



Kwekwe Ecumenical Election Covenant

The Christian community of Kwekwe through the leadership of the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, after having prayerfully considered the state of the nation commits to organise and participate in constructive efforts to realise free, fair, peaceful and credible elections in 2018. This is our duty as patriotic citizens. It is also a part and parcel of our calling as the salt and light of the earth. The word of God admonishes, **'If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land'** (2 Chronicles 7 verse 14). We believe that the 2018 elections should promote rather than undermine the healing and restoration of our people, our economy and our politics after many years of crisis. Thus we present this Covenant as an outline of what we hope to see and what we are willing to be held accountable for.

To the people of Zimbabwe:

- We invite all Zimbabweans from all faiths to join us in praying for peace and tranquillity before, during and after the elections.
- We plead with those still pursuing conflicts big and small to 'beat their swords into ploughshares and their spears into pruning hooks.' The 2018 elections must not be used as an opportunity to settle scores.
- We remind the people of Zimbabwe that respectful dialogue and engagement in the spirit of national unity is the only way to solve our collective problems.

To aspiring candidates:

- We need solutions and not empty campaign promises.
- We want leaders who can find ways to improve service delivery in Kwekwe. In particular we call for the refurbishment of government hospitals and clinics. We also request the construction of new roads, the provision of safe drinking water and viable employment opportunities for our youth.
- We also want leaders who understand the plight of the majority of women and girls in Kwekwe who lack the opportunities, resources and tools to attain a decent standard of living.
- We remind you of the biblical standard of leader that we deserve: 'blameless—not overbearing, not quick-tempered, not given to drunkenness, not violent, not pursuing dishonest gain.' (Titus 1 verse 7)

To political parties:

- We condemn the use of political violence as a tool to coerce or unduly influence the electorate to vote for a particular party or candidate. Violence of all forms should be condemned by all contesting political parties.
- We ask you not to force any church to forego its programs in place of a political rally or coerce any church member, particularly the clergy to market a political party or a political figure in the church.
- We request all political parties to respect the church as a non-partisan institution. Our role during the election will be to pray, to share information, to promote peace and to provide platforms for dialogue and engagement.

To the media:

- We prefer for all political parties to have equal access to media coverage so that we gain a full picture of our electoral choices.
- We encourage all media practitioners to be professional in conduct and non-partisan in action.
- We hope to see fair reports untainted by rumours, politicking, smear campaigns, spreading of propagandist material and hate speech intended to incite violence or tribal resentment.

To public officials:

- We condemn corruption of all forms. We wish to see a strict and robust approach in dealing with corruption based on an impartial application of Zimbabwean laws.

We therefore implore all Stakeholders with an interest in the upcoming 2018 elections to honour the dreams and aspirations of the Kwekwe residents as vividly espoused in this Ecumenical Election Covenant to ensure a peaceful, free, fair, transparent and credible election.

For further information or comment please contact

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