

A photograph of an outdoor election site is visible through a torn-paper cutout. It shows a large group of people, some standing and some sitting on the ground, under a clear blue sky. A large, tan-colored tent is on the right side of the scene. The background is a solid green color.

ZIMBABWE 2018 HARMONISED ELECTIONS REPORT

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-------------|
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | vii |
| PREAMBLE | viii |
| ACRONYMS | ix |
| SUMMARY | xi |
| LIST OF TABLES | vi |
| CHAPTER 1 | 1 |
| THE COMMISSION | 1 |
| 1.0 Introduction | 1 |
| 1.1 Functions of the Commission | 2 |
| 1.2. The Zimbabwean Electoral System | 4 |
| 1.2.1 <i>Single Member Majority</i> | 4 |
| 1.2.2 <i>Proportional Representation (PR) System</i> | 5 |
| 1.2.3 <i>First-Past-The-Post System</i> | 5 |
| 1.3 Legal Reforms | 5 |
| 1.4 New Voters Roll and Polling Station Registration | 8 |
| 1.5 Proclamation of 2018 Harmonised Election | 9 |
| CHAPTER 2 | 11 |
| 2.0 THE FUNDING OF THE ELECTIONS | 11 |
| 2.1 The Budget | 11 |
| 2.2 Budget Performance | 12 |
| 2.3 Budget Controls | 13 |
| CHAPTER 3 | 14 |
| 3.0 PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS | 14 |

| | | |
|-------------|--|-----------|
| 3.1 | Introduction | 14 |
| 3.2 | Nationwide Polling Areas Verification Mapping Exercise | 15 |
| 3.2.1 | <i>Terms of Reference for Mapping Teams</i> | 15 |
| 3.2.2 | <i>Preparatory Work</i> | 16 |
| 3.2.3 | <i>The Process</i> | 16 |
| 3.3 | Promulgation of Voter Registration Regulations | 16 |
| 3.4 | Voter Education and Voter Information | 18 |
| 3.5 | Voter Registration | 20 |
| 3.5.1 | <i>Procurement of Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) Kits</i> | 20 |
| 3.5.2 | <i>Training of Master Trainers and Technicians</i> | 20 |
| 3.5.3 | <i>Proclamation-SI 109 of 2017</i> | 20 |
| 3.5.4 | <i>Launch of BVR</i> | 20 |
| 3.5.5 | <i>Establishment of Registration Centres at District level</i> | 21 |
| 3.5.6 | <i>Promulgation of Statutory Instrument 117 of 2017</i> | 22 |
| 3.5.7 | <i>Accreditation of Observers</i> | 22 |
| 3.6 | The BVR Blitz | 22 |
| 3.7 | The BVR Mop-Up | 24 |
| 3.8 | Inspection of the Provisional Voters' Roll | 26 |
| 3.9 | Gazetting of the voters' roll | 29 |
| 3.9.1 | <i>Exclusion List Records</i> | 29 |
| 3.10 | Registrants Distribution | 30 |
| 3.10.1 | <i>People with Disabilities (PWDs)</i> | 31 |
| 3.10.2 | <i>Registrants by Sex Composition</i> | 33 |
| 3.10.3 | <i>The Youth</i> | 33 |
| 3.10.4 | <i>Registrants by various age groups and gender</i> | 35 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 3.11 Closure of the Voters' Roll | 36 |
| 3.12 Provision of Voters' Rolls | 37 |
| 3.13 Nomination Courts | 37 |
| 3.14 Withdrawal of Candidates | 39 |
| 3.15 Death of Candidates | 39 |
| 3.16 Environment | 39 |
| 3.17 Multiparty Liaison Committees | 40 |
| 3.18 Media Monitoring | 40 |
| 3.19 Stakeholder Engagement | 41 |
| 3.20 Information Dissemination | 42 |
| 3.21 Security | 43 |
| 3.22 Mobilization of Resources | 43 |
| 3.22.1 <i>The Human Resource</i> | 43 |
| 3.22.2 <i>Mechanical</i> | 44 |
| 3.22.3 <i>Roads and Infrastructure</i> | 44 |
| 3.22.4 <i>Utilities</i> | 45 |
| 3.23 Polling Stations | 46 |
| 3.24 Procurement of election material | 47 |
| 3.25 Ballot Paper Printing | 48 |
| 3.26 Transport and Fuel Management | 51 |
| 3.27 Training and Deployment of Electoral Officers | 51 |
| 3.28 Accreditation of Observers | 52 |
| 3.28.1 <i>Accreditation Committee</i> | 53 |
| 3.28.2 <i>Functions of the Accreditation Committee</i> | 53 |
| 3.28.3 <i>Foreign Observers</i> | 54 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 3.28.4 <i>Local Observers</i> | 56 |
| 3.28.5 <i>Observations on Accreditation</i> | 56 |
| CHAPTER 4 | 58 |
| 4.0 POLLING | 58 |
| 4.1 Postal Ballots | 58 |
| 4.1.1 <i>Processing of a Postal Ballot</i> | 58 |
| 4.1.2 <i>Distribution of Postal Ballots by the Chief Elections Officer</i> | 60 |
| 4.3 Polling | 64 |
| 4.4 Special Needs Voters | 66 |
| 4.5 Verification and Counting | 66 |
| 4.6 Transmission of Results | 67 |
| 4.6.1 <i>Local Authorities</i> | 67 |
| 4.6.2 <i>Presidential and National Assembly Returns</i> | 67 |
| 4.7 Results of Local Authority Elections | 70 |
| 4.8 Results of the National Assembly Elections | 70 |
| 4.8.1 <i>Results of National Assembly Party Lists for Women</i> | 71 |
| 4.9 Results of Senate party lists | 71 |
| 4.10 Results of Provincial Council Party Lists | 71 |
| 4.11 Results of the Presidential Election | 72 |
| 4.12 Publication of Results of Elections | 73 |
| 4.13 Elections of Chiefs | 74 |
| 4.13.1 <i>Election of Chiefs to National Council of Chiefs</i> | 74 |
| 4.13.2 <i>Elections of President and Deputy President of the National Council of Chiefs</i> | 74 |
| 4.13.3 <i>Election of Chiefs to Parliament</i> | 75 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 4.14 Election of Two Senators to Represent People with Disabilities | |
| (PWDs) | 76 |
| 4.15 Elections at Parliament | 77 |
| 4.15.1 <i>Conduct of the Elections</i> | 77 |
| 4.15.2 <i>Design of the Ballot</i> | 78 |
| 4.15.3 <i>Election of Speaker of the National Assembly: Nominations</i> | 79 |
| 4.15.4 <i>Election of the President of the Senate</i> | 80 |
| 4.15.5 <i>Swearing in of the Presiding Officers of the Ninth Parliament</i> | 81 |
| 4.16 Election related litigation | 82 |
| CHAPTER 5 | 83 |
| OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION | 83 |
| Budget | 83 |
| Provision of the Voters' Roll | 84 |
| Withdrawal of candidature | 85 |
| Transport and Fuel management | 86 |
| Monitoring of Media Coverage of Elections | 86 |
| Accreditation | 87 |
| CONCLUSION | 87 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | |
|--|----|
| <i>Table 1: Provisional Registered Voters by Phase</i> | 24 |
| <i>Table 2: Mop-Up and Continuous Voter Registration Statistics after the Launch and BVR Blitz</i> | 25 |
| <i>Table 3: Inspection Bulk SMS Status by Mobile Operator</i> | 28 |
| <i>Table 4: Inspection Statistics by Category</i> | 28 |
| <i>Table 5: Exclusion List Records by Category</i> | 29 |
| <i>Table 6: Registered Voters by Province and Sex</i> | 30 |
| <i>Table 7: Youth Registrants by Age group and Sex</i> | 34 |
| <i>Table 8: Registrants by Various Age Groups and Sex</i> | 35 |
| <i>Table 9</i> | 38 |
| <i>Table 10</i> | 47 |
| <i>Table 11</i> | 50 |
| <i>Table 12: Statistics on Accredited observers for the 2018 Harmonised Elections</i> .. | 56 |
| <i>Table 13: 2018 Election Presidential Results</i> | 73 |
| <i>Table 14: Senators</i> | 76 |
| <i>Table 15: Results of Election for Speaker of Parliament</i> | 79 |
| <i>Table 16: Results of Election for Deputy Speaker</i> | 79 |
| <i>Table 17: Results of Election for President of Senate</i> | 80 |
| <i>Table 18: Results of Election for Deputy President of Senate</i> | 81 |

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) (henceforth referred to as the Commission) is indebted to the following persons and organisations for their contribution to the successful conduct of the 2018 Harmonised Elections held on the 30th of July 2018.

- The respective Logistics Committees for mobilizing human, material and financial resources for the elections;
- The Service Commissions for the provision of staff to facilitate the work of the Commission;
- All political parties and candidates who participated in the polls for their contribution to the electoral process;
- All electoral staff for the execution of their duties;
- All observers and media personnel for their respective roles during the electoral period;
- The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) for the security of ZEC personnel, electoral materials and generally, for maintenance of law and order;
- The Central and Mechanical Equipment Department (CMED) for providing vehicles and fuel; and
- All other persons and institutions who rendered support before, during and after the 2018 elections.

PREAMBLE

In line with the Constitution, Zimbabwe held its Harmonised Elections on the 30th of July 2018.

May it please

- The President of the Senate,
- The Speaker of the National Assembly,
- His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, and
- The Honorable Minister of Justice, Legal and Parliamentary Affairs

to note that the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission duly prepared for and conducted the 2018 Harmonised Elections.

Section 13 of the Zimbabwe Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13] requires the Commission to submit a report to you after an election and, in compliance with the respective law, the Commission is pleased to present to you the report on the conduct of the 2018 Harmonised Elections.

The report outlines the activities of the Commission and other stakeholders before, during and after the elections.

The report is duly submitted by all members of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission.

ACRONYMS

| | | |
|--------------|---|---|
| ACP | - | African Caribbean and Pacific Organisation |
| AFP | - | Agence France Presse |
| AU | - | African Union |
| BAZ | - | Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe |
| BVR | - | Biometric Voter Registration |
| CCJP | - | Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace |
| A/CEO | - | Acting Chief Elections Officer |
| CMED | - | Central Mechanical Equipment Department |
| COMESA | - | Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa |
| CSO | - | Civil Society Organisations |
| DDF | - | District Development Fund |
| DEO | - | District Elections Officer |
| ECF – SADC – | - | Electoral Commissions Forum of Southern Africa Development Community |
| EFZ | - | Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe |
| EISA | - | Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa |
| EMB | - | Election Management Body |
| IFES | - | International Foundation on Electoral Systems |
| IMBISSA | - | Inter-regional Meeting of Bishops in Southern Africa |
| INEC | - | Independent Nigeria Electoral Commission |
| MDC-A | - | Movement for Democratic Change - Alliance |
| MDC-T | - | Movement for Democratic Change – Tsvangirayi |
| MMC | - | Media Monitoring Committee |

| | | |
|-----------|---|---|
| MPLC | - | Multi-Party Liaison Committees |
| NLC | - | National Logistics Committee |
| OAC | - | Observer Accreditation Committee |
| PEO | - | Provincial Elections Officer |
| PSC | - | Public Service Commission |
| REA | - | Rural Electrification Agent |
| RGV | - | Registrar General of Voters |
| SADC | - | Southern Africa Development Community |
| SADC-CNGO | - | SADC – Council of Non-Governmental Organisations |
| SADC-ESN | - | SADC – Electoral Support Networks |
| SADC – PF | - | SADC – Parliamentary Forum |
| UNDP | - | United Nations Development Programme |
| ZANU PF | - | Zimbabwe African Nation Union – Patriotic Front |
| ZEC | - | Zimbabwe Electoral Commission |
| ZESA | - | Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority |
| ZESN | - | Zimbabwe Election Support Network |
| ZMC | - | Zimbabwe Media Commission |
| ZNLWA | - | Zimbabwe National Liberation War Veterans Association |
| ZRP | - | Zimbabwe Republic Police |
| ZTV | - | Zimbabwe Television |

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) is an election management body established in terms of section 238 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe. Its main function is to prepare for, conduct and supervise all elections and referendums in Zimbabwe and to ensure that those elections are conducted in a free and fair manner.
2. A number of legal reforms which aligned the Electoral law to the Constitution were made prior to the 2018 Harmonised Elections.
3. The 2018 Harmonised Elections were preceded by a new voter registration process in which Biometric Voter Registration technology was used for the first time in Zimbabwe, in line with the Commission's constitutional mandate and legal provisions embodied in the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13]. The Constitution of Zimbabwe bestowed the function to register voters upon the Commission, a function previously undertaken by the abolished Registrar General of Voters' office.
4. The BVR system was introduced to address issues relating to public perceptions on ghost voters, multiple registration and voting raised by some stakeholders on the status of the voters' roll.
5. The 2018 Harmonised Elections were proclaimed by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Honourable E.D. Mnangagwa on the 30th of May 2018 through Proclamation Number 2 of 2018 (Statutory Instrument 83 of 2018) with the 30th of July 2018 being set as the polling day. The 14th of June 2018 and 9th of September 2018 were set for sitting of the Nomination Courts to

accept papers from prospective candidates and as a possible run-off date respectively.

6. The Commission was allocated \$153,9 million out of a bid of \$272 million for the 2018 Harmonised Elections, representing 56% of the Commission budget to cover the BVR exercise and various processes leading up to polling.
7. Apart from Treasury, cooperating partners namely the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), UNWomen and International Foundation on Electoral Systems (IFES) contributed close to \$8 million mainly towards strengthening the Commission's institutional and electoral capacity. The African Union also played a key role in facilitating further training of electoral officials.
8. The Commission operated within the combined budget and avoided a budget overrun.
9. Preparations by the Commission for the 2018 Harmonised Elections went ahead in line with provisions of the Constitution, noting that the last month in which the elections were to be held was August 2018. The preparations began in earnest on the 18th of January 2017 with a nationwide mapping and verification exercise which ended on the 2nd of May 2017.
10. The Commission promulgated the Voter Registration Regulations, 2017 (Statutory Instrument 85 of 2017) on the 21st of July 2018 which instrument provided the framework that governed the conduct of the nationwide voter registration exercise, ahead of the 2018 Harmonised Elections. The Regulations were a result of submissions by various stakeholders and took into consideration the representation that the obligation to produce proof of residence was an onerous task for some eligible voters.

11. The Commission thus expanded the requisite list of proof residence for purposes of voter registration to include hospital or clinic bills or hospital cards with an address as well as sworn affidavits by registrants.
12. The Commission trained and commissioned thirty-seven (37) civil society organisations (CSOs) that had applied and qualified to assist in voter education. These CSOs also participated in the development of voter education materials and conducted their activities under the supervision of the Commission.
13. The Commission employed a number of methods for disseminating voter information through the various stages of the electoral process including radio and television publicity campaigns, bulk sms, roadshows and jingles among others. It also established a call centre with toll free numbers to allow voters to make enquiries on their registration details.
14. The Commission entered into a purchase agreement for the procurement of 3000 BVR kits with Laxton Group on the 14th of June 2017. The first batch of 400 BVR kits was delivered as per the provisions of the contract on the 28 August 2017 while the balance was delivered on the 14th of October 2017.
15. A Proclamation ordering the conduct of a new registration of voters exercise was issued on the 8th of September 2017. The Proclamation fixed the 14th of September 2017 as the day of commencement of the exercise and 15 January 2018 as the last day upon which applications for registration were to be received by the Commission.
16. The BVR exercise was launched at State House on the 14th of September 2017 by the then President of the Republic of Zimbabwe Honourable R.G. Mugabe. At the launch, the then first family, the Vice Presidents and their families and other dignitaries were registered.

