

Joint statement by international election observation missions to Zimbabwe's Harmonised Elections 30 July 2018

2 August 2018

We, the International Election Observer Missions present for the 30 July Harmonised Elections in Zimbabwe, while appreciating the generally peaceful and orderly pre-electoral environment and on voting day, express our grave concern about the regrettable outbreaks of post-election violence.

At the outset, we extend our sympathies to the families and loved ones of those affected by these troubling incidents.

While recognising the right to peaceful protest, we condemn vandalism and destruction of property and call on political party supporters to abide by the law.

We denounce the excessive use of force to quell protests and urge the police and army to exercise restraint.

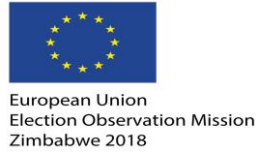
We urge the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission (ZEC), to release the full and detailed results expeditiously, in a transparent and accountable manner. This election presents an opportunity for Zimbabwe to break the cycle of electoral contentions and post-election violence.

We call on the leadership of all political parties and their supporters, in particular the two main parties, ZANU-PF and the MDC Alliance, civil society, faith based organisations, and all other stakeholders to safeguard the integrity of the political and electoral process.

We urge all stakeholders and citizens to pursue grievances peacefully and through the established legal channels.

We encourage political leaders to show magnanimity in victory and graciousness in defeat.

On 30 July, the people of Zimbabwe went to vote in high numbers, aspiring for a new beginning. We stand in solidarity with them as they look up to their leaders, and all stakeholders to complete this process peacefully and credibly, and to ensure their votes truly count.



Agreed by the following Heads of International Election Observation Missions in Harare, Zimbabwe on 2 August 2018:

His Excellency Hailemariam Dessalegn Boshe, Head of the African Union Election Observation Mission (AUEOM)

His Excellency John Dramani Mahama, Head of the Commonwealth Election Observation Mission

His Excellency Tete Antonio, Secretary of State for External Relations of the Republic of Angola and Head of the SADC Election Observation Mission

Justice Dr Patrick Matibini, Head of the SADC Parliamentary Forum Election Observation Mission

Judge Semistocles Kaijage, Head of Mission, ECF - SADC

Ambassador Ashraf Rashed, Head of COMESA Election Observation Mission

Elmar Brok, Head of the European Union Election

Masa Janjusevic, Head of the Carter Centre Election Observation Mission

Joint International Observation Delegation of IRI and NDI