira kuti vanhu vari mumatunhu aya vakwanise kusarudza zvirongwa zvakanakosha panyaya dzezvebudiriro nezvevatongerwo enyika. Chimwe chikonzero chakanakira hurongwa uhu ndechekuti, zvirinyore kuti ruzhinji rvuone kuti vatungamiri vari kuita zvinodiwa here nevagari vemunzvimbo idzi. Kana takanangana neZimbabwe, hurongwa uhu hunobatsira kuti maporovhinzi nematunhu ange akasarira panyaya dzebudiriro akwanise kusarudza hurongwa hwebudiriro vega vachienderana nezvakavakosha pamwe nemari nezvekushandisa zviripo panguya iyoyo.

Kupa mamwe masimba ehutongi kumaporovhinzi nematunhu kunotarisirwa kudzikisa huiwandu hwekurwisana nemakakatanwa panyaya dzezvevatongerwo enyika. Kuti izvi zvikanise kuitwa nemazvo, hurumende dzemhando iyi dzinofanira kukosha zviga zvinosanganisira, kugamuchira kusiyana kwemaonero nemafungiro evanhu, kukosha hutongi hweruzhinji, kuchengetedza kodzero dzevanhu, kuchengetedza mutemo, kuyenzana kwebudiriro munzvimbo dzese pamwe nekusarudza hutungamiri hunoshanda kuti pave nebudiriro. Hurumende dzemhando iyi dzinogona kukurudzira kuti vanhu vabatane kubudikidza nekucherechedza nekukosha ndudzi dzevanhu dzakasiyana-siyana.

Kupa masimba ehutongi kumatunhu nemaporovhinzi kunokurudzira hutongi hweruzhinji munyika. Kunobatsira zvakare kuti vatungamiri vaite zvido zvevanhu nekukurudzira kubatana kwezvizvarwa zvenyika. Hurumende yemhando iyi inobatsira zvakare kuti pasave nehudzvanyiriri hwemapoka evanhu vakasiyana-siyana nevutungamiri vehurumende nekuti inocherechedza kukosha kwevagari vemunharaunda pakugadzirisa matambudziko avo.

Chimwe chakanakira kupa masimba kumatunhu ndechekuti mapazi ehurumende awanikwe munzvimbo dziri pedyo neruzhinji. Vaongorori vezvemafambiro ezvinhu muZimbabwe vanoti kubva mugore ra1980, zvakaonekwa pachena kuti mamwe matunhu ange achisarira shure panyaya dzezvebudiriro nekuti hurumende yange ichishanda iri panzvimbo imwe chete inove muguta guru reZimbabwe. Naizvozvo kupa masimba ehutongi kumatunhu kunogona kugadzirisa matambudziko emhando iyi.

Kazhinji vanhu vanopokana nehurongwa hwekupa masimba ehutongi kumatunhu nemaporovhinzi, vanhu vari kuwana chouvi kubudikidza nehurumende inenge ichtonga iri panzvimbo imwe chete. Vanoti zvakare hurumende dzemumatunhu nemaporovhinzi dzinogona kusafarirwa uyezve dzinogona kusangana nematambudziko makuru panyaya dzezvehupfumi nemitemo dzokundikana kugadzirisa matambudziko aya.

Kuti hurumende dzemhando iyi dzikwanise kushanda zvakanaka, panofanira kuve nemitemo yakajeka inotaura mafambisirwo ebaso mumaporovhinzi nemumatunhu. Uyezve mapoka anoona nezvekodzero dzevanhu anogona kutadza kuita basa rawo nemazvo mumatunhu ese zvoita kuti hurumende dzemumatunhu dzitadze kuita basa zvakanaka.

“Kupa masimba ehutongi kumatunhu nemaporovhinzi kunokurudzira hutongi hweruzhinji munyika.”

Kurudziro iri kuitwa nezvizvarwa zveZimbabwe yekuti mamwe masimba ehurumende apihwe kumatunhu nemaporovhinzi ipfungwa isingafaniri kuonekwa senzira yekuda kupesana vanhu vemuZimbabwe. Pfungwa iyi yakanangana nekuda kugadzirisa matambudziko makuru anosanganisira kusabudirira kwedzimwe nzvimbo,

huori, kusashanda zvakanaka kwemamwe mapazi ehurumende nezvimwe zvakanaka.