17. The Commission opened all its district offices for continuous voter registration using 63 of the 416 received BVR kits earmarked for nationwide training on Monday the 18th of September 2017.
18. Statutory Instrument 117 of 2017 was also promulgated to amend the Electoral Act to ease certain aspects of the voter registration process by for instance allowing registrants to complete the appropriate voter forms by themselves, before submission to the voter registration officer. The instrument also outlawed the use of voter registration slips for voting among other things.
19. The Commission also invited interested Stakeholders for accreditation to observe the voter registration exercise. The normal procedures used during elections and prescribed fees applied.
20. By the end of the blitz, 4,885,873 people had been registered. The blitz was followed up by a mop up exercise which saw over 431 252 people being registered.
21. The provisional roll was laid for inspection between the 19th and 29th of May 2018. A total of 5 524 313 registrants inspected the roll using various platforms such as sms, visits to inspection centres, USSD platform and web platform.
22. The Commission gazetted the new voters roll, as required by the electoral law, on the 29th of May 2018. The total registered voter population as at 1 June 2018 following the deduplication, adjudication processes, edits and corrections was 5 695 706.
23. The total number of excluded persons from the voters' roll was 92 745 registrants. They were placed on the Exclusion list for a variety of reasons including sharing of personal details and invalid identification numbers.

24. The voters roll was closed two (2) days after the publication of the Presidential Proclamation announcing the dates of the 2018 Harmonised Elections. The Commission also provided electronic copies of the voters roll to candidates as required by provisions of section 21(6) of the Electoral Act which compels it to furnish every nominated candidate with an electronic copy of the voters roll to be used in the election for which the candidate has been nominated.
25. Nomination Courts sat on the 14th of June 2018 in the ten (10) provinces of Zimbabwe in accordance with the Presidential proclamation. A total of nine thousand two hundred and forty-eight (9 248) candidates successfully lodged their nomination papers for all the elections.
26. A total of thirty (30) candidates withdrew their candidature prior to the elections, thirteen (13) of whom were vying for National Assembly seats and seventeen (17) for local authority elections.
27. Two political parties namely ZANU PF and MDC Alliance, held primary elections some of which resulted in conflict which spilled into the courts.
28. One candidate Taiti Simba Mahwendepi who was contesting as an independent in Ward 13 of Chimanimani Rural District Council in Manicaland Province passed on before the election resulting in proceedings for same being terminated until after the harmonised elections.
29. The elections were held under generally peaceful conditions.
30. A total of three (3) Multi-Party Liaison Committees (MPLCs) were held at national level prior to polling day. The meetings were attended by high level political party officials. Each of the ten (10) provinces held at least three (3) MPLC meetings. Issues raised at national level meetings included the ballot paper design, printing,

transportation of ballot papers and their custody and the role of traditional leaders among others.

31. The Commission set up a Media Monitoring Committee in terms of Section 160K of the Electoral Act to monitor the media with the assistance of the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) on 4 June 2018.
32. The Commission engaged stakeholders in the run up and during the elections period as part of its deliberate policy to update stakeholders on the preparations for and actual conduct of the elections.
33. It also disseminated information through the Chairperson's weekly briefs with stakeholders, ZEC on Thursday on ZTV, radio schedules on national broadcasters, advertisements, press statements, election notices, the ZEC website, Twitter and Facebook.
34. The Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) ensured that all sensitive materials were secure and also provided escort services during deliveries of same, intact, to all parts of the country.
35. Due to the magnitude of the task of resource mobilization, the Commission relied on assistance from other state institutions that came together to set up a National Logistics Committee (NLC) which met regularly to coordinate the mobilization of resource requirements.
36. The Commission established ten thousand nine hundred and eighty-five (10985) polling stations nationwide, an increase of one thousand two hundred and fifty (1250) polling stations or 11% compared to the 9 735 polling stations set up for the 2013 elections.

37. The procurement of election materials at the Commission began in earnest on the 2nd of June 2018 after the Proclamation calling for the harmonized elections. There were no major challenges in their procurement, and they were delivered just in time for the elections.
38. Two companies, Fidelity Printers and Printflow, were engaged by the Commission to print the ballot papers for the 2018 Harmonised Elections. Fidelity Printers was assigned to print ballot papers for the Presidential and the 210 elective National Assembly elections, while Printflow was engaged for the printing of ballot papers for the 1956 local authority elections.
39. Whilst there is no legal obligation which compels the Commission to invite stakeholders to the printing houses, the Commission did allow stakeholders to witness the process. The endeavor was abandoned midstream following unreasonable demands by political parties, related to the printing of the ballots including the demand to go down into the printing location to handle and inspect the ballot papers.
40. The Commission through the Central Mechanical and Equipment Department (CMED) mobilized, for the Commission's staff and operations, vehicles comprising trucks, minibuses, lorries and utility vehicles from the preparatory phase and throughout the election period.
41. Nearly 131 000 recruited electoral officers of varying responsibilities underwent training on the tasks they were scheduled to carry out in the administration and conduct of the 2018 Harmonised Elections.
42. A total of 12968 local and foreign observers and journalists were accredited to observe the 2018 Harmonised Elections. The accreditation teams also accredited over 300 Red Cross staff as officials.

43. During the elections period, the Commission noted that there was a lot of misinformation and misunderstanding on how the postal ballot is administered. While the postal voting process went on fairly overall, isolated incidents took place which had the potential to disrupt the process in Zvishavane and Bulawayo. The Acting Chief Elections Officer received 7 654 applications for the postal vote. From the 7 654 applications, 6 177 applicants returned their postal ballots.
44. Polling took place on the 30th of July 2018. There were long queues as early as dawn at most of the polling stations. These decreased as the day went on.
45. Results for the Presidential and the National Assembly elections were transmitted using different routes from the Ward collation centre. While the destination for the National Assembly election results was the Constituency Centre, the Presidential results were forwarded to the district centre, for onward transmission to the National Results Centre in Harare. Ward returns for the National Assembly elections were sent to respective constituencies where they were collated, verified and summed up and declared in the presence of candidates, election agents and observers. Political party agents were requested to append their signatures to the V23C forms before they were displayed outside the Constituency centres.
46. The collation and verification of the Presidential election results were completed on the 3rd of August 2018. The results of the election were announced by the Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission on that same day. Emmerson Dambudzo Mnangagwa of ZANU PF party was declared the winner of the Presidential election after garnering 50.67% of the votes.
47. The eight Provincial Assemblies of Chiefs met in all the eight non-metropolitan provinces on the 11th of July 2018 to elect members to the Council of Chiefs.

The elections of President and Deputy President of the National Council of Chiefs were held on the 18th of July 2018 at Mahachi Building in Harare, in terms of Section 40 of the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13].

At the closure of nominations, only one Chief, Chief Charumbira (Charumbira Fortune.Z.) was duly nominated by the entire Chiefs present. Chief Mkane Khumalo was duly nominated the Deputy President of the Council of Chiefs.

48. The eight (8) Provincial Assemblies of Chiefs met in all the eight non-metropolitan provinces on the 1st of August 2018 to elect two Chiefs in each province to be members of the Senate, as provided for in Section 120 (1)(b) of the Constitution.
49. The Electoral College to elect two Senators to represent People with Disabilities (PWDs) was convened on the 2nd of August 2018 at the Rainbow Towers Hotel. Senators Rejoice Timire and Watson Khupe were duly elected as Senators to represent People with Disabilities.
50. The Commission was invited by the Clerk of Parliament to supervise elections for the President of the Senate and Speaker of Parliament and their Deputies on the 11th of September 2018. The elections were conducted by the Clerk of Parliament under the supervision of the Commission by secret ballot in accordance with the Standing Orders of Parliament.
51. A total of 80 election related cases were filed in the courts of law during the electoral process. The major highlight was the Constitutional challenge to the Presidential election which was however dismissed by a full bench of the Constitutional Court.

CHAPTER 1

THE COMMISSION

1.0 Introduction

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission, (“the Commission”), is established in terms of Section 238 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

The Commission headed by the Chairperson had eight other Commissioners as provided for by statute. Members were appointed after due process which involved public interviewing of Commissioners by Parliament after advertisement of the posts in the press, which ensured the appointment of Commissioners from a diverse background and who command the respect of a wide spectrum of key stakeholders and the public.

The current Chairperson Honourable Justice Mrs Priscilla Makanyara Chigumba was appointed and sworn in office on 1 February 2018 following the resignation of Justice Rita Makarau on 1 December 2017. The membership of the Commission during the 2018 Harmonised Elections was as

follows:

Chairperson:

Mrs. Justice Priscilla Makanyara Chigumba

Deputy Chairperson:

Mr Emmanuel Magade

Members:

Mr Daniel Chigaru

Mrs Joyce Laetitia Kazembe

Dr Ngoni Kundidzora

Dr .Qhubani Moyo

Ms Netsai Mushonga

Ms Sibongile Ndlovu and

Mrs Faith Sebata

1.1 Functions of the Commission

The functions of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission are outlined in the Constitution of Zimbabwe and the Electoral Act [Chapter 2.13], (“the Electoral Act”).

Section 239 of the Constitution mandates the Commission as follows:

- a. to prepare for, conduct and supervise –
 - (i) elections to the office of President and to Parliament;
 - (ii) elections to provincial and metropolitan councils and the governing bodies of local authorities;
 - (iii) elections of members of the National Council of Chiefs established by section 285; and
 - (iv) referendums;and to ensure that those elections and referendums are conducted efficiently, freely, fairly, transparently and in accordance with the law;
- b. to supervise elections of the President of the Senate and the Speaker and to ensure that those elections are conducted efficiently and in accordance with the law;
- c. to register voters;
- d. to compile voters’ rolls and registers,
- e. to ensure the proper custody and maintenance of voters’ rolls and registers;

- f. to delimit constituencies, wards and other electoral boundaries;
- g. to design, print and distribute ballot papers, approve the form of and procure ballot boxes, and establish and operate polling centres;
- h. to conduct and supervise voter education;
- i. to accredit observers of elections and referendums;
- j. to give instructions to persons in the employment of the State or of a local authority for the purpose of ensuring the efficient, free, fair, proper and transparent conduct of any election or referendum; and
- k. to receive and consider complaints from the public and to take such action in regard to the complaints as it considers appropriate;

Section 5 of the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13] provides for the following additional functions and powers of the Commission:

- a. undertaking and promoting research into electoral matters;
- b. developing expertise and the use of technology in regard to the electoral processes;
- c. promoting co-operation between Government, political parties and civil society in regard to elections;
- d. keeping the public informed about -
 - (i) the times and places where persons can register as voters and the progress of the voter registration exercise;
 - (ii) the delimitation of wards, constituencies and other electoral boundaries,
 - (iii) the location and boundaries of polling stations and when they are open for inspection;
 - (iv) voters' rolls and the times and places at which they are open for

- inspection;
 - (v) political parties and candidates contesting every election;
 - (vi) voting; and
 - (vii) generally, all matters relating to the Commission's work and the electoral process; and
- e. ensuring that gender is mainstreamed into electoral processes, and
 - f. making recommendations to Parliament on appropriate ways to provide public financing for political parties.

1.2. The Zimbabwean Electoral System

Our electoral system is a mixed system consisting of the Single Member Majority system, the Single Member Plurality System popularly known as the First-Past-the-Post system and the Proportional Representation System.

1.2.1 *Single Member Majority*

The Single Member Majority system is applied for the presidential election. In this system the winner must obtain an absolute majority of votes the minimum being 50% plus one vote. If no candidate secures an outright majority, a run-off election is conducted between the two candidates with the highest number of votes. Note that it is not enough to receive more votes than the others; it has to be more than half the total votes cast. In other words, it cannot be just 50% of the votes cast. The law requires “**more than half**” and so the one vote added to the 50% is what will tilt the scales.

1.2.2 *Proportional Representation (PR) System*

The Proportional Representation System is applied for 60 members of the Upper House of Parliament, that is, the Senate, 60 members of the National Assembly, all of whom must be women, and for the Provincial Councils in the 8 non-metropolitan provinces. To qualify, a party must have filed its party PR nomination lists for the said elections, during the nomination court proceedings. If it does not file its party-list nomination forms for all the elections under the PR System, then it will not be eligible to be allocated seats. The Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13] provides a formula for allocating the seats to eligible parties under this system.

1.2.3 *First-Past-The-Post System*

The First-Past-the-Post, also called the Single Member Plurality System, is used for elections in the Lower House of Parliament, the National Assembly and for local authority elections. Under this electoral system, the country is divided into 210 electoral constituencies and 1958 wards respectively, each of which is represented by a candidate. The candidate who attains the highest number of votes, that is, a minimum of one vote more than the other candidate(s) is declared the winner.

1.3 Legal Reforms

Prior to the 2018 Harmonised Elections, there were some electoral reforms made through the Electoral Amendment Act. These aligned the Electoral Law to the Constitution. Highlights of the amendments were as follows:

- **Section 5** – ensuring that gender is mainstreamed into electoral processes. This amendment obligated the Commission to advocate for regulations to ensure that women have fair opportunities to campaign and register to vote, and are thus protected from among other vices election-related violations. It also requires the Commission to provide adequate, accurate, **gender sensitive** and unbiased education;
- **Section 23** – extends the period for which a voter is absent from his or her constituency from 12 months to 18 months, the period considered when deciding whether a voter’s name should be retained on or deleted from the voters’ roll.
Previously a voter’s name could be removed from the voters roll if he or she was deemed not resident in the constituency for a continuous period of 12 months. The extension to 18 months gave voters a longer period during which they can be away from their constituency without their names being removed from the voters’ roll.
- **Section 40F** – allowed foreign donations for purposes of funding voter education activities to be directly channeled to Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) as opposed to channeling them through the Commission as was the case prior to the amendment.
- **Section 22A** – authorised the Commission to establish more polling stations for an area that had a large voter population in order to speed up polling on voting day;
- **Section 32** –related to the removal of duplicates from the voters roll and also allowed its alignment to processes brought about by the introduction of biometric voter registration. The amendment also outlawed persons from registering as a voter more than once on the voters roll for any polling station. This amendment authorised

the Commission to remove duplicates or multiple names from the voters roll. Thus, a voter's name appeared only once.

- **Section 126** – related to the withdrawal of a candidate after printing of the ballot paper. This addressed the cumbersome process of deletion of a candidate's name after a ballot paper had been printed. Previously, the law mandated the Commission to delete, from the ballot paper, the name of candidates who withdrew after the ballot paper had been printed. This process had logistical and financial challenges on the Commission.
- **Section 59** - was to allow the visually impaired voters to be assisted to vote by a person of their choice, without the Presiding Officer necessarily being present.
- **Section 26A** – was amended so that registration of voters closes two (2) days after Proclamation, as opposed to 12 days after sitting of Nomination Courts as was the case prior to the amendment. It therefore meant that the registration of voters for the purposes of the 2018 Harmonised Elections closed on 1 June 2018. Those who registered after the cut-off date would be considered for future elections.
- **Section 52A** – was amended such that the number of ballot papers printed for any election would not exceed more than 10% of the number of registered voters eligible to vote in that election.
- **Section 133 A** – widened the definition of intimidation to include misleading another person by stating that he or she could determine or discover how they had voted.
- **Code of Conduct for Political Parties and Candidates.** This was broadened to include application to stakeholders like CSOs, civil servants, traditional leaders and members of the security establishment.

The Code also introduced the issue of setting up Multi-Party Liaison Committees at least 12 months prior to the expected date of the election, as opposed to the previous provisions where MPLC's were established after the sitting of the Nomination Courts.

The Act was also amended to provide for a new section, 40K, that allows observation of elections by the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission (ZHRC).

1.4 New Voters Roll and Polling Station Registration

The 2018 Harmonised Elections were preceded by a new voter registration process in which Biometric Voter Registration technology was introduced for the first time in Zimbabwe, in line with the Commission's Constitutional mandate and legal provisions embodied in the Electoral Act. The Constitution of Zimbabwe of 2013 bestowed the function to register voters upon the Commission, a function previously undertaken by the abolished Registrar General of Voters' office. The Electoral Act enjoined the Commission to undertake and promote research into electoral matters and develop expertise and the use of technology in regard to electoral processes. Besides addressing previous divisive suspicions around voter registration processes, the BVR processes and application improved electoral administration, and resolution of issues related thereto.

