
ZCBC PRE-ELECTION STATEMENT 22 AUGUST 2023

“Voting peacefully is a shared Responsibility.”

Peace Be with You!

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God (**Matthew 5:9**)

Tomorrow the nation goes for the 2023 harmonized elections. The Zimbabwe Catholic Bishops' Conference (ZCBC through its social arm of justice and peace, would like to take this opportunity to encourage everyone to go and vote peacefully. Voting in our view is a duty for all to contribute to the common good of our beloved nation. As ZCBC, we believe that voting is an opportunity for everyone to directly participate in the governance of our country. These elections however coincide with the Catholic Church's celebration of the Synod on Synodality. The meaning of Synod is moving together, seeing together, and working together as a Church. In the spirit of the Synod, everyone is given an opportunity to participate freely, to speak out and to be listened to. In this Synod we have three main pillars namely communion, participation, and mission. In the same way during elections, everyone is encouraged to participate in communion with others, in the mission of building our nation.

As a Church, we believe that peaceful and non-violent elections are the only legitimate way to seek support for public offices. We have made strides in growing to be a democratic country and we strongly encourage a peaceful environment because human life is sacred. We share the views of Pope Francis who considers politics as a noble profession which seeks the promotion of dignity of the human person and respect for human life (*Fratelli Tutti*, No. 154). This kind of politics is at the service of the common good.

We commend the media for their work and encourage them to continue to be objective in their coverage during elections.

We pray for peaceful elections. Remember that there is life before, during and after elections. We therefore call upon all voters to respect the electoral processes.

Dear Zimbabweans, we humbly ask you to continue to be tolerant, to be respectful and to be peaceful during voting and after the announcement of the election results. May the Good Lord continue to Bless you.

Let us all go and vote in Peace.

Thank you!

God Bless Zimbabwe



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Right Rev. Bishop Rudolf Nyandoro (ZCBC-CCJPZ Bishop Chairman)