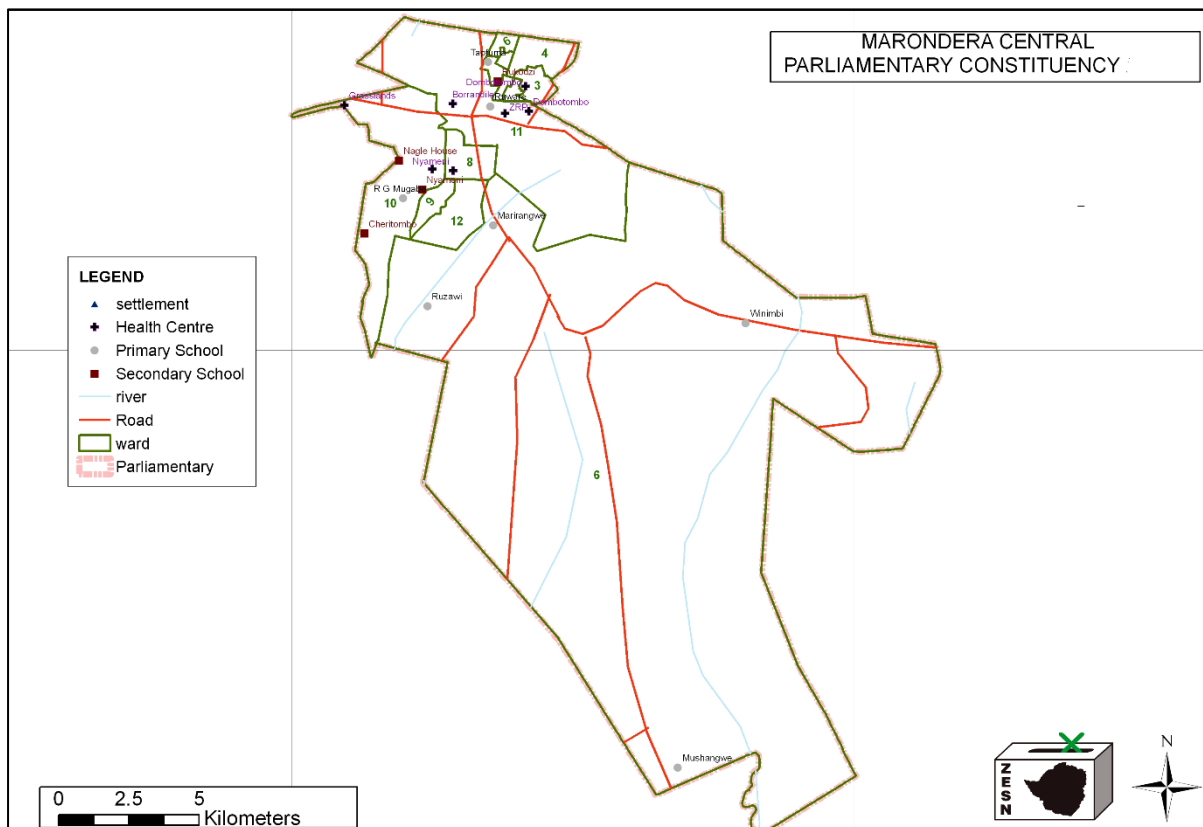


Zimbabwe Election Support Network



CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

Marondera Central Constituency



1. Introduction

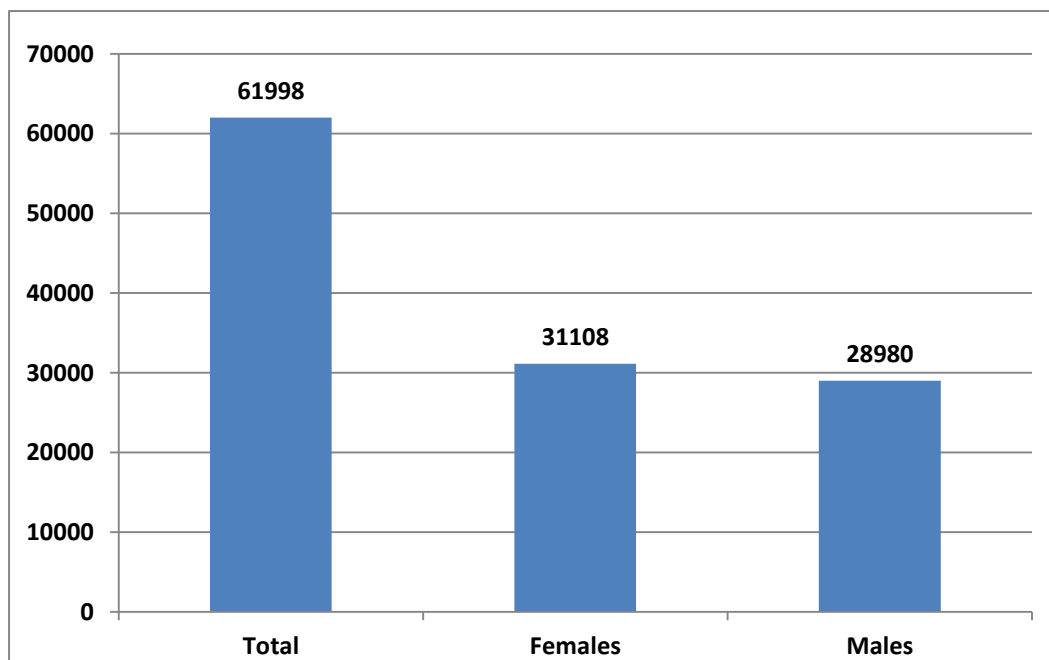
Marondera Central constituency is located in Mashonaland East Province. It mainly comprises Marondera town and the residential areas close to the town centre. The constituency was born out of Marondera East and Marondera West constituencies after the delimitation exercise of 2008. Commercial farms surround the town and the predominant economic activities in the area revolve around farming activities and trading in farm produce.

Mashonaland East province has 23 National Assembly and six Senatorial constituencies. Marondera Central is divided into 12 wards governed by the Municipality of Marondera.

2. The population demographics

According to the ZimStat Census Report of 2012, the total population of Marondera Central was 61 998 in 2012 comprising of 28 980 males and 31 108 females. The graph below shows the population of Marondera Central in 2012.

Figure 1: Population of Marondera Central



3. Previous Election Results

Marondera Central is a swing constituency. In 2008 the constituency was won by MDC T candidate James Ian Kay, who garnered 8 022 votes against 3 170 votes amassed by Peter Murwira the ZANU PF candidate. In 2013 the seat was retaken by ZANU PF with Ray Kaukonde garnering 9 308 votes while the MDC-T candidate James Ian Kay polled 7 892 votes. Table 1 below outlines the votes obtained by the candidates in the two elections. In both elections independent candidates have fared poorly, failing to garner substantial votes.

Table 1: Previous Election Results for Marondera Central

Year	Candidates	Political Party	Number of Votes