The introduction of the BVR system was one such consideration made in line with the law to address issues relating to public perceptions on ghost voters, multiple registration and voting, raised by some stakeholders on the status of the voters' roll. Such allegations cast aspersions on the Commission's mandate and introduced unnecessary

conflict in the electoral process. The introduction of the BVR system entailed a voter registration exercise which required all voters to subject themselves to the new process in order to come up with a new voters' roll. The fact that a person was a registered voter since 1980 did not count as all voters were required to physically report at registration centres to have their details entered into the system. This new registration system also effectively expunged allegations of ghost voters due to the requirement of an individual himself or herself to be physically present for registration at a registration centre, before being enrolled on the new voters roll.

This new voter registration system was also augmented by the polling station specific voting system whereby a voter was restricted to voting at a particular polling station of choice in his or her ward. This constituted a shift from the past where a voter could vote at any polling station within his or her ward or constituency, a practice that left the Commission in an invidious position when rebutting allegations of double voting. This new system also effectively dealt with the issue of double voting as it eliminated chances for such practice. Hence a voters' name only appeared once in a voters roll for a polling station of his or her choice. Further it had cost effectiveness in the supply of ballot papers to polling stations as compared to previous practice as it was now possible to determine the numbers of voters that could turn up to vote at each station.

1.5 Proclamation of 2018 Harmonised Elections

The 2018 Harmonised Elections were proclaimed by His Excellency, the President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, Honourable E.D. Mnangagwa on the 30th of May 2018 through Proclamation number 2 of 2018 (Statutory Instrument 83 of 2018) with the 30th

of July 2018 being set as the polling day. The 14th of June 2018 and 9th of September 2018 were set for sitting of the Nomination Courts to accept papers from prospective candidates and as a possible run-off date respectively.

CHAPTER 2

2.0 THE FUNDING OF THE ELECTIONS

In terms of section 322 and 325 of the Constitution, it is the responsibility of the Government of Zimbabwe to ensure that sufficient funds are provided to the Commission to enable it to perform its functions effectively.

2.1 The Budget

The Commission was allocated **\$153.9 million** out of a bid of **\$272 million** for the 2018 Harmonised Elections, representing **56%** of the Commission budget. The allocation covered the following electoral processes:

- Polling area specific mapping exercise;
- the BVR Blitz;
- the BVR mop-up exercise;
- Inspection and voter registration;
- Nomination Court Sitting;
- Accreditation of observers;
- Postal Vote and;
- Pre-poll voter education.

The Ministry of Finance and Economic Development later availed further resources which enabled the Commission to fulfill all outstanding obligations related to the plebiscite. Government funding also covered allowances for Zimbabwe Republic Police officers deployed on electoral duties.

Apart from Treasury, cooperating partners namely United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Electoral Institute for Sustainable Democracy in Africa (EISA), UNWOMEN and the International Foundation in Electoral Systems (IFES) contributed close to **\$8 million** towards strengthening institutional and electoral capacity for the Commission, through funding voter registration exercises, stakeholder engagement, public outreach programs, training of electoral officers, gender mainstreaming and procurement of election related materials prior to the plebiscite. The African Union (AU) also played a key role in facilitating further training of election officials.

2.2 Budget Performance

The Commission operated within the combined budget thus avoiding a budget overrun. The budget was rationalized following a downward review of same. The coming in of cooperating partners assisted significantly to fill-in the gap, thus enabling the Commission to embark on a nationwide publicity campaign to mobilise people to participate in the voter registration exercise and polling.

Further, the Commission managed to procure **129** operational vehicles, upgrade its Information Communication Technology (ICT) systems and other election related equipment. Indeed, the availing of funding by Treasury was quite commendable, marking a great improvement from past experience.

2.3 Budget Controls

In line with provisions of section 308 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, the Public Finance Management Act and other enabling instruments, the Commission instituted budget controls. Auditors were also deployed to monitor compliance with procedures in all provinces and at Head Office.

CHAPTER 3

3.0 PREPARATIONS FOR THE ELECTIONS

3.1 Introduction

Preparations by the Commission for the 2018 Harmonized elections went ahead in line with provisions of the Constitution, noting that the last month in which the elections were to be held was August 2018. Thus, all preparations were aligned to the fact that the Commission intended to introduce new aspects in the electoral process namely polling station-based voting and BVR. In summary, the road map for the BVR exercise comprised the following activities:

- Mapping and demarcation of polling station specific voter registration centres;
- Gazetting of dates for voter registration and notification that it would be polling station specific;
- Conducting of continuous voter education for the BVR exercise and polling;
- Procurement of BVR kits;
- Launching of the BVR exercise;
- Production of provisional voters' roll;
- Inspection of the voter's roll and attendance to queries; and
- Production of the final voter's roll.

3.2 Nationwide Polling Areas Verification Mapping Exercise

In effect, preparations for the 2018 harmonised elections commenced with a nationwide mapping and verification exercise which commenced on the 18th of January 2017. This ended on the 2nd of May 2017.

Two teams of ten (10) officers each comprising Commission Head Office staff, seconded personnel from ZIMSTAT, Ministry of Lands, Agriculture and Rural Resettlement and University of Zimbabwe students on industrial attachment. These teams were deployed in the two (2) geographic regions namely Northern and Southern. They worked in conjunction with the respective PEOs, DEOs and local cartographers.

3.2.1 *Terms of Reference for Mapping Teams*

The terms of reference for the mapping teams included the following:

- Verification of polling area boundaries by visiting the said areas and liaising with the local leadership, such as Chiefs, Headmen and Councilors, as well as referencing with the 2008 electoral boundary delimitation report;
- Where necessary, redrawing and redefining the electoral boundaries, according to the delimitation report; and
- Re-digitising the polling area boundaries.

The process of mapping was opened to stakeholders for observation.

3.2.2 *Preparatory Work*

First, the Commission's provincial offices were requested by Head Office to source from their respective councils for layout maps for growth points and urban centres to enable digitizing and capturing of stand numbers. In the meantime, the Commission had already printed and dispatched sketch maps to all provinces for use during the verification exercise.

3.2.3 *The Process*

The Commission deployed teams simultaneously for two (2) districts to undertake the verification and mapping exercise. The whole exercise across country took seventy-seven (77) days save for Harare Province which required additional nineteen days (19) days owing to complications in the nature of its settlement patterns. In general, the thrust of the exercise was to assist districts in coming up with correct boundary description manuals which had to be submitted to Head Office by May 2017. These were used in updating the Alpha List manuals.

3.3 Promulgation of Voter Registration Regulations

The Commission promulgated the Voter Registration Regulations (Statutory Instrument 85 of 2017) on the 21st of July 2018. The Instrument provided the framework that governed the conduct of the nationwide voter registration exercise, ahead of the 2018 Harmonised Elections. Prior to the 2013 Constitution, the mandate of voter registration fell under the office of the Registrar General of Voters. This was the first time the Commission was registering voters and also coming up with its own voters' roll. BVR technology was being used for the first time solely for electoral processes.

The Voter Registration Regulations were a result of submissions by various stakeholders. These addressed among other issues, what constituted proof of residence, an absolute requirement as voters would vote at a specific polling station where their name appeared. In the past, voting had been ward-based, meaning that a voter could vote at any polling station in the ward in which he or she was registered.

In coming up with the Regulations, the Commission took into consideration representations from some stakeholders including youths and women that the obligation to produce proof of residence was an onerous task for some eligible voters. These had no access to documents previously prescribed. The Commission thus expanded the requisite list to include hospital or clinic bills or hospital cards with an address. Further, the Commission prescribed through the same Regulations that one could prove his or her residence by deposing to a sworn affidavit that stated his/her address. The Commission also educated the electorate of the provisions in section 23(5) of the Electoral Act which provided that the mere prescription of documents that constituted proof of residence did not preclude a person from proving his or residence by other means.

3.4 Voter Education and Voter Information



Figure 1: The Voter Education Supervisors conducting voter education.

The Constitution of Zimbabwe in section 239(h) as read with section 40C of the Electoral Act mandates the Commission to conduct and supervise voter education, an essential and indispensable democratic process in general. This empowers the electorate with relevant information for an informed choice.

It is noteworthy to mention that the law allows the Commission to engage other stakeholders to assist it in voter education, thus bringing to the fore the concept of “supervising” voter education. The Commission trained and commissioned thirty-seven (37) civil society organizations (CSOs) that had applied and qualified to assist in voter

education. The CSOs also participated in the developing voter education materials. While the CSOs were using their own financial, material and human resources in this task, they had strict instructions to use only voter education materials developed by ZEC.

During the 2018 electoral cycle, the Commission conducted more extensive voter education and publicity awareness campaigns right through the various stages of the electoral process. In addition to the usual field voter education by electoral officers in collaboration with CSOs, the Commission also employed the following methods in disseminating voter information:

- radio and television publicity campaigns;
- road shows;
- bulk SMSs;
- jingles;
- skits (short dramas);
- promotional materials and
- pamphlets

The Commission also established a Call Centre with the following toll-free numbers:

- 0808265 for Econet subscribers
- 08010265 for NetOne subscribers
- 265 for Telecel subscribers

3.5 Voter Registration

3.5.1 Procurement of Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) Kits

The Commission entered into a purchase agreement for the procurement of 3000 BVR kits with Laxton Group on the 14th of June 2017. The first batch of 400 BVR kits was delivered as per the provisions of the contract on 28 August 2017 while the balance was delivered on the 14th of October 2017.

3.5.2 Training of Master Trainers and Technicians

The Commission first trained the Master Trainers and technicians between the 4th and 12th of September 2017 and then provincial and district staff from the 11th to the 12th of September 2017 in preparation for registration exercises to be initially conducted at the 63 district centres.

3.5.3 Proclamation-SI 109 of 2017

A Proclamation ordering the conduct of a new registration of voters exercise was issued on the 8th of September 2017. The Proclamation fixed the 14th of September 2017 as the day of commencement of the exercise, and 15 January 2018 as the latest day upon which applications for registration were to be received by the Commission thus, opening the door for the Commission to commence a new voter registration exercise.

3.5.4 Launch of BVR

On 14 September 2017, the then President of the Republic of Zimbabwe, gave out an address to the nation on the start of the BVR exercise at State House thus formerly launching the exercise.

At the launch, the then First family, the Vice Presidents and their families and other dignitaries were registered. This marked the beginning of continuous voter registration.

After the official launch, the Commission took the programme to the Rainbow Towers Hotel and, as an extension of the Launch, registered a few dignitaries who had relevant documents.



Figure 2: The then Vice President Cde.E.D. Munangagwa giving a speech during the launch of the BVR

3.5.5. Establishment of Registration Centres at District level

From Monday 18 September 2017, the Commission opened all its district offices for continuous voter registration, using 63 of the 416 received BVR kits earmarked for

nationwide training. The staff operating the 63 BVR kits deployed had the capacity to register 80 voters per day. However, on day one, a total of 761 voters were registered country-wide, representing fifteen percentage against the expected kit capability. On day two, a total of 1,691 voters were registered representing 33.5% of a kit's capability. The turnout of registrants increased as days progressed.

3.5.6 *Promulgation of Statutory Instrument 117 of 2017*

Statutory Instrument 117 of 2017 was also promulgated to amend the Electoral Act to ease certain aspects of the voter registration process by for instance, allowing registrants to complete the appropriate voter registration forms by themselves, before submission to the voter registration officer. Prior to the amendment, Commission personnel were required to do so, on behalf of registrants. Further, the Statutory Instrument also outlawed the use of the voter registration slips, for voting among other things.

3.5.7 *Accreditation of Observers*

The Commission invited interested stakeholders for accreditation to observe the voter registration exercise. The normal procedures used during elections and prescribed fees applied.

3.6 The BVR Blitz

The Commission officially launched the Biometric Voter Registration (BVR) exercise on the 14th of September 2017 through Statutory Instrument 109 of 2017 with the 15th of January 2018 as the last day on which applications were to be received. A total of 3000

BVR kits were procured by the Commission for the purpose. The BVR exercise was launched in the country's 63 district centres on the 18th of September 2017. The BVR blitz was conducted in four phases, over a period of 72 days, with each team and kit spending 16 days at every established registration centre. During the blitz, the registration centres were open from 07:00 to 17:00 hours daily, including weekends and public holidays.



Figure 3: registrant's fingerprints being captured during the registration process

Table 1:

Provisional Registered Voters by Phase

| BVR Phase | Period | In Database System (Before Deduplication) |
|------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| Launch | 14 September to 9 October 2019 | 40,465 |
| One | 10 to 28 October 2017 | 1,280,126 |
| Two | 29 October to 15 November 2017 | 1,213,568 |
| Three | 16 November to 3 December 2017 | 1,097,682 |
| Four | 4 to 19 December 2017 | 1,345,132 |
| Total | | 4,976,973 |

By the end of the blitz, 4,897,452 people had been registered, as indicated in Table 1 above. The blitz was followed by a mop-up exercise detailed below.

3.7 The BVR Mop-Up

The Commission decided to conduct a voter registration mop up exercise between the 10th of January and the 8th of February 2018. This exercise catered for those who had missed registration during the blitz period for a number of reasons owing to lack of synchronization between the Registrar General's office exercise of issuing identity cards and other documents required for registration and the Commission's registration blitz. First, a number of people in some far-off places had never acquired national identity cards because the Registrar General (RG)'s offices were too far. Besides, most of them could not afford transport fees to and from the RG's offices. So, the RG's office was capacitated to do a mobile identity issuance exercise. While some were issued before

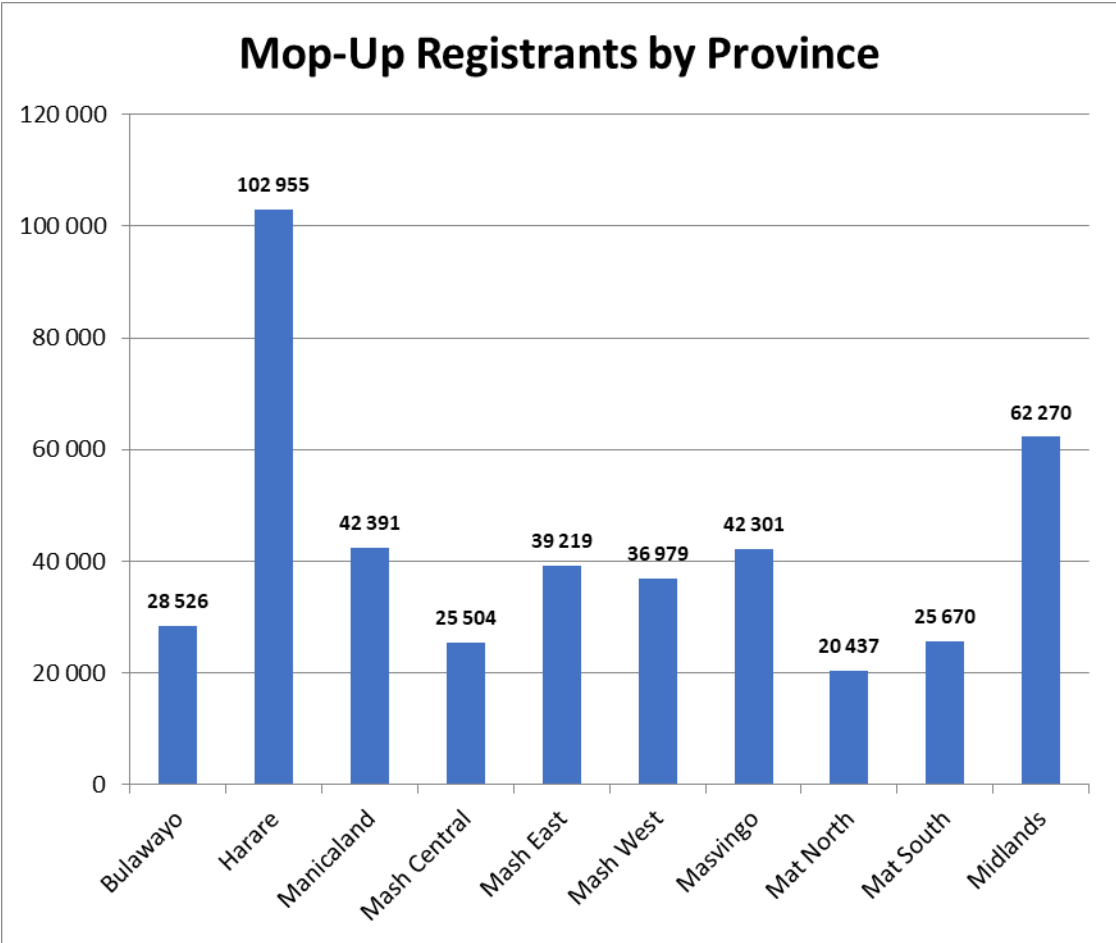
the arrival of the BVR kits, others were unfortunate. A third group of potential registrants comprised those that had been deemed alien but were granted citizenship status by birth, these were also registered after intervention of the courts.

