

Zimbabwe Election Support Network



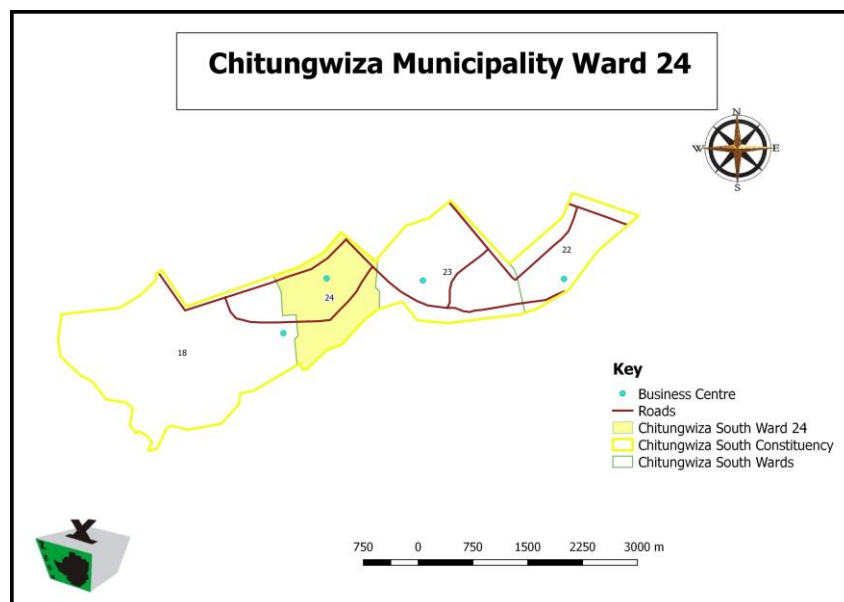
ZESN CHITUNGWIZA SOUTH WARD 24, BEITBRIDGE EAST WARD 15, AND MATOBO NORTH WARD 25 BY-ELECTIONS LOCAL AUTHORITY BY-ELECTIONS UPDATE

Introduction

The first by-elections of 2019 will be held on Saturday 23 February 2019 in three local authorities namely Chitungwiza Ward 24, Matobo Ward 25 and Beitbridge Ward 15. The Chitungwiza South Local Authority by-election was initially scheduled to hold on 26 January 2019 but was postponed by the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) following the violence that broke out during demonstrations in January. The three by-elections shall take place in accordance with section 125 subsection 4(b) of the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13].

Chitungwiza South Ward 24 Local Authority

The Ward 24 seat fell vacant following the death of Alice Chihambakwe of the MDC Alliance who had won the seat in the July 30, 2018 harmonized polls. Chitungwiza is located approximately 30 kilometres south-east of Harare. For this by-election, four candidates from four political parties successfully filed their nomination papers on the 7th of December 2018 to the Nomination Court. There are 675 registered voters in the Ward and the Commission indicated that 9 polling stations will be set up for Election Day processes.



List of candidates for Chitungwiza South Ward 24

Candidate	Political Party
Chagwada Yotam	MDC Alliance
Guvamombe Mercy	ZANU PF
Makovere Jane	MDC-T
Tsakeni Anderson	NCA

