

## **Diaspora Participation in Zimbabwe Elections - DPZE (31 July 2013):**

### **Key Points:**

**Elections in Zimbabwe are less than 3 weeks away from today 9 July 2013!!!!**

- ✓ An Estimated 3 MILLION Zimbabweans live in the Diaspora, majority of that figure are in South Africa.
- ✓ Even though the New Zimbabwe Constitution guarantees the right to vote for every Zimbabwean no matter where they are, ZANU PF has used its influence and dirty tactics to deny Zimbabweans in Diaspora their right to vote in Countries they live in.
- ✓ The African Commission Court for Human and People's rights recently ruled in favor of Zimbabweans being allowed to vote in Diaspora but Zimbabwe GOVERNMENT of NATIONAL UNITY (GNU) -ZANU PF SIDE disregarded that ruling.
- ✓ The over a decade long Crisis in Zimbabwe has not only destroyed Zimbabwe's economy, but it has inevitably destroyed the social fabric of Zimbabwean societies, families have been torn apart and communities are in disarray. The election on the 31st of July 2013 presents an opportunity for Zimbabweans to begin a process of rebuilding their lives, their families, communities, society and economy.
- ✓ Participation of Zimbabweans in Diaspora could be a huge game changer in the impending elections – with South Africa and Botswana able to influence the actual voting tallies given their close proximity to Zimbabwe:

### **Key Activities So far and upcoming Activities:**

- **Mass Mobilization of family and friends in Zimbabwe by Diasporans** through a **TELL 5 CAMPAIGN**: Each and every Zimbabwean in Diaspora is encouraged to call, sms, whatsapp or Facebook at least 5 relatives to register and to vote in the coming elections. It should be noted that Zimbabweans in Diaspora can influence their relatives in Zimbabwe as they are the ones who send monies, groceries and medical assistance to Zimbabwe families. Voices of Diasporans are thus respected in their various families.
- **Inspection of Voters Roll in Diaspora**: A huge number of Zimbabweans in RSA and Botswana have participated in past elections in Zimbabwe. This means there is always a big chance that their names are still on the voters roll. It is problematic to get Zimbabweans in Diaspora to travel to Zimbabwe to inspect the voters roll and then go again to vote!! Through a website called: **[www.myzimvote.com](http://www.myzimvote.com)** our **volunteers (10 in Botswana and 15 in RSA so far)** have been able (and continue ) to check the details of Zimbabweans in Diaspora as long as they have a Zimbabwean identity number. The data we are compiling and the publicity that is coming out of that activity will help to get as many registered Zimbabweans into Zimbabwe for elections on 31 July 2013. If resources allow, Zimbabweans in diaspora who are eligible to vote, as confirmed through myzimvote.com

website, will be assisted with transportation depending on availability. Priority will be given to those who have no means to travel but are on the voters roll. Also the vulnerable like migrant Zimbabwe women doing piece jobs in RSA and Botswana will be a priority if they are registered to Vote.

➤ **Training and Deployment of Diaspora Election Observer Mission/Embedded Monitors:**

There are around 210 House of Assembly contested seats in Zimbabwe according to Zimbabwe Elections Commission. At least 40 of the seats are in remote rural areas and pro-democracy parties in Zimbabwe have alluded to the fact that in past elections they have failed to deploy enough agents and observers in those far areas. The Diaspora Participation in Zimbabwe Elections is planning to train at least 40 Elections observers strategically chosen to represent and observe in 40 remote rural constituencies. This will help the efforts of pro-democracy movements in Zimbabwe. We envisage that we will have 1 day induction training for our 40 volunteers who will then be deployed in Zimbabwe. To reduce costs, volunteers will be pre-selected with a special category being a volunteer has to come originally from the place they will be deployed. This will also mean there won't be need for accommodation costs and no risk to security of volunteers as they will be known in their areas.

