



Chinhoyi Ecumenical Election Covenant

The Christian Community and citizens of goodwill in Chinhoyi united under the banner of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches met to prayerfully reflect and seek God's guidance on the 2018 elections. Previously, and on many past occasions, the church has been too quiet on the matter of elections. We regret that this quietness may have contributed to the prevalence of violence, division and polarisation. However, in 2018 we are determined as the Church to do more in contributing towards an election that honours God's will for peace that gives citizens a voice and leaders a clear mandate to carry the nation forward. The resulting Election Covenant represents what we hope for, what we are praying for and what we will stand up for in advancement of a peaceful, free and fair election.

To political parties

- In the interests of peace and social justice, we make a plea to all political parties and candidates to publicly condemn all forms of violence and make tangible commitments to preventing politically motivated conflicts.
- We denounce the politicization of public resources by political parties; under no circumstances should a political party abuse state funding and state resources for its political advantage.
- We ask the ruling political party not to use public institutions, resources and personnel for campaign purposes.
- In the same spirit, we ask opposition parties to be transparent and accountable about the sources of their financing for political campaign activities.
- We implore all political parties to respect the church as a non-partisan institution; this implies that no political party should use the church as a campaigning platform to gain political mileage.

To Parliamentarians

- We plead with you to maintain with urgency processes towards the alignment of all laws to the Constitution, in particular, the ongoing reforms of the electoral.
- We plead for the repeal of the POSA and AIPPA as they impinge of the freedoms of speech and association.

To Public Officials

- We condemn corruption of all forms in the realisation that corruption weakens all institutions of the state and prospects of the wellbeing of all Zimbabweans.
- We as the Christian Community pledge our full support to all Public Institutions such as the Police, Zimbabwe Anti-corruption Commission, the Auditor General's office as these restore citizens' trust in the institutions of the state.

To Traditional leaders:

- We ask our Traditional leaders to remain non-partisan as custodians of our culture, values and traditions. We urge traditional leaders not to be used by any political party to campaign or mobilize people to attend a political rally.
- Furthermore, we plead with our Traditional Leaders not to discriminate against anyone based on gender, culture, tribe, language, political affiliation or creed when distributing public resources and opportunities.
- We look forward to joining with you in facilitating peace and unity in our communities just as the word encourages us in the beatitudes that 'blessed are the peace-makers for they shall be called the children of God' (Matthew 5:9)
- We also look forward to working with you in mediating conflicts when they arise and providing safe spaces and comfort to victims whenever the need arises.

To the media

- We expect you not to publish, promote or publicise hate language. Here the holy scriptures in Ephesians 4verse 29 admonishes us 'let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good for the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.'
- We prefer balanced and constructive coverage. All political parties should have equal access to media coverage. Public media must be professional in conduct and produce fair reports untainted by rumours, hearsay, politicking, smear campaigns, spreading of propagandist material and hate speech intended to incite violence or induce a misguided appreciation of the real events.

To security forces

- All security forces must remain non-partisan and remember that they do not serve a political party but that they serve the government and the people of Zimbabwe hence the need for them to protect citizens and maintain peace in the country.

To fellow Christians

- Let us commit ourselves to preaching the gospel of tolerance, peace, nation building and national unity at all times. We also urge all fellow Zimbabweans to join the church in praying for peaceful elections.

