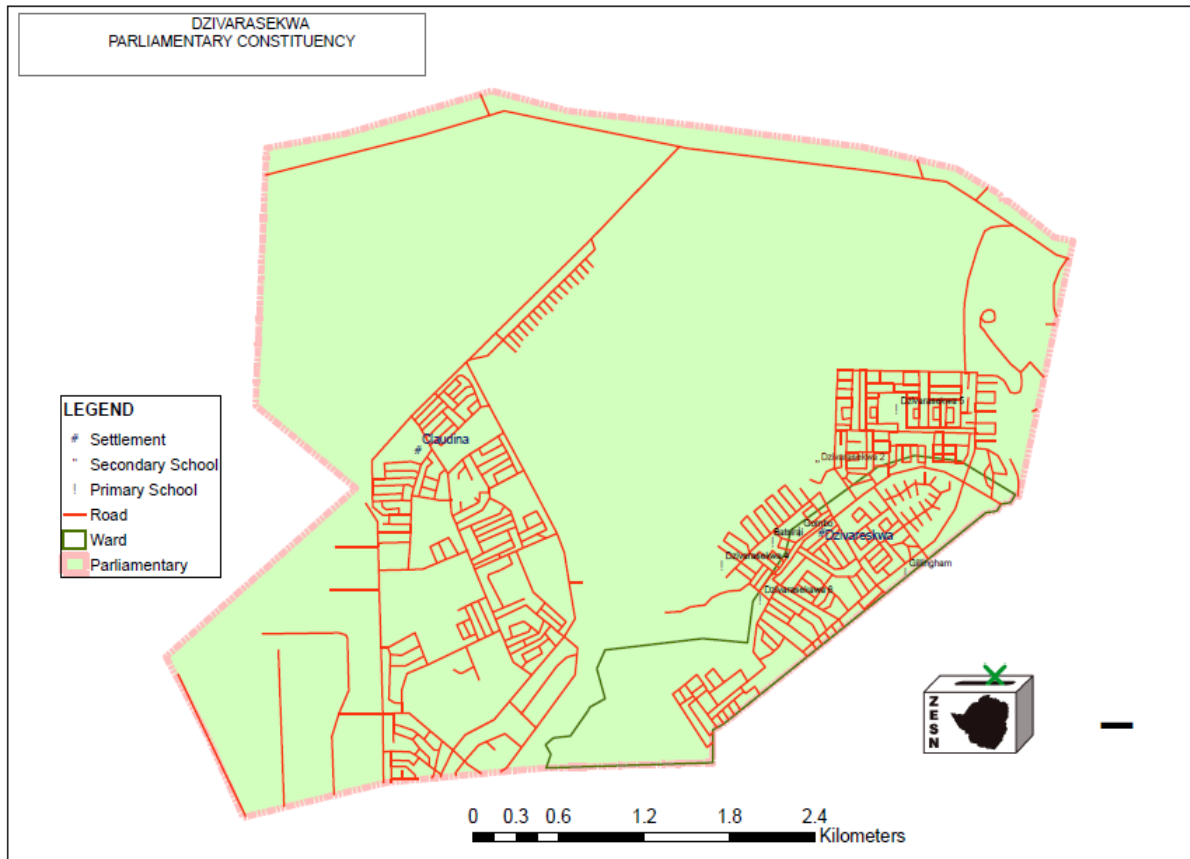


Zimbabwe Election Support Network



CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Dzivarasekwa Constituency



1. Introduction

Dzivarasekwa constituency is located in Harare Province. It comprises Glaudina, Dzivarasekwa Extension and Dzivarasekwa. It is situated to the north western side of the City of Harare. The high density suburb has experienced perennial problems of water supply, sewerage reticulation and an increasing number of road pot holes due to reduced road servicing. The area has registered high unemployment levels among the youth. Most residents in this constituency live on buying and selling commodities on the black market.

The Harare province has 29 National Assembly and six Senatorial constituencies. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) allocated the province 875 polling stations during the 2013 harmonised elections.

2. The population demographics

According to the ZimStat Census Report of 2012, the total population of the province was 1 212 313 in 2012. Females had the largest population proportion of approximately 52 percent while males had a proportion of 48 percent. This resulted in a sex ratio of 93. Harare Urban constituted 70 percent of the population in the province.

