



## Gweru Ecumenical Election Covenant

WE, The Christian community of Gweru under the banner of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, stand united by a common desire to prayerfully contribute to the realisation of a free, fair, transparent, peaceful and credible election in Zimbabwe. We long to see a strong Christian presence for a united, peaceful, just and prosperous nation just as the scripture says, **'Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed'** (Proverbs 11verse11). By way of this Ecumenical Election Covenant we pledge to prayerfully do our utmost to support constructive initiatives to ensure a free and fair election. This is what our people deserve.

### To all aspiring candidates:

- We cannot understand why in a country blessed with a rich bedrock of vast mineral resources, fertile land, abundant grasslands, expert labor and a Christian population the majority of our people are still poor.
- We need leaders who can liberate our people from poverty, joblessness, poor service delivery and an ever decreasing standard of living.
- We encourage you along with the Prophet Isaiah 'learn to do right; seek justice. Defend the oppressed. Take up the cause of the fatherless; plead the case of the widow (Isaiah 1 verse 17).

### To Political Parties:

- We request you to consider in your Manifestos, sound economic programmes to give our youth jobs and the poor a fair share of the country's riches; concrete plans to improve service delivery; programmes and investments to economically empower women and girls; the empowerment of local and provincial governance structures through devolution; as well as viable plans of action to urgently align our laws to the Constitution. These things matter a lot to us.
- We implore all political parties to shun vote buying antics. Let the people judge you by vision and ideas.
- We condemn all forms of violence -everything- including intimidation, issuing of threats, surveillance and asking for voter registration slips.
- We hope that all Political Parties have put in place sufficient mechanisms, safeguards and rules to ensure that primary elections will be conducted peacefully, in true democratic fashion and in keeping with the laws of the land.
- We condemn the politicization of public resources such as land, mineral resources and humanitarian assistance. Likewise the security forces, public media and traditional leaders must not be instrumentalised for political gain.
- We ask that rules and policies are put in a reformed electoral law to make it a legal requirement for all media houses to grant equal access to media coverage for all political parties.

### To security forces:

- We expect to take pride in the honourable conduct befitting a disciplined security force that is non partisan and professional in executing its duties as mandated by the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

### To the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission:

- We pray for God to guide you on this important task for the future of the nation. We wish you success in faithfully, independently and diligently fulfilling your Constitutional mandate.
- We call upon you to release the voters roll to political parties, to announce polling centers 6 weeks before elections and to implement robust civic education whilst allowing other to do so too.
- We call for the establishment of a special tribunal designed to address all electoral challenges, disgruntlements and offences.

Let us all honor the laws of Zimbabwe in our conduct and make a collective effort to ensure a peaceful, free, fair, transparent and credible election. On our part we will not rest in our prayers for these elections to go well. 'Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and from Jesus Christ, the Father's Son, will be with us in truth and love' (2 John 1 verse 3).

**For further information or clarification please contact**

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