



# PASTORAL PRONOUNCEMENT

Behold, how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity (Psalm 133 verse 1)

Tuesday, 22 August 2023

1. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) declared 21st of August as the day when all election campaigning comes officially to an end as the country prepares to elect new leaders who will lead the nation for the next five years.
2. On the eve of this important occasion for our country, the word of the Psalmist reminds us of how good and pleasant it is when God's people dwell together in unity. Therefore, let us not allow our different political affiliations and ideologies rob us of the beauty and goodness of dwelling together in unity as we go to cast our votes in this election.
3. Election period is often associated with anxiety and uncertainty for both the electorate and the contestants, the words of our Lord Jesus Christ – Let not your hearts be troubled; gives an assurance and hope to an anxious nation during this election day and beyond.
4. Every electoral process produces winners and losers, understanding and appreciating this reality as we come to the climax of this year's electoral process will determine the atmosphere that will characterize the post-election period in our nation. We pray that electoral disputes will not be used as the basis to ignite politically motivated violence. We call upon all Zimbabweans to desist from engaging in any form of violence during and after this election.
5. We pray for all Political leaders to ensure that during political competition and contestation we do not lose sight of our responsibility to unite the nation towards a common agenda of promoting love for one another and love for our country as well as abiding by the laws of our land.
6. We pray for all the men, women and bodies mandated by our constitution to superintend, coordinate, conduct and observe this election to execute their duties in a professional manner that will produce a free, fair, peaceful and credible election.
7. The Zimbabwe Council of Churches calls upon all Christians and our Ecumenical Partners to pray for Zimbabwe during and after this election.

**And the Peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and minds through Jesus Christ.  
(Philippians 4 verse 7)**

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