Table: 2

Mop-Up and Continuous Voter Registration Statistics after the Launch and BVR Blitz

| BVR Phase | Period | In Database System (Before Deduplication) |
|--|------------------------------------|--|
| Continuous | 20 December 2017 to 9 January 2019 | 13,496 |
| Mop up | 10 January to 8 February 2018 | 424,698 |
| Continuous | 9 February to 8 April 2018 | 37,483 |
| Continuous | 9 April to 18 May 2018 | 33,042 |
| Inspection | 19 May to 1 June 2018 | 303,078 |
| Total Blitz + Continuous Registration | | 5,788,770 |

By the end of the programme, the Commission had deployed about **490** mobile kits and over **431, 252** people registered during the Mop-Up exercise, as shown in Figure 3 below:



Graph 1: The distribution of Mop-Up Registrants by Province

3.8 Inspection of the Provisional Voters’ Roll

The product of the BVR blitz and Mop-Up programmes was the provisional Voters’ Roll which was then laid for public inspection. This was to enable registrants to know their respective polling stations, and if necessary, to factor in any corrections on their details. They could also effect transfers to their preferred polling stations.

The inspection of the provisional voters’ roll began on the 19th of May 2018 and ended on the 29th May 2018. The Commission also published all the **10 807** inspection and **2 019** registration centres in the press, to enable registrants to visit and correct any

observed anomalies. Besides establishing inspection centres, the Commission facilitated public inspection through the use of the Unstructured Supplementary Service Data (USSD) platform ***265#** to enable registrants to check their details using their mobile phones. As at 4pm on the 29th of May 2018, a total of **944 888** people had used this facility. This was over and above the **1 917 691** people who physically visited the inspection centres. In addition, the Commission sent out **3 256 440** bulk SMSs with registration details to registrants who supplied their mobile numbers upon registration, of which **2 637 434** were delivered.



Figure 4: A Registrant inspecting the Provisional Voters Roll during the inspection period (19-29 May 2018)

Further, registrants also used the link bvrinspection.zec.org.zw and/or the new ZEC website www.zec.org.zw to check their details online.

These innovations among other reasons, resulted in inspection centres experiencing low turnouts as thousands of people were checking their details while at their workplaces and in the comfort of their homes.

Table: 3

Inspection Bulk SMS Status by Mobile Operator

| Mobile Network Operator | Sent | Delivered | Failed |
|--------------------------------|------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Telecel | 169,418 | 72,637 | 96,781 |
| Netone | 399,116 | 192,389 | 206,727 |
| Econet | 2,693,626 | 2,372,408 | 321,218 |
| Totals | 3,262,160 | 2,637,434 | 624,726 |

Table: 4

Inspection Statistics by Category

| Category | Registrants |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| Delivered SMS | 2,637,434 |
| Visits to Inspection Centres | 1,917,691 |
| USSD Platform | 944,888 |
| Web Platform | 24,300 |
| Total | 5,524,313 |

Note that the total nominal figure might have included double counting as individuals used various platforms to check their registration status. For example, some registrants

visited inspection centres to confirm the messages they would have received. The three technological platforms accounted for **3,606,622** registrants and visits to inspections accounted for **1,917,691**.

It should be noted that voter registration in Zimbabwe is continuous and hence registration was also conducted during the inspection period. A total of **206 225** new registrants were recorded during the inspection exercise.

3.9 Gazetting of the voters' roll

The Commission gazetted the new voters roll, as required by the electoral law, on the 29th of May 2018. This meant that the country now had a voter's roll and continuous voter registration could be effected. The total registered voter population as at 1 June, 2018 following the deduplication, adjudication processes, edits and corrections was **5,695,706**.

3.9.1 Exclusion List Records

The total number for excluded persons was about **92,745** registrants who were placed on the Exclusion List for a variety of reasons, as indicated in Table 8 below;

Table: 5

Exclusion List Records by Category

| Ser. | Category | Number |
|-------------|---|---------------|
| 1 | Duplicates arising from transfers done during Voters' Roll Inspection | 39,892 |
| 2 | Invalid ID Numbers | 11,767 |

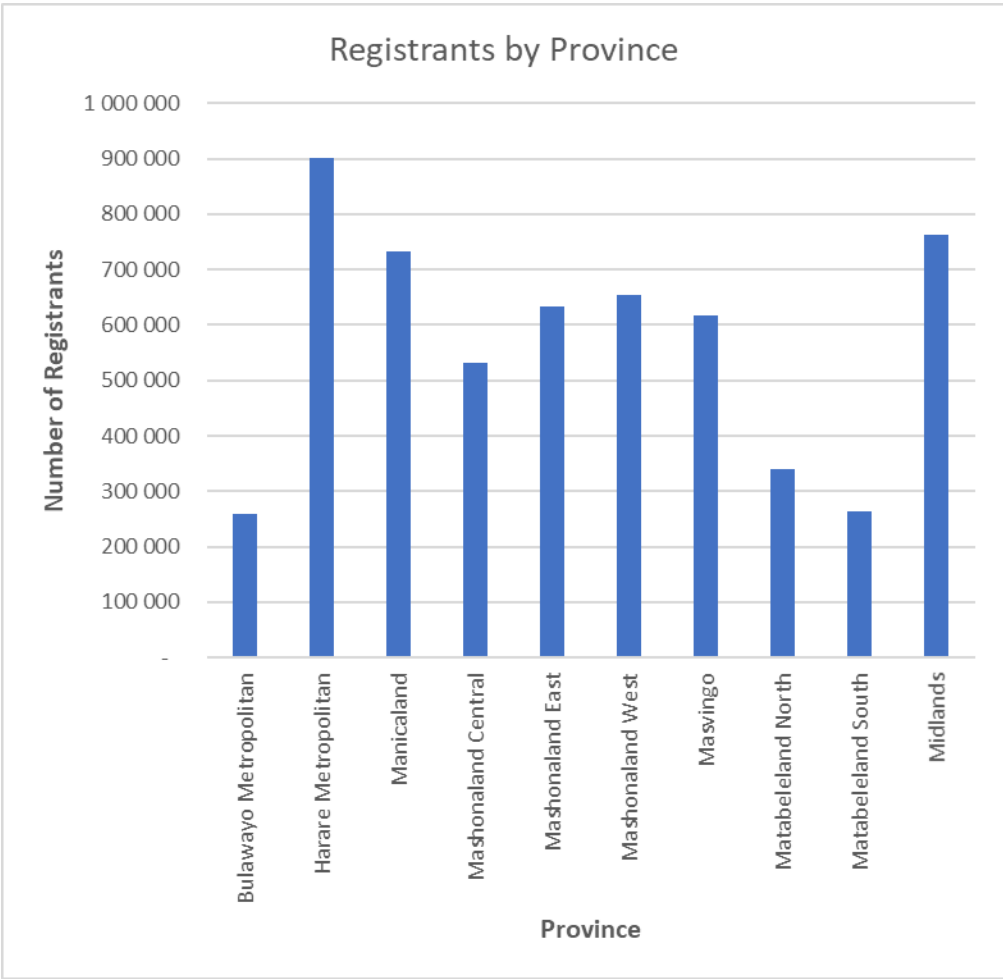
| | | |
|---|--|---------------|
| 3 | Not on the civil registry at the Registrar General (RG)'s office | 25 |
| 4 | Duplicates arising from double registration | 31,248 |
| 5 | Deceased list records from the RG's Office | 8,146 |
| 6 | Two different people sharing same ID Number but with different details | 510 |
| 7 | Two different people sharing same ID Numbers and details | 1,157 |
| Total number of records which appeared on exclusion list | | 92,745 |

3.10 Registrants Distribution

Table: 6

Registered Voters by Province and Sex

| Province | Female | Male | Number of Registrants |
|------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Bulawayo Metropolitan | 138,238 | 120,329 | 258,567 |
| Harare Metropolitan | 457,350 | 443,378 | 900,728 |
| Manicaland | 415,116 | 318,254 | 733,370 |
| Mashonaland Central | 279,912 | 252,072 | 531,984 |
| Mashonaland East | 343,784 | 289,626 | 633,410 |
| Mashonaland West | 331,564 | 323,569 | 655,133 |
| Masvingo | 356,533 | 260,679 | 617,212 |
| Matabeleland North | 190,069 | 149,066 | 339,135 |
| Matabeleland South | 150,449 | 113,736 | 264,185 |
| Midlands | 410,175 | 351,807 | 761,982 |
| National Total | 3,073,190 | 2,622,516 | 5,695,706 |

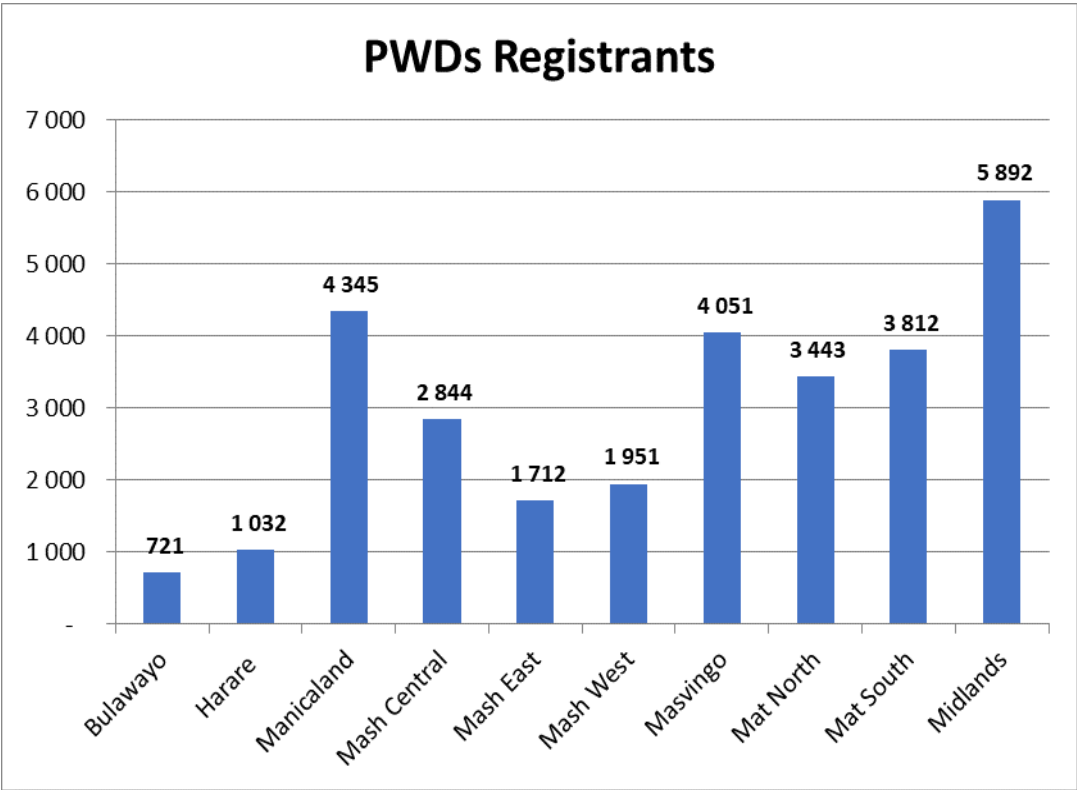


Graph: 2
Registrants by Province

3.10.1 People with Disabilities (PWDs)

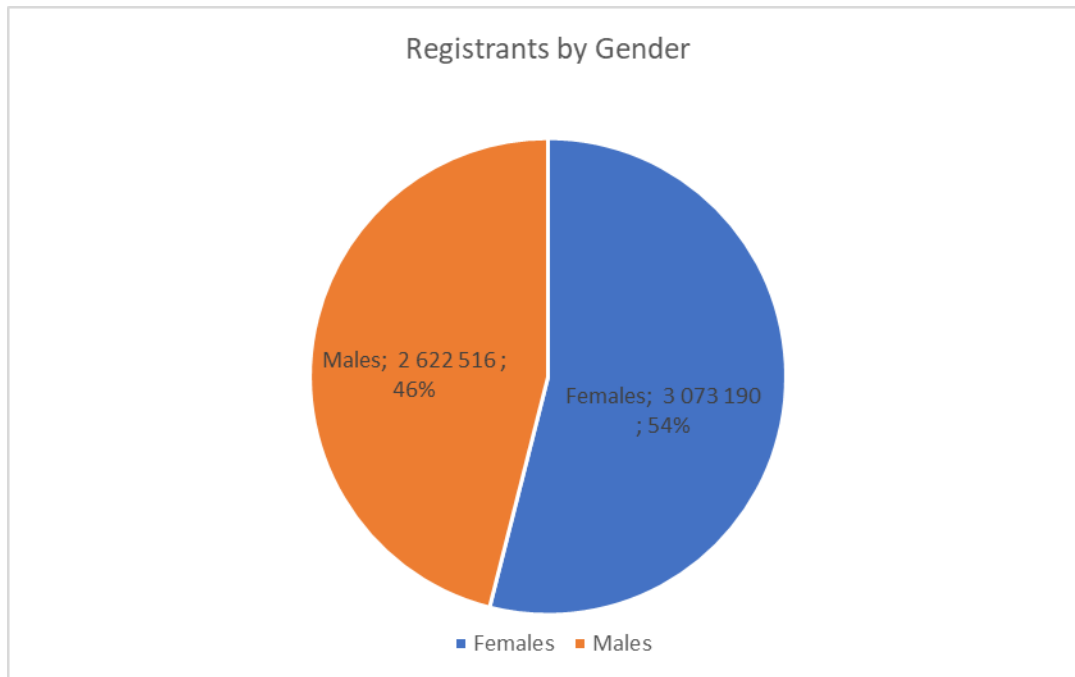
The new registration also captured the disability status of the registrants. The figure below shows the number of PWDs registered as voters by province. PWDs numbered 29 803 and their distribution by province is as outlined in the figure below.

Graph :3
PWDS by Province



3.10.2 Registrants by Sex Composition

Graph: 4



As shown in figure above, women constituted the majority of registered voters, that is 54%. Men made up for the 46%.

3.10.3 The Youth

Young registrants between 18 and 34 years of age numbered **2,506,674**, constituting about 44% of the total registrants of whom 22% were females and 20% males. Details on a province by province basis are provided in the table below.

Table: 7

Youth Registrants by Age group and Sex

| Province | 18-19 Years | | 20-24 Years | | 25-29 Years | | 30-34 Years | | Total |
|----------------------------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-------------|---------|-----------|
| | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | Male | Female | |
| Bulawayo | 4,233 | 4,731 | 17,302 | 19,720 | 16,173 | 18,751 | 16,408 | 18,762 | 116,080 |
| Harare | 13,740 | 13,671 | 61,453 | 68,279 | 64,838 | 73,393 | 70,906 | 77,147 | 443,427 |
| Manicaland | 13,352 | 12,349 | 44,664 | 49,517 | 37,395 | 47,765 | 41,512 | 54,243 | 300,797 |
| Mashonaland Central | 10,354 | 9,766 | 39,446 | 37,963 | 34,288 | 36,973 | 36,874 | 40,654 | 246,318 |
| Mashonaland East | 12,129 | 10,683 | 42,033 | 41,530 | 35,391 | 41,191 | 39,083 | 46,671 | 268,711 |
| Mashonaland West | 12,466 | 11,007 | 48,003 | 45,223 | 44,252 | 44,883 | 46,986 | 49,040 | 301,860 |
| Masvingo | 10,541 | 10,500 | 34,760 | 40,232 | 27,855 | 38,920 | 30,466 | 44,468 | 237,742 |
| Matabeleland North | 6,948 | 7,485 | 20,493 | 24,118 | 18,604 | 23,383 | 18,945 | 23,813 | 143,789 |
| Matabeleland South | 4,804 | 4,932 | 15,439 | 17,530 | 13,503 | 16,468 | 14,116 | 17,334 | 104,126 |
| Midlands | 16,871 | 16,092 | 55,516 | 57,079 | 44,344 | 52,596 | 46,307 | 55,019 | 343,824 |
| Grand Total | 105,438 | 101,216 | 379,109 | 401,191 | 336,643 | 394,323 | 361,603 | 427,151 | 2,506,674 |

3.10.4 Registrants by various age groups and gender

The registrant population consisted of various age groups, from the young of 18 years to the elderly of over 99 years of age as shown in Table 10 below, also disaggregated by sex.

