

*April-May 2025*



**Breaking Walls, Building Bridges and  
Projecting the Future**



# Easter and Independence Celebrations: A Sacred Convergence of a Shared Legacy of Sacrifice and Hope

*“We live in a time where we are no longer ashamed to witness the widening gap between the rich and the poor... where a few live in abundance at the expense of the majority,”*



*ZCC General Secretary, Rev Wilfred Dimingu*

Zimbabwe commemorated a historic moment on 18 April 2025, as the nation celebrated its 45th Independence Day in a rare alignment with Good Friday, a convergence that sparked deep national reflection on freedom, sacrifice, and renewal.

The Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) seized this profound moment, releasing a joint statement titled **“A Sacred Convergence,”** which drew parallels between the country’s liberation from British colonial rule in 1980 and the Christian observance of Christ’s crucifixion and resurrection. The statement called on Zimbabweans to reflect on justice, equity, and sacrificial love as the nation confronts ongoing challenges.

In a powerful televised address on the eve of the celebrations, ZCC General Secretary Reverend Wilfred Dimingu delivered a stirring message that resonated across the nation, touching on the economic disparities that continue to undermine Zimbabwe’s post-independence aspirations, where the majority are in abject poverty and only a selected few are enjoying the gains of the independence.

*“We live in a time where we are no longer ashamed to witness the widening gap between the rich and the poor... where a few live in abundance at the expense of the majority,”* he said

Drawing from John 15:18, a biblical passage that speaks of sacrificial love in the face of worldly rejection, Rev. Dimingu challenged citizens to re-examine their lives

in light of the cross embodying the selflessness of Christ and the sacrifices of the liberation struggle.

*“This convergence is a divine moment to recommit to a nation where no one is left behind,”* he urged.

The ZCC also issued a statement emphasising that both Easter and Independence symbolise sacrifice, freedom, and the promise of new life.

*“As we celebrate these two significant moments together, we are called to reflect deeply on the spiritual and moral renewal our nation so urgently needs,”* the statement reads.

The ‘Sacred Convergence’ theme ignited a wave of community engagement, with Local Ecumenical Fellowships (LEFs) organising pre-Easter Holy Week observances and combined Palm Sunday services.

During these gatherings, the Church reflected on Christ’s sacrifice and resurrection while also drawing parallels to Zimbabwe’s liberation struggle. Key messages centered on the transformative power of Christ’s resurrection and the need to honour the sacrifices made for freedom, both spiritual and national.

As Zimbabwe stands at this historic crossroads, the ZCC’s call serves as both a challenge and an invitation: to build a nation where justice, unity, and selfless love prevail.

# Rural Youth Find Hope in the Church



**Left:** Bishop Ruwona presiding over the official opening of the AYAMA Conference. **Right Top:** Conference participants during a session on youth participation. **Right Bottom:** Youths inquire about the work of ZCC at an exhibition booth.

During the Anglican Youth Association of Manicaland (AYAMA) Conference at St Mary's Magdalene Mission in Nyanga on 25 April 2025, youths bemoaned 'double marginalization,' a term that encapsulates their disadvantaged position as both young people and residents of rural areas where developmental opportunities and resources are scarce.

Running under the theme **"Will you not revive us again, that your people may rejoice in you,"** based on Psalms 85:6, the conference was attended by over 250 young people from across Manicaland Province.

The conference provided a platform for rural youths to express their frustrations about the barriers they face in contributing to societal and governance processes.

Participants highlighted a pervasive sense of neglect, noting that the cause of youth empowerment in Zimbabwe is often reduced to mere lip service, with little tangible action to back it up.

The discussions highlighted how rural youths are sidelined not only due to their age but also because of their geographic isolation, which limits their access to education, economic opportunities, and platforms for civic engagement.

One participant poignantly captured the essence of their struggle, stating,

*"Being a youth from the rural areas, nobody wants to listen to you. It is very difficult to speak because of the fear of being judged and a lack of confidence to articulate your issues."*

Many feel intimidated by the prospect of engaging with older, urban-based decision-makers who often dismiss their contributions or fail to create inclusive spaces for dialogue. The lack of mentorship, exposure, and resources further erodes their ability to advocate for themselves effectively.

