

STATEMENT ON THE PEACEFUL AND SUCCESSFUL NOMINATION COURT PROCESSES 23 JUNE 2023

The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) would like to commend the successful completion of the nominations process for the upcoming 23 August 2023 harmonized elections, which took place on the 21st of June 2023. The ZCC through its long-term ecumenical election observers who are operational nationally, can confirm that the proceedings were peaceful and inclusive, though there were some misunderstandings and delays in payments for those who wanted to use the local currency for the nomination processes.

We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all the candidates who successfully filed their nomination papers, as they take a significant step towards serving the nation and people of Zimbabwe.

The Church continue to refer to the ZHOCD Election We Want document that calls for conducting elections that are free, fair, and credible. Such an electoral process and outcome will set the necessary foundation for the development of our country. As an organization committed to promoting peace, justice, and the well-being of all citizens, we urge all candidates to conduct their campaigns and engage in the electoral processes with utmost respect for the rights and dignity of every individual.

We are inspired by the election procedure described in Acts 1:12-26, which was inclusive, transparent, and informed by agreed-upon standards. As a result, we urge all parties to follow the proper procedures. We encourage all candidates and political parties to embrace the values of unity, inclusion, justice and compassion, ensuring that your actions align with God's will for the nation.

In this momentous period, we further draw inspiration from the scripture found in Micah 6:8 (NIV), which states, 'He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the Lord require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.' This verse encapsulates the principles that should guide all those involved in the subsequent electoral activities.

May this election season be marked by peaceful dialogue, respectful engagement, and commitment to the well-being of all Zimbabweans. We call upon the candidates to prioritize the needs and aspirations of the people they seek to represent, working towards a future that upholds justice, equality, and the common good.

The ZCC stands ready to offer support, guidance, and prayers to all those involved in this crucial democratic process. Let us join hands as a nation, united in our pursuit of a better Zimbabwe, where the rights and voices of all citizens are respected and upheld.

We call upon all the aspiring candidates not to be selfish in their motives but put affront the needs of the nation. 'Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others. - Philippians 2:4.

May God bless our nation and guide us in the path of righteousness.