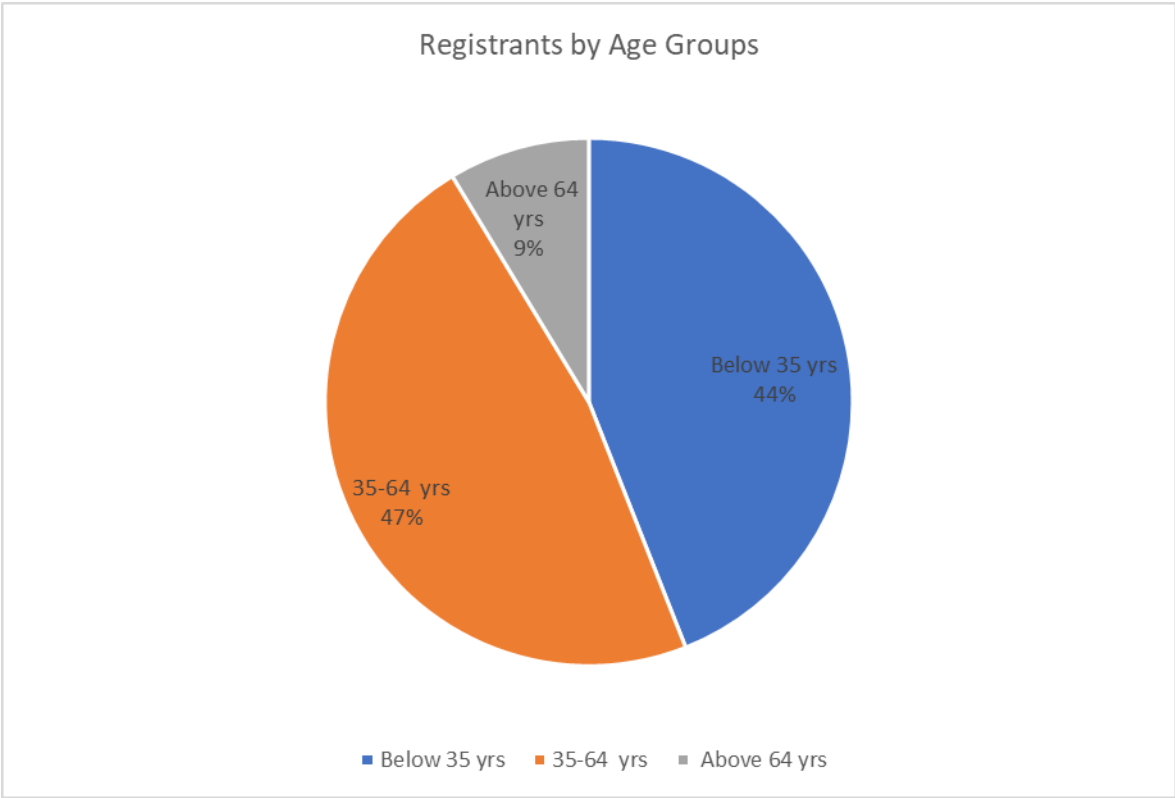
Table: 8

Registrants by Various Age Groups and Sex

| Province | Below 35 Years | | Between 35-64 Years | | 65 Years and Above | | Total |
|---------------------|------------------|------------------|---------------------|------------------|--------------------|----------------|------------------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females | Males | Females | |
| Bulawayo | 54,116 | 61,964 | 58,970 | 66,797 | 7,243 | 9,477 | 258,567 |
| Harare | 210,937 | 232,490 | 217,338 | 207,955 | 15,103 | 16,905 | 900,728 |
| Manicaland | 136,923 | 163,874 | 149,098 | 203,681 | 32,233 | 47,561 | 733,370 |
| Mash Central | 120,962 | 125,356 | 113,492 | 130,670 | 17,618 | 23,886 | 531,984 |
| Mash East | 128,636 | 140,075 | 135,549 | 166,732 | 25,441 | 36,977 | 633,410 |
| Mash West | 151,707 | 150,153 | 152,158 | 156,897 | 19,704 | 24,514 | 655,133 |
| Masvingo | 103,622 | 134,120 | 126,254 | 178,164 | 30,803 | 44,249 | 617,212 |
| Mat North | 64,990 | 78,799 | 68,783 | 89,723 | 15,295 | 21,545 | 339,135 |
| Mat South | 47,862 | 56,264 | 51,465 | 72,994 | 14,409 | 21,191 | 264,185 |
| Midlands | 163,038 | 180,786 | 159,035 | 189,305 | 29,735 | 40,083 | 761,982 |
| Grand Total | 1,182,793 | 1,323,881 | 1,232,142 | 1,462,918 | 207,584 | 286,388 | 5,695,706 |

Graph: 5

Composition of registrants by Age-Groups



The figure shows two dominant groups of registrants, that is, the 35-64-year age group with 47%, the youth with 44% and the elderly making up only 9%.

3.11 Closure of the Voters' Roll

The voters roll was closed two (2) days after the publication of the Presidential Proclamation announcing the dates of the 2018 Harmonized Elections. This legal provision was one of the electoral reforms that amended Section 26 A of the Electoral Act which had provided for the closure of the voters' roll (12) days after nomination day. When the voters' roll was closed on the 1st of June 2018, five million six hundred and

ninety-five thousand seven hundred and six (5 695 706) people had registered for the 2018 Harmonized Elections.

3.12 Provision of Voters' Rolls

The Commission was able, before polling day, to clean, deduplicate, update, organize the national total into specific polling station voters' rolls and print ten thousand nine hundred and eighty-five (10 985) of the latter for use at polling stations across the country. The voters' rolls for use at polling stations were printed in PDF format, after proof reading and quality control checks.

The Commission also provided electronic copies of the voters roll to candidates as required by provisions of Section 21 (6) of the Electoral Act which compels the Commission to furnish every nominated candidate with an electronic copy of the voters' roll to be used in the election for which the candidate has been nominated.

Further copies of the electronic voters' rolls were provided to candidates and stakeholders upon request. Over **332** voters' rolls were purchased from the Commission Head Office, while **1,458** Constituency Rolls and **7,075** Ward Rolls were dispatched to provinces for distribution to candidates.

3.13 Nomination Courts

Nomination courts sat on the 14th of June 2018 in the ten (10) provinces of Zimbabwe, in accordance with the Presidential Proclamation. A total of nine thousand two hundred

and forty-eight (9 248) candidates successfully lodged their nomination papers as shown in Table 9 below:

Table: 9

| Election | Number of candidates |
|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| Presidential | 23 |
| National Assembly | 1652 |
| Local Authorities | 7573 |
| Total | 9 248 |

Some candidates submitted their nomination papers to the ZEC offices before the sitting of the Nomination Courts, in accordance with Section 46 (3) of the Electoral Act. The majority, though, lodged their papers on the day the Nomination Courts sat. However, a few candidates had their nomination papers rejected for the following reasons, among others:

- failure to produce sufficient documentation,
- failure to get sufficient nominators' signatures for the position being contested for,
- lack of prescribed qualifications for the elections being vied for, and
- late submission of nomination papers.

3.14 Withdrawal of Candidates

While Section 49 of the Electoral Act provides for the withdrawal of candidature before polling day, comparatively, there was a high incidence of candidate withdrawals after

they had successfully lodged their papers. This was attributed mainly to intra political party conflicts and other reasons. As a result, thirty (30) candidates withdrew their candidature of whom thirteen (13) had been vying for National Assembly seats while seventeen (17) were for Local Authority elections. The withdrawal of some these candidates so late into the election period created challenges related to the design and printing of ballot papers because of time constraints.

3.15 Death of Candidates

Where a candidate dies before a set election, proceedings in respect of that election are terminated pending the calling of a by-election after the harmonized elections. This occurred after the death of Taiti Simba Mahwendepi who was contesting as an independent candidate in Ward 13 of Chimanimani Rural District Council in Manicaland Province.

3.16 Environment

Part of the nation and some international observers were apprehensive that, politically motivated violence would mar the 2018 Harmonized Elections like in 2008. There was political polarisation which seemed to support that fear, but appeals for peace and political tolerance by the national political leadership put paid to these fears. The elections were held under generally peaceful conditions. According to the Zimbabwe Republic Police, the election period remained generally peaceful though there were some reports in the media that the political party primary elections were characterized by intra-party violence and bickering.

3.17 Multiparty Liaison Committees

Part XXIA of the Electoral Act provides for the establishment of Multi-Party Liaison Committees (MPLCs) soon after the close of Nomination Courts. The functions of MPLCs are primarily to manage electoral conflict and transformation of behaviours of political parties and contestants. The Committees generally encourage good practice and monitor compliance by political parties and candidates to the Electoral Code of Conduct. The Committees comprise the Commission (Chairing), representatives of political parties and candidates contesting in an election. The police force and the clergy may be coopted. MPLCs are established at national, provincial, district, constituency and ward levels.

A total of three (3) meetings at national level were held prior to polling day. These were attended by high level political party officials. Each of the ten (10) provinces held at least three (3) MPLC meetings. At national level, political parties raised issues on ballot paper design, printing, transportation of ballot papers and their custody, and the role of traditional leaders in elections. Some of the disputes brought before the Committees related to pulling down of posters, hate speech at political rallies and meetings, uneven political campaign space and threats of political violence.

3.18 Media Monitoring

The Commission set up a Media Monitoring Committee in terms of Section 160 K of the Electoral Act to monitor the media, with the assistance of the Zimbabwe Media Commission (ZMC) and the Broadcasting Authority of Zimbabwe (BAZ) on 4 June 2018. The ZMC assisted in the monitoring of the print media, while BAZ oversaw the behavior

of electronic media. The state broadcaster produced a broadcasting schedule for political parties for its television and four radio stations. Periodic reports on media monitoring were produced. A Report on the Media Coverage on Elections is attached hereto as Annexure "A".

3.19 Stakeholder Engagement

The Commission engaged several stakeholders in the run up and during the election period as part of its deliberate policy to update stakeholders on the preparations for and actual conduct of the elections. Stakeholder groups included political parties, civil society organisations, faith based organisations, media practitioners, ambassadors and observer groups. The Commission used these engagements to table its roadmap, as well as clarifying such electoral issues like the number of registered voters and polling stations and also, generally, as a means of voter educating the audience.



Fig 5: The A/CEO addressing Political Parties at one of the Stakeholder Briefings

A number of publicity campaigns for the 2018 Harmonised Elections were organised in a variety of forms that included press releases, press statements, press conferences, media responses to questions, participation on radio and television programmes and advertising. Press conferences were organised to inform the electorate on matters that related to the electoral process, such as the polling station specific voting, a new phenomenon in elections in Zimbabwe. The Commission also flighted radio and television jingles for a period of three weeks before the elections.

3.20 Information Dissemination

The Commission disseminated information through the Chairperson's weekly briefs with stakeholders, ZEC on Thursday on ZTV, radio schedules on national broadcasters,

advertisements, press statements, election notices, the ZEC Website, Twitter and Facebook.

3.21 Security

Security and safety of human, financial, material and technological resources is fundamental to the successful holding of all electoral processes. Provision of such security is a constitutionally defined mandate of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) without which the Commission cannot carry out most of its activities. The ZRP ensured that all sensitive materials were secure and also provided escort services during deliveries of same, intact, to all parts of the country. The Commission is grateful to the ZRP for discharging its duties with high integrity and being visible and effective in all areas, throughout the whole electoral cycle, especially during the election period.

3.22 Mobilization of Resources

A variety of resources are required for the successful conduct of elections whose acquisition cannot be managed by the Commission on its own. Outside financial resources that are all encompassing have already been presented in the previous Chapter. Other key resources fall into four (4) main categories, namely; human, mechanical, road and infrastructural and utilities.

3.22.1 *The Human Resource*

According to the law, seconded staff are drawn from government departments, parastatals and local authorities, the majority of whom constitute constituency election officers, ward elections officers, presiding and polling officers. While they are governed

by regulations pertaining to their seconding agencies, they operate under the full control and direction of the Commission as if they are full time employees of the Commission during election time. The main mobilizing structure is the Public Service Commission (PSC), under whose control all civil servants fall. The Commission also liaised with other state institutions like parastatals and local authorities in mobilizing human resource requirements. Adequate personnel were in this regard duly mobilized.

3.22.2 *Mechanical*

This resource includes transport provisions, that is, different types of vehicles and requisite fuels, communication facilities, that include, radios, telephone lines, command centre result transmission equipment such as fax machines, email facilities and mobile phones, including high-tech transmission units. The major source for transport and fuel mobilization is the Central Mechanical Equipment Department (CMED) which manages generally, government vehicles of all makes and sizes, and also hired ones from the private sector and individuals. The CMED must ensure there are adequate provisions of appropriate fuels, including fuel for helicopters that may be required to reach areas with very poor and at time non-existent roads. On the other hand, communication linkages across the country and specifically linked to the Command Centres fall under the facilitation of TelOne and NetOne, under the Ministry of Information and Technology.

3.22.3 *Roads and Infrastructure*

Passable road networks with usable bridges that facilitate movement of persons and election materials are key to the success of the national conduct of elections. The

District Development Fund (DDF) was a major actor on the above. The Ministries of Education, of Local Government, of Justice and Legal Affairs, among others, provided space in their buildings, furniture, telephones and accommodation during the election period. We are grateful to all these departments for their cooperation and assistance.

3.22.4 Utilities

Energy (electricity) supplies were assured by the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA) while water supplies were managed by local authorities and the District Development Fund (DDF).

Due to the magnitude of the task of resource mobilization, the Commission relied on assistance from other state institutions that came together to set up a National Logistics Committee (NLC) which met regularly to coordinate mobilization of all the above resource requirements. The NLC also supervised similar structures at Provincial and District levels.

Broadly, the NLC comprised staff drawn from the Ministries of Justice and Legal Affairs, Finance, Information and Publicity, Local Government, Public Works, Water Resources, Transport and Communication, Home Affairs, Education, Sports and Culture, Health Services Board and Local Authorities. Assistance was sought and obtained from the Public Service Commission, the Office of the Registrar General, the Zimbabwe Republic Police, District Development Fund (DDF), the Central Mechanical Equipment Department (CMED), the Zimbabwe Electricity Supply Authority (ZESA), the Rural Electrification Agent (REA) and Tel-One, among others. The support, the technical

skills, the good will and commitment rendered to Commission by the NLC were invaluable.

3.23 Polling Stations

In principle, polling stations must be set up in such a manner as to make them easily accessible to all categories of voters in general and, more recently, with special reference to people with disabilities and the infirm.

The Commission established ten thousand nine hundred and eighty-five (10985) polling stations nationwide, an increase of one thousand two hundred and fifty (1250) polling stations, or 11% compared to the 9735 polling stations set up for the 2013 elections. In general, most polling stations were set up at what are now considered traditional locations. There were also multiple polling stations at some polling centres, especially at government schools in some high-density suburbs where the voting population was high. The law stipulates that names of all polling stations be published in the local print media, at least twenty-one (21) days before polling day, and on the day of poll. This was duly done by the Commission.

