

# **Issues surrounding The Formation of a Transitional government in Zimbabwe**

**A Survey Conducted by the Mass Public  
Opinion Institute**

**August 2003**

**Prepared by**

Tulani Sithole

Ethel Muchena

Charles Mangongera

Sharon Nhengu

Annacollectah Manjengwa

## **Table of Contents**

1. Acknowledgements	2
2. Introduction	3
3. Sampling	3
4. Case processing summary	4
5. Data entry and analysis	7
6. Selection and training of enumerators	7
7. Limitations of the survey	7
8. Question 1	8
9. Question 2	9
10. Question 3	10
11. Question 4	11
12. Question 5	12
13. Question 6	13
14. Question 7	14
15. Question 8	15
16. Question 9	16
17. Question 10	17
17. Question 11	18
19. Question 12	19
20. Question 13	20
21. Question 14	21
22. Question 15	25
23. Question 16	26
24. Conclusions	27

## **Acknowledgements**

The idea for this study originated from the political climate prevailing in Zimbabwe at the moment. The “talks about talks” and the way forward for the country have been prominent in the media lately. Among the issues proposed, as a way forward is the formation of a transitional government that will pave the way for fresh presidential elections. In keeping with the objective of the Mass Public Opinion Institute to tap public opinion in this country concerning topical issues, the survey sought to find out what the people feel and think about a transitional government and other related issues.

We would like to thank all the people who spared their time to answer our questions. The surveys we carry out would not be a success without you all. Special thanks also go to the Field Enumerators who travelled the width and breadth of this country meticulously collecting data. Thank you so much guys.

## **Executive Summary**

This survey examines the issues surrounding the formation of a transitional government in Zimbabwe. In addition, it also examines people's views regarding a government of national unity and the succession debate within ZANU (PF). The survey was motivated by the desire to find out the views of the general populace in view of the current debate on the way forward for this country.

The survey found out that there is a desire for a change to the status quo. Most people favour concurrent presidential and parliamentary elections. Also outstanding is the desire for fresh elections. For the majority of people, the solution to the problems facing the country lies in dialogue. The two major parties are both expected to compromise and climb down from the positions so far maintained. Further, people expect a democratic selection process in the ZANU (PF) succession issue, with Simba Makoni being the candidate people feel would fare better against the opposition.

## **Introduction**

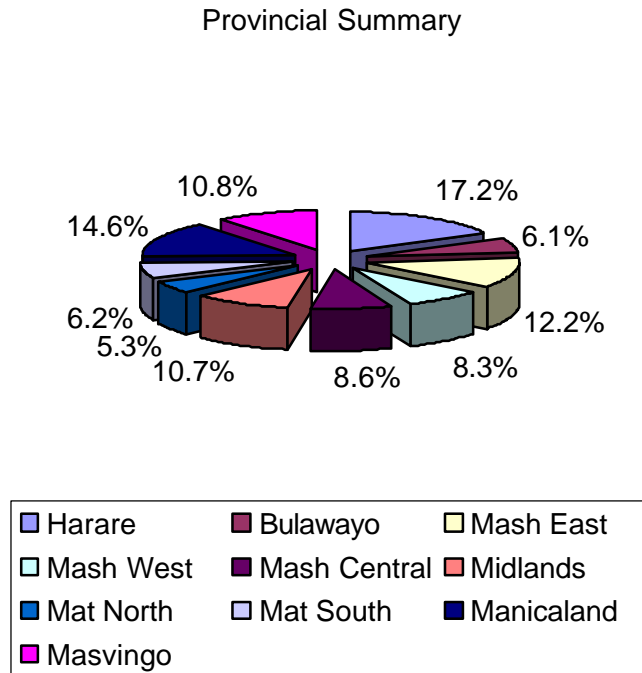
The purpose of this survey was to gauge public opinion on issues surrounding the formation of a transitional government. The questions asked ranged from knowledge of what constitutes a transitional government, the succession issue in ZANU (PF) to the desirability of a government of national unity.

## **Sampling**

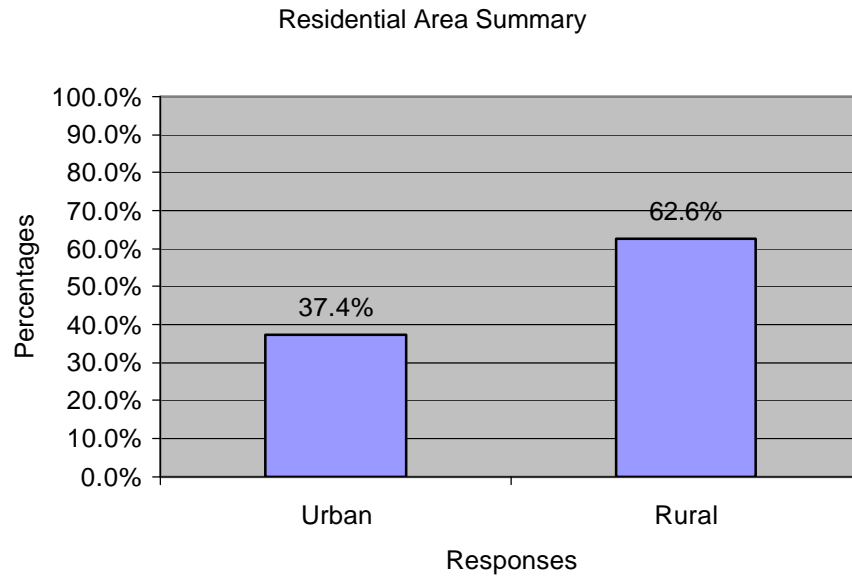
A total of 1351 questionnaires were administered. The questionnaires were distributed among the provinces on the basis of the provincial population sizes as announced by the Central Statistical Office following the 2002 national population census. Two districts in each province, two wards in each district and two villages in each ward were randomly selected for questionnaire administration. The total sample was divided between males and females and between urban and rural residential areas in proportion to their percentages in the national population. In total, 654 or 48.4% of the respondents were male and 697 or 51.6% were female. 837 or 62.6% of the respondents were drawn from rural areas while 499 or 37.4% were drawn from urban areas.