Youths also revealed structural challenges that exacerbate this marginalization. Rural areas in Zimbabwe often lack the infrastructure and institutions necessary to foster youth development, such as youth centers, vocational training programs, or access to digital platforms that could amplify their voices.

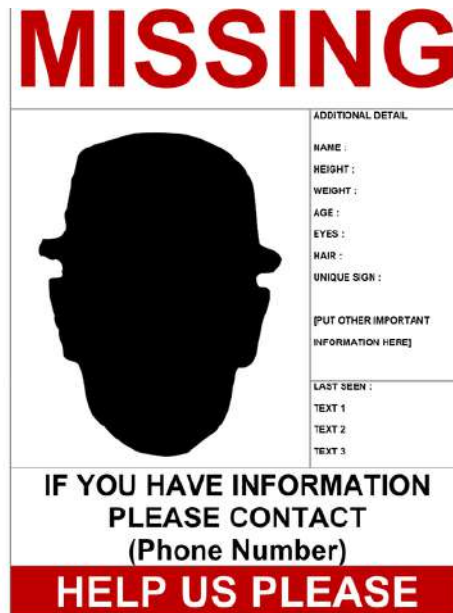
Moreover, the centralized nature of governance and resource allocation in Zimbabwe means that rural communities are frequently overlooked in the national development agenda.

During a discussion on youth participation in key decision-making processes, the ZCC secretariat provided information on the platforms young people can leverage to advance their cause. These include the Zimbabwe Youth Council (ZYC), Village and Ward Development Committee meetings, as well as other community development processes that are tailor-made to advocate for youth rights as provided for in section 20 of the Constitution of Zimbabwe.

In his official address, Anglican Diocese of Manicaland Bishop Erick Ruwona underscored the Church's drive in empowering youths in the province. He encouraged the participants to rise beyond their comfort zone in entrepreneurial ventures.

*"Youths should not be lazy; you should be innovative. As a church, we have opened up spaces for each archdeaconry to have specific youth projects."*

the ZCC also supported youth sporting activities, providing footballs, netballs, and volleyballs. The conference marked a nationwide program to support and accompany member church youth conferences, addressing critical youth issues such as unemployment, mental health, youth empowerment, and participation.



Elected leaders in Zimbabwe have been accused of distancing themselves from their constituents following the August 2023 harmonized elections, a concern raised during a Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) Local Ecumenical Fellowship (LEF) monthly reflection meeting held in Epworth on 23 April 2025.

The meeting, attended by 34 participants, including men, women, and youths, provided a platform for residents to voice their frustrations over unfulfilled campaign promises, the politicization of development, and the worsening economic conditions affecting the community.

One participant expressed disappointment with elected officials, stating,

*“In the build-up to the August 2023 harmonized elections, the aspiring candidates, both the Members of Parliament and Councilors, could come to our localities, converse with the people, promising that they would rally with them when elected, but now we no longer see them.”*

Many people feel that politicians have prioritized personal or party interests over community engagement since taking office. A Epworth ZCC Youth Ecumenical Fellowship representative bemoaned the politicization of development in Epworth, where access to resources and opportunities often depends on political allegiance.

*“Everything here is about which political party you belong to, from food aid to job opportunities, if you’re not aligned with the right party, you’re left out.”*

Reverend Masedza, a leader of the Local Peace Committee (LPC), highlighted the dire impact of recent enforcement actions by the ZRP and the council to ban vending in the CBD.

*“The bulk of vendors in Harare CBD are from Epworth, and the recent crackdown on the vendors by Harare City Council and Police has further exposed people to hunger who survive on a hand-to-mouth basis, and their profits are very small.”*

He emphasized that these vendors, many of whom are women and youths, are struggling to feed their families as authorities tighten restrictions on informal trading without offering viable alternatives.

Participants also linked their economic woes to the lack of follow-through from elected officials, referencing the ZCC’s pre-election pastoral letters in 2023, which urged candidates to prioritize peace, transparency, and the needs of the marginalized. There is erosion of trust in electoral processes.