The Commission intended to introduce a new polling booth set up during the 2018 Harmonised Elections which was meant to enhance the protection of the integrity of the ballot. The set up required voters to give their backs to polling officers when marking the ballot paper to discourage the taking of pictures for purposes of posting how they would have voted on social media. The Commission reverted to the traditional set up after stakeholders raised concern on the timing of the proposal, arguing that it would

arouse unnecessary suspicions by voters. Table 10 below shows the distribution of the polling stations by Province.

Table: 10

| Province | No. of Polling Stations |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|
| Bulawayo | 428 |
| Harare | 1175 |
| Manicaland | 1438 |
| Mashonaland Central | 973 |
| Mashonaland East | 1244 |
| Mashonaland West | 1322 |
| Masvingo | 1324 |
| Matebeleland North | 877 |
| Matebeleland South | 664 |
| Midlands | 1540 |
| Total | 10 985 |

3.24 Procurement of election material

Under normal circumstances, and informed by international best practice, procurement of the bulk of non-security election materials such as tents, computers, stationery, protective clothing, lighting (candles and gas lamps), string, ballot boxes, padlocks, booths and sentinel paper should be done 18 to 12 months before an election.

However, indelible visible voting ink/markers, printed ballot papers and election forms need to be available within a period that will allow unhurried and secure delivery to the respective provinces, districts and polling stations, long enough to allow proper setting up of polling stations.

The procurement of election materials at the Commission began in earnest on the 2nd of June 2018, after the Proclamation calling for the harmonized elections. The Commission was granted authority by the Procurement Regulatory Authority of Zimbabwe (PRAZ) to purchase indelible ink voting marker pens through direct procurement. There were no major challenges in their procurement; they were delivered just in time for the elections. Generally, there were very few procurement challenges of other election materials, even though release of funding from Treasury was a little delayed.

3.25 Ballot Paper Printing

Printing of ballot papers in Zimbabwe has always been done locally by very reputable printing companies, wholly owned by the State, but operating as private companies. Two companies, Fidelity Printers and Print Flow, were engaged by the Commission to print the ballot papers for the 2018 Harmonised Elections. While security was not an issue, sensitivities among some stakeholders, especially some political parties were quite high during the 2018 Harmonized Elections.

Fidelity Printers was assigned to print ballot papers for the Presidential and the 210 elective National Assembly elections, while Printflow was engaged for the printing of ballot papers for the 1958 local authority elections. In the spirit of transparency and

stakeholder engagement, the Commission invited stakeholders, including representatives of political parties contesting presidential elections, local and foreign observers, embassies as well as civic society and faith-based organizations to witness, ballot paper printing at Fidelity Printers from a closed in balcony overlooking the printing facilities. Whilst there is no legal obligation which compels the Commission to invite stakeholders to the printing houses, the Commission did allow stakeholders to witness the process. However, ZEC noted with concern demands by some political parties to get very close to the printing machines which were located in an area with high security documents belonging to other clients. The endeavor was then abandoned midstream, following the unreasonable demands by political parties, related to the printing of the ballots including the demand to actually go down into the printing location to handle and inspect the ballot papers.

In terms of Section 239(g) of the Constitution, the designing, printing and distribution of ballot papers are the sole responsibility of the Commission. Therefore, the Commission rejected any further demands and pleas, some of which were even being made by foreign observers.

Subsequently, the Commission simply complied with section 52A of the Electoral Act which requires it to publish the names of the companies that would have printed the ballot papers, the number of ballots printed and distributed to each polling station. This was done on 3 July 2018. The same provision stipulates that the number of ballot papers printed for any election should not exceed more than ten per cent of the number

of registered voters eligible to vote in the election. The Commission complied with the legal provision.

On completion of printing, ballot papers were distributed through the Commission's provincial, district and constituency structures. Provincial figures were calculated based on the voter population per province, and further delineated by district and ward. Table 11 shows the distribution of printed ballot paper by Province.

Table: 11

| PROVINCE | VOTER POPULATION | BALLOT PRINTED | PAPERS |
|---------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|---------------|
| Bulawayo | 258 567 | 277 300 | |
| Harare | 900 728 | 959 250 | |
| Manicaland | 733 370 | 792 950 | |
| Mashonaland Central | 531 984 | 572 950 | |
| Mashonaland East | 633 410 | 684 550 | |
| Mashonaland West | 655 133 | 708 600 | |
| Masvingo | 617 212 | 669 800 | |
| Matabeleland North | 339 135 | 372 000 | |
| Matabeleland South | 264 185 | 289 150 | |
| Midlands | 761 982 | 825 050 | |
| Grant Total | 5 695 706 | 6 150 950 | |

For Local Authority elections, the final printed figure was 6 036 250 ballot papers, after considering the uncontested wards. There was, therefore, 8% contingency added to the figure to cater for any cancelled ballot papers.

3.26 Transport and Fuel Management

The Commission through the CMED mobilized, for the Commission's staff and operations, vehicles comprising trucks, minibuses, lorries and utility vehicles from the preparatory phase and throughout the election period. However, fuel supply was erratic during the voter inspection period, thereby threatening to derail the successful conduct of voter education and the elections proper.

3.27 Training and Deployment of Electoral Officers

Personnel for the elections were recruited in terms of Section 10(3) of the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13]. Nearly 131 000 recruited electoral officers of varying responsibilities underwent training on the tasks they were scheduled to carry out in the administration and conduct of the 2018 Harmonised Elections. Fortunately, quite a number of them had participated in previous elections.

Training was conducted in each Province in different phases, in line with the Election Roadmap shared with stakeholders and placed on the Commission website. Training for the Harmonized Elections started with a Training of Trainers workshop for Provincial Elections Officers (PEOs), Deputy Provincial Elections Officers (DPEOs) and District Elections Officers (DEOs) at national level well before the elections. The PEOs, DPEOs and DEOs were centrally trained with the assistance of technical experts from the African Union in a Train the Trainer Programme which capacitated them to facilitate cascaded training in their respective provinces. The PEOs, DPEOs and DEOs conducted the training of Constituency Elections Officers and Ward Elections Officers

who, in-turn, trained the presiding officers and polling officers. For training, central venues were used in all provinces to ensure maximum attendance by all seconded staff.

Participatory methodologies which considered adult learning techniques characterised most of the training. Resource training materials included the presiding officers' training manual developed soon after the changes in the law. A training video was also used to standardize training. The video was developed with the assistance of the UNDP technical support to the Commission. Simulations of polling station scenarios were done, using an actual polling station kit at all polling stations, a day before the polls. The training was mainly concerned with the election process as enunciated in the presiding officers' training manual.

Deployment of electoral officers took place soon after the training and most of them were dispatched to constituencies they were registered in as voters so as to afford them with opportunities to cast their votes. Police were deployed at the same time with the polling officers, in order to provide security to staff and election materials. Deployment was two days before polling day.

3.28 Accreditation of Observers

Observation of elections by local and foreign observers has become the norm internationally. This is supposed to open the electoral process to scrutiny, to improve the management and conduct of elections in general, and as a learning process for other stakeholders engaged in similar functions. Observation also gives credibility to the electoral processes in general and the elections in particular. Observers fall into

different categories, local and foreign, state and non-state actors, and those from other electoral management bodies.

In Zimbabwe, accreditation of observers for an election or a referendum is a constitutional function of the Commission, provided for in section 239 (i) thereof. Detailed provisions on the procedures are found in the Electoral Act and the Electoral Accreditation of Observers Regulations SI 89 of 2013.

3.28.1 *Accreditation Committee*

The accreditation of observers is conducted by a statutory Committee of the Commission called an Observers Accreditation Committee in terms of the Electoral Act.

3.28.2 *Functions of the Accreditation Committee*

The function of the Accreditation Committee is generally to recommend to the Commission the accreditation of local and foreign observers. The applications for accreditation of individuals or eminent persons or organisations of foreign origin are made directly to the Chief Elections Officer. Applications by individuals representing local organisations and eminent persons from Zimbabwe are made to the Chief Elections Officer through the appropriate Provincial Elections Officer of the province in which the observers propose to discharge their functions. However, the Government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Trade can invite foreign observers and regional inter-governmental organizations to observe elections. On the other hand, the Commission is authorized by law to invite sister Electoral Management

Boards (EMBs) directly, or through a regional forum of commissions, such as the Electoral Commissions Forum of the SADC (ECF-SADC).

The Committee sits and considers applications submitted to it and makes recommendations which it, in turn, submits to the Commission for its consideration, before approval or rejection. The Commission should consider the recommendations of the Committee within 48 hours after submission by the Committee. If the Commission rejects any of the Committee's recommendations, it notifies the Chief Elections Officer in writing.

Of particular interest in this election was the shift in foreign policy in relation to observation of elections. Observers from the European Union (EU) and the Commonwealth were invited to observe the 2018 Harmonised elections, marking a departure from previous practice wherein their presence was barred.

3.28.3 Foreign Observers

A record 1 007 foreign observers and 202 foreign journalists were accredited. Of these, 77 constituted the African Union Observer Mission, while the SADC Election Observer Mission (SEOM), with representation from all SADC member states, was made up of 573 observers. The latter contingent broke all SADC records as the largest observer mission in its history in election observation.

Other foreign observer missions making up the remainder included the following:

- The Electoral Commissions Forum of the SADC countries (ECF-SADC) of which

The Commission is a member. Its regional office is in Botswana.

- The Independent Nigeria Electoral Commission (INEC) from Nigeria
- The SADC Council of Non-Governmental Organisations; (SADC-CNGO)
- The SADC Parliamentary Forum (SADC-PF), coordinated from Namibia;
- The Southern African Trade Union Co-ordination Council (SATUCC) in Mozambique;
- The SADC Election Support Network (SADC-ESN);
- Common Market for Eastern and Southern African (COMESA) in Zambia and
- Inter-regional Meeting of Bishops in Southern Africa (IMBISA), coordinating its membership from Zimbabwe; and
- The African, Caribbean and Pacific Organization (ACP).

The Commission also accredited representatives from various embassies within the country, and government officials from some African countries, and also the African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) countries to observe the elections. Representatives from Chinese and Brazilian Governments were also accredited.

With regard to media personnel, the majority of foreign journalists accredited were from South Africa. Notable media houses whose representatives were accredited for the 2018 Harmonised elections include, among others, Aljazeera, Xinhua, the British Broadcasting Corporation, Agence France Presse (AFP), Reuters, Deutschland Radio, TV2 Denmark, France 24 and also the China Central Television. All local media houses and freelance journalists who applied for accreditation were successfully accredited.

3.28.4 Local Observers

A total number of 11 019 local observers and 740 local journalists were accredited. This was the highest figure ever accredited in the history of election observation in Zimbabwe.

The Commission also accredited 3 377 electoral personnel, including Commissioners, permanent staff and seconded staff who were operating at command centres across the country, including those at the national, district and constituency command centres.

Table 12:

Statistics on Accredited observers for the 2018 Harmonised Elections

| CATEGORIES | TOTAL |
|-------------------|---------------|
| FOREIGN OBSERVERS | 1 007 |
| LOCAL OBSERVERS | 11019 |
| FOREIGN PRESS | 202 |
| LOCAL PRESS | 740 |
| TOTAL | 12 968 |

3.28.5 Observations on Accreditation

In general, accreditation of observers for the 2018 Harmonised Elections went on well, with hardly any challenges. Major reputable observer missions presented their Preliminary Observer Mission Reports before the announcement of the presidential elections results, with promises of sending the comprehensive reports later. (See “Annexure B” for observer reports). Ten teams were deployed to the country’s ten provinces for the accreditation exercise which commenced on 19 June through to 30 July 2018. The accreditation teams also accredited over 300 Red Cross staff as

officials. These were located at various centres across the country, to offer first aid at polling stations.

CHAPTER 4

4.0 POLLING

The electoral legal framework provides for 2 types of the voting, that is postal voting and ordinary voting. Each one has its own separate and detailed procedures on how they are conducted.

4.1 Postal Ballots

In terms of Section 72 of the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13], citizens entitled to use the postal vote are those persons, their spouses and others who are registered as voters in a constituency, but are not able to vote in person on the polling day because they are on duty outside the country, in the service of the Government of Zimbabwe. There are also those registered voters who will be on duty on polling day as members of the disciplined force or as electoral officers who are located outside their voting stations.

During the election period, the Commission noted that there was a lot misinformation and misunderstanding on how the postal ballot is administered. In this report, the Commission takes the opportunity to educate the readers, hereto, on the procedures associated with the processing of postal ballots.

4.1.1 *Processing of a Postal Ballot*

An application is submitted to the Commission by an eligible voter. The Commission ascertains if the Applicant is eligible to vote by post and if registered on the voters' roll. If Applicant is not eligible, the application is dismissed and Applicant is advised that they

are not eligible and should present themselves at a polling station on polling day for voting. There may be others whose names do not appear on the roll; they are informed that they are unable to vote. If an application is successful, postal ballots will be issued in the manner described below:

1. Postal ballots will be placed in an envelope addressed to the Applicant.
2. A covering envelope addressed to the CEO (returning envelope) will also be placed in the same envelope addressed to the applicant.
3. Small ballot paper envelopes on which is written the Applicants details, constituency, ward and polling station will be placed in the said envelope.
4. An unmarked envelope will also be inserted together with the envelopes in the above paragraphs.

The CEO will then dispatch the envelope, containing the contents explained above, to the Applicant. Note that this can be done by commercial courier service, or registered post, or through the Commanding Officers in the case of members of the disciplined forces, or through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for dispatch by diplomatic courier.

When Applicant receives the Envelope from the CEO containing his/her ballot papers, he/she follows the instructions.

1. He/she takes out the ballot papers and signifies the candidate for whom he or she wishes to vote for, by secretly placing a cross on the space provided on each of the ballot papers issued.
2. He/she places each marked ballot paper in the small envelopes marked "Ballot Paper Envelope.

3. He/she closes the envelopes and places them in the envelope marked **“Presidential, Parliamentary and Local Authority Elections Ballot Paper Envelope”**.
4. He/she the securely closes that envelope and then places the envelope in the covering envelope addressed to the Chief Elections Officers.
5. He/she then dispatches the covering envelope by registered post, or by a commercial courier service, or through a diplomatic courier, so that it is received by the Chief Elections Officer not later than noon on the fourteenth day before polling.

All this is done by the voter in secret, not in the presence of any person. No postal voting stations are established for this process and no observation by any person is allowed by the law.

4.1.2 *Distribution of Postal Ballots by the Chief Elections Officer*

Upon receipt of the covering envelope dispatched to the Applicant and addressed to the Chief Elections Officer, the Chief Elections Officer shall open it and dispatch the enclosed ballot paper envelopes unopened to the Constituency Elections Officer for the constituency indicated on the envelope.