## Case Processing Summary

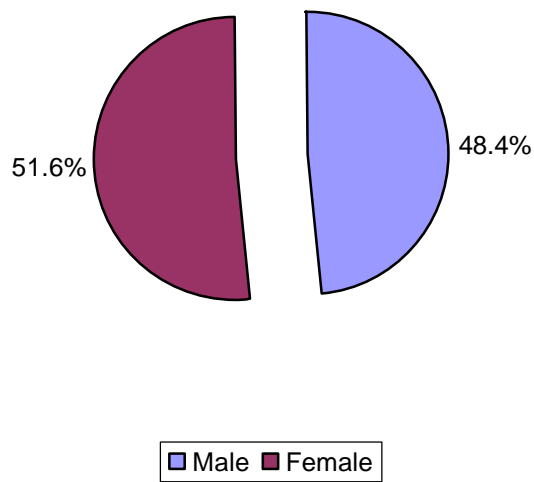
Figure 1: Provincial Summary



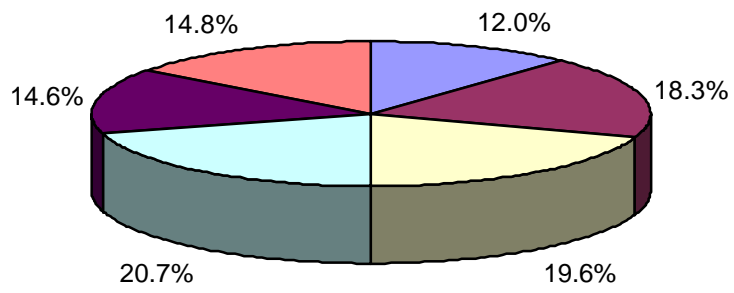
**Figure 2: Residential Area Summary**



**Figure3: Gender Summary**



**Figure 4: Age Summary**



## **Data Collection, Entry and Analysis**

As is the case with all the Institute's surveys, the Field Enumerators were selected from a pool registered with the Institute. This pool is made up of former and current students drawn from the various tertiary institutions around Zimbabwe. These are individuals whom we have worked with before and who have experience in data collection. Training was conducted in Harare and Bulawayo.

For data collection, we used a questionnaire that had 17 questions. It included both structured close-ended questions and open-ended questions. Three teams of enumerators, each team comprising of 5 Enumerators and 1 Supervisor were deployed throughout the country's 10 political provinces for a period of 18 days, during the second half of July.

Data entry and analysis was done in the Institute's computer lab using the Scientific Package for Social Sciences (SPSS 11.5).

## **Limitations of the Survey**

The major limitation we faced in carrying out this interview was the reluctance of some people to respond to the questions. In some instances respondents would decline to carry on with the interview midway through the questionnaire. Fear still pervades some of the districts in the country. Kwekwe and Bindura in particular recorded high rejection rates.

**Q 1.**What do you understand by “ transitional government”?

The survey shows that a significant majority of the respondents do not know what the term ‘transitional government means. We recorded five responses in order of their frequency.

- 1 Do not know (80.0%)
- 2 ‘Care-taker’ government (6.6%)
- 3 Government of national unity (1.2%)
- 4 Change of government (1.1%)



**Q 2.** Some people have suggested that the ruling party and the opposition should form a transitional government that should be tasked with organizing a re-run of the presidential election within the shortest period of time possible. How supportive are you of this idea?

**Table 1: By Province**

	% Very Supportive	% Supportive	% Neither supportive nor opposed	% Opposed	% Very opposed	% Other
Harare	36.6	35.3	09.1	09.5	08.6	00.9
Bulawayo	54.2	19.3	20.5	04.8	00.0	01.2
Mash East	17.6	46.7	14.5	12.7	07.3	01.2
Mash West	50.5	23.4	05.4	15.3	04.5	00.9
Mash Central	26.7	34.5	22.4	11.2	05.2	00.0
Midlands	53.5	24.3	05.6	07.6	05.6	03.5
Mat North	55.1	23.2	10.1	08.7	02.9	00.0
Mat South	46.4	21.4	21.4	03.6	07.1	00.0
Manicaland	35.2	34.2	12.2	12.2	05.1	01.0
Masvingo	30.3	35.2	05.0	13.8	13.1	02.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.1</b>	<b>31.8</b>	<b>11.8</b>	<b>10.5</b>	<b>6.5</b>	<b>1.2</b>

