

CHAIRPERSON STATEMENT ON POLLING ACTIVITIES AS AT 1900 HOURS

The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) managed to clear most of the queues by 1900 hours, the closing time. However, the Commission still attended to those in the queues by 1900hrs.

At 1800 hours most polling stations had reported a voter turnout averaging 75%. It is our view that the high voter turnout is indicative of sound voter education and publicity conducted on a receptive electorate.

ZEC has ensured that the electorate has been afforded the opportunity to exercise its constitutional right to elect its leaders.

The voting atmosphere was peaceful throughout the country. This is largely attributed to the presence of the police who maintained order at polling stations and the good deportment of the public. Even in the face of long queues at some Polling Stations, the Zimbabwean citizens still exhibited tolerance and patience.

Polling overview

Voting went on well and there was generally a high voter turnout at most polling stations. As at 1800 hours, the Commission had received reports on voter turnout from 4 provinces namely Masvingo, Bulawayo, Midlands and Harare.

Masvingo

As of 1800hrs, voter turnout was at 60.62% with less than 1% turned away for reasons such as not having IDs, defaced IDs and not appearing on the voters' roll.

Bulawayo

Voting progressed well with an average turnout of 70% with slightly over 1% turned away. Besides being turned away for not being on the voters' roll they brought expired passports, drivers' licences and birth certificates.

Midlands

Voting proceeded well. The percentage turnout was 75% while the turned away constituted about 1% for the same reasons as mentioned before. By

Harare

On average polling stations recorded around 70% turnout. At some polling stations queues had disappeared by late afternoon while at other centres queues were still visible. This was due to high turnouts at some composite polling stations which resulted in some voters taking time to identify their correct polling stations.

The Commission is yet to receive voter turnout statistics from Mashonaland West, Mashonaland Central, Mashonaland East, Matabeleland North, Manicaland, Matabeleland South but we hope to receive these before midnight.

Most polling stations in all provinces managed to close at 1900hrs except those who had voters on queues at closing time.

The Commission is saddened to learn of an unfortunate incident that occurred in Bulilima where a female voter collapsed and died at a polling station. Our deepest condolences to the family of the deceased.

Vote counting

Vote counting has commenced in some areas as per the provisions of the law. This counting is conducted in the presence of agents, observers and the press at polling station level. These stakeholders are reminded that once the process of counting has commenced they are not allowed to leave the counting centre before the end of the process.

The Commission would like to thank the Zimbabwean electorate for exercising their right to vote in peace and urges them to be patient as they wait for the results. Stakeholders are reminded to desist from announcing results as this is a prerogative of the Commission only.

Tinotenda mhuri ye Zimbabwe. Maratidza kuti nyika yeZimbabwe inyika yemadzitateguru yakazvarwa neropa reChimurenga. Ngayikomborerwe nyika ye Zimbabwe.