

ZIMBABWE ELECTION SUPPORT NETWORK



ZESN Commemorates International Women's Day 2017

8 March 2017- The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) joins the rest of the world in celebrating International Women's Day (IWD). The day is set aside to celebrate the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women while calling for gender equality. This year the campaign is running under the theme "***Be Bold for Change***" and challenges people all over the world to discard socially accepted norms that discriminate against women and create an environment where women and girls can rise above entrenched boundaries and excel in their endeavours.

ZESN calls upon women of Zimbabwe from all walks of life to fully enjoy their rights to participation in all institutions and agencies of government as stipulated in articles 17 and 18 of the Constitution, particularly the impending voter registration process in preparation for the 2018 harmonized elections. ZESN therefore, urges all eligible women to turn out in their numbers to register as voters. In addition, the Network reiterates its calls for zero tolerance towards politically motivated violence and for the creation of a conducive political environment that encourages women's participation in electoral processes.

To mark today's commemorations; ZESN Director Rindai Chipfunde Vava highlighted the fact that the creation of a conducive environment is crucial to improving women's participation. In a research conducted by ZESN on challenges in attaining gender balance in Zimbabwe, most women mentioned fear of physical and sexual violence and victimisation particularly during elections as an impediment to their participation in the electoral process. Sustained dialogue is thus essential for the creation and maintenance of a safe and enabling environment that ensures that women's participation is not compromised.

"Efforts towards gender parity do not begin and end today but should be a continuous endeavor by all members of society. Through purposeful collaboration, we can all help women and girls advance and guarantee that their future is bright, equal, safe and rewarding," added Mrs Rindai Chipfunde Vava.

ZESN is committed to the promotion of democratic elections in Zimbabwe and the full participation of women in electoral processes.

PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE

FOR COMMENTS AND FURTHER DETAILS CONTACT

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