**Table 2: By Residential Area**

Rural	36.3	31.7	12.1	11.9	06.6	01.4
Urban	41.2	32.1	11.4	08.2	06.4	00.8

**Table 3: By Gender**

Female	34.7	32.9	14.8	10.9	05.0	01.6
Male	41.8	30.6	08.6	10.0	08.2	00.8

**Table 4: By Age**

18-20yrs	46.3	24.4	11.9	15.0	01.9	00.6
21-34yrs	38.1	36.8	09.7	07.7	07.3	00.4
25-30yrs	27.9	35.2	10.6	07.6	07.6	01.1
31-40yrs	41.2	32.6	08.6	11.5	05.4	00.7
41-50	30.8	30.3	15.4	12.8	09.2	01.5
51+	35.0	27.5	17.0	10.5	07.0	03.0

The responses within the provinces reflects the national picture of the fact that people support the idea of a transitional government which should be tasked with organizing a re-run of the presidential election. 38.1% say that this is a noble idea and are “very supportive”. 31.8% are “supportive” thus a total of 69.9% think that the ruling party and the opposition have an obligation of forming a transitional government. Interestingly this view also has a majority even in provinces that traditionally have been considered ZANU (PF) strongholds. The same applies in the rural areas, which too have been considered ZANU (PF)’s strongest support base.

**Q 3.**Some people in Zimbabwe and in the international community have suggested that ZANU PF and the opposition should form a government of national unity while others say they should not. What is your opinion on this issue?

**Table 5:** By Province

	%ZANU( PF) & MDC shld form a gvt of national unity	%Zanu pf & MDC shld not form a gvt of national unity	%Don't know	% Other
Harare	41.6	55.4	02.6	00.4
Bulawayo	67.5	27.7	01.2	03.6
Mash East	53.9	44.2	01.8	00.0
Mash West	63.1	33.3	02.7	00.9
Mash Central	67.2	26.7	05.2	00.9
Midlands	56.9	40.3	02.8	00.0
Mat North	60.0	32.9	05.7	01.4
Mat South	63.1	28.6	08.3	00.0
Manicaland	52.3	39.6	06.6	01.5
Masvingo	55.2	42.1	02.8	00.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>39.8</b>	<b>03.8</b>	<b>00.7</b>

**Table 6:** By Residential Area

Rural	58.3	36.3	04.6	00.7
Urban	51.1	45.7	02.4	00.8

**Table 7:** By Gender

Female	59.5	34.3	05.6	00.6
Male	51.5	45.7	01.8	00.9

**Table 8:** By Age

18-20yrs	62.7	33.5	03.7	00.0
21-34yrs	60.7	36.8	01.6	00.8
25-30yrs	50.8	45.1	03.8	00.4
31-40yrs	48.2	46.8	03.9	01.1
41-50	54.1	41.3	04.1	00.5
51+	62.0	30.5	06.0	01.5

55.6% are of the opinion that ZANU PF and MDC should form a government of national unity. The thinking among the respondents appears to be that a government of national unity will bring genuine peace, law and order as well as social and economic development. In 2000 a survey conducted by the Institute showed that 73.7% respondents were in favour of a government of national unity (GNU).

**Q 4** If you are of the opinion that the two parties should not form a government of national unity, which of the following statements best describes why you are opposed to the idea?

**Table 9: By Province**

	%MDC lost election	%Opposition is needed	% ZANU (PF) manipulate MDC	%Don't know	%Other
Harare	09.2	42.6	39.7	04.3	04.3
Bulawayo	00.0	50.0	45.5	04.5	00.0
Mash East	35.4	37.8	18.3	07.3	01.2
Mash West	05.1	56.4	30.8	05.1	02.6
Mash Central	28.2	35.9	17.9	17.9	00.0
Midlands	12.3	47.4	36.8	01.8	01.8
Mat North	09.1	18.2	72.7	00.0	00.0
Mat South	00.0	32.0	64.0	04.0	00.0
Manicaland	16.8	44.2	30.5	08.4	00.0
Masvingo	06.3	28.6	46.0	04.8	14.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>40.5</b>	<b>36.1</b>	<b>06.0</b>	<b>03.1</b>

**Table 10: By Residential Area**

Rural	17.9	38.5	32.6	07.6	03.2
Urban	09.4	43.3	40.8	03.7	02.9

**Table 11: By Gender**

Female	13.4	35.4	38.1	09.7	03.4
Male	15.1	44.8	34.4	02.8	02.8

**Table 12: By Age**

18-20yrs	12.1	41.4	37.9	05.2	03.4
21-34yrs	10.9	47.5	31.7	08.9	01.0
25-30yrs	10.5	47.4	33.1	06.0	03.0
31-40yrs	13.8	42.8	35.2	05.5	02.8
41-50	16.5	31.8	42.4	05.9	03.5
51+	28.6	20.6	41.3	03.2	06.3

40.5% say it is important to have an opposition for democracy to function effectively and therefore the MDC should not join ZANU (PF). 36.1% do not trust ZANU (PF) and fear that the opposition could be “swallowed”. The bottom line for most respondents appears to be that an opposition party keeps the government on its toes and is therefore necessary.

**Q 5** Would you be in favor of a constitutional amendment that will require that parliamentary and presidential elections run concurrently in Zimbabwe?

