
ZIMBABWE PEACE PROJECT

**BY-ELECTIONS
REPORT**

JUNE 14, 2025

www.zimpeaceproject.org



zppinfo@myzpp.com



www.zimpeaceproject.org



[Zimbabwe Peace Project](https://www.facebook.com/ZimbabwePeaceProject)



[@zppINFO](https://twitter.com/zppINFO)



[@zppinfo](https://www.instagram.com/zppinfo)



+263 774883406

CONTENTS

Executive Summary	4
Election Results	5
Findings from By-election	6
Intimidation and harassment	6
Traditional leaders becoming polling agents	7
Politically motivated violence	8
Assisted Voters	8
Low Voter Turn Out	9
Conclusions	10

ABOUT ZPP

The Zimbabwe Peace Project, ZPP, is a peace-promoting organisation that uses human rights lenses in peacebuilding, having established that the deprivation and abuse of human rights pose the greatest threat to peace in Zimbabwe.

The organisation was established in 2000 as a project of civil society and faith-based groups in response to the violence and human rights violations that characterised the political landscape of the time. These organisations were the Catholic Commission for Justice and Peace (CCJP), the Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), the Zimbabwe Council of Churches, Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN), Civic Education Network Trust (CIVNET), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Zimbabwe Liberators Platform (ZLP) and Non-Violent Action and

Strategies for Social Change (NOVASC). Over the years, the ZPP network of members has evolved as the network welcomed new member organisations while others have developed new thematic interests or have ceased to exist. Current member organisations are the Catholic Commission of Justice and Peace (CCJPZ), Evangelical Fellowship of Zimbabwe (EFZ), Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), Zimbabwe Human Rights Association (ZIMRIGHTS), Counselling Services Unit (CSU), Women and Law Southern Africa (WLSA), National Association for the Care of the Handicapped (NASCOH) and the Women's Coalition of Zimbabwe (WCoZ).

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Zimbabwe Peace Project (ZPP) monitored the by-elections held on 14 June 2025 in two National Assembly constituencies: Gutu East and Insiza North, and two Rural District Council (RDC) wards, Chipinge Ward 5 and Binga Ward 4. The by-election in Insiza was due to the death of the sitting Member of Parliament, Farai Taruvinga who has served as the Member of Parliament since 2018 under the ZANU PF ticket, while the seat in Chipinge became vacant as a result of the death of Councilor Alderman Phibeon Machuwaire. In Gutu East, ZANU PF recalled and expelled Benjamin Ganyiwa leading to the vacant seat. The councillor for Ward 4 in Binga who was under the CCC Political party resigned. Zimbabwe African National Union – Patriotic Front (ZANU PF) won all the four by-elections that were held on the 14th of June.

ZPP documented 12 human rights violations in Chipinge RDC Ward 5, affecting 1500 people and 2 violations affecting 87 people in Gutu East. No violations were recorded by the human rights monitors in Binga RDC Ward 4 and Insiza North Constituency. Cumulatively, ZPP documented a total of 14 violations in the four by-elections, which affected a total of 1587 victims. During the monitoring process, ZPP monitors collected victim and witness accounts of these violations. The violations were monitored and documented through ZPP's network of human rights monitors who collect firsthand accounts of the human rights violations.

In the pre-election and voting periods, ZPP documented human rights violations that not only contravened the Electoral Act but also breached fundamental constitutional rights. These included cases of political intimidation, harassment, forced assisted voting and intra-party violence, particularly in Gutu East and Chipinge Ward 5. In Gutu, Village heads and traditional leaders, who, by law, are not supposed to be partisan, were actively involved in partisan mobilization and intimidation of voters. In Gutu South, ruling party political activists stationed near polling stations issued threats, recorded voter details, and created an environment of coercion and fear. The use of traditional leaders to threaten and discipline communities that supported opposition parties violated the Traditional Leaders Act and the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

Section 67 of the Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to free and fair elections, the freedom to form and join political parties, and to vote and campaign freely. These rights were violated during the by-elections. Communities in affected constituencies were subjected to overt threats of violence, forced political allegiance, and exclusion from access to public services.

