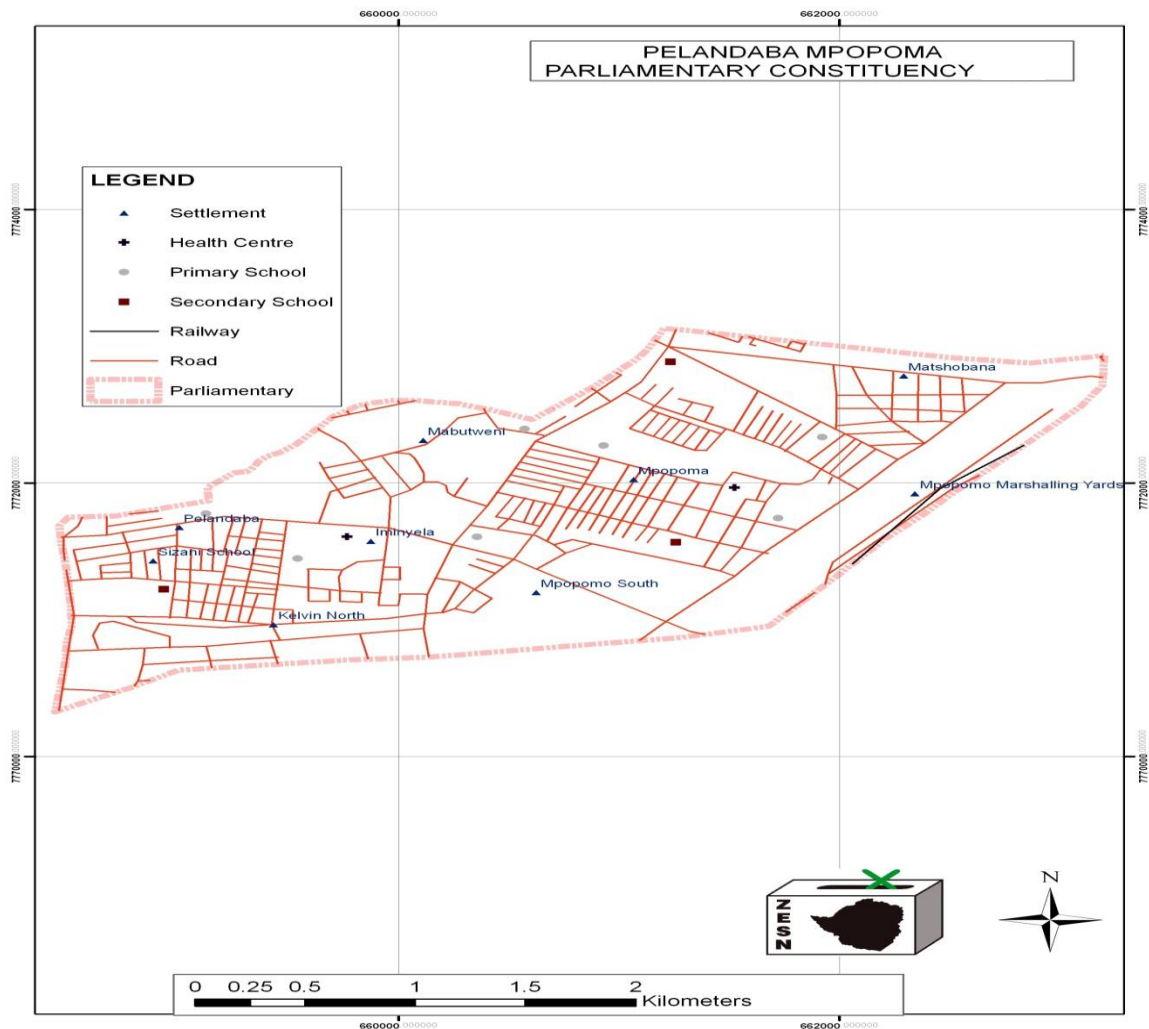


# Zimbabwe Election Support Network



## CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

### *Pelandaba Mpopoma Constituency*



## ***1.0 Introduction***

Pelandaba/Mpopoma is located in Bulawayo province and made up of one of the oldest high density of Mpopoma, Matshobana, Mpopoma South, Mabutweni, Imiyela and Pelandaba. The province has 12 National Assembly and six Senatorial constituencies. It constitutes of ward 9 and 13. Tarred roads are filled with potholes and faded markings and the dust roads are equally worse.

Poverty and unemployment levels are high in the constituency. More often than not formal employment has been substituted by casual forms of employment such as selling wares in flea markets. In addition, most people survive on cross border trading, black marketing and informal trading. The spiralling cost of living could influence voting patterns. In addition, underdevelopment of the city at large, despondency and absence of political consultation might influence voting patterns.

## ***1.1 Population Demographics***

According to the ZimStat Census Report of 2012, the total population of the province was 653 337 in 2012 when the last census was conducted, with 303 346 males and 349 991 females. Males constituted 46 percent and females 54 percent of the total population. The population in Bulawayo like in Matabeleland north is generally young since the sizeable proportion of the population belongs to the younger age group (ZimStat report 2012). The number of females generally exceeded that of males for those ages 35-39 and 70-74.

