



## Bindura Ecumenical Election Covenant

Church Leaders from various congregations in Bindura converging under the Zimbabwe Council of Churches commit the 2018 Harmonised Elections in the hands of the Living God. We learn from the Holy Scriptures in Galatians 5 verse 22 – 23 that *'the fruit of the Holy Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control.'* This is what we desire to see throughout this election period. Not violence. We want to see peace, unity and justice. With this in mind, we have outlined what we are praying for in the form of an Ecumenical Election Covenant.

### To those seeking political office:

- We want morally upright leaders, honest and dignified people with a solid reputation of supporting our communities. *'When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice: but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn'* (Proverbs 29verse 2)
- We want leaders who value the national Constitution, respect our people's rights, treat us with respect, listen to us and represent us well at all times.
- We want exemplary leaders who are servants of the people of Zimbabwe, not 'Mashefu.'
- We prefer MPs who reside within the constituency in which they represent. We denounce shadow MPs who disappear after being elected to represent a constituency.
- We are tired of corruption. Corrupt people should be disqualified as unfit to hold public office. All politicians seeking public office should publicly declare their assets and account for funds that they receive in the name of the people.

### To Political Parties:

- We expect you to treat all the women of Zimbabwe with dignity and respect. We view favourably, parties and candidates with plans and policies to economically empower and improve the condition of the majority of women and girls in Zimbabwe.
- We will not allow political parties to use the church as a campaigning platform. This implies that political parties or any member of a political party should not come to church wearing political regalia or force the church to endorse a specific political candidate, political party or political ideology.
- We call upon you by the mercies of God to make this a peaceful election. No political party should incite or instigate hate speech, violence, xenophobia, tribalism, regionalism or racism. Political parties should not sow the seeds of division. We want a peaceful, united and progressive country. Just as the Psalmist assures us, *'a future awaits those who seek peace.'*

### To the media

- We call upon all media houses to give equal access to all aspiring candidates and parties.
- We ask our taxpayer funded Public Broadcasting stations to afford all political parties their right to access free media coverage of newsworthy events that are in the public interest.
- We would like to plead with the media to report responsibly. We learn from the scriptures in James 3 verse 5-6 *'...Consider what a great forest is set on fire by a small spark. The tongue also is a fire.'* In this regard we ask you to serve the nation well by faithfully, objectively and courageously bearing witness to events good and bad as they occur in this volatile season.

### To our security forces:

- We urge all the members of our security forces to remain disciplined and to protect the people of Zimbabwe from political violence.
- We call upon all security forces to remain non-partisan and apolitical, fully committed to upholding the Constitution of Zimbabwe.
- We prefer that our soldiers should remain in their barracks. The nation's security forces must not be used to further the interests of any political party.

### To the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission:

- We pray for God to guide and enable you to carry out your duties with professionalism, integrity and exemplary commitment to duty.
- We ask you to avail the voters roll for inspection by all political parties before the elections.

### To sitting Parliamentarians:

- We call upon you to speed up ongoing efforts to align the Electoral Law and all remaining laws to the Constitution.

### To the Christian community:

- Let us commit ourselves to preaching the true gospel of Jesus Christ necessary to heal our nation and foster a peaceful and tolerant environment under which peaceful elections can be conducted.
- We also invite fellow Christians and people of all faiths to join us in praying for peaceful elections.

### To Zimbabweans at large:

- *'With this in mind, we constantly pray for you, that our God may make you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may bring to fruition your every desire for goodness and your every deed prompted by faith.'* (2 Thessalonians 1 verse 11)

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