2008	Huni Richard	Independent	55
	James Ian Kay	MDC T	8022
	Marimo Abel	Independent	187
	Murwira Peter	ZANU PF	3170
	Nyika Kingdom	MDC	602
	Percentage Poll		42.89%
2013	Ray Kaukonde	ZANU PF	9 308
	James Ian Kay	MDC T	7 892
	Kudzanai Mandaza	MDC	314
	Mudzongo Carlos	Independent	112

Source: www.zec.org.zw

4. Background and legal framework

The Marondera Central by-election will be held on the 19th of September 2015. The seat fell vacant following the expulsion of the Member of Parliament Ray Kaukonde from ZANU PF, after being linked to a faction led by former Vice President Joice Mujuru. 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 20th of July 2015 as the date on which the nomination court would sit and the election day to be the 19th of September 2015.

5. Voter Registration and Registered voters

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) began the first phase of voter registration and inspection for the by-election from July 6 to July 21, 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. The registration and inspection process took place at the ZEC Provincial offices as well as the electoral body's District offices. From July 22 to August 1, ZEC rolled out the second phase of voter registration by setting up 31 static centres based at polling stations and deploying mobile registration teams in all the wards. This was meant to cater for the pilot exercise of the Polling Station Specific Voter Registration¹.

In 2013 according to the ZEC Harmonised Election Report, Mashonaland East Province had a total of 724 402 registered voters. In 2008, Marondera Central constituency had a total of 26 225 registered voters (ZEC 2008 Delimitation Report). In 2013 the registered voters increased to 26 888².

