

## **Alliance of Community based Organisations Observation Report of the primary elections of Zanu Pf.**

The Institute for Young Women Development (IYWD) and the Alliance of Community Based Organisations (ACBOs) yesterday observed the primary elections of the ZanuPF. The observations, which were, conducted the IYWD and the Alliance's *Dandemuntande* Champions are part of a community-based elections initiative using organic structures of mobilisation and socially embedded educational approaches. The initiative is aimed at mobilising young women and men to register to vote, to conduct voter education and observe the electoral environment and elections to influence and assess the electoral process.

The observations of the ZanuPf primary elections on Sunday 29 April is part of a continuum of community observation in rural, farming and mining and peri-urban communities which will continue as other political parties also carry out their own primary elections. The following table provides information obtained from yesterday's observation process as conducted and reported by the Alliance' *Dandemutande* Champions in the covered communities:

Area	Observations
1. Ward 6 Guruve North	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-People started gathering as early as 8am at Guruve Primary School,</li> <li>-Overally low turn out of voters,</li> <li>-Few young people</li> <li>-Inadequate elections preparation as ballot papers had not arrived by 3pm</li> <li>-Some voters dispersed before arrival of ballot papers</li> </ul>
2. Ward 15 Mazowe West	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Late start with few people having gathered by 8am</li> <li>-High turnout of youths eagerly waited to vote but election postponed to tomorrow</li> <li>-Voters started going back</li> <li>-No ballot papers</li> <li>-people dispersed early</li> </ul>
3. Ward 5 Bindura North (urban - Chipadze)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Late start with few people having gathered (very low turnout)</li> <li>-Some observers witnessing vote buying by some candidates</li> <li>-More elderly than youths came for the election</li> <li>-Few people voted. Voting to continue tomorrow</li> </ul>
4. Ward 6 Bindura South (Rural-Trojan)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Late start (7pm) while people had gathered by 8am.</li> <li>-People frustrated by delays</li> </ul>

	-Few people voted. Voting to continue tomorrow
5. Ward 13, Bindura South (Rural-Chiveso)	-Late start (5pm) due to late arrival of ballot papers -High turnout of people but a few voted due to late start, voting to continue tomorrow.
6. Ward 19 Bindura North-(Farms-Foothills)	-Late start and low turnout of voters, voting will continue tomorrow.
7. Ward 26 Shamva North	-Voting postponed to tomorrow. -People had gathered but dispersed as the day progressed, -Few remained and told to disperse at 1530hours, and told to return following day
8. Ward 18 Mazowe South	-Early gathering and high turnout of voters but election postponed to tomorrow.
9. Ward 24 Rushinga Constituency	-High turnout of elderly people but they were sent back home at around 1600 hrs, election postponed to tomorrow.
10. Ward 8 Mt Darwin East Constituency	-Election postponed to tomorrow. -High turnout of elderly and youth who had gathered by 8 am.
11. Chipinge South (Musikavanhu)	-Election postponed to tomorrow due to unavailability of ballot papers -Candidates utilizing delays to do vote buying using food for lunch to the already gathered hungry voters - Voting done per village
12. Masvingo (Tongogara-Gutu)	-Late start -Low voter turn out
13. Wards 1-5, St Mary's, Chitungwiza	-Low turnout, and of the few attendants the majority are youths -Reports of serious vote buying by most candidates
14. Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe	-Postponed to tomorrow citing late arrival of ballot papers
15.Plumtree	-Community observer arrested

Overall, the Alliance observation teams noted that the Zanu Pf primary elections in observed parts of the country on 29 April were characterised by late or no start at all. There was low voter turn out, averaging below 100 people per the observed polling stations, except at a station in Mazowe West and Rushinga. However the large turnout was mostly elderly people with few young women and men. There were fears of rigging as some aspiring candidates' names could not be found on the lists. As ballot papers started arriving at polling stations, the

observers noticed the active involvement of the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) in their uniforms.

**Questions and Conclusion:**

Using the observations made yesterday, the Alliance pose the following questions and conclusion:

- The environment was generally calm, with only one incident of violence having been reported in Mazowe West where campaign teams for two of the aspiring candidates clashed resulting in one person being injured. In Bindura rural and Shamva people who spoke to the observers feared that if they were not seen to be voting, or if they left the polling stations before voting they would be targeted for violence and denial of food aid. The same fears were also reported in Chipinge where voting was done by village.
- Having listened to the Zanu Pf commissariat saying their primaries were going to mirror the national election, and having observed low numbers of voters at the primaries in observed centres, does this then suggest that should this happen on the national election day does it mean Zanu Pf has few supporters, or will there be high levels of apathy.
- On the delays in the delivery of ballot boxes, was it deliberate in order to have some of the voters cast their ballots in the night or it was a genuine logistical issue?
- The general poor organisation and coordination of the elections process suggests inadequate preparedness for a plebiscite by the ruling party and this may result in use of different ways to coerce people to vote in the national election
- The observation also points to the party from diverting from their plan to get candidates to campaign together as from Friday the presence of cars with posters for aspiring candidates were seen in different communities.

***Observation is still on-going at polls where elections were postponed to 30 April 2018.***