

Submitted by: ACT Zimbabwe Forum through forum coordinator, Ms Sostina Takure

ACT Alliance public statement on the political situation in Zimbabwe

2 Timothy 1:7

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

Zimbabwe is coming out of a contested election, whose result had to be determined by the Constitutional Court. The ACT Zimbabwe Forum worked with other civil society organizations to call for a peaceful, free and fair election. The regrettable post-election violence that led to the death of 6 people marred a somewhat peaceful process. This violence and the Constitutional Court challenge point to a still very fragmented and polarized society.

The African Ubuntu philosophy speaks to oneness, to human beings being inextricably linked to each other, and the Zimbabwean people will rise above political differences and get down to work to rebuild their country and establish it as the breadbasket of Africa.

ACT Alliance, expresses the hope that the end of the election heralds the beginning of work to rebuild Zimbabwe. The ACT Zimbabwe Forum will work with Church leaders, ecumenical bodies and the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission to ensure that sustainable healing and reconciliation mechanisms are put in place to address all the vestiges of fear, violence and pain.

ACT Alliance, through its Zimbabwe Forum, urges all Zimbabweans to put unity and Ubuntu first before their political affiliations because the hope for a better Zimbabwe is hinged on a united people, and that hope burns in every Zimbabwean.

We further call on all political parties to put nation building first and give the hope for a better Zimbabwe back to the people as they embrace diversity and champion social and economic progress.

The new government has the big task of ensuring that there is a departure from the impunity of the past as they seek to restore human dignity, respect the sanctity of life, and observe and uphold human rights. Therefore, we urge the government to be a government of the people for the people without regard to who voted for or against them. Such an inclusive approach will lead to the development of the country.

To the international community, we lament that for too long Zimbabwe has been ostracized from the international community, as such the country needs moral, material and financial assistance and solidarity to be able to get back on its feet. We call on the international community to open its doors to Zimbabwe and seek to help the people of Zimbabwe rise from economic and social deprivation.

We believe that this is the time for Zimbabwe to rise. Its people are hardworking, resilient, God loving and patient. Fear of violence should be eliminated and love, peace and harmony should reign for the restoration of Zimbabwe.