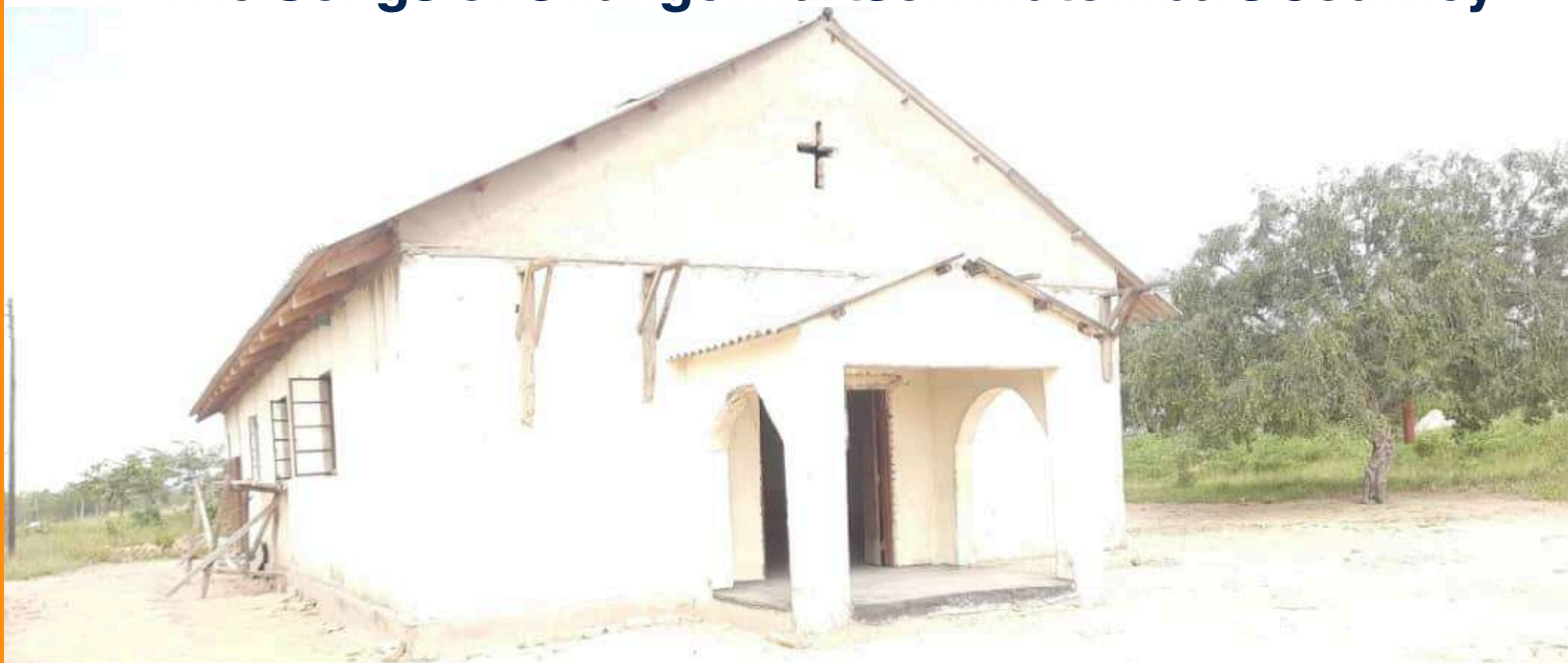
The youth population is increasingly ensnared by social ills such as prostitution and drug and substance abuse, driven by deep-rooted economic and political challenges. The lack of employment opportunities, exacerbated by a struggling economy and high unemployment rates, has left many young people jobless and disillusioned, pushing them toward desperate measures for survival. The absence of a cohesive community structure, coupled with the politicization of resources, has weakened social bonds, leaving young people vulnerable to these destructive coping mechanisms that further entrench poverty and marginalization.

The Church in Epworth vowed to take proactive steps to address these socio-economic challenges. The meeting is planned to organize a feedback meeting with elected leaders, including councilors and Members of Parliament, to engage the broader church community in holding them accountable for their constitutional responsibilities.

