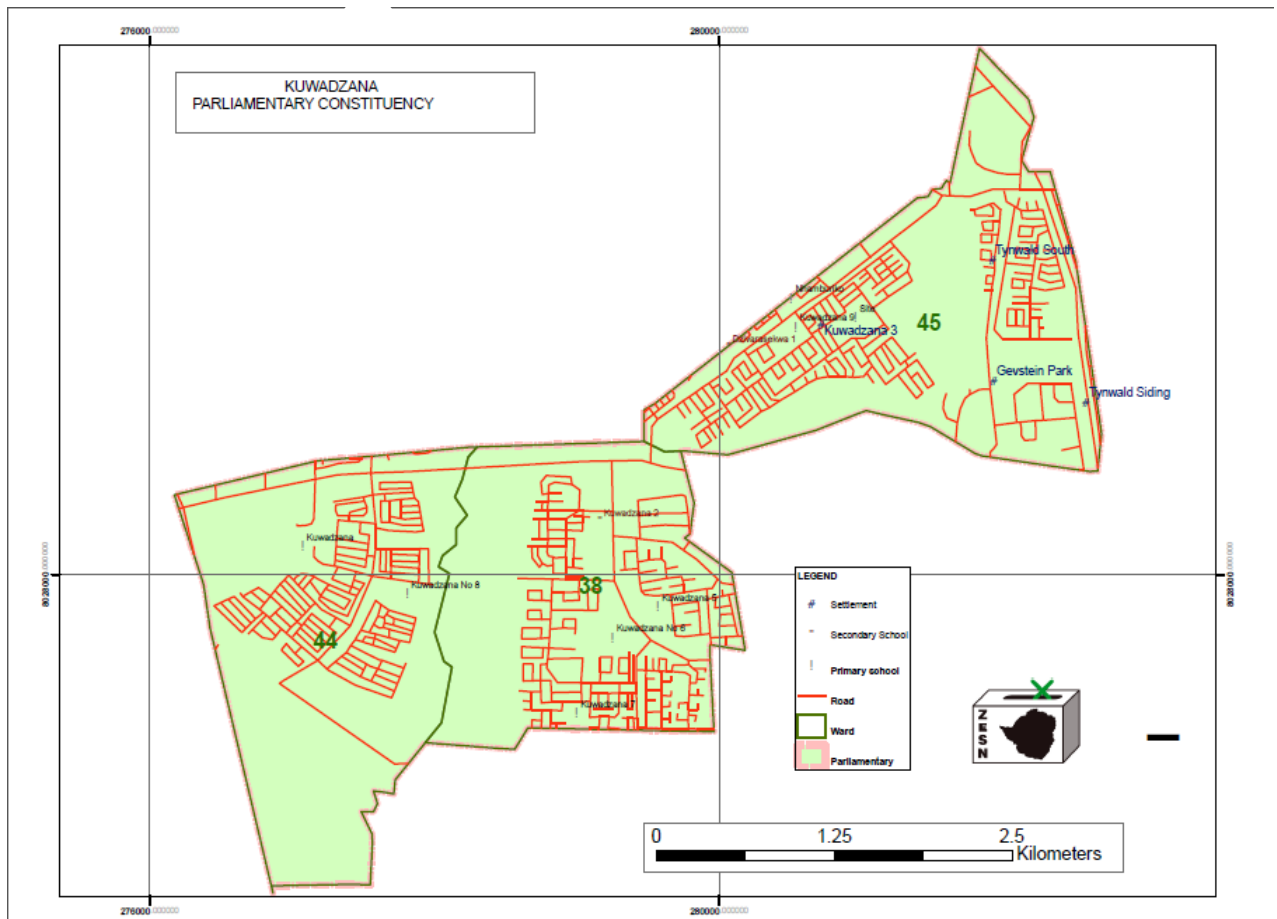


# Zimbabwe Election Support Network



## CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

### *Kuwadzana Constituency*



## 1.0 Introduction

Kuwadzana constituency is to the west of Harare province. The province has 26 National Assembly constituencies. According to the ZEC 2008 delimitation report, the constituency consists of Kuwadzana Township and part of Tynwald wards 33, 44 and 45. Most residents of Kuwadzana Constituency are informal traders, surviving on selling various wares and basic commodities. A significant proportion of the residents in the constituency are tenants renting houses because of the harsh economic conditions that have left a vast majority unable to acquire their own properties. According to Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) Harmonised Report, Harare was allocated 875 polling stations during the 2013 Harmonised elections, of which Kuwadzana had 30 polling stations.

