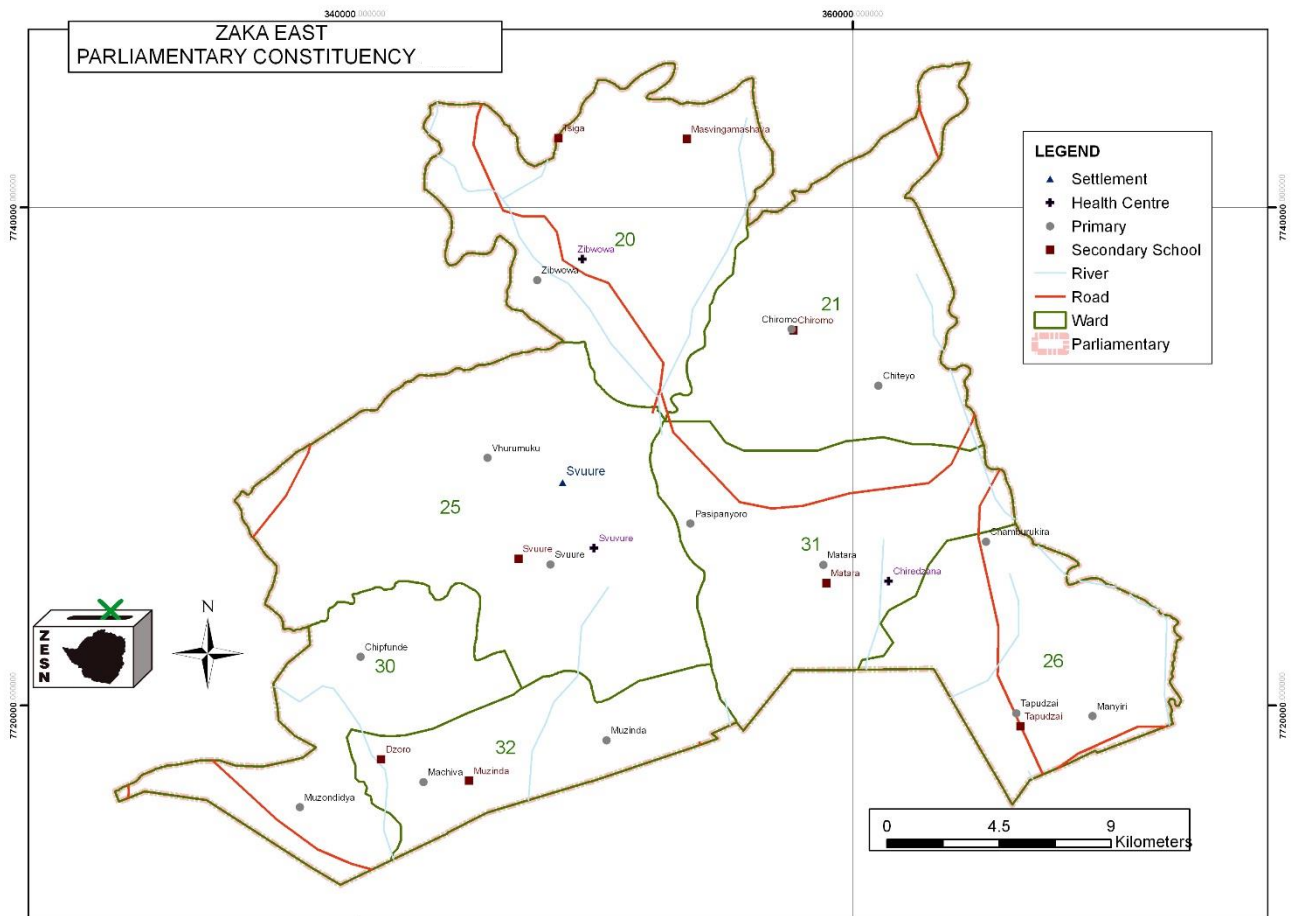


# Zimbabwe Election Support Network



## CONSTITUENCY PROFILE

### ZAKA EAST Constituency



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## **Introduction**

Zaka East constituency comprises of seven Wards (20, 21, 25, 26, 30, 31 and 32). People in the area depend on subsistence farming and employment at Tongaat Hullet, Hippo Valley Estates and other sugarcane plantations in the Lowveld. The area is predominantly rural, with a few descent modern houses and most of the people living in basic thatched houses.