**Table 13:** By Province

	%Yes	%No	%I don't care	%Don't know	%other
Harare	64.2	26.7	04.3	04.3	00.4
Bulawayo	71.1	25.3	01.2	02.4	00.0
Mash East	57.0	34.5	03.6	04.8	00.0
Mash West	64.3	33.9	00.0	00.9	00.9
Mash Central	49.1	39.7	04.3	06.0	00.9
Midlands	53.5	43.0	01.4	02.1	00.0
Mat North	73.2	18.3	01.4	07.0	00.0
Mat South	69.0	19.0	00.0	11.9	00.0
Manicaland	62.4	22.8	06.6	07.6	00.5
Masvingo	39.7	54.8	01.4	04.1	00.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.2</b>	<b>32.6</b>	<b>03.0</b>	<b>05.0</b>	<b>00.3</b>

**Table 14:** By Residential Area

Rural	56.0	34.6	03.1	06.0	00.2
Urban	64.5	29.1	02.8	03.2	00.4

**Table 15:** By Gender

Female	56.4	31.9	03.9	07.5	00.3
Male	62.2	33.2	02.0	02.3	00.3

**Table 16:** By Age

18-20yrs	57.8	35.4	02.5	04.3	00.0
21-34yrs	57.7	35.4	02.8	04.1	00.0
25-30yrs	65.8	28.1	01.9	04.2	00.0
31-40yrs	63.6	29.6	03.2	03.6	00.0
41-50	54.5	35.9	03.5	04.0	02.0
51+	52.0	33.5	04.0	10.5	00.0

59.2% favors a constitutional amendment that would require parliamentary and presidential elections to be held concurrently in Zimbabwe. Judging also from the apathy that characterized the just ended local elections and parliamentary by-elections, it appears that people are tired of elections. This is a view that emerges whichever way the data is analysed. One respondent said, "If it is just one election, at least we will get beaten up once".

**Q 6** If you were in favor of this constitutional amendment, when would you like the concurrent elections to be held?

**Table 17:** By Province

	%Immediately	%In 2005	%In 2008	%Don't know	%Other
Harare	63.8	15.3	03.6	17.3	00.0
Bulawayo	64.3	28.6	03.6	01.8	01.8
Mash East	69.8	18.8	02.1	08.3	01.0
Mash West	40.8	38.0	14.1	05.6	01.4
Mash Central	45.3	29.7	09.4	12.5	03.1
Midlands	52.6	32.1	11.5	02.6	01.3
Mat north	78.4	13.7	03.9	02.0	02.0
Mat south	74.2	06.5	03.2	16.1	00.0
Manicaland	59.3	14.2	07.4	16.7	02.5
Masvingo	44.8	44.8	08.6	01.7	00.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>59.8</b>	<b>21.8</b>	<b>06.4</b>	<b>10.7</b>	<b>01.2</b>

**Table 18:** By Residential Area

Rural	55.7	23.6	08.0	10.9	01.7
Urban	65.6	19.4	04.0	10.5	00.5

**Table 19:** By Gender

Female	54.8	23.9	06.9	13.2	01.1
Male	64.9	19.7	05.8	08.3	01.3

**Table 20:** By Age

18-20yrs	63.7	20.6	03.9	11.8	00.0
21-34yrs	60.5	24.8	05.7	07.6	01.3
25-30yrs	63.2	20.2	05.7	09.8	01.0
31-40yrs	64.8	21.4	01.5	10.7	01.5
41-50	48.8	28.0	11.2	11.2	00.8
51+	53.7	15.7	13.2	14.9	02.5

Respondents are impatient to wait any longer hence 59.8% say that it is better for the elections to be held “immediately”. 21.8% say in 2005 and a few, 6.4% can wait up to 2008 when the presidential election will be due. Interestingly 55.7% of those residing in the rural areas which are believed to be ZANU PF strongholds feel that the concurrent elections should be held immediately.

**Q 7** Do you think ZANU (PF) and MDC should resume talks to find a solution to the country's problems?

**Table 21:** By Province

	% Yes	% No	% Don't know	% Other
Harare	77.2	18.5	03.0	01.3
Bulawayo	89.2	06.0	01.2	03.6
Mash East	84.8	11.5	02.4	01.2
Mash West	75.9	19.6	03.6	00.9
Mash Central	85.3	07.8	05.2	01.7
Midlands	71.3	26.6	02.1	00.0
Mat North	78.9	14.1	04.2	02.8
Mat South	89.3	08.3	02.4	00.0
Manicaland	79.2	13.7	07.1	00.0
Masvingo	77.4	21.2	01.4	00.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>80.0</b>	<b>15.6</b>	<b>03.4</b>	<b>01.0</b>

**Table 22:** By Residential Area

Rural	79.3	15.8	04.0	00.8
Urban	81.1	15.3	02.4	01.2

**Table 23:** By Gender

Female	80.6	14.2	04.3	00.9
Male	79.3	17.2	02.5	01.1

**Table 24:** By Age

18-20yrs	77.0	18.6	04.3	00.0
21-34yrs	82.9	13.8	02.0	01.2
25-30yrs	79.5	15.9	03.4	01.1
31-40yrs	79.3	15.7	04.3	00.7
41-50	78.8	15.7	04.0	01.5
51+	81.5	15.0	02.5	01.0

80.0% say "Yes" to the question of whether MDC and ZANU PF should engage in talks. It is apparent therefore that for a majority of the respondents the solution to the problems currently facing Zimbabwe lies in dialogue. What is also interesting is that whichever variable is used for analysis, the view still emerges prominently.