## 1.1 Population Demographics

According to the ZimStat Census Report of 2012, the total population of the province was 2 123 132 in 2012 with 1 025 596 males and 1 097 536 females. Males constituted 48 percent and females 52 percent of the total population.

## 1.2. Election Results

In 2005 the constituency was won by MDC candidate Nelson Chamisa. In the 2008 harmonised elections the seat was once again won by the MDC-T represented by Lucia Matibenga. The constituency has been an MDC-T stronghold since the 2005 elections.

**Table 1: Previous Election Results**

	Candidate	Political party	Number of votes	Winning candidate
2013	Chihwayi Kurauone	MDC	960	
2013	Nhambu Betty	ZANU PF	4345	
2013	Matibenga	MDC-T	<b>8564</b>	Matibenga Lucia Gladys

	Lucia Gladys			
2013	Svinurai Peter	UMD <sup>1</sup>	100	
2008	Ncube Ngezelwa Robert	MDC	3305	
2008	Deketeke Abraham	ZANU PF	2048	
2008	Dizara Andrew	UPP	198	
2008	Matibenga Lucia Gladys	MDC-T	<b>8763</b>	Matibenga Lucia Gladys
2008	Mututwa Robert	ZDP <sup>2</sup>	58	

Source: Zimbabwe Election Support Network (2008); *A Profile of Constituencies: Understanding Elections in Zimbabwe*

### 1.3 Background to the by-election

The Kuwadzana by-election will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. The seat fell vacant after the Member of Parliament Lucia G Matibenga was expelled from MDC-T, after joining the MDC Renewal and upon formation of the UMDC and was 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 election as 10 June and 16 April 2015 as the date for nomination court.

### 1.4 Registered Voters'

According to the ZEC 2013 Harmonised Election Report, there were 6 441 157 registered voters in the national register. Harare province had a total of 798 264 registered voters in 2013. In terms of the registration statistics Harare is one of the provinces with the largest number of registered voters. According to the ZEC

<sup>1</sup> UMD-United Movement for Democrats

<sup>2</sup> ZDP-Zimbabwe Development Party

delimitation report the constituency had 23016 registered voters in 2008. In 2013 the registered voters' were 22 659.

### 1.5 Voter Registration and Voter Education

Voter registration is an essential and indisputable exercise. It is the prerequisite to any election in a democratic society and the ability to exercise the democratic right to vote is premised on the existence of a comprehensive, credible, complete, current, accurate, inclusive and dependable voters' roll, irrespective of the electoral system applied. Voter education and voter registration will run concurrently although voter registration will commence a day later and end a day after voter education.

### 1.6 Contesting Parties and Nomination

The nomination court was held on Thursday 16 at Rotten Row Magistrates Court.

The MDC-T is maintaining the boycott of the by-elections in line with their congress resolution until and unless all agreed reforms are implemented to the letter and spirit, including the provision of a biometric voters roll in a way that protects the will of the people and return the country to legitimacy and hence will not contest the by-elections.

The following candidates successfully filed their papers and will contest in the June 10 polls:

**Table 2: Contesting Candidates**

<b>KUWADZANA</b>	ADP <sup>3</sup>	Joelson Mugari
	ZANU PF	Betty Nhambu
	MKD	Milton Makuwa
	NCA	Takudzwa Tabvurai
	FZC <sup>4</sup>	Peter Svinurai

<sup>3</sup> ADP- African Democratic Party

<sup>4</sup> FZC- Free Zimbabwe Congress

	PIMZ <sup>5</sup>	Jemelia Chuma
	PDZ <sup>6</sup>	Josam Chimbalanga
	FFP <sup>7</sup>	Michale Mandikonza
	TZ <sup>8</sup>	Simon Msandu
	Independent	Boniface Gwishiri
	Independent	Zanondegga Mugomeza

Eleven candidates will contest the by-election, nine will be representing political parties and two are independent candidates.

### **Conclusion**

In conclusion ZESN urges all contesting candidates and their parties in the by election to observe peace and tolerate divergent views. ZESN also calls upon the government to conclude the alignment of Electoral provisions to the Constitution, in particular voter registration.

<sup>5</sup> PIMZ- Progressive and Innovative Movement for Zimbabwe

<sup>6</sup> PDZ- Progressive Democrats of Zimbabwe

<sup>7</sup> FFP-Freedom Front Party

<sup>8</sup> TZ- Transform Zimbabwe