## **Population Demographics**

According to the 2012 Census Report, Zaka District had a population of 181 301 people; 82 353 males and 98 948 females. The 2018 Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) Bio-metric Voters' Registration (BVR) Report revealed that, the Constituency had 15 934 registered voters.

## **Voters' Registration and Voter Education Processes**

By the time of the writing of this report the voters' roll for the Zaka East by-election was not yet out. However, the District Elections Officer for Zaka revealed that they had not registered more than 10 additional people since the 2018 harmonised elections. According to ZEC, the voters' roll will be polling station-based in line with Section 239 (c), (d) and (e) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. The constituency has 38 polling stations.

While the ZEC established a road map to the by-election scheduling Voter Education (VE) for polling for the period from 13 to 17 September 2019, the Commission conducted VE from 10 to 14 September 2019. ZESN conducted a CBOs training on 12 August aimed at equipping Community Based Organisations, CSOs, Faith Based Organisations, and Social Emerging Groups with knowledge on voter registration, the electoral cycle, community mobilisation and facilitation skills, sharing on the importance of citizen electoral education process, and conducting VE for the by-election.

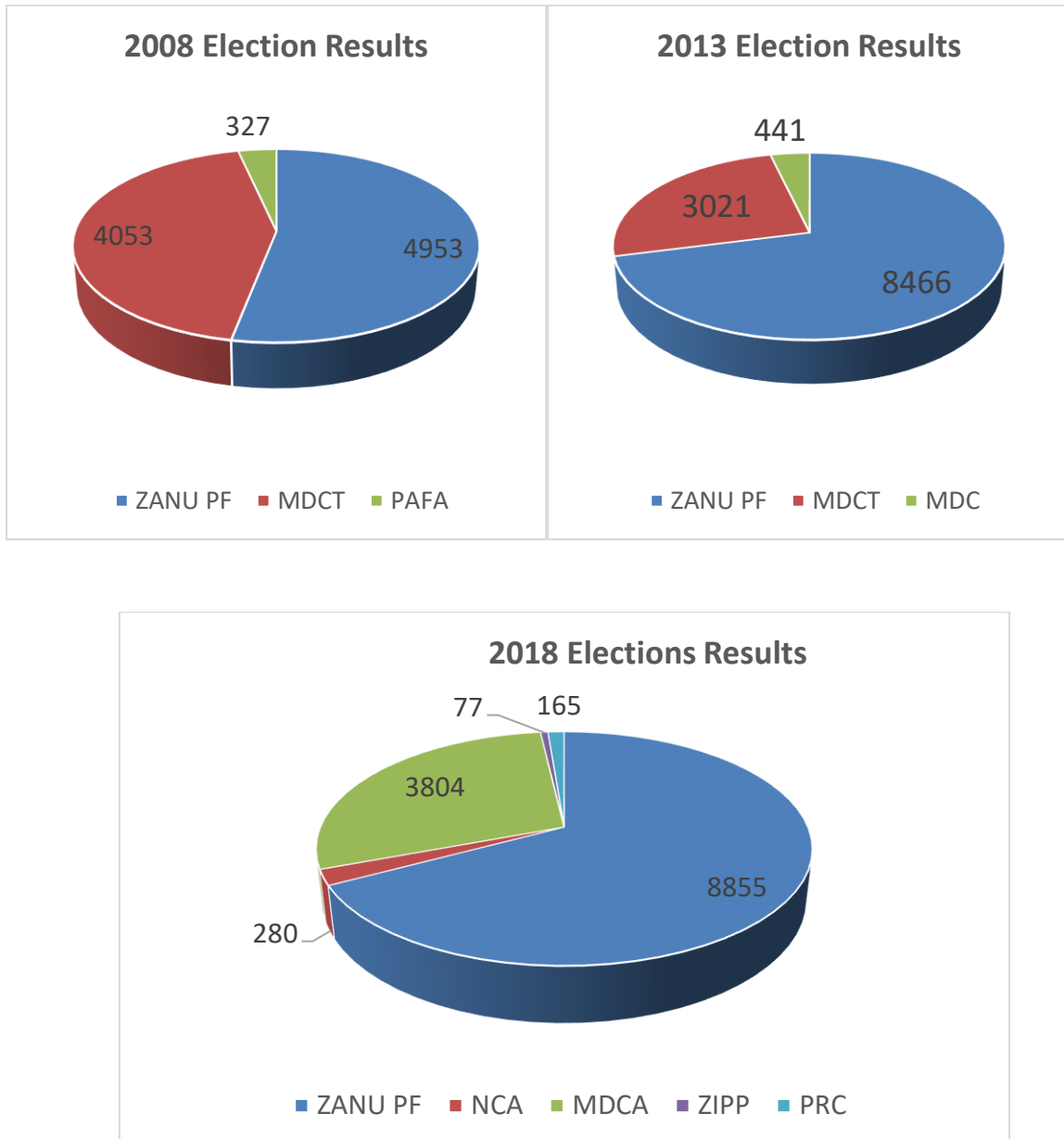
At the invitation of ZEC, ZESN conducted VE for polling in the Constituency for the period from 13 to 15 September, 2019 with volunteers seconded from its member organisations, namely the Media Monitoring Project of Zimbabwe, Zimbabwe Civil Education Trust, Progressive Teachers' Union of Zimbabwe, and Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe. The team targeted political party rallies, community meetings, church gatherings, and general citizens at public places such as shopping centres and community gardens. During the voter mobilization exercise, 4000 flyers were distributed. The VE team reached out to