The manipulation of state and traditional structures to influence electoral outcomes reflects an entrenched culture of impunity. ZPP calls on relevant authorities, civil society, and regional observers to collaborate and ensure that there is peaceful co-existence between people of different political persuasions, to ensure that human rights are not violated and to ensure that there is an atmosphere that promotes free participation of citizens in all electoral processes.

ELECTION RESULTS

The Candidates for the four by-elections and the results are shown in the table below:

CANDIDATE	POLITICAL PARTY	NUMBER OF VOTES
CHIPINGE RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL WARD 5		
HUMBE SINGATINI	ZANU PF	1748
MKACHANA TINOZIVEI	NCA	100
SALANI GODFREY	INDEPENDENT	362
ZVIGUMI NDINANI	CCC	26
BINGA RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL WARD 4		
DUBE MIPIA	INDEPENDENT	160
MUNSAKA BRIAN	ZANU PF	910
GUTU EAST CONSTITUENCY		
GIFT GONESE	INDEPENDENT	2269
ZIVANAI NZVENGA	NCA	173
ZVAREVASHE MASVINGISE	ZANU PF	9321
INSIZA NORTH CONSTITUENCY		
DELANI MOYO	ZANU PF	7171
LESLIE DUBE	INDEPENDENT	1187
MBONGENI MOYO	NATIONAL REVIVAL PARTY	131
THABANI MLOTSHWA	ZAPU	114

FINDINGS FROM BY-ELECTION

INTIMIDATION AND HARASSMENT

ZPP recorded a total of 11 violations of harassment and intimidation in the four by-elections. The violations affected a total of 1574 people. On 14 June 2025, a ZANU PF District Chairman in Gutu district gathered community members at a dip tank located just outside the restricted 300-meter radius of Dambara Primary School Polling Station in Nyazvidzi, Gutu East Constituency. He then proceeded to intimidate and coach these individuals on how to vote. Gift Gonese, an independent candidate in the Gutu East parliamentary by-election's polling agents confirmed that they filed a report regarding this intimidation and campaigning within the restricted 300-meter radius with both the Polling Officer and the Police.

In Chipinge Rural District Council's Ward 5, members of the ruling party, ZANU PF, used violence and different forms of intimidation to scare voters. Traditional leaders (village heads) and political activists made public threats during rallies, warning people that they could be evicted from their land if they voted against the ruling party. They also threatened violence. Several groups, including villagers from both within and outside the ward, were placed at key points near all seven polling stations. Their job was to remind people to "vote correctly." These groups were seen directing voters, taking down their names, and making threats—creating a tense and frightening environment throughout the ward. Two male candidates said they were visited at night by strangers before the election. One manager at a farming estate was threatened, and his family and workers were badly beaten by people looking for him.

In addition to these activities at the polling stations, commuter omnibuses transported individuals from outside Ward 5 into local townships who were aggressively campaigning forcing people to attend meetings thus violating their freedom of assembly and association. This movement of individuals from external areas further contributed to the pervasive atmosphere of fear and intimidation. The alarming threats have caused community members to vote in fear, especially considering the trauma from the gross acts of violence that characterized the 2008 and 2013 elections.

TRADITIONAL LEADERS BECOMING POLLING AGENTS

Traditional leaders in Gutu East acted as polling agents for the ruling party, which constitutes a clear violation of both the Constitution and the Traditional Leaders Act. These observations raise concerns about the integrity of the electoral process and the potential for voter intimidation. The following individuals, who hold positions as village heads, served as ZANU-PF polling agents:

- Bornface Takawira, a village head, served as a ZANU-PF polling agent at Kubiku Primary School.
- Bornsen Musara, also a village head, served as a ZANU-PF polling agent at Musara Primary School.
- Herbet Manjonjo, a village head, served as a ZANU-PF polling agent at Machawira Primary School.

