

UZA snubs by-elections

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The United Zimbabwe Alliance (UZA) will not participate in the 9 December by-elections due to several reasons, a party statement has revealed.

Led by Elizabeth Valerio, who was the only female presidential candidate in the 23 August harmonised election, the party has resolved to sit out the by-elections necessitated by the recall of CCC legislators and councillors by self-proclaimed interim secretary general Sengezo Tshabangu.

"We do not recognise the by-elections as legitimate due to the unconstitutional and undemocratic recall of the elected representatives," said Elvis Dzvene party spokesperson.

According to Dzvene, UZA does not have confidence in the "biased" Zimbabwe

Electoral Commission (ZEC), which has refused to implement any meaningful electoral reforms since the disputed 2023 harmonized elections. "The August 2023 elections were condemned by local and international observers as neither free nor fair, yet ZEC has not addressed the issues of intimidation, militarization of staff, lack of transparency and the shambolic voters' rolls that marred the elections."

Moreover, the party does not believe that participating in the by-elections will advance the cause of democracy and welfare Zimbabweans.

"The by-elections appear to be a diversion from the real issues affecting the nation, such as the economic crisis, the human rights violations, the corruption and the constitutional amendments aimed at

entrenching ZANU-PF dictatorship."

ZEC revealed last week that the election will gobble 5 million United States Dollars, a significant amount in a country without a functional health system and facing a myriad of other economic challenges.

"This is an unacceptable and irresponsible waste of resources that could be better used for national development and service delivery in our country at a time when we are facing a Cholera outbreak, severe shortages of essential drugs, medical equipment and medical personnel."

As a way forward, UZA recommends "a comprehensive and inclusive dialogue" to address the root causes of the political crisis and implement meaningful reforms.

"This is not a call for a government of national unity, but a sincere and genuine negotiation aimed at restoring trust and stability before the situation escalates to another 2018."

The Nomination Court sat on November the 7th to allow aspiring candidates to file their papers for the hastily arranged December 9 elections.

Recalled MPs' legal bid fails



The High Court has dismissed an application by 14 CCC MPs and 9 senators to be re-instated in parliament after their recalls by Sengezo Tshabangu, who claims to be the party's interim secretary general.

In his judgement, Justice Munamoto Mutevedzi said the burden was on CCC MPs and Senators to prove that Sengezo Tshabangu is not the party's interim SG.

"The applicants failed to produce their party constitution or any document which showed that (Tshabangu) could possibly not have held the position he claimed he

held. It was simply their word that he wasn't. That is not enough.

"The onus to prove entitlement to the declaratory orders sought was on the (CCC applicants). They did not even begin to discharge it. They have not established their case on a balance of probabilities as required by law and are therefore not entitled to the declaratur which they seek. The other relief was consequential upon the grant of the declaratur. It should also fail," said Justice Mutevedzi.

The judge said Tshabangu's letters to the presiding offi-

cers of Parliament sufficed under Section 129(1) (k) of the Constitution. He also revealed that Tshabangu was thorough and "went out of his way to prove what he ordinarily was not required to prove."

The judgement allows for the sitting of the Nomination Court on 7 November and the by-elections slates for 9 December.

When reached for comment, CCC Spokesperson, Promise Mkwanzani advised this publication to contact him later as the party was still studying the judgement

UK firm gifts Hwange local authority lifesaving engine



Hwange Local Board has received a Volvo fire engine and ancillary equipment from a United Kingdom (UK) based company, Operation Florian on Sunday.

The acting Town Secretary, Paulos Mabhureni said the 2 800 litre engine brings relief to the community of Hwange which had gone for two years without a fire engine.

“The latest acquisition comes at a time when we have been

operating without any fire engine for two years after the one we had broke down in 2021. Efforts to bring it back into the fold before the end of this year or first quarter of next year by importing the needed spare parts are underway. If we manage to bring it back to life, we would be having two fire engines which would be a positive development that will go a long way in terms of risk and disaster preparedness in our jurisdiction.”

Even though the engine was a donation, the local authority, had to part with \$15 000 USD for the shipping of the engine including duty. Mabhureni also revealed that plans are afoot to build a fire station in Hwange.

“We had included it in our 2023 budget, but we failed to undertake the project due to financial challenges, however, we are optimistic that we will commence the project next year.”

Ukhansila omutsha uthi abahlali beNgozi Mine abalawo amaphepha

Ukhansila omutsha koBulawayo omele isigaba sesibili (ward 2) uAdrian Moyo uthi ukhathazekile ngenani labantu abangela maphepha okuzalwa esigabeni sakhe.

UMoyo uveze lokhu ngesikhati ekhuluma kuhlelo “Ilihlo lemaphandleni” ku Skyz Metro FM lapha athe inani labangelamaphepha likhulu kukanti

njalo inengi lalaba abantu ngabahlala ezindaweni ezingavunyelwayo ezigoqela iNgozi Mine.

