



CHAIRPERSON'S STATEMENT ON THE OPENING OF POLLING STATIONS FOR THE 2018 GENERAL ELECTIONS: 30 JULY 2018

By 0800hrs 90% of the 10 985 polling stations had opened on time. The voter turnout is high. The Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC) is confident that by 1900hrs it would have completed the voting process at most of the polling stations since these harmonised elections are polling station specific. The maximum threshold of each polling station is 1000 voters making the polling process convenient to both voters and polling officers.

The Commission would like to remind stakeholders that apart from the voters, electoral officials and political party agents, only accredited observers and journalists will be allowed into polling stations.

Voters are reminded that only one's national ID or valid passport are required at the polling stations while the voter registration slip or a drivers' licence are not acceptable.

UPDATE ON VOTING PROGRESS IN PROVINCES

Matabeleland North

All polling stations opened on time

Masvingo

All polling stations opened on time. There was no report from Chiredzi owing to communication challenges.

Mashonaland East

Polling stations opened on time. The turnout in Uzumba Maramba Pfungwe was high with most polling stations recording an average of 80 people per queue. In Marondera the size of queues ranged from 30 to 80 people per polling station.

Mashonaland West

Polling stations opened on time save for one at Chegutu Primary School which had the wrong ballot paper for the Local Authority election. The issue is being addressed.

Mashonaland Central

Most of the polling stations opened on time. Long queues were reported at Marian Primary School in Bindura North which opened with 120 people on the queue.

Harare

Most of the polling stations opened on time. At Greystone Primary School where there are composite polling stations there was a long queue of about 80 people. Polling Officers are being advised to direct voters to the correct polling stations at areas where there are composite polling stations to avoid confusion.

Bulawayo

Most of the polling stations opened on time. In Luveve Constituency, queues averaged 40 voters per polling station. The Joshua Mqhabuko Nkomo Airport polling station opened with only 4 people on the queue.

Manicaland

All 1438 polling stations in the province opened at 0700hrs. There is a high voter turnout at most of the polling stations. Polling is characterised by a peaceful atmosphere.

Matabeleland South

All polling stations opened at 0700hrs. In Bulilima East Constituency, there were short queues while in Beitbridge East Constituency there were very long queues.

Midlands

Most of the polling stations opened on time. In Vungu Constituency, voter turnout ranged from 6 to 90 people per queue while in Gweru Urban Constituency it ranged from 29 to 203 people per queue. The highest turnout was recorded at Kwekwe Primary School polling station with 150 people in the queue.