**Q 8** Which one of the two parties (ZANU PF and MDC) is not genuinely committed to dialogue?

**Table 25:** By Province

	%ZANU PF	%MDC	%Both parties	%Don't know	%Other
Harare	44.8	08.7	36.1	09.6	00.9
Bulawayo	36.6	11.0	29.3	20.7	02.4
Mash East	28.0	10.8	28.7	27.4	05.1
Mash West	16.1	33.0	41.1	08.9	00.9
Mash Central	17.3	20.0	42.7	18.2	01.8
Midlands	31.2	23.4	31.2	12.1	02.1
Mat North	38.0	07.0	23.9	26.8	04.2
Mat South	36.9	11.9	22.6	25.0	03.6
Manicaland	27.4	09.1	48.7	13.2	01.5
Masvingo	24.8	31.0	33.1	09.7	01.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>30.5</b>	<b>16.3</b>	<b>35.3</b>	<b>15.7</b>	<b>02.2</b>

**Table 26:** By Residential Area

Rural	26.2	19.5	34.6	17.5	02.2
Urban	37.8	10.9	36.4	12.7	02.2

**Table 27:** By Gender

Female	25.9	16.3	36.2	19.4	02.2
Male	35.5	16.2	34.3	11.8	02.2

**Table 28:** By Age

18-20yrs	26.4	16.4	44.0	12.6	00.6
21-34yrs	31.1	17.2	34.4	14.8	02.5
25-30yrs	35.0	12.2	35.0	16.3	01.5
31-40yrs	34.9	12.4	36.4	14.2	02.2
41-50	27.8	19.1	31.4	18.0	03.6
51+	23.7	23.2	32.0	18.6	02.6

30.5% say ZANU PF is not genuinely committed to dialogue and a majority 35.3% say both parties are accountable for the delays and lack of progress in these talks. 16.3% say MDC alone is not really committed to dialogue. While a significant percentage point to ZANU (PF) as the stumbling block to negotiation, it must be noted that the MDC is not completely absolved of blame. It appears therefore that people expect both parties to climb down from their positions even if it is by different degrees.

**Q9.** ZANU (PF) has indicated that it will only go to the negotiating table if the MDC recognizes President Mugabe's legitimacy, while the MDC has insisted that the talks should be unconditional. What is your opinion on this issue?

**Table 29:** By Province

	%MDC shld recognise president's legitimacy	% There shld be no conditions for talks	% Both parties shld strike a compromise	% Don't know	% Other
Harare	10.9	56.1	27.4	03.5	02.2
Bulawayo	20.0	43.8	25.0	08.8	02.5
Mash East	13.9	42.4	33.3	10.3	00.0
Mash West	26.1	24.3	42.3	06.3	00.9
Mash Central	24.8	21.2	40.7	11.5	01.8
Midlands	23.1	31.5	37.1	05.6	02.8
Mat North	11.4	44.3	24.3	20.0	00.0
Mat South	15.5	48.8	15.5	20.2	00.0
Manicaland	12.2	45.2	34.0	08.1	00.5
Masvingo	29.7	27.6	40.0	02.1	00.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>18.1</b>	<b>39.7</b>	<b>32.8</b>	<b>08.2</b>	<b>01.2</b>

**Table 30:** By Residential Area

Rural	20.0	33.5	36.0	09.5	01.0
Urban	14.9	50.1	27.4	06.0	01.6

**Table 31:** By Gender

Female	16.4	36.4	35.0	11.2	01.0
Male	19.9	43.1	30.5	05.1	01.4

**Table 32:** By Age

18-20yrs	12.5	42.5	36.9	08.1	00.6
21-34yr	20.5	38.9	32.4	07.8	02.5
25-30yrs	15.9	38.3	36.0	08.3	01.5
31-40yrs	15.5	44.0	31.4	07.9	02.2
41- 50yrs	23.3	38.9	28.5	07.3	03.6
51+	21.0	35.0	32.0	10.0	02.6

A majority, 39.7% of respondents are of the opinion that there should not be any conditions for the talks to resume. If the MDC succumbs to the conditions set by the ruling party, this will erode its argument that it lost a flawed election. 32.8% feel that both parties should find middle ground and strike a compromise.



**Q10.** Some people have said there is need for intervention of external arbitrators like President Mbeki and President Obasanjo for the talks to succeed while others have said that there is need for arbitrators from within the country like church leaders. What is your opinion?

**Table 33:** By Province

	%Need for inter vention of exter nal arbitrators	%Need for arbitr ation from within the country	%It won't make a difference who arbitrates	%Don't know	%Other
Harare	34.8	32.6	25.2	03.5	03.9
Bulawayo	40.7	48.1	08.6	01.2	01.2
Mash East	50.0	31.7	14.6	02.4	01.2
Mash West	36.4	34.5	23.6	02.7	02.7
Mash Central	35.1	37.8	17.1	08.1	01.8
Midlands	34.8	38.3	22.7	01.4	02.8
Mat North	44.3	50.0	02.9	01.4	01.4
Mat South	45.2	44.0	07.1	02.4	01.2
Manicaland	31.5	38.1	21.3	07.6	01.5
Masvingo	45.1	28.2	26.1	00.0	00.7
<b>Total</b>	<b>38.9</b>	<b>36.8</b>	<b>19.0</b>	<b>03.4</b>	<b>02.0</b>

**Table 34:** By Residential Area

Rural	40.3	35.5	18.5	04.0	01.7
Urban	36.6	38.4	19.9	02.4	02.6

**Table 35:** By Gender

Female	38.4	36.2	19.7	04.7	01.0
Male	39.5	37.0	18.4	02.0	03.1

**Table 36:** By Age

18-20yrs	39.6	34.0	21.4	03.1	01.9
21-34yrs	37.6	36.0	23.1	02.1	01.2
25-30yrs	35.4	36.1	22.1	04.6	01.9
31-40yrs	40.9	34.1	18.5	04.3	02.2
41-50	41.2	38.1	14.9	03.1	02.6
51+	39.8	42.3	12.8	02.6	02.6

38.9% of the respondents are of the opinion that there is need for external arbitrators. This response slightly outweighs the 36.8% who say arbitrators should be from within the country. Across the age divide, those in the 25-30 year category and those above 51 years of age favor arbitration that comes from within the country as compared to external intervention.