➤ **Mobilization and Transportation of Zimbabwean Farm Workers in Limpopo and Francistown to go to vote:**

There thousands and thousands of Zimbabweans eligible to vote in areas of RSA and Botswana near Zimbabwe borders with the 2 country. The campaign which has started on a small scale is to check the registration details of Zimbabweans in these areas and noting those who need transportation assistance to cross into Zimbabwe to vote. On average the areas we are targeting are with 70 to 100 kms to Zimbabwe side which reduces significantly the costs associated with helping those who require transportation into Zimbabwe for voting.

➤ **Demonstration Against NIKUV and to put Zimbabwean Elections on the Spotlight:**

An Israeli Company called NIKUV is in Zimbabwe based at Defense House in Harare. This company is helping ZANU PF to disenfranchise voters through manipulation of the voters' roll. The Prime Minister Morgan R Tsvangirai last month even confronted Zimbabwe Elections Commission and Registrar General's office over the activities of NIKUV. We are also aware that NIKUV has helped to rig elections in other countries and most recently in Kenya. The Diaspora Participation in Zimbabwe Elections will next week march or demonstrate at **NIKUV offices in SANDTON RSA** and tell NIKUV to stop manipulating our electoral processes in Zimbabwe. We are doing a mass mobilization so that as many Zimbabweans as possible will march and petition. This is important as it will hopefully bring the world focus on NIKUV'S illegal activities and also dovetails with the call for free and fair elections in Zimbabwe.

***NB- On Saturday 13 July 2013 our volunteers in RSA will be giving out flyers and checking voters roll at Berea Park RSA and also in Francistown in Botswana!!!!***

**AREAS OF FUNDING IN ORDER OF PRIORITY AND URGENCY:**

NB – Activities and figures below are rough estimates and informed by the experiences of the “let’s go home and vote campaign of 2008 June in Botswana”. Diaspora Participation in Zimbabwe Elections is aware that the activities and costs are ambitious given the time left between now and elections. We will cut and streamline activities and budgets depending on resources that become available.

Broad Objective	Activity	Time	Resources required	Costs	Comment
Diasporans from Zimbabwe participate in Zimbabwe Electoral Processes in general and 31 July election in Particular	Mass mobilization- Tell Campaign: 5	Now to 30 July 2013	1-Data bundles for internet. 2-Airtime 3-Flyers 4-Transport 5-20 volunteers food allowance	R 5000 for RSA and Botswana.	Contributors are free to pick an item they specifically want to fund.
2-	Training of 40 Diaspora volunteers to observe elections in 40 remote areas in Zimbabwe.	19 July 2013	1Facilitator Resources Person. (free) 2Venue(free) 3Stationery 4lunch	R 1000 (RSA)	
3-	N3-IKUV Demonstration.	20 July 2013	Transportation Placards Flyers Water	R3500 (200 ppl)	1 bus of 80 ppl cost R900!!!
4-	Mobilization of Zimbabweans in Limpopo and Francis town and transportation of Zimbabweans in those needing Transportation help.	22 to 30 July 2013>	Airtime Volunteer Allowances Transportation/hiring lorries and kombis logistic flyers	Botswana (Francistown) R10 000) RSA (Limpopo) (R15000)	
	Deployment of 40 Diaspora Observers:	29- 2 Aug 2013	Bus fares Allowances	R 700 X 40 observers =R28000	Depending on funds we could limit number of observers if it becomes necessary!!

**Zum Hintergrund:** (Ursprüngliches Anschreiben Anfang Juli 2013):

**Aufruf zur Unterstützung bei der Mobilisierung von Exilsimbabwern, sich an der kommenden Wahl zu beteiligen.**

Die Kampagne unseres Freundes Reason Machengere und einem erprobten Netzwerk in Gaborone, Botswana sowie in Johannesburg, Südafrika basiert auf der Erfahrung einer Go-to-vote Kampagne 2008 in Botswana, an der wir persönlich beteiligt waren. Aus dieser und einer Folgekampagne existiert ein Netzwerk von Helfern und die Kenntnis über Ballungszentren der Exilanten.