There was also a commitment to increased participation in national clean-up campaigns in Epworth and a need for awareness campaigns to educate citizens about their rights and the constitutional obligations of elected officials, empowering residents to demand transparency and inclusion.



# The Songs of Change: Partson Mutomba's Journey



*The Anglican St Michaels Church, Buhera which is under renovations using donations given to the church choir.*

In the heart of Buhera, Ward 10, under Chief Chimombe, life had always been a struggle. The community, like many others in the district, relied heavily on donor funding—food aid, development projects, and even the upkeep of their churches. Many, including Partson Mutomba, had grown accustomed to waiting for help from abroad, believing that change could only come from outside.

But everything shifted when Partson became one of the beneficiaries of the initial Church and Community Mobilisation Process project in his area. The project aimed to empower locals by training them as facilitators, equipping them with skills to drive change in their own communities. The lessons opened Partson's eyes—he realized that they didn't always have to wait for handouts; they could create their own opportunities.

Inspired, Partson turned to his passion: music. He gathered talented voices from his church and formed a choir, not just to sing, but to uplift spirits, strengthen faith, and bring people together. They started small, performing at St. Michael's Anglican Church, their harmonies filling the crumbling walls of the dilapidated building.

To their surprise, their music resonated far beyond their village. People from neighboring areas came to listen, and soon, invitations started pouring in. They were asked to sing at weddings, community events, and even other churches—and for the first time, they were being paid for their talent.

What began as a humble church choir soon became a beacon of hope. Their growing popularity attracted donations, not in the form of food or cash, but in building materials. People who believed in their mission contributed cement, roofing sheets, and paint. Slowly but surely, St. Michael's Anglican Church began to transform. The walls were repaired, the roof secured, and the once-fading structure stood strong again—all because of the power of their voices.

Partson couldn't help but reflect on how much had changed. "We used to think help had to come from abroad, but this project showed us that we have the power to change our own lives," he said.

Now, his dreams stretch even further. He envisions his choir performing beyond Buhera, perhaps even on national stages. He dreams of recording their songs in a professional studio, sharing their message of faith and resilience with the world. Money is still a challenge, but Partson remains hopeful. If they could rebuild a church with nothing but song, what else could they achieve?

In Buhera, where hope once relied on the generosity of others, Partson Mutomba and his choir have become living proof that change begins within. Their voices carry more than melodies—they carry the promise of a brighter future, one note at a time.



*Partson and other participants during a CCMP envisioning meeting*

## Faith Leaders Urge Collective Action for Inclusive and Sustainable Resource Management



Participants following proceedings at the 9<sup>th</sup> Edition of the Gender and Extractives Symposium in Harare.

Speaking at the recently held Gender Symposium and Extractives held in the capital at Holiday Inn Hotel, running under the theme 'Accelerate Action', Reverend Martha Mutswakatira implored a diverse assembly – a tapestry woven with threads of every gender – to embrace their shared responsibility as custodians of our planet and its precious resources.

Acknowledging the formidable obstacles that often impede efforts to protect our natural resources, particularly for women who face persistent stereotypes, Reverend Mutswakatira urged the nation to persevere through hardship, holding steadfast to the belief that positive change is ultimately attainable.

*"Let us have faith even if we are in the furnace for the fire in the furnace is purifies –just like most minerals we have are purified by fire. The hardships that we are facing in the extractive sector can be used to harden and purify our efforts in making sure that everyone is included regardless of their gender,"* she said.

She emphasized the need for collaboration between state and non-state actors to ensure that policies and practices reflect the values of inclusion, dignity, and care for creation.

Her words, a potent blend of faith and urgency, painted a vision of collective stewardship, where the safeguarding of Earth's bounty transcends the boundaries of identity, urging all to stand as united guardians of the natural world.

Speaking during the same event Rev Beauty Makuzva called for the addressing of the real problems affecting women in the extractive sector in the country.

"We must address the root causes of the challenges faced by women miners, not just the symptoms," she added.

While Zimbabwe's mining sector is a crucial economic driver underpinning the National Development Strategies (NDS1, concluding in December 2025) and Vision 2030, it is still characterized by systematic gender inequalities.