The Chief Elections Officer is mandated to keep a list of all covering envelopes received by him/her showing:

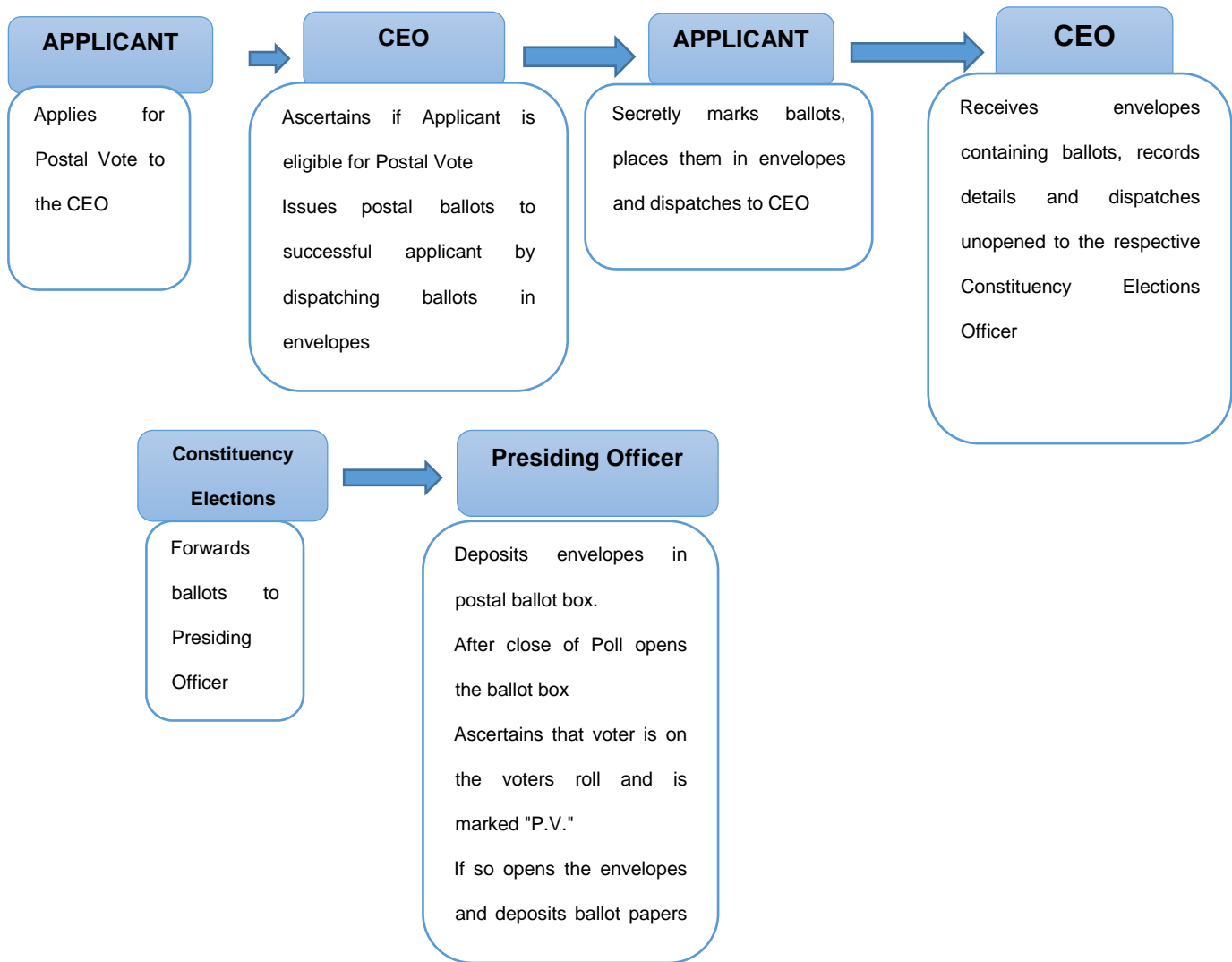
- a. The date on which they were received;
- b. The names and voter registration numbers (I.D. Numbers) of the voters who sent them; and
- c. The Constituencies to which the ballot paper envelopes were sent; and

d. The dates on which they were sent.

Upon receipt of the ballot paper envelopes by the constituency elections officer, he/she shall forthwith distribute each ballot paper envelope to the presiding officer of the polling station indicated on the envelope. The Presiding Officer who receives a ballot paper envelope must then provide a postal ballot box at the polling station for the reception of the ballot paper envelopes. After the close of polling on polling day, the Presiding Officer must open the postal ballot box in the presence of candidates, election agents and observers, and must ascertain that the name of the voter written on the envelope is that of a voter registered for that polling station. If so, he/she must ensure that the voter's name has been crossed out from the roll and that there is an inscription of "P.V." opposite that person's name to indicate that they were issued with a Postal Vote. If the requirements in the paragraphs above have been met, then the Presiding Officer must open the ballot paper envelope and, without seeing how the voter has voted, deposit the ballots in the respective ballot boxes stationed at the Polling Station so that the ballots are counted together with the ballots cast at that polling station. If the name of the postal voter does not appear on the voters roll for that polling station, then the presiding officer shall endorse on that envelope "Vote Rejected", and place the ballot paper envelope unopened in a separate package. That ballot will not be counted.

NOTE: Postal ballots are not counted separately but placed in the ballot boxes at the polling stations so as to protect the secrecy of the postal voters.

Diagram:1



While the postal voting process went on fairly smoothly overall, isolated incidents took place which had the potential to disrupt the process in Zvishavane and Bulawayo. In Zvishavane the receipt of postal ballot envelopes by the District Elections Officer for onward issuance to applicants of postal vote was interrupted and delayed by a rowdy group of persons that alleged that the processes being followed were incorrect. The process proceeded the following day after the police restored order. In Bulawayo, unconfirmed and unsubstantiated media reports alleged that police officers were marking their postal votes under the watchful eyes of their superior officers. Attempts to challenge the postal voting process were dismissed by the courts.

The Acting Chief Elections Officer received 7 654 applications for the postal vote as follows:

| | | |
|--------------------------|---|--------------|
| Zimbabwe Republic Police | - | 4 616 |
| Zimbabwe National Army | - | 80 |
| Airforce | - | 320 |
| Electoral Officers | - | 2 403 |
| Foreign Affairs | - | 50 |
| Rejected | - | 185 |
| Total | | 7 654 |

The valid 7 469 applications, 6 177 applicants returned their postal ballots. This figure represented 83% of the postal ballots processed.

4.3 Polling

Ordinary polling took place on the 30th of July 2018, commencing at 0700hours and ending at 1900hours. Due regard was given to the provision that no voter already within the precincts of a polling station by 1900hours should be turned away.

Most polling stations were staffed by a presiding officer, assisted by nine (9) polling officers. These comprised ushers, checkers of indelible ink impressions, checkers of names in the ward voters' roll, ballot paper distributors, those attending to the marking of the voter's specific finger with the visible indelible ink marker and an overseer. The number of electoral officers were slightly less in those polling stations whose voter population was less than 500 voters. In such scenarios, some officers had to double up their tasks.

In addition to the electoral officers, there were candidates, election agents, observers and police officers providing security and performing other duties as provided for in the law. Access to polling stations was also accorded to the accredited media personnel. Most polling stations opened on time and, inside the polling station, three (3) distinctly marked ballot boxes for the Presidential, National Assembly and Local Authority elections were set up.



Fig 6: Voters queuing on polling day

Voters had already been educated on the acceptable identity documents to produce in order to vote, that is, a metal or plastic identification card, or a national identity waiting pass with the photograph of the holder, or a valid Zimbabwean passport. The voter's small finger, usually, was checked for the visible indelible ink impressions to prevent multiple voting. In the absence of any traces of the ink, the voter's name was checked in the voters' roll and, if found, a line drawn across the name to indicate that he/she had been processed. Thereafter, the voter was given three (3) ballot papers, except in those cases where voters indicated their preference to vote only in a particular election, and, in such instances, only the ballot(s) for the preferred election(s) were issued. The colours corresponded with the colours reflected on the Presidential, National Assembly and Local Authority ballot boxes, respectively. The voter's little finger was marked with an

indelible marking pen before the voter proceeded to the polling booth where he/she secretly marked his/her ballot paper(s) and deposited them in the appropriate boxes.

There were very long queues as early as dawn at most of the polling stations. These decreased as the day went on. Some people were turned away for failure to produce acceptable identity documents, or for not appearing on the specific polling station voters' roll, especially at composite polling stations, or for being underage.

4.4 Special Needs Voters

Illiterate and physically handicapped voters who were not able to vote without assistance were free to bring persons of their choice to assist them. In the absence of an assistant, it was the responsibility of the presiding officer, in the presence of a police officer, to assist. Persons barred from assisting voters were minors, electoral officers, observers, political party agents, or candidates in the election. The Commission ensured that polling stations were easily accessible to people with disabilities.

4.5 Verification and Counting

The counting of votes was preceded by a verification of ballots which was administered at the polling station level by the presiding officer and his/her staff, in the presence of candidates and/or their election agents, and observers. Verification is a process that entails ascertaining that the total number of ballots issued to a polling station is equal to the sum total of the ballots cast, unused and spoilt. It also involves checking the correctness of all the polling station returns, that is, V11 Forms. Collation is the summation of the votes cast per candidate as reflected on the polling station returns.

Once counting at a polling station was completed, the residue was sealed and the results (V11 Forms) of that polling station were physically taken to the Ward Collation Centre where all votes for that ward were allocated to the respective candidates. All stakeholders present at the counting of the ballots were given copies of the polling station return, while another return was pasted outside the polling station, as per the requirements of the law.

4.6 Transmission of Results

4.6.1 *Local Authorities*

Local authority election results were sent to the Ward Collation Centre after the counting and verification process at the polling station.

4.6.2 *Presidential and National Assembly Returns*

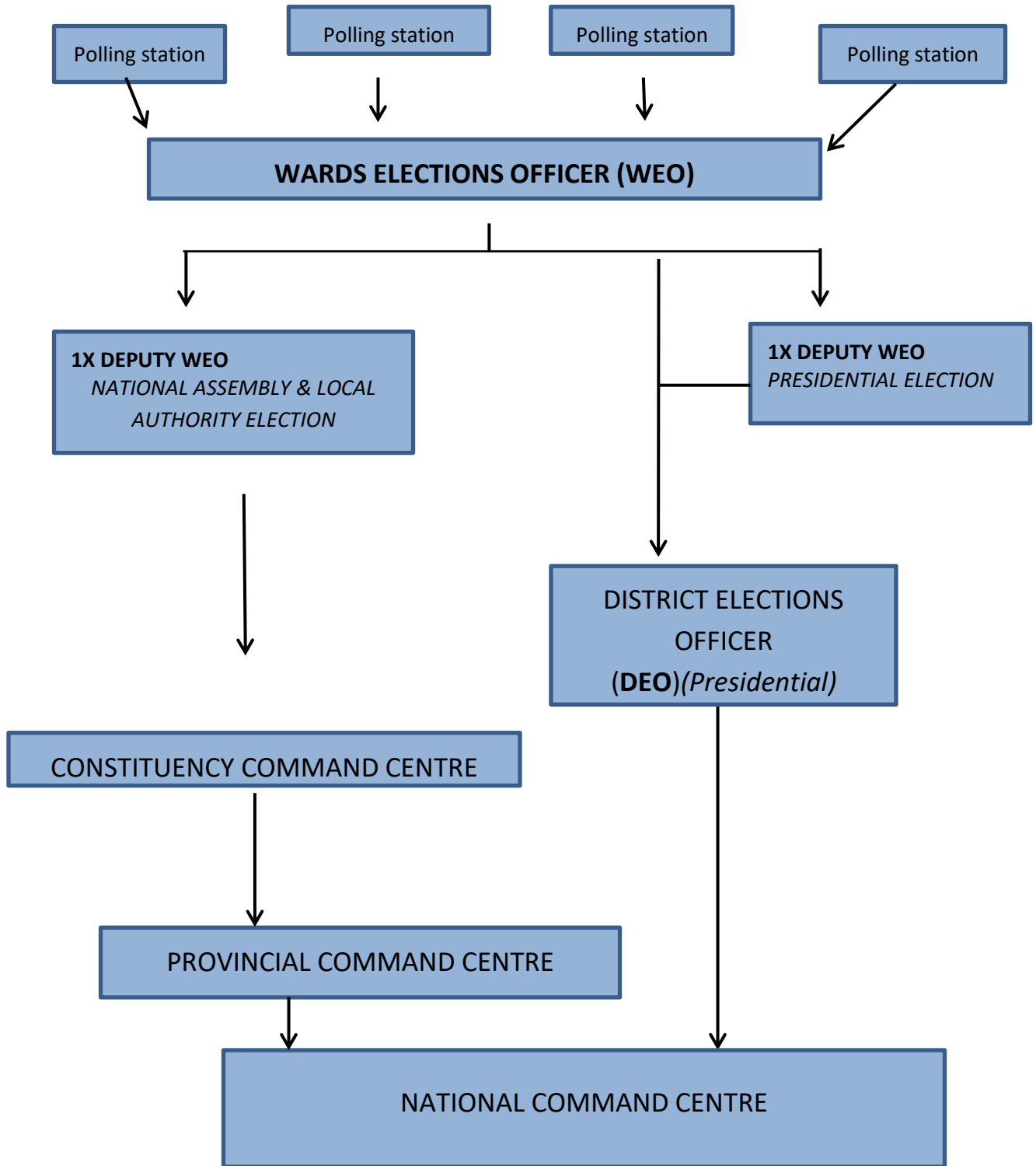
Results for the Presidential and the National Assembly elections were transmitted using different routes from the ward collation centre. While the destination for the National Assembly election results was the constituency centre, the Presidential results were forwarded to the district centre for onward transmission to the National Command Centre in Harare. Verification was done at each point by checking the accuracy of every collation return and whether it was properly completed. If not, corrections would be effected by use of polling station source documents (V11s).

For validation of receipt of results, a parallel system was used to transmit and collate the presidential election results. The results were taken to the national command/collation

centre physically by the District Elections Officers where they were captured and collated on a results collation template at the National Collation Centre.

The Diagram below illustrates the routes used in the transmitting of results for the 2018 Harmonised Elections.

Diagram:2



4.7 Results of Local Authority Elections

There are a total of 1958 (one thousand nine hundred and fifty-eight) elective wards in the country. Below is a narrative of the results.

- No elections were conducted in forty-six (46) wards as the seats were returned unopposed, at the close of sitting of the Nomination courts
- Elections took place in 1956 (one thousand nine hundred and fifty-six) wards.
- Elections were suspended in ward 13 of Chimanimani RDC following the death on 17 July 2018 of one of the candidates who had successfully filed his nomination papers on 14 June 2018.

The summary of the results for local authority elections by province is as indicated on Attached “Annexure C”.

4.8 Results of the National Assembly Elections

Ward returns for the National Assembly elections were sent to respective constituencies where they were collated, verified, and summed up in the presence of candidates, election agents and observers. These were recorded on the constituency return Form V23C. A candidate who attained the majority of votes cast was declared the winner and MP-elect for the constituency. A copy of V23C was displayed outside the constituency centre and copies were forwarded to the National Command centre through the Provincial Command centre for information. Political party agents were requested to append their signatures to the forms before they were displayed outside the Constituency centres.

A summary of results for the National Assembly elections is as indicated on “Annexure D”.

4.8.1 *Results of National Assembly Party Lists for Women*

Sixty (60) National Assembly members for the women’s quota were selected from the party lists and determined by the votes garnered in the elective 210 National Assembly elections, in accordance with the formula outlined in the Electoral Act. Each province had six (6) allotted seats, irrespective of size or the number of registered voters. A summary of the results for the women’s quota is indicated on the attached “Annexure E”.

4.9 Results of Senate party lists

The Senators were selected from the party lists that had been provided by the political parties before the elections. The results of the elective 210 National Assembly elections determined the allocation. However, for the Senate, a Zebra list system was applied where each list submitted by the political parties had women as the first, third, and fifth candidates, while the second, fourth and sixth candidates were men. The system was to also address gender imbalance in Parliament. Six Senate seats were allocated per Province, like in the Special Women’s Seats. (See attached “Annexure F”.)

4.10 Results of Provincial Council Party Lists

A quota of a sum total of 10 seats per Province for the eight non-metropolitan provinces was also calculated, again based on the results of the 210 elective National Assembly

elections. The same Zebra system as in 4.9 above was applied. A summary of Provincial Councils results is as given on attached “Annexure G”.

4.11 Results of the Presidential Election

The collation and verification of the Presidential election results were completed on the 3rd of August 2018. The voter turnout for the 30th of July 2018 Presidential elections was **85%**. The Chief Elections Officer who was the Returning Officer for the election completed the V23D form which is a record of results as collated at national level. The results were subsequently announced by the Chairperson of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission on that same day in accordance with the provisions of the law. A copy of the V23D form was signed by political party agents and observers present; they were given a copy each. A summary of the results of the Presidential election is as indicated in Table 13 below.