Source: ZEC

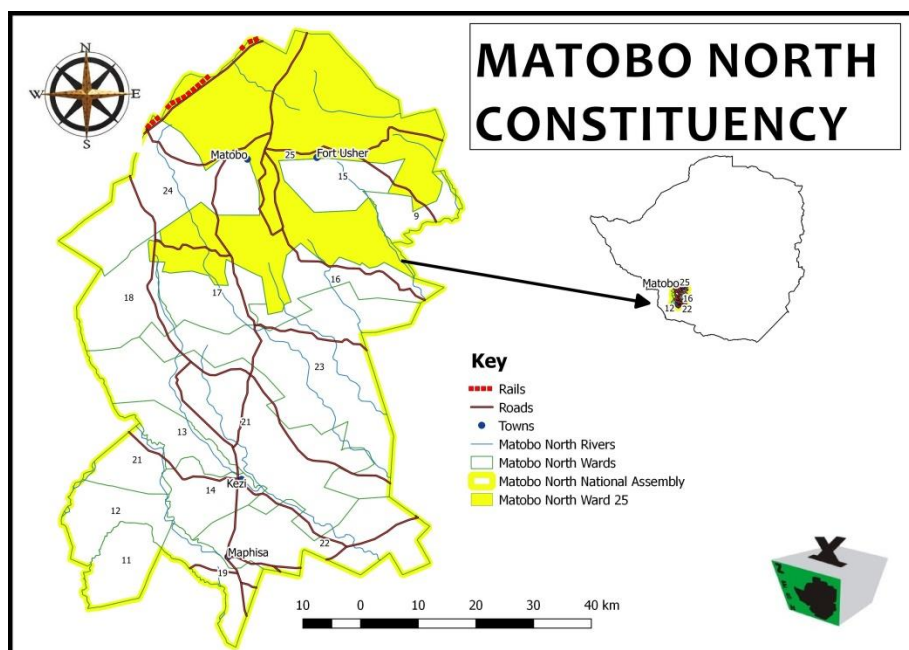
Matobo Rural District Council Ward 25

Matobo is located in Matebeleland South Province and is famous for its balancing rocks, rock art paintings and national park. The by-election was called following the death of Councillor Clara Ndlovu of ZANU PF party on 19 November 2018. The nomination court for the Matobo Ward 25 Rural District Council by-election sat on 4 January 2019 with two candidates representing the MDC Alliance and ZANU PF successfully filing their nomination papers. There are 1775 registered voters in Ward 25 and a total of 4 polling stations identified by ZEC for polling day.

List of candidates for Matobo

Candidate	Political Party
Dube Sibonginkosi	ZANU PF
Sibanda Elkanah	MDC Alliance

Source: ZEC



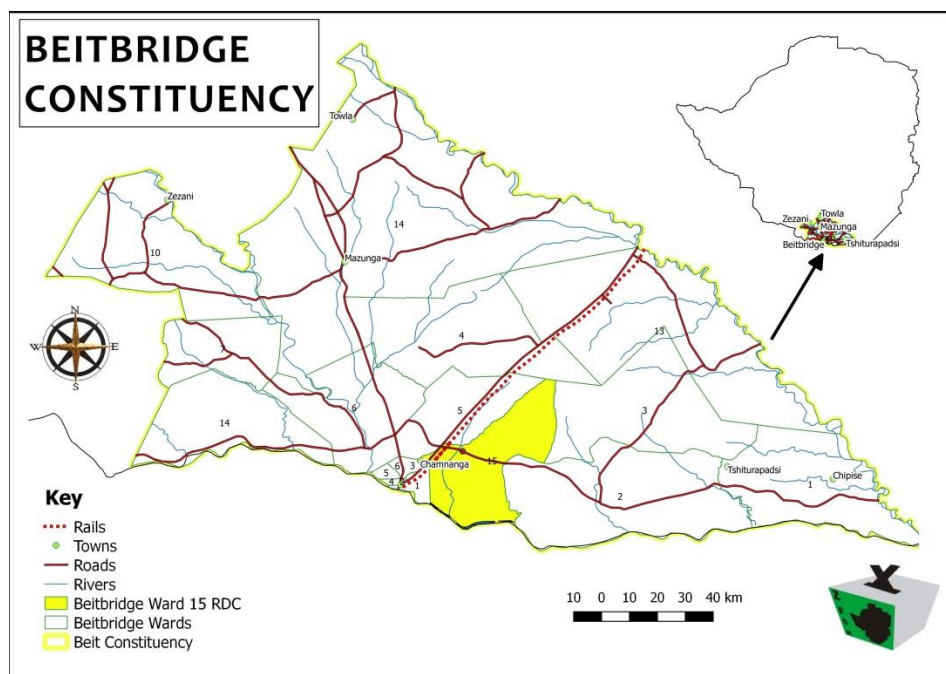
Beitbridge Rural district council Ward 15

Beitbridge is located in Matebeleland South on the border of Zimbabwe and South Africa. The seat fell vacant following the death of the Councillor Boy Maniere Ndou of ZANU PF on 2 December 2018. The Beitbridge Ward 15 by-election will be contested by two candidates from the MDC Alliance and ZANU PF. The nomination court for the ward by-election sat on 4 January 2019. There are 4 polling stations in the ward that will be used on election day.

List of candidates for Beitbridge East Ward 15

Candidate	Political Party
Mbedzi Rabson	ZANU PF
Moyo Victor	MDC Alliance

Source: ZEC



Civic and Voter education

In every election, voter and civic education is necessary to ensure that all constituents understand their rights, political systems, contesting parties' messages, and how and where to vote. For an election to be successful and democratic, voters must understand their rights and responsibilities, and must be sufficiently knowledgeable and well informed to cast ballots that are legally valid and to participate meaningfully in the voting process. In this regard, ZESN deployed teams to the three wards to conduct civic and voter education and distribute materials to inform and encourage participation by the electorate.



A ZESN voter educator captured pasting ZESN posters in Beitbridge Rural District Council Ward 15 in preparation for the by-election on Saturday 23 February 2019.

Conclusion

As part of its oversight mandate of promoting democratic electoral environment and processes in Zimbabwe, ZESN will be observing the three Local Authority by-elections on 23 February 2019.