

PROCLAMATION

by

HIS EXCELLENCY THE HONOURABLE ROBERT GABRIEL MUGABE, Grand Commander of the Zimbabwe Order of Merit, President of Zimbabwe and Commander-in-Chief of the Defence Forces of Zimbabwe.

WHEREAS it is provided by section 3 of the Referendums Act [*Chapter 2:10*] that, whenever the President considers it desirable to ascertain the view of voters on any question or issue, he may by proclamation in the *Gazette*—

- (a) declare that a referendum is to be held in order to ascertain the view of voters on that question or issue; and
- (b) appoint a day or days for the holding of the referendum; and
- (c) state the hours at which voting for the purposes of the referendum will commence and will close;

AND WHEREAS, by Article VI of the Global Political Agreement (the provisions of which are embodied as the “Interparty Political Agreement” in Schedule 8 to the Constitution of Zimbabwe), the Committee on Standing Rules and Orders of Parliament appointed the Constitution Parliamentary Select Committee on the drafting of a new constitution for Zimbabwe (referred to as “COPAC”) on the 12th April, 2009, which consisted of certain Members of Parliament from the political parties that participated in the Global Political Agreement and a representative of the Council of Chiefs who sits in Parliament;

AND WHEREAS COPAC duly prepared a draft Constitution for Zimbabwe, under cover of a report that was tabled before Parliament on the 6th and 7th of February, 2013, and adopted by Parliament;

AND WHEREAS I consider it desirable to ascertain the view of voters on whether or not the said draft Constitution, should be enacted as the Constitution of Zimbabwe;

Proclamation 1 of 2013

AND WHEREAS it is the function of the Zimbabwe Electoral Commission to conduct referendums in terms of section 100C of the Constitution of Zimbabwe:

NOW, THEREFORE, under and by virtue of the powers vested in the President as aforesaid, I do, by this my Proclamation—

- (a) declare that a referendum is to be held in order to ascertain the view of voters on whether or not the draft Constitution which is published in a *Gazette Extraordinary* together with this Proclamation should be adopted as the Constitution of Zimbabwe; and
- (b) appoint Saturday the 16th March, 2013, as the day on which the referendum will be held; and
- (c) state that, on the day on which the referendum is held, voting at polling stations will commence at seven o'clock in the morning and close at seven o'clock in the evening.

Given under my hand and the Public Seal of Zimbabwe at Harare this fourteenth day of February, in the year of Our Lord two thousand and thirteen.

R. G. MUGABE,
President.

By Command of the President.