“Kulusizi kakhulu ukuthi



uyathola umuntu omdala olemuli engelawo amaphepha agoqela elokuzalwa kanye lesithupha kungasikho ukuthi kumbe bawalahla lamaphepha kodwa bevele bengazange babelawo selokhe bathetshulwa yingwe.

Endaweni enjalo uthola ukuthi imuli yonke ayilawo amaphepha okusuka kwenze impi- lo ibenzima ikakhulu lapho abantwana sekumele babhale imihloliso efuna incwadi zokuzalwa.

INgozi Mine iyakhula njalo kulezimuli kodwa kuluhlupho ukuthi inengi lalezimuli azikaze zibelawo amaphepha zikhula nje zingaziwa ngu hulumende okwenza basilele enhlweni eziyabe zikhona. Ngibethekelele ngeviki eliphelileyo ngenjongo yokukhulumisana labo ngenhlupho abahlangana lazo, bakhala kakhulu ngamaphepha."

Ekhuluma kuhlelo olufanayo, obemele inhlanganiso ye Women's Institute for Lead-

ership Development (WILD), uJacqueline Ndlovu uthe kuqakathekile ukuthi abantwana bathole amaphepha wabuya njalo wagcizelela ukuthi ukuswela komntwana amaphepha kulicala umzali asengalibotshelwa.

"Ngithanda ukuthi ngikhuthaze uzulu ukuthi abekwazi ukuthi ukungathatheli umntwana amaphepha kulicala ngoba lesisekelo sombuso siyakuqonselela ukuthi umuntu wonke kumele abelencwadi yokuzalwa njalo asiqakathekiseni ukuthatha kungakedluli amaviki ayisithupha okuyikho okubhalwe kuphepha umzali aliphiwa esanda kubeletha engakaphumi lasesbhedlela."

Igqwetha elisebenza ku Legal Resource Foundation, uGiven Sibanda, obeyingxenywe yohlelo ugcizelele kabanzi ngokuqakatheka kwamaphepha esithi kudala umehluko othile empilweni yomuntu nxa esethe wawathola.

"Ukubalamaphepha kwenza umuntu abalwe kunhlelo zonke zelizwe ngoba uyabesesiwa njengesizalwane sakuleli kodwa umuntu engelawo amaphepha lenzuzo ezitholwa yizizalwane zaseZimbabwe sekungenzeka angazitholi.

Ebantwaneni, nxa abazali bengelamaphepha kubanzima njalo ukuthi lanxa angangena esikolo afunde usengangabhali imihloliso yelizwe lonke nxa sefikile kulelo banga okwenza abanye abantwana babuyiselwe emuva kwezemfundo abazali besazama ukudinga amaphepha."

Ilihlo lemaphandleni luhlelo olulethwa yiCommunity Podium ngalolonke uLweSine ngehola lakuqala emini kuSkyz Metro FM ngenjongo yokuhlaziya lokucubungula izehlakalo ezenzeka esabelweni se Matebeleland.

Sibindi leaves BPRA to contest in by-election



Bulawayo Progressive Residents Association (BPRA) has relieved its Executive Council Chairperson, Ambrose Sibindi of his duties following his successful nomination to contest in the upcoming by-election.

Sibindi will be vying for the Member of Parliament (MP) seat in Nketa Constituency under the Citizen Coalition for Change (CCC) on the 9th of December. Kucaca Phulu, an associate of self-declared interim secretary general Sengezo Tshabangu, filed five parliamentary candidates at the nomination court and Sibindi was one of them.

Speaking to Community Podi-

um, BPRA Executive Director, Permanent Ngoma highlighted that members of the Executive Council that venture into politics must either resign or apply for a leave of absence while the organisation makes its decision.

According to the organisation's constitution Article 4.5.5, "No member of the Executive Council shall hold a political post in any political party and on the event that they are appointed as such after they have assumed duties as part of the Executive Council, such member shall automatically cease to be part of the Executive Council."

In preparation for the 9 December by-elections, the nomination sat on the 7th of November to replace councillors and members of parliament that were recalled by Tshabangu.

"Mr Ambrose Sibindi has served diligently in the organisation, standing for residents and ensuring that their plight is addressed in access to service delivery that is equitable, affordable, of quality, and easily availed. Sibindi has fought with honour to ensure Bulawayo City can reclaim its glory of being the best Municipality that Zimbabwe has ever produced," said BPRA in a statement.

Powerplay: Binga Chiefs decisive in ZANU PF candidate



Binga traditional leaders are reportedly at the centre of a disputed ZANU PF candidate selection process for the December 9 by-election, which prevented Forever Associates of Zimbabwe (FAZ) leader Kudakwashe Munsaka from getting a second bite of the cherry as party candidate for Binga North.