Organised by the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), in collaboration with CNRG, ZELA and ZIMCODD, the symposium brought to the fore critical conversations around gender equity, climate justice, and responsible resource governance. Attendees included representatives from government agencies, mining institutions, community monitors, faith leaders, and civil society, as well as miners and community members from across the country.



## Incoming UMC Bishop Vows to Champion the Cause for Peace



*Bishop Gift Kudakwashe Machinga at the passing of the Gavel Ceremony at Chisipite UMC*

The new United Methodist Church (UMC) leader, Bishop Dr. Gift Kudakwashe Machinga has committed to championing social justice and peacebuilding within the ecumenical community. This was revealed during the Passing of the Gavel ceremony on 30 March 2025 in Harare.

In his inaugural address, Bishop Machinga reaffirmed the church's commitment to its mission of peace, reconciliation, and justice, emphasizing the core values that resonate with the teachings of Jesus Christ. He stated,

*"My message to Zimbabwe is that of peace; Jesus came to preach peace."*

He urged the people of Zimbabwe to embrace peaceful coexistence, saying, despite the prevailing socio-political and socio-economic standings, the country is in.

*"Let us live peacefully with our neighbours; let us live peacefully with everyone."*

The Passing of the Gavel ceremony is a cherished tradition within the UMC, symbolizing the transition of leadership from the outgoing bishop to the newly appointed one. At this event, Bishop Machinga officially succeeded Bishop Eben Nhiwatiwa. The ceremony drew a large crowd, with hundreds of UMC faithful from across Zimbabwe were in attendance,

alongside key stakeholders such as the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC), United Theological College, Bible Society of Zimbabwe, and Africa University.

During the ceremony, the ZCC General Secretary, Rev. Wilfred Dimingu rallied the Church for ecumenism and commended it for a smooth transition. He emphasized the importance of unity, stating,

*"Our biannual theme is breaking walls, building bridges, and projecting the future. As the UMC, it is possible to break walls, build bridges, and project the future together."*

Emerging as the top nominee from Zimbabwe, Bishop Machinga surpassed 3 other candidates during the nomination process held in Johannesburg on 15 March 2025. He becomes Zimbabwe's fourth Black bishop, joining the ranks of leaders such as Bishops Abel Tendekai Muzorewa, Christopher Jokomo, and Eben Nhiwatiwa.

Bishop Machinga has automatically become a member of the ZCC Supervisory Council, the second-highest decision-making body after the General Assembly, which comprises 31 member church bishops. This council is key in national dialogue and peacebuilding in Zimbabwe, providing strategic direction to the Church as a whole.

# Zimbabwe's Land Tenure System a Total Disaster



Participants following proceedings at the strategic dialogue on the new Land Tenure System

On 25 March 2025, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) and the Sam Moyo African Institute for Agrarian Studies (SMAIAS) convened a high-level Round Table on Land in Harare. The discussion focused on the urgent need for equitable land reform in Zimbabwe running under the theme "Maximizing Land Utilization for Inclusive Development," the event brought together over 20 stakeholders, including clergy, academics, and civil society representatives.

Reverend Wilfred Dimingu, General Secretary of the ZCC, delivered a compelling keynote address that emphasized the historical and moral imperatives of land distribution. He called for the church to act as a moral compass in the ongoing land discourse, advocating for land as a shared resource that should benefit all Zimbabweans.

Theological reflections by Reverend Dr. Agony Siwela highlighted the biblical foundations for stewardship, justice, and sustainability in land management. Participants engaged in spirited discussions about the need for just land policies, emphasizing the importance of supporting marginalized communities and addressing gender inequities.

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Dr. Walter Chambati emphasized the critical challenges facing Zimbabwe's land reform, particularly the politicization of the Land Reform Programme. "Due to the so-called 'Sabhuku Deals', Village heads have created a market for land that often favors urban dwellers over local communities" he added, expressing the role of traditional leaders post the land reform programme.

He warned that financing bottlenecks pose a significant threat to agricultural productivity, exacerbating issues of inequity in land distribution.

He also called for urgent measures to address multiple farm ownership, which undermines equitable access to land, and stressed the need for a balanced relationship between mining and agriculture, as both sectors present both conflicts and opportunities for sustainable development.