3. Previous Election Results

The constituency has been an opposition strong hold with Mushoriwa Edwin winning twice in 2000 and 2005 with 18516 and 11617 votes respectively. In 2008 and 2013 the constituency was won by MDC T candidates who garnered 6374 and 6591 votes. Analyses of the voting patterns reveal a drop in MDC and MDC T voters from 2000 through to 2013 election while ZANU PF votes increased from 2 769 in 2008 to 5402 in 2013.

Table 1: Previous Election Results

Year	Candidates	Political Party	Number of Votes
2008	Masaiti Evelyn	MDC T	6374
	Mushoriwa Edwin	MDC	763
	Sipani Hungwe Omega	ZANU PF	2769
2013 Harmonised Elections	Trynos Mgutshini	MDC	729
	Never Kowo	ZANU PF	5402
	Madzore Solomon Kowo	MDCT	6591
	Sydney Zattah	INDEPENDENT	181
	Alec Masomera	UMD	323
	Francis Chatindo	MKD	85
	Trynos Mgutshini	MDC	729

Source: www.zec.org.zw

4. Background and legal framework

The Dzivarasekwa by-election will be held on the 10th of June 2015. The seat fell vacant following the expulsion of the Member of Parliament Madzore Solomon Kowo from MDC-T, after joining the MDC Renewal and subsequently the UMD. Madzore Solomon Kowo was amongst the group of 21 MDC Renewal members who were then subsequently recalled from Parliament. According to the Constitution of Zimbabwe, Section 129 (1) (k) the seat of a Member of Parliament becomes vacant if the member ceases to belong to the political party of which he or she was a member when elected to Parliament. In accordance with the Electoral Act, Section 39 (2) the President proclaimed the date of the 16th of April 2015 as the date for nomination court and election on the 10th June 2015.

5. Voter Registration and Registered voters

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) began voter registration for the by-election from 22 to 28 April 2015. The ZEC used the 2013 Harmonised Elections Voters' roll as the baseline; hence there was no re-registration of those whose names were already appearing in the register.

In 2008, Harare province had a total of 766 478 registered voters and in 2013 according to the ZEC Harmonised Election Report, the registered voters increased to 826 274, an increase of 59 796 or 8%. In 2008, Dzivarasekwa constituency had a total of 22 596 registered voters (ZEC 2008 Delimitation Report). In 2013 the Constituency had an aggregate of 22 971 registered voters, a difference of 375 voters or 2% increase in registration.

6. Nomination Process and Contesting Candidates

In view of the By-elections to be held on the 10th of June 2015, the Nomination Court sat on the 16th of April 2015 from 10am in Harare to consider submissions for Dzivarasekwa Constituency.

Nine candidates will be contesting the by-election after successfully submitting their papers with the nomination court, five independent candidates, Mavambo/Kusile/Down, Transform Zimbabwe, Freedom Front Party, NCA, ZANU PF and DARE are the political parties that will be represented. Of the nine candidates, 30% are women and hence political parties are still a long way from meeting the 50/50 representation. Parties should commit to enhanced gender parity.

Table 2: Contesting candidates

Constituency	Party Name	Candidate	Gender
	Independent	Tonderai Hemani Karimakwenda	F
	Independent	Soul Tore	M

DZIVARESEKWA	African Democratic Party	Happison Chikova	M
	Mavambo/Kusile/Down	Enock Mafigu	M
	Transform Zimbabwe	Ngonizashe Chandiwana shiri	M
	NCA	Peter Mukuchamamo	M
	Progressive Democrats of Zimbabwe	Cosmas Benjamin	F
	ZANU PF	Omega Hungwe	F
	DARE	Washington Maduri Maduri	M

Voter Education

ZEC is currently engaged in voter education which is an essential and indisputable exercise. Voter education will run in phases; pre nomination voter education, voter education for voter registration and inspection, and pre polling voter education.

Conclusion

ZESN greatly emboldens political parties, the independent candidates and supporters to observe the law in their conduct and further implores the ZEC to continue providing the

voters' roll to the candidates and interested parties on a timely fashion, and the government of Zimbabwe to expeditiously align the electoral laws to the Constitution so as to avoid the electoral disputes that might compromise the conduct of the election and outcome. ZESN also calls upon political parties to entrench intra party democracy.