

Zim Election update

While there has been calmness in almost every part in Zimbabwe, there has been a lot of conflicting talk within the media circles. Whether the media has been helpful or harmful it needs to be investigated.

The media reported some isolated incidences of inter parties violence. The participating parties preached against violence, which impacted positively up to this far.

We have been used to judge that the absence of violence and massive intimidation creates a free and fair election, but we need to focus on the Credibility of the Zimbabwean Election.

Pre – Election

The process of updating the voters roll was haphazardly done and never completed. In urban areas the process as painfully frustrating.

The Voters roll inspection period was too short and slow. The Roll updating and inspection was done quickly in order to meet the 31 July poll date.

As a result it has been noted officially that 750 000 urban voters were missing from the voters' roll. Statistically 99.7% of the rural voters (Zanu PF stronghold) were registered to and only 67.94% voters (MDC T stronghold were registered.

The roll was available to contestants two days before the polls and was a hard copy making it practically impossible for the contesting parties specially those with no control over the government systems.

The electoral law requires that the voters' roll should be available electronically and until after the poll it's still not available.

At 82% of the polling stations many potential voters were turned away and could not exercise their right to vote for reasons which include not appearing on the voters' roll, their names removed and put in different district, and turning up at the wrong ward for voting. In contrast 38% of the rural polling stations turned away voters.

Zimbabwe has about 6 million registered voters but 8 million ballot papers were printed. Whether the remainder has been accurately been accounted is still an issue.

Generally, there has been a great improvement, high level of tolerance, and cooperation.

There have been isolated cases of busing people from rural areas to vote in urban areas.

It is so amazing that some regional bodies have prematurely declared the Zimbabwe elections Free and Fair. The voting process may purportedly be seen as Free and Fair, but a Zimbabwean will always remember the March 2008 election where violence and mass killing started when the votes were being announced.

The leader of the MDC T has already declared that the Zimbabwe elections a farce, while the other bodies like the Zimbabwe Election Support Network(**ZESN**) (has 31 member organizations) declared the elections were seriously compromised.

The MDC T leader sighted administrative and legal violation as affecting the legitimacy of the election outcome.

The (**SADC – CNGO**) declared in their statement and I quote

“The mission concludes that the credibility, legitimacy, free & fair conduct of the Zimbabwe July 31, 2013 harmonized election and therefore their reliability as the true expression of the will of the people of Zimbabwe has been highly compromised.