The seat fell vacant after CCC self-styled secretary general Sengezo Tshabangu recalled Member of Parliament, Prince Dubeko Sibanda. Munsaka lost to Sibanda in the 23 August election and was hoping for another shot in the upcoming by-election but the

influential Binga chiefs had other ideas.

Sources say the 12 chiefs of Binga North Constituency met in Bulawayo Tuesday last week to select a candidate who has potential to defeat the opposition which won the Binga North parliamentary seat in the 23 August harmonised election. According to well placed sources, there were three potential candidates namely, Cephass Siangoma Mudenda, Chinaka Muchimba and Munsaka. Muchimba emerged as the chosen candidate.

Though noting that traditional

leaders should not participate in party politics, Chief Siabuwa argued that for the sake of Binga's development, the chiefs had to intervene.

"It is normal after every election to have disputes and this selection was not based on nepotism. We want a leader who is capable of delivering because as a community we have scores of grievances which will need a competent individual hence we selected this particular candidate.

We are aware that as chiefs, we should distance ourselves from such party processes but it is in the interests of Bin-

ga residents that ZANU-PF wins Binga North because Binga has been under opposition control for decades and still we have no progress. Our involvement is to drive development.

After the struggle we were under ZAPU, but that did not yield positive developments for the community, at some point we changed to MDC but still gained nothing. For long the opposition has failed the community and so we want to give the ruling party a chance, maybe our dawn will come from there."

ZANU PF Binga Politibro member, Rebecca Fanuel said she is aware of the other six chiefs' concerns about the candidate but added that the party will work tirelessly beyond the disputes for a common cause.

"I was not part of the selection process so I am not well

versed with what transpired even though I have heard those concerns but as a party we have a common goal of victory over the constituency, hence I would like to encourage everyone involved in this process to move towards party goals and ensure that come 9 December, victory is certain," she said.

Zimbabwean traditional leaders have for long, flagrantly violated the constitution as they continue to be heavily involved in ruling party affairs.

In the run up to the recent elections, ZANU PF Second Secretary Kembo Mohadi torched a storm when he made remarks during the installation of Chief Maduna in Filabusi.

"When I came here I asked who the headmen are, as they are the ones who lead people. They are the ones who will make people go and vote

for Zanu PF. You traditional leaders are the ones who will make people go and vote for Zanu PF. I hope all the leaders here, you, Sibasa and Ndube will make your followers go and vote. We want to win resoundingly."

"May I remind you that what we agreed on should stay as is until the day the president announces the election date. Do we agree Godlwayo?" said Mohadi.

Mohadi's utterances are at odds with the Constitution of Zimbabwe regarding traditional leaders and partisan politics. All traditional leaders who include chiefs, head persons or village heads as provided in section 280(2) of the Constitution, must not be involved in partisan politics as this is a violation of the right to a free and fair election as provided in section 67 (a) of the Constitution.

ZCC rallies for peace



The Zimbabwe Council of Churches says the church must use its influence to motivate the masses to behave in a peaceful manner especially during the election period.

The call was made during a three day Post-Election Reflection Engagement recently held in Lupane.

As the nation fast approaches the 9 December by-elections to be held in Constituencies and Local Authorities whose legislators and councilors

were recalled by CCC “interim secretary general” Sengezo Tshabangu in October 2023, the ZCC reiterated its call for free, fair and peaceful elections.

Reverend Bhekinkosi Sibanda of Bubi District said there is need to reflect on the August 2023 Harmonised Elections to draw lessons and inform strategies aimed at improving democratic processes in Zimbabwe.

“Effective post-election reflection is not about assigning blame or dwelling on grievances. It is about using the outcomes of elections as an opportunity to improve democracy, address voter concerns, and build a more inclusive and participatory society,” said Rev. Sibanda.

Church leaders present participated in thoughtful deliberations and exchanged ideas on encouraging communities to move with a renewed commitment to democratic principles and in pursuit of a just and equitable future.

Reverend Flint Mutimbanyoka of Binga concurred with Rev. Sibanda and further highlighted that the engagement is a step towards mapping a way forward for the country’s electoral system.

Reverend Mutimbanyoka said: “Post-election reflection should culminate in a vision for the future, outlining steps to address voter concerns and strengthen democratic processes. It also entails a process of fostering civic engagement, promoting ethical leadership, and upholding the principles of democracy.”

Church leaders also prayed for peaceful by-elections taking into consideration that the church plays a vital role in promoting peace during elections.

Reverend Promise Ngulube called upon members of the ZCC to play their role effectively and efficiently through lobbying for peace, non-violence, civil dialogue and harmony.

In the August 2023 Harmonised Elections, ZCC played a critical role of monitoring the elections and encouraging communities to uphold peaceful conduct while exercising their right to vote. ZCC deployed more than 1 000 election observers across Zimbabwe’s ten provinces during the August 23 Harmonised Elections.

