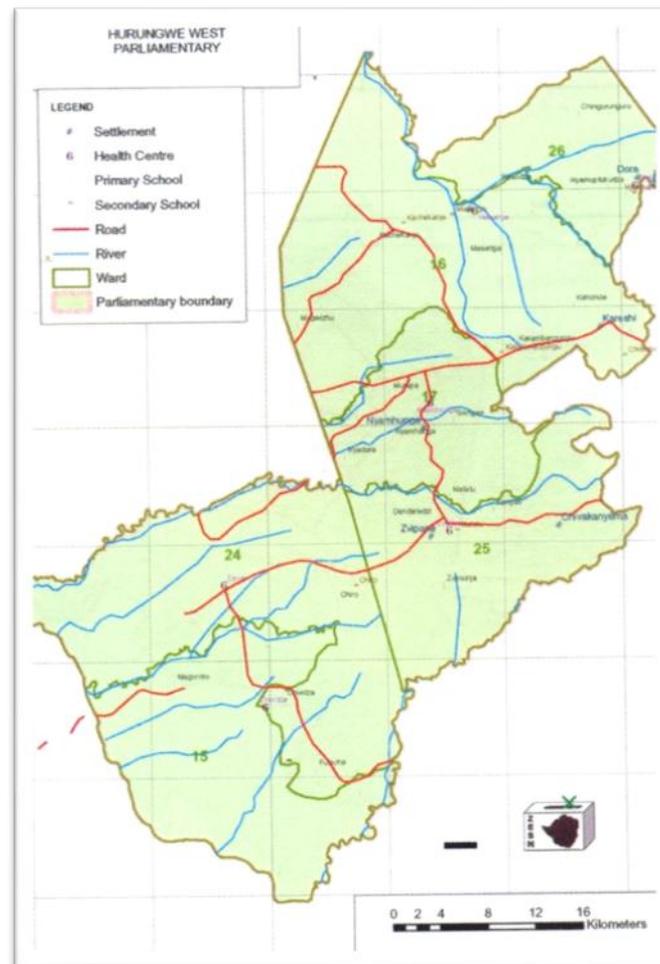


Zimbabwe Election Support Network



CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Hurungwe West Constituency



Introduction

Mashonaland West is mainly a rural province with a few urban centres (Kadoma, Kariba, Chinhoyi, Norton, Karoi and Chegutu). The Zezuru and Korekore tribes come from this province. Hurungwe West is in Hurungwe RDC which is the most Korekore populated district¹ in Mashonaland West. Former ZANU PF Mashonaland West Chairman, Temba Mliswa for the Member of Parliament for Hurungwe West Constituency. Zanu PF expelled him from the party and his seat was declared vacant by the Speaker in accordance with Section 129 (1) (k) of the Constitution². The President in the Government Gazette proclaimed 10 June 2015 as the date for the by-election.

Population and demographics

The area comprises Zvipano, Nyamhunga, Masanga, Kares and Chivakanyama. Livelihoods are derived mainly from agriculture. The poverty levels are high, given that the soils are sandy and need a lot of fertilizer, which is inaccessible and far beyond the reach of many. People of Zvipano also derive income from fishing.

Mashonaland Central in 2012 has a population of 1 501 656, of which 747 475 were males and 754 181 were females. The ZimStat 2012 Census report states that the population of Hurungwe District constitutes 21.9% of the provincial population. The district has a population of 329 197, of which 164 711 are males and 164 486 are females³.

Mashonaland West comprises of 22 national assembly constituencies, 6 senatorial seats and 6 wards (15, 16, 17, 24, 25 and 26)⁴.

¹ ZIMSTAT Mashonaland West 2012

² Section 129 (1) (k) The seat of a Member of Parliament becomes vacant if the Member has ceased to belong to the political party of which he or she was a member when elected to Parliament and the political party concerned, by written notice to the Speaker or the President of the Senate, as the case may be, has declared that the Member has ceased to belong to it;

³ Statistics taken from; ZimStat Census 2012; Mashonaland West Province Report

⁴ Zimbabwe Electoral Commission; The report on the Delimitation Exercise for the 2008 Harmonised Elections

Previous Election Results

Before the delimitation of 2008, the electorate has always voted for ZANU PF and in 2008, the MDC-T won the constituency. There were reports of intimidation and violence in the run up to the 2008 elections. See table below for results of the 2000, 2005, 2008 and 2013 harmonised elections.