The composition of population by age group and sex is as follows: The 0-4 and 20-24 years age groups had the highest proportion of the population each (13 and 12 percent respectively) while the oldest age group (75 years and above) had the least proportion (about 1%). It can further be observed that the proportion of the young population that is those aged less than 15 years was 34% while that of the old population age 65 years and above was about 3%.

## 1.2 Previous results

### 1.2.0 Election Results

The political situation in the constituency is calm and it has been an MDC-T constituency since 2005. In 2008 and 2013, the Pelandaba/Mpopoma constituency was won by Khumalo Samuel Sanda and Nyathi Bekithemba respectively of the MDC-T party. The table below indicates the summary of the results from 2008 harmonised election. Opposition politics has dominated the political scene in this constituency.

Year	Candidate	Political party	Number of votes	Winning candidate
<b>2013</b>	Dube Duduzile	MDC	965	
	Katso James	FZC <sup>1</sup>	142	
	Khumalo Sameul Sandla	Independent	327	
	Mabhikwa Vusumuzi J	Independent	39	
	Mkandla Strike	ZAPU	140	
	Mtewa Happiness	ZANU DONGA	74	
	Ndlovu Thamsanqa Jealous	Independent	45	
	<b>Nyathi Bekithemba</b>	<b>MDC-T</b>	<b>6,024</b>	<b>Nyathi Bekithemba</b>
	Sakala Chad	ZAPU	134	
	Tshuma Joseph	ZANU-PF	2,122	
	Zhou Thamsanqa	AKE <sup>2</sup>	50	
	<b>2008</b>	<b>Khumalo Sameul Sandla</b>	<b>MDC-T</b>	<b>3795</b>
Sikhanyiso Dube Ndlovu		ZANU PF	1565	

<sup>1</sup> FCZ- Freedom Zimbabwe Congress

<sup>2</sup> AKE- Alliance Kumbul'Ekhaya

	Dhumani Gwetu	MDC	646	
	Job Sibanda	Independent	172	
	Samuel Mahlamvana Ndlovu	UPP <sup>3</sup>	60	
	Fungai Mutukwa	Independent	22	
	Leonard Nkala	PUMA <sup>4</sup>	18	
	Chamunorwa Mahachi	ZDP <sup>5</sup>	16	

Source: [www.zec.org.zw](http://www.zec.org.zw)

### **1.3 Background to the by-election**

Pelandaba/Mpopoma constituency by-election will be held on the 10<sup>th</sup> of June 2015. The seat fell vacant after the Member of Parliament Nyathi Bekithemba was expelled from MDC-T for joining 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 by-election as 10 June and 16 April 2015 as the date for nomination court held in Court 5 at Tredgold Building in Bulawayo.

### **1.4 Nomination and Contesting Parties**

The nomination court sat on Thursday 16 April 2015 at Tredgold Building in Bulawayo (Court 5). The main opposition political parties of the MDC formations withdrew from participation opening doors for independent candidates to take part. Seven candidates will contest the by-election, four will be representing political parties (ZANU PF, NCA, Transform Zimbabwe and ZAPU) and three independent candidates.

<sup>3</sup> UPP-United People's Party

<sup>4</sup> PUMA-Patriotic Union of Matabeleland

<sup>5</sup> ZDP-Zimbabwe Development Party

*Below is the list of candidates who managed to successfully submit their papers to the nomination court*

<b>CANDIDATE</b>	<b>PARTY</b>
Mabhena Sokhaya	NCA
Mkandla Strike	ZAPU
Banda Andrew	TRANSFORM ZIMBABWE
Tshuma Joseph	ZANU PF
Mlambo Joshua Vincent	Independent
Mkwena Tsibo George	Independent
Mabikwa Vusumuzi	Independent

### ***1.5 Registered Voters'***

According to the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) 2013 Harmonised Election Report, there were 6 441 157 registered voters in the national register. Bulawayo province had a total of 320 598 registered voters in 2013, up from 313 459 in 2008 and 339 990 in 2005. In terms of the registration statistics Bulawayo is one of the provinces with the least number of registered voters nationwide. According to the ZEC delimitation report the constituency had 28 476 registered voters in 2008 and in 2013<sup>6</sup> the registered voters' were 26505, reducing by 1971 voters, a percentage decrease of 7% of the total registered voters for the constituency.

### ***1.6 Voter Registration and Voter Education***

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission conducted voter education as from the 21<sup>st</sup> to the 27<sup>th</sup> of April 2015. Voter education and voter registration ran concurrently although voter registration commenced a day later and ended a day after voter education (28 April 2015). Voter registration for the nomination court was conducted from the 9<sup>th</sup> to

<sup>6</sup> The voters' roll being referred to is the 19 June 2013

the 15 April 2015 to enable the candidates to register and/or make necessary transfers in preparation for the nomination court.

### ***1.7 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.