



**Zimbabwe Election  
Support Network**  
Promoting Democratic  
Elections In Zimbabwe

**Press Statement**

## **FOSTER PEACE AHEAD OF THE 2023 ELECTIONS TO ENHANCE ELECTORAL INTEGRITY**

**18-October-2022-** The Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) implores political party leaders and their supporters to foster peace ahead of the 2023 harmonized elections. The call comes against the prevailing toxic political environment which has been characterized by a spate of inter-party as well as intra-party violence that occurred in Matobo and Insiza. These violent clashes have the potential to adversely affect the participation in democratic electoral processes of the electorate, particularly vulnerable groups.

Further, political and electoral-related violence undermines civil and political rights and affects citizens' right to compete in electoral processes; erodes trust in democratic processes; undermines the quality of democracy thereby, limiting inclusive participation and leading to voter apathy as it discourages the electorate particularly women and people with disabilities to participate in electoral processes and leadership positions.

The Network thus calls on political parties to foster peace, come up with conflict management mechanisms and create a conducive political environment where divergent views are respected and where all citizens enjoy their fundamental rights without fear in line with the dictates of Section 67 (2) of the Constitution which provides for fundamental rights including the right:-

- a. to form, to join and to participate in the activities of a political party or organization of their choice;
- b. to campaign freely and peacefully for a political party or cause;
- c. to participate in peaceful political activity; and
- d. to participate, individually or collectively, in gatherings or groups or in any other manner, in peaceful activities to influence, challenge or support the policies of the Government or any political or whatever cause.

ZESN also urges political parties to engage the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC) in such instances so that they investigate, speak out against violence, uncover the causes behind the conflicts, and assist all victims of the conflict, to facilitate dialogue among political parties and offer possible solutions in order to prevent conflicts and disputes arising in the future.

ZESN recommends that perpetrators of violence must be arrested without fear or favour.//ENDS

### **PROMOTING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS IN ZIMBABWE**

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