Table 1: Comparison of Constituency Results from 2000

Year	Candidate	Political Party	Votes
2000	Mark Madiro	ZANU PF	18931
	Tsvangwa Kanhema	MDC	4532
2005	Cecelia Gwachirwa	ZANU PF	17295
	Godfrey Gumbo	MDC	7663
2008 ⁵	Chambati Tall Severino	MDC-T	5582
	Stella Boni Mary	ZANU PF	4203
	Edgar Ngandini	UPP	413
2013 ⁶	Kanyurira Ocean	MKD	221
	Makanyaire Wilson	MDCT	2,553
	Mliswa Temba	Zanu PF	8,485
	Munakira Douglas	MDC	562
	Chambati Tall S	INDEPENDENT	474

Source: www.zec.org.zw

⁵ ZESN: A profile of Constituencies: Understanding elections in Zimbabwe

⁶ Zimbabwe Electoral Commission Results 2013

Background and legal framework

Temba Mliswa was expelled from ZANU PF on February 18, 2015. The expulsion of Mliswa follows a series of allegations on factionalism, insubordination, undermining the authority of party leaders just to mention a few of the accusations. The Constitution of Zimbabwe stipulates that a party has the power to reclaim a seat when a member has been expelled from the party. On 3 March 2015, the Speaker of Parliament announced that Mliswa had been expelled from Parliament following the request by ZANU-PF⁷.

According to Section 129 (1) (k) of the Constitution *“if a member has ceased to belong to the political party of which he or she was member when elected to Parliament, the political party concerned shall write notice to the Speaker or president of the senate declaring that the member has ceased to belong to it”* and therefore the seat was declared vacant and a Proclamation by the President set 10 June as the date for the election while 8 April as nomination.

Registered voters

As of the 2008⁸ the total registered voters stood at 25,834. In 2013 the registered voters increased to 26 261⁹, representing an increase of 427 voters. From 2008, there was a 1.65% increase in registered voters. Basing on the 2013 19 June voters’ roll, anecdotal evidence would point that there was general under registration of the electorate between 2008 and 19 June 2013. These statistics do not incorporate the mobile voter registration exercise that was conducted from June 9 to July 9 2013.

Primary Elections

ZANU PF conducted primary elections in Hurungwe West in preparation for the by-election. Mashonaland West Vice Chairman Dr. Keith Guzha secured the ticket to represent the party in the Hurungwe West by-election set for 10 June 2015. Affirmative Action Group (AAG) president Keith Guzha won the Zanu PF primary elections, polling just 1 003 votes in

⁷ The Daily News 4 March 2015

⁸ A Profile of Constituencies: Understanding elections in Zimbabwe. ZESN 2008

⁹ ZESN obtained the 19 June 2013 voters’ rolls of which these statistics are based on

elections which were marred by serious voter apathy. Second best was Kambuzuma Chinjai who got 870 votes, followed by Marlver Chimutashu with 455 votes. Mathew Tichaona polled 234 votes, Enock Chigiya (215), Lancelot Koronga (135), Dorcas Bere (125), Patrick Maponga (58), Tinezvi Mahere (53) and Robert Tichareva (45).¹⁰

Nomination Process

The nomination process was conducted on the 08th of April in accordance with the Electoral Act (Chapter 2:13). The Court set in Chinhoyi and accepted nomination papers for the Zanu PF aspirant Dr. Keith Guzha and an Independent aspirant Temba Mliswa. There were no reported incidents of irregularities during the court sitting in Chinhoyi. See the table below for successful candidates and their political parties.

Candidate	Political Party
Dr. Keith Guzha	ZANU PF
Temba Mliswa	Independent ¹¹

Conclusion

Politics is about choices and convincing the voters with strategies and policies rather than coercion and force therefore central to democracy is the observance of all basic freedoms. ZESN calls upon the candidates and parties contesting in the by election; and their supporters to observe peace and tolerate divergent views.

¹⁰ Obey Manayi/ Nunurai Jena; *Mliswa Pushes for grand coalition* The Standard 5 April 2015 available at < <http://www.thestandard.co.zw/2015/04/05/mliswa-pushes-for-a-grand-coalition/>>

¹¹ Herald Reporter; *Mutasa disqualified, Mliswa through* The Herald 9 April 2015 available at < <http://www.herald.co.zw/mutasa-disqualified-mliswa-through/>>