approximately 1000 males and 2000 females with VE activities that were conducted in Wards 2, 26, 30, and 31.

**Previous Election Results**

From 2008 up to 2018, the Zaka East Constituency National Assembly seat was won by ZANU-PF.

Figure 1: Zaka East Constituency National Assembly election results since 2008



### **Analysis of Previous Elections**

Zaka East Constituency has been a ZANU-PF strong hold since 2008 elections. ZANU-PF increased its votes from 2008 to 2018, with wide margin in 2013 and 2018. The main opposition's votes dropped between 2008 and 2013 and increased slightly in 2018. The number of votes each of the two parties received in 2013 is not very different from what each got in 2018; they largely maintained their share of the electorate though with some increases in votes received. Although more political parties contested in 2018, each of the opposition political parties, and all of them collectively, got a small fraction of the votes cast.

### **Background to the By-election**

The Zaka East by-election will be held on September 21, 2019 following the death of a ZANU-PF Member of Parliament, Caston Ringisai Gumbwanda on 25 June 2019.

### **Internal Party candidate Selection, Nomination and Contesting Parties**

ZESN got reports of two political parties, ZANU-PF and the NCA that held primary elections to select candidates who would contest in the Zaka East by-election. The contesting ZANU-PF candidate beat nine others who contested in his party's primary elections. The NCA candidate beat four other candidates (three males and two females) in a primary election for his party. The MDC Alliance did not hold primary elections, the candidate was selected through consensus.

The Nomination Court and polling days were fixed through Statutory Instrument 151A/2019 by Presidential Proclamation 5/2019. In line with Sections 158 (3) and 159 of the Constitution, and Section 39 of the Electoral Act, the Nomination Court sat on August 9, 2019 at the Masvingo Magistrates Court to receive nominations of candidates for the Zaka East by-election. By the end of the nomination process, four candidates had successfully submitted their nominations. Table 2 below shows the names of contesting candidates and the political parties they will be representing. All the candidates are male.