Table: 13

2018 Election Presidential Results

| Candidate | Results | Percentage |
|-------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| Busha | 17,540 | 0.36% |
| Chamisa | 2,151,927 | 44.39% |
| Chikanga | 13,132 | 0.27% |
| Dzapasi | 1,890 | 0.04% |
| Gava | 2,858 | 0.06% |
| Hlabangana | 9,460 | 0.20% |
| Kasiyamhuru | 7,016 | 0.14% |
| Khupe | 45,626 | 0.94% |
| Madhuku | 2,692 | 0.06% |
| Mangoma | 2,431 | 0.05% |
| Manyika | 2,681 | 0.06% |
| Mapfumo | 1,546 | 0.03% |
| Mariyacha | 1,673 | 0.03% |
| Mhambi | 4,405 | 0.09% |
| Mnangagwa | 2,456,010 | 50.67% |
| Moyo | 15,172 | 0.31% |
| Mteki | 2,732 | 0.06% |
| Mugadza | 5,898 | 0.12% |
| Mujuru | 12,823 | 0.26% |
| Munyanduri | 4,498 | 0.09% |
| Mutinhiri | 4,107 | 0.08% |
| Shumba | 3,905 | 0.08% |
| Wilson | 4,895 | 0.10% |
| Total Votes Rejected | 72,316 | 1.49% |
| Total Valid Votes Cast | 4,774,917 | 98.51% |
| Total Votes Cast | 4,847,233 | 100.00% |

4.12 Publication of Results of Elections

Public announcements of the Presidential and National Assembly election results were beamed live by the public broadcaster, ZBC at the National Results centre. All accredited media houses, political party candidates and/or their chief elections agents,

and local and international observers were invited whenever results were being announced. Results of all the elections were subsequently published in the Government Gazette and print media, in accordance with the law.

4.13 Elections of Chiefs

4.13.1 *Election of Chiefs to National Council of Chiefs*

The eight (8) Provincial Assemblies of Chiefs met in all the eight non-metropolitan Provinces on the 11th of July 2018 to elect members to the Council of Chiefs. The elections were conducted in accordance with the law and in line with principles governing democratic elections. They were peaceful and orderly, free, fair, and transparent, reflecting the will of the Electoral College of Chiefs.

4.13.2 *Elections of President and Deputy President of the National Council of Chiefs*

The elections of President and Deputy President of the National Council of Chiefs were held on the 18th of July 2018 at Mukwati Building in Harare, in terms of Section 40 of the Electoral Act [Chapter 2.13]. The Presiding Officer outlined the procedures of the election as drawn from Section 285 of the Constitution as read with Section 40 of the Electoral Act (Chapter 2.13).

At the closure of nominations, only one Chief, Chief Charumbira (Charumbira Fortune Z), was duly nominated by all the Chiefs present. He was duly declared elected President of the National Council of Chiefs and became *ex officio* Senator, in terms of section 120(1)(c) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

Further, only Chief Mtshane (Khumalo Matshane Lucas) was duly nominated and elected Deputy President of the National Council of Chiefs, becoming an *ex officio* Senator in terms of section 120(1)(c) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

4.13.3 Election of Chiefs to Parliament

The eight (8) Provincial Assemblies of Chiefs met in all the eight non-metropolitan Provinces on the 1st of August 2018 to elect two chiefs in each province to be members of the Senate, as provided for in section 120(1)(b) of the Constitution. The elections were conducted in accordance with the law and in line with principles governing democratic elections. They were peaceful and orderly, free, fair, and transparent, and reflected the will of the Electoral College of Chiefs. Recognised principles and tenets of a free, fair and credible election were used, such as secrecy of the ballot, impartiality, transparency and professionalism, thus coming out with a result that reflected the will of the different provincial electoral colleges. Only substantive Chiefs in attendance were allowed to participate. A quorum of one half of the substantive Chiefs in the Province had to be present. Nominees had to be seconded and had to accept the nomination in order to become candidates. See a list of Chiefs elected in “Annexure H”.

4.14 Election of Two Senators to Represent People with Disabilities (PWDs)

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission is mandated in terms of section 120(1)(d) of the Constitution as read with the Seventh Schedule (section 45A) of the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13] to conduct the election of Senators to represent persons with disabilities. The respective Electoral College was convened on the 2nd of August 2018 at the Rainbow Towers Hotel. A total of 134 delegates were accredited, constituting 79% of the Electoral College as provided for in Statutory Instrument 126 of 2018. Eighteen (18) candidates were nominated to contest the election, nine (9) of whom were men and nine (9) were women. Voting was by secret ballot. Proceedings commenced at 1000 hours and ended at 1745 hours after all delegates had voted. The proceedings went on smoothly, with no incident and were witnessed by accredited observers and journalists. Table 14 below reflects the outcome. The following people were elected:

Table: 14

Senators

| NAME | SEX |
|----------------|------------|
| Rejoice Timire | Female |
| Watson Khupe | Male |

The following were some of the challenges regarding the election of Senators to represent people with disabilities:

- The National Disability Board does not seem to represent all organisations of the people living with disabilities,

- Disabilities vary and delegates, disaggregated by disability type had to be represented.
- Many organisations of PWDs had not been registered with the Department of Social Welfare and were therefore left out.
- Candidates did not have much opportunity to make themselves known as they did not have any campaign period.

4.15 Elections at Parliament

Pursuant to the provisions of Sections 122(4), 123(3), 126(4) and 127(3) of the Constitution of Zimbabwe, the election of the President of the Senate, Deputy President of the Senate, the Speaker of the National Assembly and Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly should be conducted under the supervision of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission. To this end, the Commission was invited by the Clerk of Parliament to supervise elections to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of Parliament and their Deputies on 11 September 2018.

The Elections were conducted by the Clerk of Parliament under the supervision of ZEC, by secret ballot in accordance with the Standing Orders of Parliament.

4.15.1 *Conduct of the Elections*

The elections for the four posts were conducted one after the other. The Clerk of Parliament spelt out the rules of the election to all members of Parliament in their different assemblies.

The procedure was as follows:

- i) Call for Nominations by the Clerk of Parliament;
- ii) Nominee to accept the nomination;
- iii) Secondment of the Nomination by a Member of Parliament;
- iv) Design and Printing of the Ballot in the presence of election agents;
- v) Voting and counting; and
- vi) Announcement of Results.

4.15.2 *Design of the Ballot*

The ballot paper was designed in such a way that it would show:

- a) Type of Election
- b) Embedded Parliament of Zimbabwe Logo
- c) Name of Candidate
- d) Space to Mark the Ballot

4.15.3 *Election of Speaker of the National Assembly: Nominations*

There were only two nominations from the major political parties in Parliament, that is, ZANU PF and MDC Alliance. The nominations were as follows:

Nominations for the Speaker of Parliament:

| Name of Candidate | Party |
|--------------------------|---|
| Mudenda Jacob | ZANU PF <i>nominated by Honourable Mguni and seconded by Honourable Mliswa.</i> |
| Mupariwa Paurina | MDC Alliance <i>nominated by Honourable Biti and seconded by Honourable Gonese.</i> |

Table: 15

Results of Election for Speaker of Parliament

| Name of Candidate | Party | Number of Votes Received |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Mudenda Jacob | Zanu PF | 179 |
| Mpariwa Paurina | MDC Alliance | 79 |

Mudenda Jacob was declared duly elected Speaker of the 9th Parliament of Zimbabwe.

Election for the Deputy Speaker of the National Assembly

Nominations for the Deputy Speaker of Parliament:

There were only two nominations from the major parties, that is, ZANU PF and MDC Alliance. These were:

| Name of Candidate | Party |
|--------------------------|--------------|
| Gezi Lilian | ZANU PF |
| Zwizwai Murisi | MDC Alliance |

Table: 16

Results of Election for Deputy Speaker

| Name of Candidate | Party | Number of Votes Received |
|--------------------------|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Gezi Lilian | Zanu PF | 179 |
| Murisi Zwizwai | MDC Alliance | 79 |

Gezi Lilian was declared duly elected Deputy Speaker of 9th Parliament of Zimbabwe

4.15.3 Election of the President of the Senate

Nominations for the President of the Senate

There were only two nominations from the major parties, that is, ZANU PF and MDC Alliance. These were:

| Name of Candidate | Party |
|-----------------------------------|--------------|
| Honourable Chinomona Mabel | ZANU PF |
| Honourable Senator Komichi Morgen | MDC Alliance |

Table: 17

Results of Election for President of Senate

| Name of Candidate | Party | Number of Votes Received |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Honourable Mabel Chinomona | Zanu PF | 52 |
| Honourable Senator Komichi Morgen | MDC Alliance | 22 |
| Hon Mabel Chinomona was declared the President of the Senate. | | |

4.15.4 Election of the Deputy President of the Senate

Nominations for the Deputy President of the Senate

There were only two nominations from the major parties, that is, ZANU PF and MDC Alliance. These were:

| Name of Candidate | Party |
|---|--------------|
| Honourable Senator General (Rtd) Nyambuya Michael | ZANU PF |
| Honourable Senator Timveos Lilian | MDC Alliance |

Table: 18

Results of Election for Deputy President of Senate

| Name of Candidate | Party | Number of Votes Received |
|--|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Honourable Senator Gneral (Rtd) Nyambuya Michael | Zanu PF | 51 |
| Honourable Senator Timveos Lilian | MDC Alliance | 25 |
| Honourable Senator General (Rtd) Nyambuya Michael was declared duly elected Deputy President of the Senate. | | |

4.15.5 Swearing in of the Presiding Officers of the Ninth Parliament

The Hon. Chief Justice Luke Malaba presided over the swearing in of the elected presiding officers of the Ninth Parliament of Zimbabwe. The Commission Chairperson, Honourable Justice Pricilla Chigumba graced the nomination proceedings of the National Assembly Speaker. The ZEC Secretariat appended their signatures on the results tabulation form as confirmation of the proceedings.

The printing of ballots for the National Assembly Speaker was delayed by logistical challenges, hence a late start to the election of the Deputy Speaker as well as the concurrent elections of the President of Senate and Deputy President of the Senate.

The election of Hon Chinomona Mabel of ZANU PF as President of Senate left a vacancy in the Mutoko North National Assembly constituency that she represented in line with section 129 (1) (d).

4.16 Election related litigation

The Commission was subjected to a barrage of litigation most of which it believed was based on fringe grounds to the electoral process. In a total of 80 cases filed in the courts of law during the electoral process, the Commission was cited as respondent. See “Annexure I” on summary of the status of each of the cases at the time of writing this Report.

CHAPTER 5

OBSERVATIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The Commission made a number of observations and recommendations as presented below.

Budget

Although there was a budget provision for the BVR exercise, releases were not made on time. Officers in most cases were deployed without allowances for subsistence in the field. The payment of \$20 allowances per day instead of \$30 affected the morale of recruited personnel. The procurement of goods and services was also not spared since it was difficult to commit expenditure in the absence of finances. That resulted in certain materials not being acquired on time, for delivery to registration centres. Local service providers compounded the situation by demanding payment in hard currency instead of the local currency, thus adversely affecting the whole process.

Recommendations

Budget approvals should take cognisance of the operational timelines on the Road Map of an electoral activity. It is recommended that funding of elections should be taken as a process, not an event. For example, capitalisation of the Commission in terms of vehicles, office accommodation and other equipment could have been separated from the funding of the actual election activity, to avoid huge financial requirements at the

same time. Personnel recruited for electoral activities need to be paid allowances in time in order to motivate and hence avoid sabotage of any form.

Further, allowances payable per day should be compensatory enough to keep election officers motivated. The rate of \$20 per day was widely criticized. The budget of the Commission needs to be considered in its originality, especially on elections, to avoid compromising the quality of service delivery.

The Commission recommends that all election funds be released timeously, and in sufficient amounts to enable it to adequately prepare for and conduct elections.

Provision of the Voters' Roll

Observation

The Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13] provides for the provision of an electronic voters roll by the Commission, free of charge, to all candidates contesting an election, within a reasonable period after Nomination Day. For the 2018 Harmonised Elections, the Commission provided electronic copies of the voters roll to all candidates as required by the law. However, stakeholder requests for provisional voters' rolls and for providing voters' rolls immediately after its closure posed a challenge to the Commission.

Recommendation

The State should fully capacitate the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to enable it to carry out the function of voter registration in terms of the new law. The Commission should also be capacitated to conduct voter education programmes to educate the electorate on the fact that it is not possible for it to provide copies of the provisional or

final voters' roll(s) soon after the completion of the national registration blitz. There is a whole process that precedes the production of the final product namely; decryption, uploading of data and running of AFIS through the collected data before the voters' roll can be deemed final and ready for the voting process.

Withdrawal of candidature

Observation

Unlike in the Presidential election, the withdrawal of candidature for the National Assembly and Local Authority elections was not regulated as regards the period within which it had to be done. Some candidates withdrew their candidature late into the election period, thereby affecting the ballot paper design and printing by the Commission, especially for the postal vote. The major challenge for the Commission is that the law imposes certain obligations such as bringing the withdrawal of a candidate to the attention of voters and ensuring that the name of the withdrawn candidate is omitted or deleted from all ballot papers before the election.

Recommendation

The withdrawal of candidature for National Assembly and Local Authority elections should be regulated in terms of time to match the Presidential election which provides for twenty-one days before polling. This will ease the challenges currently faced by the Commission in ballot paper designing and printing before an election.

Transport and Fuel management

Observation

The Commission relied on hired vehicles from the CMED for the conduct of the 2018 Harmonised Elections as its own fleet is too small. The supply of fuel was erratic during the entire election period. However, the Commission was provided with a budget for the procurement and maintenance of its own fleet of vehicles for the elections.

Recommendation

The state is encouraged to provide funding to the Commission to enable it to procure more of its own fleet of vehicles, maintenance of same and fuel facilities. Hiring of vehicles during the elections period is expensive, compared to maintenance of its own fleet, supplemented by hire of fewer vehicles from CMED as and when necessary.

Monitoring of Media Coverage of Elections

Observation

Although there was general compliance to the law governing the conduct of media during the election period of the 2018 Harmonized Elections, endorsement of political party candidates by media houses remained a challenge.

Recommendation

The laws governing the conduct of the media during elections should be further strengthened by revising the legal framework governing media coverage. All media houses should be governed by similar legal provisions.

Accreditation

Teams noted with concern the late disbursement of the observer kit, towards the end of the programme for which by then over fifty percent (50%) of the observers had been accredited. However, most foreign observers including embassy staff were given full sets of observers' kits comprising bag, floppy hat/cap, t/shirt and a jacket. A 2 gigabyte USB flash was also given to each observer group. Local observers were issued their observer kits as groups.

Recommendation

It is recommended that funding for procurement of observer kits be increased so that all observers are furnished with the same regalia and materials.

Conclusion

The 2018 Harmonised Elections were conducted in line with the Constitution which features a mixed electoral system. The Biometric Voter Registration process and the polling station specific voting were applied for the first time. In essence, this meant that the Commission designed systems and implemented them for the first-time. There were some logistical and financial challenges encountered as the election period progressed. However, these were surmountable.

In spite of the logistical and financial challenges encountered the Commission was committed to the discharge of its constitutional mandate in a transparent and professional, manner and to the satisfaction of all its stakeholders. The Commission

however acknowledges that there was a constitutional challenge to the presidential election result which was concluded following due process.

The Commission consulted and worked in collaboration with its stakeholders throughout the election period. The Commission is satisfied that the 2018 Harmonised Elections were conducted in a manner and under conditions that allowed voters to freely express their will. ZEC contends that the results were a true reflection of the will of the Zimbabwean electorate.

Signed:  Date: 8/22/19...
Hon. Mrs Justice Priscilla Makanyara Chigumba - Chairperson

Signed:  Date: 8/2/19 .
Mr Emmanuel Magade - Deputy Chairperson

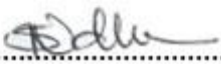
Signed:  Date: 08.02.2019
Daniel John Chigaru - Commissioner

Signed:  Date: 08/02/2019
Mrs Joyce Laetitia Kazembe - Commissioner

Signed:  Date: 11/02/19 .
Dr Ngoni Kundidzora - Commissioner

Signed:  Date: 08/02/19
Dr Qhubani Moyo - Commissioner

Signed:  Date: 08.02.19
Ms Netsai Mushonga - Commissioner

Signed:  Date: 08/02/2019.
Ms Sibongile Ndlovu - Commissioner

Signed: F Sebata.....

Date: 08-02-2019.....

Mrs Faith Sebata - Commissioner

Signed: [Signature].....

Date: 08.02.2019......

Mr Utoile Silaigwana - Acting Chief Elections Officer