



## Mashonaland East Ecumenical Election Covenant

Christians and citizens of goodwill from Mashonaland East, having participated in community dialogue meetings influenced by the Holy Scriptures and committed to contribute towards a peaceful, free, fair and credible election in 2018.

Encouraged by **1 Timothy 1 verse 7 'for God has not given us a spirit of fear and timidity but of power and self-discipline'** humbly and prayerfully submit the Mashonaland East Ecumenical Election Covenant. The Covenant outlines the hopes, expectations and commitments of the Christian community under ZCC during the 2018 Elections.

### To all those responsible for service delivery in Mashonaland East:

- We remind all prospective candidates that service delivery is extremely poor in Mashonaland East, clean water is a scarce resource, there is no refuse collection, public roads are in tatters and tower-lights are no longer functional. We therefore call upon all those who aspire to become Councillors, MPs, Senators or Presidents through the Mash East vote to devise practical and workable solutions to resolve these problems.
- We highlight the fact that more preferential support will be given to a prospective candidate who immediately engages practical and tangible efforts towards providing quality service delivery in the form of refuse collection efforts, making provision for clean water, servicing public roads to eradicate potholes and refurbishing tower lights through independent self-sustaining initiatives before the 2018 elections rather than a candidate who comes with cheap political rhetoric in the form of a campaigning promise.
- The cash crisis currently bedeviling the country should be resolved and Banks should give people their money, as and when they want it.
- We advocate for the creation of decent employment and the review of current government salaries so that they can be increased to surpass the current poverty datum line.
- We further demand the review of water payment system because the City council is charging residents exorbitant water bills for services not delivered.

### To those in Public Office:

- All public officials, be it traditional leaders, councilors, elected parliamentarians, appointed officials and members of the executive must put the interests of Zimbabweans first.
- We call for fair, equitable and transparent distribution of public goods and resources, humanitarian assistance and economic opportunities.
- We ask God for Public leaders committed to unravelling years of poor governance and breakdown in rule of law by shunning corruption, incompetence, partisanship, patronage and patriarchy.
- We require those seeking Public Office to publicly denounce political violence and positively contribute towards a peaceful 2018 election.
- We ask Public Official to not use public goods, resources and opportunities to advance the electoral prospects of any political party during the Electoral campaign period.

### To the Security sector:

- We expect our security forces to conduct themselves in a professional, non-partisan and constitutional manner without resort to the excessive use of force
- We respectfully ask for soldiers currently stationed at Rudhaka Stadium to return to their Barracks. (Their continued stay at the heart of this City is very intimidating to the residents of this town).
- We ask security forces to reassure the nation that they will accept the true outcome of the elections and that they will conduct themselves in accordance with the dictates of the Constitution of Zimbabwe before, during and after elections

### To Political parties:

- We demand all political parties to desist from `hate` speech.
- We will not tolerate any politician or political party recruiting our youth to engage in violent activities. (We will actively de-campaign any party or individual found guilty of this harmful practice).
- We also make an appeal to all political parties and aspiring candidates to make this election a contestation of ideas and policies around what is best for the nation.
- We would appreciate a live televised debate of all presidential contesting parties as well as local debates for council and parliamentary candidates.
- We further submit that all political leaders should fulfill all of their campaigning promises. To this effect, the church will not offer any support to a leader who does not honor his or her election campaigning promise.

### To policy makers:

- We call for more to be done to urgently align all our laws especially the electoral law to the Constitution
- We call for Independent national audits to help us get a clearer understanding of the true state of the national debt and resource base (especially land and mineral resources). These audits should be jointly supervised by the Auditor General's office and a Committee of Parliament.
- We would like to see a clear separation of powers between the executive, judiciary and legislature. In particular we ask for the independence of the judiciary to be guaranteed.

### 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.

**1 Timothy 2 v 1-2 'first of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercessions, and thanksgiving be made for all people, for kings and all who are in high positions, that we may lead a peaceful, and quiet life, godly and dignified in every way'**

For further information or clarification please contact

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