These actions directly contravene Section 45 (2) of the Traditional Leaders Act, which explicitly states that "no chief, headman or village head shall canvass or serve as an election agent or manager for any candidate, or nominate any candidate, for election as state President, member of Parliament or Councilor in any local authority." Considering the historical context of traditional leaders in Zimbabwe often intimidating community members, their presence as polling station agents could easily be perceived as a form of intimidation by voters. This may lead voters to feel that their choices could be identified, thereby undermining the principles of a free and fair election.





Source: ZEC

POLITICALLY MOTIVATED VIOLENCE


In Ward 5 of Chipinge RDC, following the election on June 14, 2025, 15 ZANU PF members were attacked by individuals who are suspected of being ZANU PF members. This intra-party violence was instigated by some ZANU PF supporters who did not want Singatini Humbe to be a candidate, preferring Tinoda Mukachana instead. As a result of this internal disagreement, ZANU PF youths and ZANU PF local leaders severely assaulted 15 fellow ZANU PF members and non-ruling party members. At one of the victims' residences, more than 6 trucks branded with the ruling party's logo and colours were used to transport the perpetrators who assaulted targeted victims. The victims sustained injuries from logs and sticks that were used in the assault. One of the victims, a vendor, was assaulted for refusing to chant the ruling party's slogan. ZPP is concerned about the implications of such internal disputes escalating into violence and impacting the safety of citizens.

ASSISTED VOTERS

In Chipinge RDC Ward 5, voters were coerced to declare that they cannot read and write and therefore, require voting assistance. At Musapingura polling station, 292 people were assisted by persons provided for by the ruling party. Reports gathered further show that teachers from Chipangayi High School who include the headmaster were assisted to vote. Businesspeople and other literate people claimed they could not read or write and were assigned people to assist them. In one village in Ward 5 of Chipinge, the village secretaries collected Identity Documents of the electorate days prior to the election and handed them to the people who would assist them to vote. This process was planned several days before the by-elections, with specific ZANU PF members assigned as aids. These incidents raise significant questions about the integrity and fairness of the assisted voting process. These practices represent a serious concern about potential voter manipulation and coerced voting. ZANU PF used assisted voting as a political tool, coercing voters into falsely declaring illiteracy to allow party agents to influence their choices.

LOW VOTER TURN OUT

The four by-elections were characterized by low voter turnout. By-election voter turnout is generally low as compared to that of harmonized elections. However, the turnout in the four by-elections was also as a result of fear induced by political violence and denial of the citizens' right to freely participate in political processes. In Binga RDC Ward 4, voter turnout was 46.6%. In Insiza North, voter turnout was at 35.9%. In Gutu East, turnout was at 48.3%, while in Chipinge it was at 50.8%.


ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
Declaration of Result of Poll: Local Authority
Electoral Act s 66 (1) & 129


I, MOYO JOSEPH
being the Ward Elections Officer for BINGA City /
Municipality / Town-Council / Local-Board / Rural District Council, Ward
(Delete inapplicable)

do hereby declare that I have, in accordance with the Electoral
Act [Chapter 2:13], and the regulations made thereunder, ascertained the
result of the poll for the said ward, and that there have been given to:

Candidate's name	Party/Independent	Votes
DUBE MIPIA	INDEPENDENT	160
MUNSAKA BRIAN	ZANU PF	910

and that I therefore declare the said MUNSAKA BRIAN
this day to be duly elected
Councillor for BINGA City / Municipality /
Town-Council / Local-Board / Rural District Council, Ward 4.