Imwe pfungwa huru iripo ndeyekuti bumbiro remutemo ririkugadzirwa rinofanira kukurudzira kuti vanhu vaite rupande rwavo panyaya dzebudiriro, matongerwo enyika nepakusarudza hurongwa hune chekuita nehupenyu hwavo munharaunda dzavanogara. Izvi zvichabatsira kuti pave nehutungamiri hwakanaka nehutongi hunoita zvido zveruzhinji rwevanhu vemuZimbabwe.

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The Pros and Cons of Devolution: Can it Work in Zimbabwe?

Zimbabweans have realized that the over-centralisation of power and authority has, inter alia, resulted in unbalanced development and gross levels of inequality in the distribution of national resources. In other words, the prevailing state failure in Zimbabwe is largely attributed to the centralisation of state power and authority.

The demerits of devolution are usually strongly emphasised by people who are part and parcel of Central Government, or those who will be benefiting from centralised power and authority. They often argue that there can even be central bureaucratic hostility which will result in the devolved regions experiencing considerable hardships in their operations. Local institutions can face difficult economic and policy environments that may inhibit their effectiveness. To be effective devolution will need to be accompanied by the institution of relevant legal and administrative reforms at the national level. If these reforms are absent or poorly formulated and implemented, there can be severe problems for devolved structures of governance and development. Further, civic groups at the regional and local level may fail to effectively perform their watchdog roles thereby leaving the devolved governments struggling to accurately chart the best way forward for their areas of jurisdiction.

The demands for devolution of State power by a number of Zimbabweans cannot be dismissed as attempts at weakening national unity. They are clearly aimed at addressing rather serious problems of unbalanced development, corruption, inefficiency of governance, among numerous other challenges. They are certainly aimed at ensuring that the proposed Constitution will facilitate and safeguard popular participation of the people in the development, governance and decision making processes that affect them and their localities. This will obviously enhance both democracy and good governance in Zimbabwe.



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AN ANALYSIS OF JUNE 2012:

Introduction

The period May to June witnessed a number of political developments with a bearing on Zimbabwe's election plans. The SADC Extraordinary Summit for Heads of State and Government was held in Luanda Angola on the 1st of June 2012. COPAC made an official announcement that the draft constitution was ready and had been submitted to the management committee. In another incident, police brutality reared its ugly head again as a civilian lost life at the hands of the police. The period also saw the launch of the Zimpapers Star FM radio station. ZESN observers have reported a tense political environment in most constituencies and the stifling of people's fundamental freedoms. The Zimbabwe Election Support Network remains dedicated to the promotion of democratic elections in Zimbabwe. In line with this objective, we continue to analyse the political environment in the 210 constituencies.

The GPA

The GPA remains a troubled coalition characterised by the usual bickering that has become a typical feature of the coalition. The parties continue to fight against each other on the constitution making process, on the role of SADC and the Mediator in Zimbabwe as well as the security sector.

Internally parties also show fractures as they squabble for leadership and control of the reins of the parties. The infighting within political parties increases the instability of the GNU and makes it impossible for effective implementation of programmes. Parties are expending huge amounts of energy on the intra and inter-party squabbles without a focus on the development needs of the country.

The SADC Extraordinary Summit

The Extraordinary Summit of SADC Heads of State and Government was held in Luanda, Angola on the 1st June 2012. Zimbabwe was a primary objective of the summit to discuss the implementation of the GPA, constitution making process and electoral reforms. The communiqué of the Summit stipulated the need for the parties to the GNU to finalise the constitution making process and subject it to a referendum thereafter. The Summit also urged the parties to develop an implementation mechanism to set out time frames for the full implementation of the Roadmap to elections. ZESN believes that these recommendations came at an opportune time given the need to fully implement provisions of the GPA in order to create an environment that engenders free and fair elections.

Ukwehlisela amandla ezabelweni: Kungasebenza na kweleZimbabwe?