**Q11.** Some people have suggested that President Mugabe should step down now and pave the way for a fresh election immediately while others have said he should serve until his term expires in 2008 and then retire. What is your opinion?

**Table 37:** By Province

	%Retire now and pave way for new elections	%Serve full term	%Serve till 2005 then combined elections	%Don't K	%Other
Harare	68.1	11.4	10.0	08.7	01.7
Bulawayo	51.9	27.2	04.9	11.1	04.9
Mash East	45.7	39.0	04.3	09.8	01.2
Mash West	43.1	32.1	18.3	04.6	01.8
Mash Central	38.2	29.1	16.4	14.5	01.8
Midlands	41.3	37.8	14.0	06.3	00.7
Mat North	62.0	23.9	02.8	08.5	02.8
Mat South	59.5	22.6	00.0	14.3	03.6
Manicaland	56.9	27.4	07.6	06.1	02.0
Masvingo	39.3	39.3	15.2	03.4	02.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>51.3</b>	<b>28.5</b>	<b>09.8</b>	<b>08.3</b>	<b>02.1</b>

**Table 38:** By Residential Area

Rural	45.6	33.6	10.5	08.2	02.0
Urban	60.9	20.0	08.7	08.3	02.2

**Table 39:** By Gender

Female	44.2	31.3	11.3	11.3	02.0
Male	58.9	25.6	08.3	05.1	02.2

**Table 40:** By Age

18-20yrs	49.7	29.6	06.9	10.7	03.1
21-34yrs	53.5	26.3	11.9	07.0	01.2
25-30yrs	58.8	24.8	09.5	06.5	00.4
31-40yrs	57.1	25.1	09.1	06.5	02.2
41-50	46.2	31.3	12.3	07.7	02.6
51+	37.2	37.2	08.5	13.1	04.0

The majority view is that President Mugabe should retire now (51.3%). What is striking however is that this is a view that is shared across provinces, the residential area divide, gender and the different age groups. Even the traditionally pro-ZANU (PF) provinces such as Mashonaland East, West and Central have a majority of respondents expressing the view that President Mugabe should retire now and pave the way for fresh elections. The age analysis reveals the elderly (those aged over 40), who have been pro ZANU (PF) in the past, have shifted significantly in their views.

**Q12.** Some people have suggested that President Mugabe is not sincere in his intentions of stepping down despite encouraging debate on his succession, while others have said that he is genuinely committed to stepping down. What is your opinion?

**Table 41:** By Province

	%Not genuine	%Genuine	%Don't K	%Other
Harare	63.9	21.3	13.0	01.7
Bulawayo	60.2	21.7	15.7	02.4
Mash East	45.1	37.8	15.2	01.8
Mash West	53.2	31.5	14.4	00.9
Mash Central	40.9	33.6	25.5	00.0
Midlands	57.4	31.2	09.9	01.4
Mat North	58.6	22.9	12.9	05.7
Mat South	45.8	21.7	31.3	01.2
Manicaland	61.9	18.3	19.3	00.5
Masvingo	51.0	44.1	03.4	01.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>54.8</b>	<b>28.4</b>	<b>15.3</b>	<b>01.5</b>

**Table 42:** By Residential Area

Rural	52.0	30.1	16.6	01.3
Urban	59.5	25.7	13.0	01.8

**Table 43:** By Gender

Female	51.4	28.3	19.0	01.3
Male	58.4	28.5	11.4	01.7

**Table 44:** By Age

18-20yrs	58.1	26.9	14.4	00.6
21-34yrs	55.1	27.6	14.8	02.5
25-30yrs	59.4	26.4	13.4	00.8
31-40yrs	53.6	30.6	14.7	01.1
41-50	52.1	32.5	13.4	02.1
51+	50.0	26.3	21.7	02.0

54.8% of the respondents consider President Mugabe's comments about retirement as insincere. Again, it is striking that in the rural areas (hitherto the foundation of ZANU (PF) support) the majority share this view. The same applies to all provinces including Mashonaland East, West and central. Across the different age groups, there is also consensus that President Mugabe is not genuine.

**Q 13.** Some people have said that President Mugabe should appoint his own successor while others have said the ruling party should choose a successor at its annual conference in December. What is your opinion?

