

**TO ALL STAKEHOLDERS**

General Public

Political Players (Aspiring candidates, campaign teams, supporters, political parties among others)

 **APPEAL TO REFRAIN FROM VIOLENCE**

As the country gears up for the imminent March By-Elections, reports of incidences of violence are awash on both online and mainstream media and it is indeed a cause for concern for everyone. As the National Peace and Reconciliation Commission (NPRC), we are mandated to work towards the prevention of conflicts, mediation of disputes and facilitating dialogue among institutions, political parties and communities where there are disputes, and any incident of violence in the country unsettles the Commission. Violent incidences threaten to disturb the peace and unity during the campaign period and as a Commission, it is very important to ensure that those pockets of violence are nipped in the bud before they degenerate further to levels that may result with unimaginable loss of lives and property. Despite media reports, no official reports on violence have been made to the Commission. The Commission will work together with other stakeholders such as other Independent Commissions and the Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP) to promote peace prior to the elections as a well as the post - election period. The Commission is aware that some elements may take advantage of the situation in the country to disturb the country’s peace and tranquility and the Commission’s collaboration with the ZRP will be pertinent to ensure peace prevails. It is also worrisome to note that some members of the society are reportedly heard on audios circulating on social media encouraging the Youths to fight back as that alone has the potential to cause serious damage which may even result with fatalities. The Commission would like to urge political parties, party supporters, aspiring candidates, campaign teams to refrain from any form of violence. It is the responsibility of all stakeholders to uphold the laws of this country in order for the nation to come up with a credible election and to live in a peaceful Zimbabwe. To the electorate, the Commission urges them not to participate in violent activities as that may ruin the achievement of middle income economy by 2030 as encapsulated in the National Development Strategy 1 because any form of development is anchored on existence of peace.

**Issued by:**

**NPRC**

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