Umbono we- ZESN

Ukwehliswa kwamandla wokubusa (devolution of power) yindlela yokususa amanye amandla kuhulumende welizwe ephiwa, ngokusemthethweni, ohulumende bezabelo ezechukeneyo zelizwe ukuze benelise ukubusa izabelo zabo besebenzelana ndawonye laye. Lokhu kungachazwa njengendlela yokupha ohulumende bezabelo amandla eneleyo ukuba benze imithetho lenhlelo zokuthuthukisa uzulu wakulezo zabelo ngezifiso kanye lenhlupho abhekane lazo.

Ukwehliswa kwamandla lokhu kupha amandla kanye lozibuse ezabelweni ezitshiyeneyo zelizwe ukuze kugcwaliswe izifiso zikazulu, hatshi ezikahulumende. Indlela le ngokomthetho yehlukeneyo lezinye azifana lokuqunywaqunywa kwelizwe, kudalwa imibuso ezimele yodwa izibusa kungela ukungelana kukahulumende walelo lizwe. Njengoba ilizwe leZimbabwe lilohulumende ophethe konke, kusukela ezabelweni kusiyi elizweni lonke ngobubanzi balo, lungaba lusizo loluhlelo lokwehlisela amandla ezigabeni kulokuba kudalwe izabelo ezizimele zodwa kungela kungenela kukahulumende. Uhlelo lolu selunconywe njengendlela yokwengezelela ukuphatheka kukazulu kwezombusazwe. Lokhu kwenza uhulumende asebenze ngobuqotho kanye lonkwengezelela amathuba entuthuko ebantwini ngezigaba zabo ezechukeneyo. Lokhu kutsho ukuthi ukubunjwa, imikhuba kanye lendlela yokubusa kukahulumende opha amandla ezabelweni kuqakatheke kakhulu ekugcwaliseni injongo zalohlelo. Uhulumende opha amandla okubusa ezabelweni kumele azinikele ekuhlonipheni intando kazulu lasekusebenzeni kule. Ukubusa okuqotho kudinga ukuthi kube lendlela esobala yokugxilisa ubuqotho lokubusa kule kubohulumende bezabelo.

Kwele-Zimbabwe, uhulumende owehlisela amandla ezabelweni ukhangelelwe ukuthi aphe amandla kubohulumende bezabelo, ikakhulu labo abanganakekelwa nguhulumende welizwe, ukuze benelise ukwaba umnotho wabo lokwenza inhlelo zokuthuthukisa izabelo zabo bekhangela kakhulu lokho okudingwa nguzulu wakulezo zabelo. Uhlelo lokwehliselwa kwamandla ezabelweni lukhangelelwe njalo ukuqeda ukulwa lokungezwani kwabantu elizweni. Ukuze uhulumende obusa ngohlelo lolu enelise ukufoza umsebenzi lo kumele ananzelelise ukuhlalisana kule kwemihlobo etshiyeneyo yabantu, umbuso wentando kazulu, amalungelo oluntu lokubusa ngokusemthethweni. Okunye njalo okuqakathekileyo yikuthuthukisa uzulu wonke ngokulinganayo. Uhulumende opha amandla izabelo kumele enelise ukudala ukubambana elizweni ngokunanzelela imihlobo etshiyeneyo ephila ndawonye.

Okunye njalo okukhangelelweyo ngalohlelo lombuso yikuthi intuthuko lezomnotho kwezabelo ezitshiyeneyo zelizwe kulingane. Ukuze lokhu kufezuke, kumele-ke umnotho onjengemali kanye lokunye, kwabiwe ngokulinganayo phakathi kwalezi zabelo. Indlela yokubusa le (devolution) isinconywe njalo njengendlela ezadala ukubusa kwentando kazulu elizweni.

Ibonakala njalo njengendlela yokuletha umbuso owenza labo abasembusweni basebenzele abantu bezabelo zabo ukwedlula lokho okwenzakala embusweni olohumende ongabi amandla labohulumende bezabelo. Ngenxa yokuba indlela le kumbe ukuhlelwa kombuso lokhu kunanzelela ukuba ilizwe lelizwe lilemihlobo etshiyeneyo yabantu abaphila kulo, lokhu kwenza umhlobo munye ngamunye usibuse njalo wenelise kuphatheka ekubusweni kanye lasekuthuthukeni kwelizwe. Ukwehlisela amandla ezabelweni kuyasiza njalo ukuba kungabi lokuhlukuluzwa kumbe ukuncindezelwa lokunganazwa kwamalungelo abantu abatshiyeneyo elizweni.