6. Nomination Process and Contesting Candidates

In view of the by-election to be held on 19 September 2015, the Nomination Court sat on the 20th of July 2015 in Marondera to consider submissions for Marondera Central Constituency.

¹ Polling station based voters roll is provided for in Section 22A of the Electoral Act. This amendment to the Electoral Act was gazetted during the period of the Government of National Unity (GNU) in 2012, to reform the voter registration processes.

² The numbers of registered voters are from the 19 June 2013 voters roll, this was before completion of the 30 day voter registration process mandated by the 6th Schedule of the Constitution.

Four candidates from different political parties will be contesting the by-election after successfully submitting their papers with the nomination court. Table 2 below shows the candidates and the parties that will be contesting the by-election.

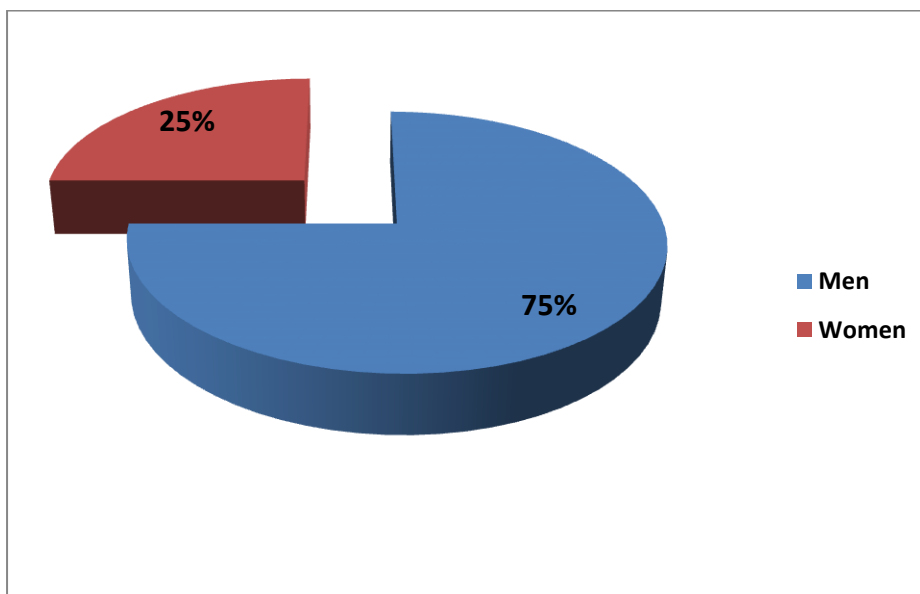
Table 2: Contesting candidates

Constituency	Party Name	Candidate	Gender
Marondera Central	ZANU PF	Lawrence Katsiru	M
	NCA	Wadzanai Mabika	F
	Transform Zimbabwe	Solomon Makaza	M
	Freedom Front Party	Kingdom Nyika	M

Gender Representation and Equality

Section 18 of the Constitution provides for the promotion of the full participation of women in all spheres of Zimbabwean society on the basis of equality with men. The Government of Zimbabwe signed and ratified the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development which commits the country to 50% representation of women in all decision making bodies.

Figure 2: Gender breakdown of candidates contesting the by-election



The ratio of female candidates still remains low, only 25% of the candidates are female. Political parties are still a long way from meeting the 50/50 representation and hence should commit to enhanced gender representation.

Voter Education

ZEC carried out voter education in Marondera Central which is an essential and indisputable exercise. Voter education was in phases; pre nomination voter education, voter education for polling station based voter registration and inspection, and pre polling voter education.

Polling Stations

Polling stations should be accessible and located in places that are convenient and neutral. They should be insufficient numbers to enable the electorate to exercise their right to vote. For the by-elections on 19 September 2015, a total of 31 polling stations have been established. The Constituency collation/command centre will be located at Marondera District Administrator's Board room.

Conclusion

ZESN greatly emboldens political parties and supporters to observe the law in their conduct and further implores the ZEC to actively participate in enforcing the political parties' code of conduct for elections. ZESN implores the Government of Zimbabwe to expeditiously avail resources to ZEC to ensure the logistical competency of the Election Management Body. ZESN also calls upon Parliament and the Executive to allow ZEC direct access to resources from the Consolidated Revenue Fund to enhance the independence of the Commission.