There were 14 rejected ballot papers, and the percentage poll was 46.6%
Name of WEO: MOYO JOSEPH Signature: [Signature] Date: 14/06/2025
Witness: MACHOWA GODFREY Signature: [Signature] Date: 14/06/2025



ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
Declaration of Result of Poll: Constituency
Electoral Act s 66 (1) & 67

I, MUKWIZWA ERNEST
being the constituency elections officer for GUTU EAST
constituency, do hereby declare
that I have, in accordance with the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13], and the
regulations made thereunder, ascertained the result of the poll for the said
constituency, and that there have been given to:

Candidate's name	Party/Independent	Votes
GONGE GRET	INDEPENDENT	2269
MAGVINGE ZIMREVASHE	ZANU PF	9321
NZVENGA ZIVANAI	NCA	173

and that I therefore declare the said MAGVINGE ZIMREVASHE
this day to be duly elected
member of the National Assembly for the GUTU EAST constituency.
There were 144 rejected ballot papers, and the percentage poll was 48.3%

Name of CEO: MUKWIZWA Signature: [Signature] Date: 15/06/2025
Witness: GWENGO Signature: [Signature] Date: 15/06/2025


ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
Declaration of Result of Poll: Local Authority
Electoral Act s 66 (1) & 129


I, Sunduzwa Tungamirai Maxwell being the Ward Elections Officer for
Chipinge Rural District Council, Ward 5 do hereby declare that I have, in
accordance with the Electoral Act [Chapter 2:13], and the regulations made
thereunder, ascertained the result of the poll for the said ward, and that there
have been given to:

Candidate's name	Party/Independent	Votes
HUMBE SINGATINI	ZANU PF	1748
MKACHANA TINOZIVEI	NCA	100
SALANI GODFREY	INDEPENDENT	362
ZVIGUMI NDINANI	CCC	26

and that I therefore declare the said HUMBE SINGATINI OF
ZANU PF this day to be duly elected
Councillor for Chipinge Rural District Council, Ward 5

There were 22 rejected ballot papers, and the percentage poll was 50.8%

Name of WEO: SUNDUZA TUNGAMIRAI MAXWELL Signature: [Signature] Date: 14 JUNE 2025
Witness: MACHOWA GODFREY Signature: [Signature] Date: 14 JUNE 2025


ZIMBABWE ELECTORAL COMMISSION
Declaration of Result of Poll
Electoral Act s 66 (1) & 67

I, DUBE IWANI ZELEMBA
being the constituency elections officer for INSIZA NORTH
constituency, do hereby declare that I have, in accordance with the Electoral
Act [Chapter 2:13], and the regulations made thereunder, ascertained the
result of the poll for the said constituency, and that there have been given to:

Candidate's name	Party/Independent	Votes
DUBE LESLIE	INDEPENDENT	1187
MLOTSHWA THABANI	ZANU PARTY	114
MOYO DELANI	ZANU PF PARTY	7171
MOYO MBONGENI	ZANU PARTY	131

and that I therefore declare the said MOYO DELANI
this day to be duly elected member of the National Assembly for
the INSIZA NORTH constituency.
There were 84 rejected ballot papers, and the percentage poll was 35.9%

Name of CEO: DUBE IWANI Z. Signature: [Signature] Date: 14/06
Witness: KAWA EMERY Signature: [Signature] Date: 14/06

CONCLUSIONS

The Zimbabwe Peace Project's observation of the June 14, 2025, by-elections revealed a troubling pattern of systemic human rights violations. The documented cases of harassment, intimidation, assisted voting abuse, and the partisan involvement of traditional leaders are in direct violation of Zimbabwe's Constitution, particularly Sections 58, 59, 60, and 67 which guarantee freedoms of association, assembly, expression, and political participation. The use of state and party-affiliated actors to intimidate voters, manipulate electoral environments, and exclude opposition supporters from civic processes reflects a broader culture of impunity that corrodes democratic institutions. In areas such as Chipinge RDC Ward 5 and Gutu East, the electoral environment was marked by coercion, threats of eviction, and violence, even involving assaults on perceived internal party dissenters. The manipulation of the assisted voting process, where voters were coerced into declaring illiteracy represents a deeply disturbing tactic to compromise electoral choice. The documented presence of traditional leaders as polling agents for the ruling party further violates the Traditional Leaders Act and distorts the neutrality expected from custodians of community welfare. Political violence post-election, as seen in intra-party clashes in Chipinge, also reflects dangerous fault lines within dominant political formations that pose risks to citizen safety.