Ngale indlela, izidingo lezifiso zabantu kanye lentutuko yabo kugcwaliswa lula ngoba uhulumende ubasebantwini, benelise ukuxoxa laye njalo bamsole kanye lapho ona khona ngengohulumende. Ukukwehlisa amandla aye ezabelweni kusiza kakhulu ukuba inotho yelizwe yabiwe ngokulingene zonke izizalwane zalolo lizwe.

Udaba lokuhlelwa kombuso ngendlela epha amandla okuzibusa ezabelweni ze-Zimbabwe luza ngemva kokuba sokube lezinto ezinengi ezenzakala phakathi kwelizwe, kusukela ngomnyaka ka-1980 lapho ilizwe lithola uzibuse. Ngobunengi bazo izizalwane zakuleli sezinanzelele ukuba ukupha amandla amanengi okubusa kuhulumende welizwe kudala ukungathuthuki kwelizwe kanye lempilo yabantu. Njalo ezinye izabelo ziyayiswela intuthuko ngenxa yalokho.

Labo abasaphethe umbuso bayalusola kakhulu loluhlelo besithi lungadala ukungezwani kumbe ingxabano phakathi kukahulumende welizwe lalabo abezabelo. Bayatsho njalo ukuba ingatsha lezi kumbe izabelo zingahlangana lobunzima obungadalela abantu inhluho ezinengi kulezo zabelo. Bayatsho njalo labo abasola loluhlelo ukuthi, lenhlanganiso zikazulu zingehluleka ukuncedisa ingatsha zabohulumende bezabelo lezi ukuze zifeze imisebenzi yazo.

Kodwa-ke ukuze lokhu kwehliswa kwamandla kumbe ukudala uhulumende ophathisana labohulumende bezabelo, kumele kube lezindlela kumbe imithetho kanye lezinye ingatsha ezingancedisa izabelo ukuze zisebenze ngendlela elezithelo ezibonakalayo.

Umhankaso wokuguqula ukwabiwa kwamandla wombuso kweleZimbabwe akumelanga kukhangelwe njengendlela yokuthathela uhulumende amandla wonke. Uhlelo lolu lujonge ukuba kunanzelelwe amalungelo abantu ngezigaba zabo, njalo kuhlonitshwe ilungelo lokuzibusa kwabantu bebhakana lenhlupho zezabelo. Kusobala ke ukuthi ukwabiwa kwamandla phakathi kukahulumende welizwe lalabo abezabelo kujonge ukuqinisa umbuso wentando kazulu lentuthuko kwele-Zimbabwe.



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ZESN remains concerned that the stalling of the constitution making process is a great hindrance to the achievement of progress on electoral reforms. We therefore urge the parties to the GNU to heed calls by the SADC Heads of State and Government and work together and deliver a home grown constitution.

Constitution making process

ZESN is following the constitution making process and is dissatisfied over the stalling of progress by the haggling of parties in the GNU. ZESN notes the failure of parties to the GNU to reach consensus over issues in the constitution with devolution being one of the contentious issues. While the parties have been working together throughout the process, ZESN is surprised to learn that they are almost 200 issues that were still outstanding in the draft constitution. This is an intentional attempt to derail the process and impede progress. ZESN believes that the constitution is not for the parties to the GNU alone but should be treated as a national document for citizens. The manner in which parties have taken over the process does not provide citizens with ownership of the document as it is seen as serving partisan interests and not national interests. ZESN urges COPAC and the parties to the inclusive government to put national interests above their partisan political interests for the good of the nation of Zimbabwe.

Media Reforms: Launch of Zimpapers Star FM Radio Station

ZESN notes the launch of the newly established Broadcasting Station, Star FM which started operating on the 21st of June 2012. While this increases media plurality, ZESN remains cautious about the extent to which the radio station will bring a diversity of voices to Zimbabwe. We also hope that Star FM will impart to citizens, objective and accurate information. ZESN believes that an open media is vital in ensuring independent and transparent electoral processes and can foster real choice for citizens increasing the country's democratic space.