A draft action plan was developed, prioritizing land tenure reform, farm worker rights, and conflicts between agriculture and mining.

Participants advocated for a Land Tenure Implementation Committee that could streamline efforts and promote equitable land access, urgent measures to address multiple farm ownership, which undermines equitable access to land, and stressed the need for a balanced relationship between mining and agriculture.

The Round Table marked a significant step towards fostering inclusive dialogue on land issues in Zimbabwe, with the church positioned to lead future engagements with policymakers.



Dr Tom responding to the Key Note address by Dr Walter Chambati



## ZCC Donates Blankets to Old Mutare Mission Hospital



ZCC Local Ecumenical Fellowships donating blankets to Old Mutare Mission Hospital.

On 30 April 2025, the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) donated 61 blankets to Old Mutare Mission Hospital, a vital healthcare facility serving the Mutare, Mutasa, and Nyanga catchment areas. The blankets were collected through the ZCC Women Ecumenical Fellowship (WEF) structures in Penhalonga, demonstrating the collective effort of local churches and community members to support those in need.

The handover ceremony took place at the hospital premises and was officiated by the newly elected Manicaland Provincial Chairperson for ZCC Local Ecumenical Fellowship (LEF) Reverend Lovemore Machipisa.

Upon receiving the blankets, the hospital administrator, Mrs. Nzarayebani, expressed gratitude for the generous donation, highlighting the importance of community-driven support in enhancing the hospital's ability to serve its patients.

*"On behalf of Old Mutare Mission Hospital, we extend our sincere appreciation to the ZCC for their thoughtful contribution. As we approach the winter season, these blankets will provide much-needed warmth and comfort to our patients,"* she remarked.

Reverend Machipisa shared his reflections on the event: *"We had a wonderful time at Old Mutare where we handed over our gifts. We managed to hand over 61 blankets costing an average of US \$15 each. The hospital still needs assistance, and more help is needed."* He noted the hospital's orphanage, which houses more than 80 children under the age of 15, emphasizing the critical need for ongoing support.

In addition to the blankets, the ZCC also donated writing books, khaki and plastic covers, as well as chickens, further demonstrating their commitment to the community.

Reverend Machipisa challenged other substructures of the LEF to complement the work being done by the WEF; *"If we are to unite and include the Youth Ecumenical Fellowship and the Men Ecumenical Fellowship, we can come on board as we try to minister to the community in a positive way."*

Old Mutare Mission Hospital is a key healthcare provider in the region, with over 100 babies born weekly and a diverse patient population from surrounding rural areas. The hospital also cares for around 80 orphans, ranging from one month to 18 years old, underscoring its role as a crucial social support center.

As winter approaches, the hospital has emphasized the ongoing need for support to ensure vulnerable populations, especially children and orphans, remain warm and cared for during the cold months. This initiative not only highlights the importance of community involvement but also calls for continued efforts to uplift those in need.

The role of the church in the health sector is exemplified by the United Methodist Church, which owns Old Mutare Hospital along with several other mission hospitals across the country.

This commitment to health and well-being aligns seamlessly with the mission of the ZCC, which aims to enhance the self-supporting capacity of vulnerable people and empower its member churches. By fostering a sustainable and transformative Christian presence in Zimbabwe, initiatives like the donation from the WEF play a crucial role in uplifting the community and addressing immediate needs.

## The Church Unites for Road Safety Prayer Meeting



Participants gathered at Thuli Service Station in Dzivarasekwa, Harare which has become a high accident zone.

***“The church’s role in advocating for road safety has gained momentum at the local level, with prayer emerging as a powerful tool for community mobilization.”***

Thuli Service Station in Dzivarasekwa, Harare along Bulawayo Road became a focal point of unity and reflection as hundreds gathered for a prayer meeting on 15 April 2025 organized by the Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) Local Ecumenical Fellowships.

The gathering saw robust attendance from community members, residents, and dignitaries, including Councilor Shoko of Ward 45 and Chief Inspector Mwembe of Dzivarasekwa Police Station. The program featured prayers for cleansing, protection, comfort, healing, and road safety, with various speakers leading the congregation in heartfelt worship.