Table 2: List of Contesting Candidates for the Zaka East Constituency By-Election

No.	Name of candidate	Party	Sex
1	Derick Charamba Gudzameso	MDC Alliance	M
2	Clemence Chiduwa	ZANU-PF	M
3	Lazarus Mubango	Free Zim Congress	M
4	Clemence Chavarika	NCA	M

### Political Environment and Campaigns

The political situation in Zaka East has so far been reported to be free and conducive for political campaigns, save for some reports of threats and unfair practices by the ruling party involving the distribution of food commodities to the selected recipients.

ZANU-PF launched its campaign on 17 August, 2019 in Zaka led by the party's National Political Commissar, Victor Matemadanda. The party has been conducting meetings and rallies ahead of the 21 September 2019 by-election. The MDC Alliance candidate, Charamba, has been conducting door to door campaigns to drum up support ahead of the by-election.

### Bios of contesting candidates

#### Clemence Chiduwa (ZANU PF)

Mr Clemence Chiduwa has been a member of ZANU PF since his days at the University of Zimbabwe, 1992 to date. He is currently an Economics PhD student at the North West University- Vaal Campus, South Africa. He holds a Master's degree in Economics from the UZ. Chiduwa once worked as a Senior Economist at the Ministry of industry and Commerce; a lecturer with the Midlands State University, Namibia University of Science and Technology, and University of Namibia; Investment Analyst under the Office of the President and Cabinet (OPC); and the Privatisation Agency of Zimbabwe. At some point he was a Regional Programmes Director for AMADI. Chiduwa founded the ICD and became a consultant for ICD in countries such as South Africa, Lesotho, Namibia, Rwanda and South Sudan. He has been engaged with donor Agencies on development projects and assignments up until he was nominated Zaka East candidate representing ZANU Pf.

#### Derick Charamba Gudzameso (MDC Alliance)

Mr Derick Charamba Gudzameso is a teacher and lawyer by profession. He was born in March 1976 and grew up in Ward 20 Zaka East. He attended Zibwowa Primary and Tsig

Secondary Schools in Zaka from 1983 to 1993. He did his Advanced Level education at Chinduwa High School in Mashonaland Central. From 1996 to 1999 he studied his Bachelor of Arts, General at the University of Zimbabwe (UZ) at a time he was a Ward Chairperson for the MDC party. After briefly practicing as a teacher he completed his Grade CE Certificate in 2002. From 2005 to 2006, Charamba attended the Judiciary College of Zimbabwe to train as a Magistrate/Prosecutor and went on to work as Prosecutor from 2006 to 2011 where he was Secretary General of the Zimbabwe Law Officers' Association. Charamba's contract was terminated for allegedly instigating strikes within his judiciary colleagues. He completed his law degree with the UZ in 2013. Charamba held several posts in the MDC party including District Secretary for Zaka East, Secretary for Legal Affairs for Masvingo Province, Deputy Provincial Organising Secretary, and Secretary for Communications.

#### Clemence Chavarika (NCA)

Mr Clemence Chavarika was born in June 1970 in Ward 25 of Zaka East. He attended his Primary and Secondary education at Rudanda Primary and Secondary Schools. In 1996 Clemence worked at Chiredzi General Hospital as a general labourer before securing a job with the City of Harare under the Public Works Department. From 2000, Clemence was an MDC Ward Chairperson for Mbare West Constituency. He joined the National Constitutional Assembly (NCA) in 2003 leaving in 2012 when the organisation experienced financial challenges. When the NCA transformed into a political party, Mr Chavarika left the MDC and moved to NCA where he was elected Ward Chairperson for his Ward in Zaka East.

#### **Conclusion**

The pre-election period for the Zaka East by-election has been marked by incidents of electoral malpractices such as vote buying. ZESN urges all the contesting political parties and candidates to ensure that election campaigns are held peacefully and that there is tolerance of divergent political views. ZESN will be closely monitoring the political environment in the run-up to the by-election as well as observing Election Day polling processes.