Human rights and fundamental freedoms

Human rights are inalienable fundamental rights to which a person is inherently entitled simply because he or she is a human being and as such ZESN believes that these rights ought to be protected. However in a number of areas reports from observers have shown how these rights are being infringed upon. Reports from Goromonzi West have noted some residents were arrested upon commenting on the prevalence of road blocks in the constituency, a clear infringement of their freedom of expression.

Observers in some constituencies have reported fear instilled in citizens by people masquerading as Central Intelligence Operatives (CIO) and their inability to exercise their freedoms particularly freedom of association, assembly and expression. Observers in Hatcliffe have reported that MDC members are living in fear of intimidation and harassment for their choice of party. In some constituencies, observers have reported the need to be associated with ZANU PF in order to avoid victimisation and discrimination a clear violation of the right to free association and expression. Observers in Chegutu East have reported that some farms, workers are being physically assaulted and threatened with eviction by farm owners for supporting the MDC party. Observers in Zvimba North have stated the continuation of propagating hate speech at rallies by ZANU PF members and war veterans. Observers in Chakari constituency have reported infighting within the ZANU PF during the DCC elections. Observers in Matabeleland constituencies have noted on the arbitrary arrest and intimidation of members and supporters of upcoming political parties.

Observers in Bindura North and Bulawayo constituencies have reported that citizens and members of all political parties are free to wear their regalia without fear. NGOs in the area are able to get police clearance to conduct their workshops without any hindrances. Observers in Zvishavane, Runde, Chivi North, Mutare Central, Danganvura and Chikanga have cited that there is political coexistence in the constituencies as the ZANU PF and the two MDC formations are working together. Observers in Kwekwe have stated that JOMIC has been facilitating soccer tournaments involving members of all political parties.

ZESN acknowledges the efforts of various civic organisations in trying to foster democratic principles that promote respect for human rights. ZESN maintains the stance that all political parties should be granted equal and free political space in order for them to organise and canvass for support. Reports from observers however, show that some political parties are able to organise and mobilise whilst restrictions are placed on other political parties. Observers in Hurungwe, Zvimba North, Shamva North, Mazowe South and Mutoko North have cited that ZANU PF is the only party that has been able to hold meetings and rallies in these constituencies.

ZESN notes the continued misuse of state resources in constituencies under observation as documented by observers. In some constituencies, observers have reported the use of schools, buses and clinics for political party purposes. In some constituencies reports have shown that soldiers, youth officers and other government personnel are campaigning for ZANU PF.

ZESN feels that rights to livelihoods of individuals are crucial and pertinent to the survival of citizens and as such much emphasis ought to be put on them. Observers in Hurungwe Magunje and Hurungwe East have stated that inputs are being politicised by the ZANU PF party as the party is using them to lure votes for the forthcoming election. Observers in Hurungwe East have stated that distribution of grain which is meant for the elderly and vulnerable members in society is being done along partisan lines to ZANU PF members. Observers in Mutoko Central, Chimanemani, Chipinge West, Chipinge Central, Musikavanhu, Gutu East, Gutu Central, Gutu North, Zaka West, Zaka East, Bikita South, Bikita West, Chivi North, Chivi Central, Masvingo North, Masvingo West, Chirumanzu South, Mberengwa East, Mberengwa West, Isobel, Gokwe Kabuyuni, Gokwe Central, Gokwe Kana, Gokwe Gumunyu, Gokwe Mapfungautsi North have stated that the presidential maize scheme is only benefitting ZANU PF supporters.

ZESN remains committed to monitoring Zimbabwe's political environment and analysing their implications for the conduct of elections in Zimbabwe. While some areas in Zimbabwe are experiencing human rights violations in various ways, observers have also noted areas where people's rights are respected. ZESN envisages a Zimbabwe where people's rights are respected and protected. In pursuance of our mandate of promoting a democratic Zimbabwe where free and fair elections are conducted, ZESN advocates for these minimum conditions:

- The creation of a violent-free environment where freedom of assembly, association and speech among others are upheld.
- Election observation forms a critical element in any election, ZESN calls for the opening up of election observation to all interested stakeholders and for the invitation to be given by ZEC and not an executive arm of government.
- Furthermore, ZESN remains concerned about the state of the voters' roll and calls for the production of a fresh voters' roll.
- ZESN advocates that ZEC should be independent of executive influence and report to Parliament, be well resourced and be given its full mandate in the management of elections.

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