**Table 45:** By Province

	%Mugabe appoint	%ZANU(PF) choose	%Don't K choose	%Other
Harare	10.9	67.4	12.6	09.1
Bulawayo	18.3	34.1	02.4	45.1
Mash East	08.5	81.7	07.9	01.8
Mash West	27.3	61.8	03.6	07.3
Mash Central	13.8	61.5	22.0	02.8
Midlands	13.9	65.7	01.5	19.0
Mat North	09.8	26.2	08.2	55.7
Mat South	24.4	11.0	04.9	59.8
Manicaland	08.1	61.9	21.3	08.6
Masvingo	21.4	73.8	02.8	02.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>14.5</b>	<b>60.4</b>	<b>09.8</b>	<b>15.3</b>

**Table 46:** By Residential Area

Rural	15.6	60.8	10.6	13.1
Urban	12.8	59.9	08.5	18.8

**Table 47:** By Gender

Female	14.4	57.0	13.8	14.8
Male	14.6	64.1	05.6	15.7

**Table 48:** By Age

18-20yrs	12.0	64.6	11.4	12.0
21-34yrs	15.5	66.0	08.0	10.5
25-30yrs	11.9	63.1	10.8	14.2
31-40yrs	14.5	61.6	10.9	13.0
41-50	17.9	53.7	08.9	19.5
51+	15.4	51.8	08.7	24.1

The data shown above reveals overwhelming support for the succession issue to be settled by the party as a whole rather than by President Mugabe as an individual. This view runs across all the variables.

**Q14.** If President Mugabe were to retire today and a presidential election is held today which candidate would you vote for?

**Table 49:** By Province

	%Daben	%Msika	%J. Nkomo	%Tsvang
Harare	00.0	00.4	00.4	51.3
Bulawayo	01.2	02.4	06.0	31.3
Mash East	00.0	08.5	01.8	30.5
Mash West	00.9	07.3	09.1	22.7
Mash Central	00.0	10.0	06.4	24.5
Midlands	1.4	02.8	09.8	35.0
Mat North	02.8	02.8	15.5	36.6
Mat South	02.4	04.8	09.5	36.9
Manicaland	00.0	03.0	02.0	42.6
Masvingo	00.7	06.2	08.3	29.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>00.7</b>	<b>04.6</b>	<b>05.6</b>	<b>35.8</b>

**Table 49 (cont):** By Province

	%Makoni	%Mnangagwa	%Sekeramayi	%Moyo
Harare	18.7	02.6	01.3	00.4
Bulawayo	15.7	02.4	00.0	06.0
Mash East	19.5	03.7	00.6	01.2
Mash West	20.9	06.4	00.0	10.0
Mash Central	08.2	06.4	01.8	05.5
Midlands	14.7	12.6	00.0	02.1
Mat North	00.0	00.0	00.0	05.6
Mat South	00.0	00.0	00.0	02.4
Manicaland	22.3	06.1	00.5	00.5
Masvingo	12.4	10.3	00.7	04.1
<b>Total</b>	<b>15.2</b>	<b>05.5</b>	<b>00.6</b>	<b>03.1</b>

**Table 49 (cont): By Province**

	%Maya	%Zvobgo	%Kumbula	%Siwela
Harare	00.0	00.4	00.0	00.0
Bulawayo	02.4	01.2	00.0	00.0
Mash East	00.0	00.0	00.0	00.0
Mash West	00.9	01.8	00.9	00.0
Mash Central	00.0	00.0	00.0	00.0
Midlands	00.0	03.5	00.0	00.7
Mat North	00.0	00.0	00.0	00.0
Mat South	00.0	00.0	00.0	00.0
Manicaland	02.0	00.5	01.5	00.5
Masvingo	00.0	16.6	00.7	00.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>00.5</b>	<b>02.5</b>	<b>00.4</b>	<b>00.1</b>

**Table 49 (cont): By Province**

	%Goche	%Other
Harare	00.0	24.3
Bulawayo	00.0	31.3
Mash East	00.0	34.1
Mash West	00.0	19.1
Mash Central	00.9	36.4
Midlands	00.7	16.8
Mat North	00.0	36.6
Mat South	00.0	44.0
Manicaland	00.0	18.3
Masvingo	00.0	11.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>00.1</b>	<b>25.3</b>

**Table 50: By Residential Area**

	%Daben	%Msika	%J. Nkomo	%Tsvang
Rural	01.0	06.6	06.9	30.1
Urban	00.2	01.2	03.4	45.5

**Table 50 (cont): By Residential Area**

	%Makoni	%Mnangagwa	%Sekeramayi	%Moyo
Rural	14.2	06.9	00.6	03.2
Urban	16.8	03.0	00.6	02.8

**Table 50 (cont): By Residential Area**

	%Maya	%Zvobgo	%Kumbula	%Siwela
Rural	00.4	03.2	00.6	00.2
Urban	00.8	01.4	00.0	00.0

**Table 50 (cont): By Province**

	%Goche	%Other
Rural	00.2	25.9
Urban	00.0	24.2

**Table 51: By Gender**

	%Daben	%Msika	%J. Nkomo	%Tsvang
Female	00.4	04.1	08.0	32.7
Male	00.9	05.1	03.1	39.1

**Table 51 (cont): By Gender**

	%Makoni	%Mnangagwa	%Sekeramayi	%Moyo
Female	12.1	05.3	00.6	02.8
Male	18.4	05.7	00.6	03.4

**Table 51 (cont): By Gender**

	%Maya	%Zvobgo	%Kumbula	%Siwela
Female	00.6	02.2	00.6	00.0
Male	00.5	02.9	00.2	00.3

**Table 51 (cont): By Gender**

	%Goche	%Other
Female	00.1	30.5
Male	00.2	19.8

**Table 52: By Age**

	%Daben	%Msika	%J. Nkomo	%Tsvang
18-20yrs	00.0	03.7	05.6	44.1
21-24yrs	01.2	03.7	08.2	35.2
25-30yrs	00.0	04.2	03.4	45.8
31-40yrs	00.4	05.8	05.4	36.6
41-50yrs	01.0	03.1	06.2	29.2
51yrs+	01.5	06.5	05.0	22.1