Die Grundidee lautet: Wenn möglichst viele Simbabwer aus dem Exil sich an den Wahlen beteiligen, steigt die Chance auf einen Regierungswechsel. Wir kennen die aktuellen Zahlen nicht. 2010 hielten sich zwischen 500.000 und 1 Million wahlberechtigte Simbabwer in Botswana vorzugsweise an 5 verschiedenen Orten auf. Allein in Greater Johannesburg waren es schätzungsweise 1 Million Menschen.

Die Erfahrung zeigte jedoch, dass viele Exilanten nicht in den Wahlregistrierungslisten verzeichnet waren.

Deshalb zielt die Kampagne auf folgende Punkte:

1. per Internet Einblick zu gewähren, ob jemand als Wahlberechtigter überhaupt registriert ist.
2. hierdurch können Daten erhoben werden, wie fair überhaupt die Wahlregistrierung im Vorfeld ist.
3. können potentielle Wähler sich zusammenschließen, um bei zu erwartenden Übergriffen voneinander zu wissen und Koordinationsstellen zwecks Öffentlichkeit zu alarmieren. Der beste –wenn auch unzureichende- Schutz ist Öffentlichkeit und Kontakt zu Wahlbeobachtern der SADC.
4. Im Einzelfall soll bei Reisekosten geholfen werden.
5. Tell-Five Flyer sollen zur Verbreitung des dezentralen Internetservices unter den Simbabwern dienen. In Gesprächen vor Ort soll zum Wahlgang motiviert werden und über Sicherheitsmaßnahmen aufgeklärt werden.

Im ersten Schritt werden Gelder benötigt für:

Flyer in Botswana: 50€

Flyer in Johannesburg: 50€

Internet Zugang für Gaborone und Johannesburg: je 100€

Die Kampagne soll jedoch noch ausgeweitet werden.

**Und der neueste Bericht aus der Zimbabwischen Diaspora vom 17. Juli:**

**Help\_us\_stop\_rigging\_of\_elections\_in\_Zimbabwe**

Help us stop rigging of elections in Zimbabwe- NIKUV must be exposed, Registered Zimbabwe Diasporans must be enabled to vote in Zimbabwe on 31 July 2013. Support our demonstration against NIKUV on 19 July 2013!!!!!! Diaspora participation in Zimbabwe elections can counter the blatant rigging stated below!!!!!!

*See Statement below by Tendai Biti on ZANU PF and NIKUV VOTE RIGGING!!!!!!!!!!!!*

**Voters' roll**

The intensive mobile voter registration exercise has become a major theatre of shenanigans. In 2008, Zanu PF used violence and it has gone a step further and has now resorted to the use of keyboards and computers to rig the coming elections.

Thousands of Zimbabweans were disenfranchised during the voter registration exercise as they were not informed of where the centres were while officials at the centres were on a go slow and countless of prospective voters failed to register.

In Harare alone over 300 000 people failed to register. In areas, which are falsely perceived to be Zanu PF strongholds, high numbers of people registering were recorded. In Harare only 27 000 voters were registered while 57 000 were registered in Mashonaland West and 60 000 in Mashonaland East. Harare province had only five teams to conduct voter registration while Mashonaland East had 18.

One striking and mysterious scenario has been that some constituencies in Harare have actually recorded decreases in the number of persons on the voters' roll. Dzivarasekwa is an example. In 2008 there were 38 000 voters and that number has decreased to 22 000.

Last week, in a meeting with Prime Minister Morgan Tsvangirai, the Registrar General of Voters, Tobaiwa Mudede asked for a further US\$1 million to redo Harare, funds which were disbursed by the Treasury but nothing was done. It is therefore a logical thing to extend voter registration to next week Friday and I hope wisdom will prevail.

The numbers of people who have never registered to vote and are finding themselves on the voters' roll are increasing. Others in a particular ward have been transferred without their permission to another ward.

At the epicentre of this is a notorious Israeli company called Nikuv, which operates a drip irrigation company, called Third Stock and we are taking steps to establish its legal status and how they came to be working with the RGV. I can safely say there were not awarded a tender by the State Procurement Board and the RGV is only a department under the Ministry of Home Affairs that cannot award tenders.