Police officers from Dzivarasekwa Police Station ensured the event’s safety and order, allowing attendees to focus on the solemn occasion.

The urgency of the prayer meeting was underscored by Zimbabwe’s alarming road safety crisis. According to the Traffic Safety Council of Zimbabwe (TSCZ), between January and September 2023, the country recorded 38,482 road accidents—an average of 141 accidents daily, or one every ten minutes.

These staggering figures highlight the pervasive and relentless threat of road carnage, claiming lives and leaving communities in grief. The data emphasizes the critical need for interventions, both practical and spiritual, to address this national crisis.

The church’s role in advocating for road safety has gained momentum at the local level, with prayer emerging as a powerful tool for community mobilization.

The Dzivarasekwa Local Ecumenical Fellowship’s prayer meeting marks the second such initiative in 2025, following a similar event in Beitbridge in March.

These gatherings reflect the church’s commitment to fostering collective action and spiritual reflection, urging communities to confront the road safety crisis while seeking divine guidance for protection and healing.

The event’s success, marked by meaningful participation and the presence of local leaders, demonstrated the community’s resolve to address road safety. Anchored on the vibrancy of its structures at the community level, the work of the ZCC is cemented by its vision for a stronger Christian fellowship, striving for a just, peaceful, and prosperous Zimbabwe where every citizen experiences holistic salvation.





# Stakeholders Call for Electoral Reforms to Strengthen Democracy and Inclusion



Group photo of participants at the High-level Election Administration training workshop hosted by the Zimbabwe Election Support Network, Mutare.

Calls for comprehensive electoral reforms grew louder during a high-level Election Administration training Workshop held in Mutare from 20–22 May 2025, as a wide range of stakeholders including civil society organizations, media representatives, Chapter 12 Commissions, and faith-based institutions voiced concern over the state of Zimbabwe's electoral systems. Hosted by the Zimbabwe Election Support Network (ZESN) with support from global partners, the workshop created space for honest reflection and robust debate on key electoral issues facing the country.

A major concern raised by participants was the lack of an independent authority to oversee boundary delimitation. Many argued that the current arrangement leaves the process vulnerable to political manipulation, including the risk of gerrymandering to serve partisan interests. Stakeholders called for the establishment of an autonomous delimitation commission that operates independently of both government and the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), to ensure a more transparent and credible framework for drawing electoral boundaries.

Electoral system reform also emerged as a pressing topic. While Zimbabwe currently uses a mixed electoral system, the workshop revealed growing dissatisfaction with how it translates votes into representation. Some participants supported a transition to proportional representation, citing its potential to encourage inclusivity and reduce the high stakes and political polarization associated with winner-takes-all outcomes. Stakeholders agreed that open, consultative national dialogue is needed to assess the suitability of the current system and explore reforms that align with democratic values and citizen expectations.

The issue of inclusion was another recurring theme. Despite constitutional provisions, marginalized groups particularly women, persons with disabilities, and rural communities remain underrepresented and face persistent barriers in the electoral process. These include physical inaccessibility of polling stations, limited voter education tailored to diverse needs, and a lack of meaningful participation in electoral decision-making.

Participants emphasized the importance of ensuring that inclusion is not merely symbolic, but embedded throughout the entire electoral cycle.

The ZCC, which participated actively in the workshop, expressed its commitment to supporting ongoing efforts to build a more inclusive, accountable, and democratic electoral environment. As a respected moral and civic actor, ZCC affirmed its readiness to work with other stakeholders to promote electoral justice, promote inclusive national dialogue, and amplify the voices of those often left at the margins of political processes.

The workshop served as a reminder that safeguarding democracy requires more than holding elections, it demands strong institutions, equitable systems, and the active participation of all citizens. With stakeholders aligned in their calls for reform, the next step lies in translating shared concerns into action that restores public confidence and strengthens Zimbabwe's democratic foundations.





Methodist Church in Zimbabwe Youth following proceedings on Day 2 of the MCZ Annual Youth Conference at Ruwadzano Centre in Epworth, Harare.