**Table 52 (cont): By Age**

	%Makoni	%Mnangagwa	%Sekeramayi	%Moyo
18-20yrs	18.0	05.0	00.6	03.1
21-24yrs	14.8	07.4	01.2	05.7
25-30yrs	14.1	04.6	00.4	03.4
31-40yrs	13.8	05.8	00.7	02.5
41-50yrs	17.4	06.2	00.5	01.0
51yrs+	14.6	03.5	00.0	02.0

**Table 52 (cont): By Age**

	%Maya	%Zvobgo	%Kumbula	%Siwela
18-20yrs	01.9	01.2	00.6	00.6
21-24yrs	00.4	02.0	00.4	00.4
25-30yrs	01.1	01.9	00.0	00.0
31-40yrs	00.0	02.9	00.4	00.0
41-50yrs	00.0	03.1	01.0	00.0
51yrs+	00.0	04.0	00.0	00.0

**Table 52 (cont):** By Age

	%Goche	%Other
18-20yrs	00.0	15.5
21-24yrs	00.4	19.3
25-30yrs	00.0	21.0
31-40yrs	00.7	25.0
41-50yrs	00.0	31.3
51yrs+	00.0	40.7

If free and fair presidential elections were to be held today, Morgan Tsvangirai would emerge the winner. However, what is of great interest, particularly to the succession debate within ZANU (PF) is the following: Of ZANU (PF)'s potential leaders, Simba Makoni appears to be favorite with people. This view cuts across all the variables utilized in the analysis. Emmerson Mnangagwa follows him.



**Q15.** Do you think Morgan Tsvangirai should stand as the MDC candidate in the next presidential election, whenever it is held?

**Table 53:** By Province

	%Yes	%No	%Don't K
Harare	77.0	10.0	13.0
Bulawayo	74.7	12.0	13.3
Mash East	57.9	13.4	28.7
Mash West	57.3	28.2	14.5
Mash Central	50.5	30.3	19.3
Midlands	66.4	21.0	12.6
Mat North	74.6	11.3	14.1
Mat South	66.7	13.1	20.2
Manicaland	72.6	10.7	16.8
Masvingo	64.8	27.6	07.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>66.8</b>	<b>17.1</b>	<b>16.0</b>

**Table 54:** By Residential Area

Rural	62.4	20.3	17.3
Urban	74.3	11.8	13.8

**Table 55:** By Gender

Female	62.4	17.8	19.8
Male	71.5	16.5	12.0

**Table 56:** By Age

18-20yrs	66.3	23.1	10.6
21-34yrs	70.9	18.0	11.1
25-30yrs	73.3	12.2	14.5
31-40yrs	69.0	16.6	14.4
41-50	64.6	17.4	17.9
51+	53.0	18.2	28.8

Respondents were overwhelmingly in favour of Morgan Tsvangirai contesting the next presidential election as the MDC candidate. Again, the view is shared across the different analysis variables.

Q16. Finally, do you think interviews about these and other issues are important?

**Table 57: By Province**

	%Yes	%No
Harare	85.1	14.9
Bulawayo	93.8	06.2
Mash East	78.0	22.0
Mash West	88.3	11.7
Mash Central	84.3	15.7
Midlands	91.6	08.4
Mat North	97.1	02.9
Mat South	95.1	04.9
Manicaland	83.8	16.2
Masvingo	92.4	07.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>87.5</b>	<b>12.5</b>

**Table 58: By Residential Area**

Rural	86.5	13.5
Urban	89.1	10.9

**Table 59: By Gender**

Female	85.0	15.0
Male	90.1	09.9

**Table 60: By Age**

18-20yrs	92.5	07.5
21-34yrs	93.4	06.6
25-30yrs	91.3	08.7
31-40yrs	80.7	19.3
41-50	85.0	15.0
51+	83.2	16.8

The people appreciate the work that we do. In addition, responses to this question indicate the need to have the public consulted more often and extensively on issues that affect them. Asked why interviews such as these were important, respondents said it was because it afforded them an opportunity to contribute to public policy.

## Conclusions and recommendations

1. It would appear that the majority of people desire a change to the status quo. 69.9% are in favor of the formation of a transitional government that would organize a re-run of the presidential elections. 55.6% desire the formation of a government of national unity. In addition, 59.2% of the respondents want concurrent presidential and parliamentary elections and of these, 59.8% want such elections to be held immediately. 51.3% want President Mugabe to retire now and pave the way for fresh elections.
2. The majority of people embrace the idea of a vibrant democracy. Of the 39.8% who do not want a government of national unity, 40,5% say the existence of an opposition party is vital for a thriving democracy.
3. High on the list of people's expectations is successful dialogue between the two major political parties. 80.0% of respondents say the two parties should resume talks. 35.3% view both parties as currently not genuine in the negotiating process. 39.7% of the respondents feel there should be no conditions to these talks while 32.8% specifically say both parties should strike a compromise. With 38.9% and 36.8% opting for external and internal mediators respectively, it would appear that for most people, the success of the talks lies in commitment from both parties.
4. People want a democratic process in the ZANU (PF) succession issue. 60.4% want the party to choose a successor as opposed to 14.5% who want President Mugabe to appoint one. If presidential elections were to be held today, Simba Makoni would be the ZANU (PF) candidate who would fare better against the opposition.
5. Public consultation is a vital cog in any democracy and one that the people yearn for and appreciate. 87.5% of the respondents said interviews such as these are important.