The second day of the Methodist Church in Zimbabwe (MCZ)'s 34th Annual Youth Conference took a powerful and transformative turn this afternoon with the official launch of the #LetLoveLead campaign, a bold initiative aimed at preventing violence against women and girls and promoting safe, inclusive spaces for all. The launch was presided over by MCZ Presiding Bishop and Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) Supervisory Council member, Rev. G.T. Mawire, at the vibrant gathering which took place on May 23 and 24 at the Ruwadzano Centre in Epworth.

In his stirring address, Rev. Mawire reaffirmed the Church's unwavering commitment to challenging all forms of gender-based violence and encouraged the youth to take a stand. "As young people, you are not only the future of the Church—you are its present. Your voices, your choices, and your courage matter. Let love lead in your relationships, your leadership, and your witness to the world," he said.

The #LetLoveLead campaign is a joint initiative between the MCZ and the All Africa Conference of Churches (AACC), aimed at mobilizing the Christian community, especially youth, to become agents of change in the fight against abuse and gender injustice. The campaign launch was met with enthusiastic support from the more than 100 youth leaders in attendance, who represented MCZ districts across Zimbabwe and the diaspora.

The launch was marked by symbolic activities including speeches, prayer, and the distribution of campaign materials featuring messages of empowerment and solidarity. Delegates wore campaign t.shirts and pledged to carry the message back to their communities and local churches, committing to uphold the dignity and safety of all people, especially women and girls.

While Day 2 was characterized by advocacy and public witness, day laid the foundation with spiritual and strategic reflection. The ZCC participated in the opening session, where ZCC National Youth Executive member Tichaona Mapira delivered warm ecumenical greetings. He emphasized the critical role of young people in shaping Zimbabwe's development and advancing the national vision through faith and civic engagement.

Rev. G.T. Mawire, delivering the keynote on the opening day, urging the youth to be visionary and to actively contribute to the growth and relevance of the Church. The conference focus aligned closely with the ZCC mission of elevating youth voices, as well as promoting social justice. Through its participation, the ZCC continues to champion platforms that encourage young people to lead with integrity, creativity, and compassion.

As the 34th Annual Youth Conference ended, the launch of #LetLoveLead injected new purpose and urgency into the gathering, reminding all in attendance that love, when truly lived out, is a force capable of transforming both individuals and society.



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# Kusile RDC Embraces Citizen-Led Governance Through Community Perception Surveys



In a significant step towards deepening citizen participation and strengthening local governance, Kusile Rural District Council (RDC) has launched its own community perception survey to gather feedback on the quality of service delivery. This milestone follows a series of training and capacity-building efforts by the Zimbabwe Heads of Christian Denominations (ZHOCD) with support from Trocaire and European Union, aimed at equipping local authorities and communities with tools for participatory governance and social accountability.

Over the past year, Zimbabwe Council of Churches (ZCC) under the ZHOCD banner, through its local governance programme, has worked closely with Kusile RDC to promote a culture of transparency, accountability and citizen engagement.

One of the core elements of this partnership has been the introduction of perception surveys simple yet powerful tools that enable communities to express their views on the accessibility, responsiveness, and effectiveness of public services.

The survey, now being conducted independently by Kusile RDC, is a tangible result of the council's commitment to institutionalizing citizen feedback mechanisms. It allows community members to voice their experiences and priorities regarding essential services such as water supply, waste management, road infrastructure, and health and education facilities.

"This is exactly the kind of transformation we aim to inspire," said a ZCC Local Ecumenical Fellowship member (LEF). "When local authorities begin to take ownership of accountability tools and embed them in their operations, it signals real progress toward inclusive and responsive governance."

The adoption of this initiative by Kusile RDC not only demonstrates the council's responsiveness but also sets a precedent for other rural district councils across the country. It reinforces the idea that effective service delivery must be informed by the lived experiences of citizens and underscores the importance of sustained engagement between communities and their leaders.

Community members are encouraged to participate in the ongoing survey through the following link: [Kusile RDC Service Delivery Perception Survey](#).

ZCC will continue supporting local authorities in building capacities for people-centered governance, ensuring that citizen voices are not only heard but also acted upon.

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